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A S S O C I A T I O N.
T H I R D A N N U A L R E P O R T.
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OLD SCHOLARS AND VISITORS, WHITSUNTIDE, 1906.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SIBFORD
OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION.

INAUGURATED JUNE 19TH, 1903.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT, 1903-6.

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SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

THE SECRETARY'S NOTES.

OUR Third Annual Gathering is now a matter of History and from the account given of it on another page it will be seen that it was as great a success as its two predecessors both as to the enthusiasm of those who participated in its functions and the standard of excellence of the individual items provided. It is the last gathering we are to have with Mr. and Mrs. Oddie as host and hostess, but we are fortunate in being able to look forward to a pleasant reunion next year with the former taking the presidential chair.

It will be noticed by those who read our list of Officers, that besides a small change in our Committee, the Secretary has shed half his duties and that in future ALL money matters are to be put through the hands of Percy O. Whitlock, B.A., Ackworth School, near Pontefract, Yorkshire. Subscribers will save the Officers of the Association considerable time, patience and energy by making a note of this fact.

On receipt of this Third Report, members will see at once the change in the character of the cover. The shape and form are a reproduction of those of last year, sanctioned by public vote at the business meeting, 1906; but the character of the cover is entirely changed, we honestly think, for the better. The blue and

white of the first two reports was very expensive, and though it was very striking and in harmony with the school colours, we hope the present design by Horace Faulkner Castle (scholar 1891-95) will please the taste and delight the eye for some years to come.

Of our illustrations only one calls for any remark, viz.: the photograph of "Trojan." His huge well-known figure was usually to be found on the school steps from 1893 to 1903, and he was a general favourite amongst the children of the school. The block for this is kindly lent to us by Mr. Oddie. It has already been re-produced in *Past and Present*.

We are also glad to acknowledge our great indebtedness to John Wilkinson of Birmingham for his gift of the copies of the plan of the buildings and alterations at the School in connection with the inauguration of the new scheme. This, we are sure, will be of the greatest interest to many Old Scholars and we hope that the short explanatory paragraph will supply the information for which many members have written to us. It is hardly necessary to point out that alterations are in red.

A propos of the new scheme it will be remembered that this Association forwarded through the Secretary, a minute which

was passed in the business meeting of 1904, and a similar one in 1905, in both of which we expressed our hope that the School might be developed on secondary lines. The School Committee have deemed it best to take the course indicated elsewhere in this Report, nevertheless we are sure that they do not judge the School to have been a failure--the after lives of many Old Scholars shew that distinctly. We may perhaps quote a few facts from two such histories. One of our members left the school in the 50's and after being an apprentice and assistant for some years started business for himself. When the late Mr Ritchie's Local Government bill became law he was the first representative elected by his fellow-townsmen to serve on the County Council, was unopposed at the two following elections, and was made a Justice of the Peace in 1878. Another Old Scholar who left much more recently, after being at Sibford for five and half years under R. B. Oddie, became a member of the Board of Works in one of the largest Districts of the East of London at the age of 26. During that time he was a member of the Finance, Electricity

and General Purposes Committees. As Chairman of the last named Committee he had considerable responsibility in Parliamentary, Legal, and other important matters. He also served as a Vestryman and for two years was Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee of the Parish in which he lived. He was also elected Chairman of the representative body of that Parish under the London (Financial Arrangements) Scheme, 1900.

These are but two of the lives of those who have passed through the Sibford training; we shall all know among our acquaintances those who have filled their sphere of life just as successfully. But, as we have said above, the School Committee have deemed it best to completely alter the scheme of Education and we shall therefore, as loyal sons of the old School, do our best for the highest interests of the new régime.

At the last moment it has been found necessary to omit the photograph of "Trojan," but we hope to have it in next year's Report.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE ANNUAL WHITSUNTIDE GATHERING.

FOR our gatherings so far we have had royal weather, and the last was no exception; the days were gloriously fine from beginning to end, and the evenings could not have been better for quiet strolls through the lovely shady lanes, where many old-time friendships were renewed and strengthened. What enjoyment there was in those quiet times—the trees and banks looking their best, the moon near full, and the balmy air, all conspired to make our happiness complete. Certainly our time for sleep was curtailed, certainly our evening reunions were not so well attended as of yore, but who would blame us after a years' hard work in our big cities, if we should hesitate to turn in on such evenings as these. Would that garden cities could give us such peace of soul and mind as does the evening promenade, along the main road in front of the School at Sibford!

Great was the consternation of one old scholar, who found himself *en bicyclette* 10 miles from anywhere, on the Friday of the Gathering, ploughing his way through sloughs of mud and torrents of rain; his prophesy was "many hands and willing hearts will make it a success, even if the rain doesn't stop till Tuesday afternoon." Fortunately the prophesy was fulfilled without the conditions, for the sun soon came out, and by 5 o'clock mother earth was wearing her best clothes, in prepara-

tion for welcoming the first brake from Banbury, which arrived at the School about 7.50. The welcoming process was also aided by Mr. and Mrs. Oddie, Gulie Oddie, Frank Whitlock, the Staff, the Children and the Secretary. What cheers, what bustle and confusion, what handshakes and greetings as the brakes were quickly disbanded of their burthen, both human and material; the former was rapidly attached to a label, the latter hurried off to its destination in the village. This year one of the boys' bedrooms was kindly set at liberty by the School authorities, and several old boys were accommodated there. At 8.15 we all assembled in the School Dining Room to a very substantial late dinner, to which we did ample justice. This last remark is not really worthy of note as being at all unique, for the other meals at the School were all dealt with in a similar manner; what appetites we had.

Then came a short break for conversation before our social reunion. Here we listened to many whose faces we have come to regard as an essential part of the gatherings, and that free and easy air which has become our pleasantest feature, rapidly settled down on the company. Song succeeded song, and glee recitation, until we found that our common enemy, Father Time, would no longer be denied, and we sought our lodgings for the night—yet not all, for did not the story-teller (a milder

phrase than the culprit deserves!) keep eight honest souls in the aching state till after 12, and one still more honest soul till 2 o'clock, and woke him again at 6.30 to hear him SING!

The morrow looked ominous to the pessimist, but the optimist had already wired to Banbury for the brakes to come up before the pessimist could wire for them not to. With what result? We had the most glorious and successful excursion to Edgehill that heart can wish for. There was not too much wind, nor yet too little, there was not too little sun nor yet too much, as for the pork-pies, sandwiches, pasties, cake fruit, &c., &c.—not forgetting the ginger beer—well, it is sufficient to say that Mrs. Oddie had the oversight of that department, and if error there was, it was on the side of over-estimation.

Besides those who went by brake—and we were very glad to have the company of all the girls and boys—some cycled, and our oldest old scholar shewed his strength of wind and limb by walking, with another, the whole nine miles to Edgehill. How pleasant it was to walk and talk in the lovely woods—may it be many years before the Old Scholars' Association dreams of going to any other place for its Annual Excursion—and yet it comes to me while writing, that some of the beauty of the spot *must* consist in the merry throng one always associates with it, for I cycled through it 4 days later on just such a sunny day, and there was an air of loneliness as though the picture were not quite complete. The games at bowls and terza being finished, the retreat was sounded at about 4 o'clock, and some of the cyclists managed to get a little tennis in the paddock before 6 o'clock, when we were pleased to be formally welcomed and received by Mr. and Mrs. Oddie. Then came the excellent enter-

tainment by the Present Scholars, at which, for pure merit, we may, we hope, be excused for mentioning Nesta Grants' solo, and for glorious burlesque, Ernest Well's Kazoo Band.

PROGRAMME.

1. PIANOFORTE DUET "La Reine" .. R. TAYLOR & D. TUCKEY
2. VOCAL TRIO "The Woes of Three Duffers" T. WARD, R. BIZZELL, W. BRACHER, & CHORUS OF BOYS
3. VOCAL SOLO "The Magic Month of May" NESTA GRANT
4. DIALOGUE "A Night with a Ventriloquist" E. B. BLAKE, J. A. POTTER, A. MANSFIELD, R. BIZZELL
5. VOCAL SOLO "Creole Cradle Song" Miss LAWTON
6. RECITATION "Tale of a Dog" Mr. WELLS
7. VOCAL SOLO "Buttons" T. WARD
8. CANTATA "The Fays' Frolic" Girls. Soloists—N. GRANT, D. WARD, D. PEACE
9. PIANOFORTE DUET "Pas de Charge" .. D. PEACE & D. WARD
10. DIALOGUE "A Slight Misunderstanding" Miss LAWTON & Mr. WELLS
11. SONG "The Crack of the Willow" BOYS
12. VOCAL SOLO "Killaloo" Mr. WHITLOCK
13. DIALOGUE "Mrs. Parton's Pig" Miss DAVIDSON, R. TAYLOR, N. GRANT, D. WARD, N. PRIESTLEY, N. HARRISON
14. VOCAL SOLO "Husheeu" Miss O'NEILL
15. MUSICAL SELECTION BY KAZOO BAND
R. TOZER, R. RUSSELL, F. TOZER, H. LINGFORD, E. B. BLAKE, J. A. POTTER,
A. MANSFIELD, R. PRICE, E. EVANS, T. WARD, H. GITTINS,
Conductor—Mr. WELLS,
16. VOCAL SOLO "A May-tide Lullaby" D. WARD
17. SONG "When the Heart is Young" .. BOYS & GIRLS

Again our day was terminated by a "free and easy," though the attendance at first was small. Later we had our full compliment

and a truly pleasant time, though it was all too quickly over. Although we are only three years old, we are already becoming bound by tradition, and there are some songs and their singers who would be a distinct loss to the functions.

Sunday was, with us, a true day of rest, and perhaps it was then that we found truest fellowship with our comrades. How like a School Sunday it was. The Head's reading after breakfast, the walk "down the Garden," the Sabbath day's journey to the peaceful little Meeting House at Sibford Gower, and the slow procession back again, down into the valley and then steep up the other side, dinner, the stroll up and down the playground, and then the "public walk" to Traitorsford in the afternoon for the energetic, or the "straw" in the paddock, or the "private walk" for those so inclined. There was nothing of general interest to chronicle of these events, and yet we all feel that they form a distinct feature of the week end. At our evening meeting Wm. Chas. Braithwaite of Banbury gave us a most interesting resumé of Rufus Jones' latest book "The Double Search." A combination of circumstances made the address a very telling one, the yearly gathering, the last under the old regime, the old meeting house, the brilliant sun and gentle breeze streaming in at door and windows. Also Mr. Braithwaite is one of us, and many of us know Rufus Jones personally. It was a suitable finish to a lovely day.

Monday was bright from the start. The first public event—I am labelling early tennis and early bathing "private"—was the Hockey Match between Past and Present, in which the Past were out-played to the tune of 2 to 1, though I understand it was a royal battle; I leave the School Captain (and S.O.S.A. Treasurer) P. O. Whitlock to describe:—

HOCKEY.

On Whit-Monday morning a hockey match was played between the Old and Present Scholars, which after a very even game resulted in a win for the School by two goals to one. The following are the teams:—

OLD SCHOLARS—Samuel Hill, Bessie Oddie, Joseph H. Tyler, Edgar M. Oddie, Chas. E. Brady, Jess E. Hall, Gulie M. Oddie, Harold Crosland, Frank J. Whitlock, Miriam J. Pitt, Ethel M. Harrison.

SCHOOL—D. Ward, K. M. O'Neill, Ernest Wells, Ward, Percy O. Whitlock, N. Grant, Annie Lawton, Mansfield I, Jean S. Davidson, Potter, Russell.

Although the morning was very hot, every one of the contestants put an amount of vigour into the game, which would have done them justice on a day in the middle of winter. The School were minus G. M. and E. Oddie (who were playing as O.S.) from their full team, but in spite of their absence the combination of the Present was much better than that of the Past. After a good deal of scrambling play in mid-field, the School forwards got going, and Potter as the result of some clever combination, was put in an easy position for a shot, which he immediately utilized. Stung by this reverse, and cheered on by the majority of the spectators, the O.S. became very dangerous, and many of their onslaughts, led by H. Crosland and F. Whitlock, were only checked by the gallant play of the School backs, E. Wells generally being very prominent in defence. Half-time arrived with the score standing at 1—0.

After the interval E. M. Oddie came forward, and with Gulie Oddie as his partner, quickly made tracks for School goal

(and it was only a matter of very few steps for the former). The battle waxed furious and from a melée in the circle the ball went between the posts—a goal, score 1—1. From now to the end the game was fast and exciting. The School had a wealth of talent opposed to them, there being representatives of teams from all over England, one from Ireland and one from Australia, and yet the present did not quail. Before the whistle for time had blown, Annie Lawton scored, making the School winners by 2—1. Some Old Scholars say to this day, this last goal was offside. Present do not believe it, merely remarking, " 'twas a glorious victory."

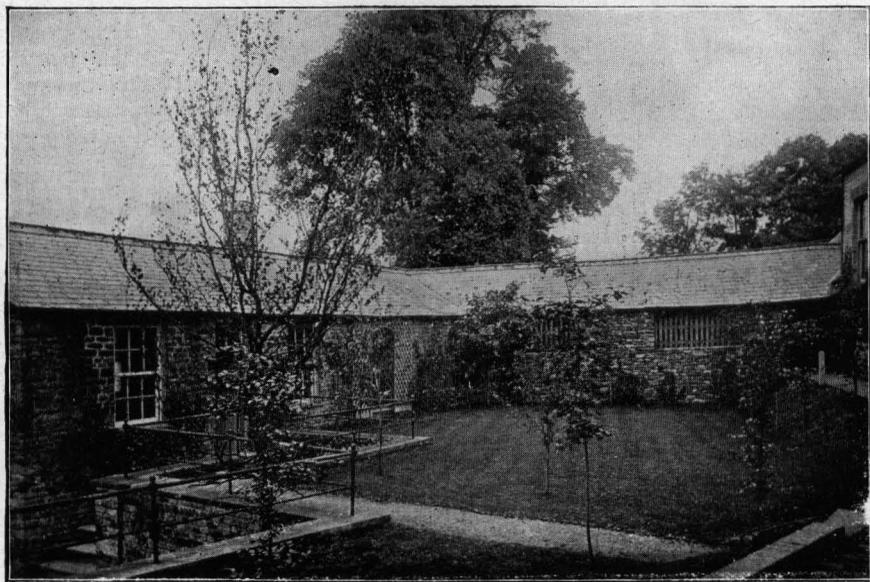
The fierceness of the above battle caused our Business Meeting to be postponed a quarter of an hour. Nevertheless the proceedings were interesting, full and satisfactory. They are reported elsewhere. This year we decided to finish all our photography before dinner, though unfortunately it caused us to miss the services of our official photographer, Percy Simms, who arrived later in the day and took the group of which we publish a copy. After dinner came the Old Scholars' Cricket Match, of which the full score is appended. How to account for our defeat adequately has puzzled many brains, but I think it may perhaps be that we were the weaker team. The School bowlers were unplayable. Percy Whitlock's swervers being particularly difficult to watch. Our bowling was quite good, Samuel Hill's being very effective, and C. E. Brady's very remarkable. The fall of the wicket of one of the latter's victims must be put on record. A bailer did the damage. The ball pitched on the top of the wicket, and then bounced over long-stop's head!

SCHOOL v. OLD SCHOLARS.

SCHOOL.		OLD SCHOLARS.	
P. O. Whitlock (capt) b Hill	.. 7	H. Crosland b P. O. Whitlock	.. 5
G. M. Oddie c Farrington b Hill	.. 3	C. Absalom b P. O. Whitlock	.. 1
M. S. Oddie c Brady b Hill	.. 2	R. W. Hayllar b E. Wells..	.. 0
E. Wells b Crosland	.. 13	C. E. Brady b E. Wells	.. 1
Russell c Sargent b Absalom	.. 0	E. P. Kaye (capt) b P. O. Whitlock	.. 4
Lingford c Brady b Hill	.. 1	H. Dearden run out	.. 2
Reel b Brady	.. 1	S. Hill b E. Wells..	.. 0
Mansfield II, not out	.. 0	P. Sargeant c E. M. Oddie b E. Wells	.. 1
Bracher c Farrington b Brady	.. 0	J. K. Absalom run out	.. 3
Reice b Brady	.. 2	W. Farrington b P. O. Whitlock	.. 2
Evans c Dearden b Crosland	.. 1	J. W. Dearden run out	.. 0
Extras	.. 3	Extras	.. 2
Total	.. 38	Total	.. 21

After the match some of us paid a visit to Dr. Routh's alpine garden, which we much enjoyed to the accompaniment of a cup of tea.

The boys and girls then joined the Old Scholars in a game of terza in the paddock, and after tea the Old Scholars gave the School their Entertainment. This was prefaced by the Vice-Presidential Address, which was given by Chas. E. Brady, and is reported in another column. We were extremely sorry that our President was unable to be with us, but we must doubly thank Chas. Brady for so willingly stepping into the breach at such short notice. His acceptable address was, like his bowling, uncommon yet characteristic, and was enthusiastically received. Then came the remainder of the entertainment of which a programme is appended. If there are peaks to the mountain chain of talent as therein displayed, the rest of the performers must excuse our mentioning Misses E. M. Harrisson, G. M. Oddie, and Mr. Frank Whitlock.



"THE GROVE."

On the left are workshop, changing room and cycle-house, the gymnasium is just visible on the extreme right.

PROGRAMME.

DUET	...	...	...	...	"Qui Vive" M. E. PEIRSON & E. M. HARRISON
SONG	...	...	...	...	"The Sea hath its Pearls" ... E. M. HARRISSON
RECITATION	...	...	...	...	"The Fate of McGregor" ... J. S. HODGSON
SONG	...	...	...	...	"Zuyder Zee" ... G. M. ODDIE
SONG	...	...	...	...	"Singers and Talkers" ... H. F. CASTLE
SONG	...	...	...	...	"Father laid the Carpet on the Stairs" P. O. WHITLOCK
DUET	...	...	...	...	"The Doll's Dust" ... E. M. HARRISSON & G. M. ODDIE
SONG	...	...	...	...	"The ould Plaid Shawl" ... F. WHITLOCK
SONG	...	...	...	...	"Beauty's Eye" ... H. CROSLAND
RECITATION	...	...	...	...	"A various reading" ... A. WHITLOW
SONG	...	...	...	...	"I dream't that I dwelt" ... E. ROLLASON
TRIO	...	...	...	...	"Johnny Schmoker" ... P. O. WHITLOCK, E. WELLS, E. P. KAYE
RECITATION	...	...	...	...	"The Bills" ... H. F. CASTLE
DUET	...	...	...	...	"The Quarrel" ... E. M. HARRISSON & G. M. ODDIE
SONG	...	...	...	...	"Sing me to sleep" ... BRANCHE WHATELEY
RECITATION	...	...	...	...	"A Charity Dinner" ... J. S. HODGSON
DUET	...	...	...	...	"Weally! Gweat Scott!" ... P. O. & F. WHITLOCK
SOLO	...	...	...	...	"The Darkies' Goodnight" ... E. M. HARRISSON & CHORUS

In the midst of the Programme the Old Scholars had the extreme pleasure of handing a small but significant testimonial of their good-will and kind wishes for the future to Mr. and Mrs. Oddie. The Chairman, Chas. E. Brady, in making the presentation—a cheque for 50 guineas and an electro-plated tea-kettle—made a neat and happy speech, and called for three cheers, which were given with a lustiness worthy of the occasion,

and gradually resolved themselves into the well-known choruses "For he's a jolly good fellow," and "For Auld Lang Syne."

Mr. Oddie then expressed his thanks and those of his wife.

At the end of the entertainment thanks were proposed, seconded, and given to all who had helped, and many touching references were made to the fact that this was the last occasion on which we should meet under the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Oddie. Supper was again served in the Hall and Library, and then came our final re-union, which was more worthy of note and more enthusiastically received than its predecessors. We had the pleasure of a combined effort on the part of two German dwarfs; recitations by J. S. Hodgson, Dr. Routh, E. Well's, Horace Castle; songs by Ethel Harrisson, Gulie Oddie, Annie Lawton, Frank Whitlock, Edwin Rollason, Joe Taylor and others, interspersed with pleasant chat. It was very very hard to finish, but soon after 12 o'clock the whole company, including the pianist, joined hands, hearts and voices in "Auld Lang

social function was over. Tuesday morning was soon on us, the brakes were again in requisition and, with the exception of one or two Old Scholars left to clear up the bits of outstanding business, all had disappeared by 9.30. Looking back, one sees that the gathering was a brilliant, unqualified success, and yet there was just the one note of sadness which it was difficult to put aside—the feeling of impending change. Still, we are, some of us, already counting the weeks that must pass before the next gathering, and are preparing to suitably welcome the combination of old and new next year, Mr. Oddie as our President, and Mr. Harrod as Headmaster of the School.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

THE first business was the election of a chairman for the meeting. Dr. Routh's name was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously. The minutes of the last meeting, being printed in last year's Report, were taken as read.

The Secretary then read the following letter from our absent President.

STONEBY,
WEST KIRBY.

To Mr. and Mrs. Oddie, Old and Young Scholars of our dear old School—

DEAR FRIENDS,

Last year you conferred on me the chief office of President of the S.O.S.A. I need not say this was a mark of your esteem, which I highly prize. I hoped and intended to carry out all the obligations attached to the office, and had I known of any obstacle likely to prevent my doing so, I would not have accepted the position. I must therefore ask you to kindly excuse my absence, which I have no doubt you will freely do, and possibly it may be accompanied with a feeling of sympathy for a genuine Old Scholar, who is thus prevented sharing your fellowship and your feast of good things. Last year we were favoured with an ideal address from an ideal President, and I

then thought when my turn came, I would gather up some of the crumbs which invariably fall from the table of a rich mind, and weave them into a narrative of my own. I would like to have told more of those barbarous days under the conditions of which school life was made supremely happy. It would not have been a story of football, cricket, tennis and the dress and habit of the present day. It would not have been of genteel boys and girls who, compared with the period I am referring to, look like the sons and daughters of esquires. In those heroic and barbarous times we found much of our recreation in manual work. We had to keep the play-ground and sc

had to pump water, assist in the laundry to mangle clothes, wash potatoes and peel apples. In chill November weather we donned smock frocks, and did a fair share of scraping and chopping in the turnip field. At other times we went, armed with reaping hooks, to cut the corn, and generally to play our little parts in the grand old play of Harvest Home. We gathered apples, picked fruit, and considerably paid ourselves by appropriating a fair percentage of the crop. All these exercises were the gymnastics of that time, and it was in the pursuit of these useful games that we gathered muscle and made ourselves strong.

Perhaps the choicest of these recreations was experienced when the unwieldy threshing machine arrived. We were then in a tumult of excitement, for we knew that the few good boys of that day would be rewarded for their exemplary conduct by being allowed to feed the men who fed the machine, and, in return for this favour they stocked the schoolrooms, the bedrooms, their desks and even their boxes with mice. Whatever our general attire may have lacked in comparison with present day dress, it was certainly as picturesque and much more serviceable, and probably gave us more warmth in winter. Corduroy and fustian, Blucher boots with solid leather soles bright with shining nails, which, when occasion required, did duty as a looking glass—such was the appearance of our dress in the days of “auld lang syne.”

There is much I could have said about our rough and tumble games, our walks abroad, the things we did and the wonders we found. Those were the days when king-fishers, ring-ousels and golden-crested wrens were particularly exposed to marauding visits from the Keep of the old School. Their nurseries were pillaged and their children taken into captivity. They were also the days in which we could buy fifteen pounds of big yellow Blenheim apples for sixpence, and have apple pie *ad lib.* on many Sundays in winter. Then there was the more sober side of the picture, and here I think we can discover gems and precious things which, if not better, are at least different from what they are now. We not only learned verses and chapters of the Bible,

but almost the complete books. Isaiah was a special favourite, and many of the boys vied with each other in the earnest endeavour to learn the largest portion. The same spirit of rivalry was just as active in the way we acquired and remembered poetry.

This latter may not have been of the most classic kind, but it was adhesive and clung tenaciously to our memories. We frequently had visits from kind loving Friends, who held private converse with boys and girls. I recollect on one occasion, a lady Friend requesting me to stay with her a little while when all other boys had left the Meeting House. I recollect what an awful ordeal it appeared, and how she sat down and took my hand, and spake words that entered into a deeper depth of my then undiscovered being. I recollect the deep impression they made, though even to this day, the thought and feeling can only be expressed in the biblical words: “I met an angel and she talked with me.” I must now stop as this letter is already too long. I will therefore again thank the S.O.S.A. for believing I had sufficient merit to be made top boy. I could not manage to reach the position under the sway and government of dear Richard Routh, though I came very near it, and would probably have succeeded, but for the persistent way in which some sharp-witted fellow pushed himself before me. However, under the higher grade method of Robert Oddie I have reached the goal, and I am proud of it. We know turtles are extremely slow, but they manage to arrive in time for the soup, and we also know

that hares are wonderfully quick, but they, nevertheless, can only reach the goal in time for the same stew.

Wishing you a pleasant and profitable time,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

M. T. GRAVESON.

The Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed:— President, Robert B. Oddie; Secretary, E. Percy Kaye; Treasurer, Percy O. Whitlock; London Secretary, Elizabeth F. Brown; Committee, Annie R. Wells, Chas. E. Brady, John W. Proud, Joseph Sargent.

Joseph Spence Hodgson thought it was a pity that the form of the Report had been changed. The Secretary explained that few members would wish to bind their copies, and that those who did might, if they wished, obtain a suitable leather case to contain five or more numbers. After a heated discussion on the subject it was decided by an overwhelming majority, to adhere to the form of our Second Report for the future.

The Secretary and Treasurer was then asked to present his report, which ran as follows:—

Although we are the youngest, and as yet the smallest of Friends' Schools' Old Scholars' Associations, we are progressing in the right direction, for we have had a regular increase of membership from the very beginning. A year ago we were able to announce an increase of 58, which made our numbers one-third

more than for the previous year. This year the increase is not quite so large. But we must remember that ours has never been a very large School, and that therefore there is a limit to the number of individuals from which we can draw. But to turn to actual figures. Since the foundation of the School, 823 boys and 584 girls have been educated here—making a total of 1,407; so that it is very evident that our 250 members do not imply a saturation point; hence we are forced to the conclusion that since only one-fifth of the Old Scholars are members of the Association, there are four-fifths (*i.e.*, nearly 1,000 souls) who have as yet not heard of that glorious quartet of letters—S.O.S.A. And here is evidently a field for missionary enterprise for some enthusiastic member or members of my audience. Why cannot each one of us determine that before next Whitsuntide comes round he or she shall have sent to that never-satisfied glutton for members—the S.O.S.A. Secretary—the addresses (and subscriptions if possible!) of two Old Scholars whose names are as yet undreamt, unprinted, and unsung in the pages of this hardy annual.

Before I leave the subject of the duties and privileges of secretaries, I should like to say a word about our ways and methods. The reason for this is that I have received a number of letters during the past year from members who were in doubt as to when the subscription should be paid. My remarks *here* to-day are rather unnecessary, for those members who are able to get to our gatherings are perfection itself as to promptness of payment, and many of you have doubtless never seen the little

slip of delicate pink tint, which is inserted in the Reports sent out to those who are in arrears, and is supposed to serve as a reminder that the subscription should be paid at once. Nevertheless, even with this extra mark of attention which the backward ones receive, it is sometimes necessary to send out a second appeal—severely worded. This latter seldom fails. The rule may be put in a nutshell: Subscriptions are due at Whitsuntide, but are not expected until the Report reaches you.

There has been no dearth of interesting letters from near and far during the past year.

Richard Oliver is enjoying busy farming life in Saskatchewan. This year's gathering is without Walter J. Parsey, who is now in Buenos Aires; and the claims of business press too severely on his brother J. S. K. Parsey, to allow of his pleasing us again with his rousing rollicking songs. John Arthur Crosland, whose nephew from Australia we are glad to welcome among us to-day, has done yeoman service in the interests of the Association, by looking up all the Old Scholars of his day and making them join. He forwarded a Report to E. Prideaux Lakeman, Alaska, and a month later sent another on hearing from Mr. Lakeman that there had been a fire at a neighbouring depot, and that probably the Second Annual Report of the S.O.S.A. had assisted in the blaze.

John Lawrence writes that Sibford has always had a warm place in his recollection since he first knew it in 1865. He

remembers Dr. Routh's cricket and chemistry, and more particularly his history and geography lessons. He trusts that the School may have a useful career under the new conditions, and that the O.S.A. may watch over its welfare.

Arthur W. Judge, of East London, South Africa, tried to discover Old Scholars by means of an advertisement in a local paper! We heartily thank him for his ingenuity, and wish that the result had been better.

A long letter from Percy Edmund Dain, but time, or lack of it, prevents us having more than a few extracts.

Seymour H. Beale, the popular drawing master of 21 years standing, writes expressing his extreme regret in that he is unable to be present at the last gathering to be held under the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Oddie. And many others have, for the same reason, made special effort to be present to-day.

We are extremely sorry to have to chronicle the death of Philip Rickatson, of Scarborough, who left here only two years ago.

We have heard of three Old Scholars who have married during the year.

Amongst honours which have fallen to the share of Old Scholars, perhaps that of John Lawrence, D.Litt. (Lond.), M.A. (Lond. and Oxon.), should be mentioned first. He has been appointed Professor of English Language and Literature in the Imperial University of Tokyo.



MICHAEL T. GRAVESON—PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR.

THE SCHOOL DIARY.

1905-1906.

WHILST we may regret we have not yet adopted Terms as have all the other Friends' Schools, we had the "pick" of the Summer for vacation. July was admittedly the best part of the year, and by the "half" system we had the whole of this month in our holidays.

We re-assembled August 11th with about the same numbers on each side. There was no change on the staff with the exception of Miss Peirson's place being temporarily taken for a month by Miss Humphries, of Banbury.

Very little of interest outside regular school work has happened so far this half. The Old Scholars' Excursion to Edge Hill on September 12th is the most important event to chronicle. We were especially fortunate in having a fine day as the weather about this time was very uncertain. Strolls in the woods filled up a great part of the day. After tea in the gardens, we had *terza*, followed by the lovely drive home. The day was very much enjoyed by all and our thanks are due to the O. S. for providing us with such a treat.

Blackberrying excursions have been less frequent than usual this autumn from various causes, but we have had two or three of these object rambles. The results are poorer than in previous years, due in part to the efforts of the village people, who now find a ready market for the fruit at the local jam factory.

Football was begun September 21st, and hockey a day or two later. There are good expectations of a successful season in both games. Several mixed hockey matches have been arranged against other teams. The opening football match was against Swarthmore F. C. on October 14th.

As several boys have cameras, a well-fitted-up dark room has been provided by appropriating the "Lamp Room," adjoining the play-shed.

There is little to relate of the days we were at School in December, as our energies were chiefly concentrated on the terminal examinations, but one or two events deserve mention. On December 11th, the School attended a Temperance Lecture by Charles Poole, of Coventry, in connection with the Adult School. Few could speak with such enthusiasm from a unique experience of the evils of strong drink.

December 13th.—We had the pleasure of the company of Willis Hotchkiss, of the British East African Missionary Society. For an hour we were entranced with his racy account of life in Africa, the difficulties with which he had to contend, and his 'real' lion and hippopotamus hunts. As an undercurrent to all this, however, was the deep and sincere feeling of a true man greatly in love with his work of Christianising the natives of this vast territory.

December 18th.—The Christmas breaking-up entertainment was quite up to the average. Perhaps the best remembered item was the Kazoo Band, conducted in an able and dignified manner by Bandmaster Ernest Wells. The idea of the band was certainly distinctly novel, and among other instruments noticed were trombones, oboes, French horns, and cymbals—most of them, we think, played through a kazoo. The band, got up in true and correct form, with home-made caps set at the proper angle, looked very effective as it discoursed classical (?) music from the "Men of Harlech" to "Hiawatha." The strain which these entailed was somewhat relieved by a vocal effort, "The Old Trombone," on the part of the conductor. Other items were "Daddy," by Dorothy Ward, and a dialogue from "Helen's Babies," specially arranged for the occasion.

January 19th.—We re-assembled for the last time under the old régime, with fewer children than ever before. We were sorry to lose Miss Peirson, who had been here for three and a half years. In her place we welcome Miss Annie Lawton as Music and Singing Teacher. We were soon in working order, but no events out of the usual course have so far happened.

The wintry weather of the last month has kept us to a great extent from our games, and has not yielded us any compensating advantages except a couple of mornings' very good tobogganning. Walks have lately taken the place of football and hockey, and several have been much enjoyed, especially one round Winterton and Brailies.

We have been favoured with several lectures during the last few weeks. The first class boys attended two given by a Reading College lecturer in the School gymnasium, on the Pro-

duction of Milk and the Feeding of Dairy Cows. Several samples of milk were tested—a novel experiment to most.

On *February 6th* Dr. Routh gave a lecture on "Climbing in the High Alps," illustrated with most beautiful and unique slides, shown by an oxy-hydrogen lantern. The lecturer was able to bring to his task a varied experience of rock and glacier climbing, and gave us thrilling tales of mountaineering.

February 9th.—Frank Dymond interested us in his favourite topic—Temperance—treating it on this occasion biographically. Theodore Nield also made a few remarks, giving us his experiences at the Temperance Congress at Vienna last year.

Anne West gave an address on the "Friends of Truth," at the following Sunday evening meeting. Two other lectures on Temperance have been attended; one by Mr. Laskrett, of Oxford, and the other by Miss Wright, of Mansfield.

March 11th.—Thomas Davidson, of Fritchley, gave an address on the Rise of Friends in Scotland at our Sunday evening meeting. As William Noble, of Warwick, was staying in the village for the week-end, we had the great privilege of listening to him several times. On Saturday the 17th, he came to the School and gave an address on what might be called "The Dignity of Work." He also gave us a musical treat with his concertinas.

April 6th.—We were fortunate in seeing some radium and polonium, shown by William Henry Brown. On the following Monday evening, we had a further opportunity of learning more about these wonderful substances from a lantern lecture, given by the same Friend. Whilst all the other Friends' Schools were on their Easter holiday, we have had to be content

with remaining in harness. However, there was some slackening off from ordinary school work and as the weather was glorious, several good walks were taken—an all-day out on Easter Monday to Rollright Stones, Long Compton, and back by Whichford Woods being much enjoyed. In the evening there was a selection of phonograph records in the Lower School-room.

April 18th.—The Stour Choral Competition at Moreton-in-the-Marsh. Sibford Choir, in which there are six members of our staff, gained two thirds, but our neighbours Hook Norton carried off the challenge banner for the highest aggregate of points.

April 20th.—A. H. Gaskell, M.A., B.D., interested us in the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society, giving us more particularly an account of its work in China. We are eagerly looking forward to the O. S. gathering at Whitsun. As this will be the last one under the old régime, a record attendance is expected.

GAMES SUMMARY.

FOOTBALL.

Up to date, we have won every match, a state of affairs which has been brought about by continuous and sustained effort.

December 1st.—v. Banbury Cross United; w. 4-2.

„ *6th.*—v. Ark House School; w. 6-4.

„ *16th.*—v. Hook Norton; w. 3-1.

February 24th.—v. Village; w. 4-2.

The kick and rush methods of our village neighbours put us off our game, but we managed to preserve our unbeaten record.

March 7th.—v. Ark House School; d. 1-1.

March 31st.—v. Hook Norton; 1. 0-4.

The first and only match we have lost this season. Our opponents were much too good for us. One of them told us after the match, that three months before he had played in the Final Cup-tie between Bombay and Calcutta.

April 13th.—v. Village; d. 1-1. A great match against a really good village team.

Although not playing many matches, we may fairly consider we have had a successful season. The backs have been safe, Mansfield i. worthily filling Davis's place. At half we have been greatly helped by E. H. Richardson, whilst Russell has been the best forward. The team has differed only very slightly from the following:—

Bracher,—Mansfield i., E. Wells, Mansfield ii., E. H. Richardson, Lamb ii., Russell, Lingford. P. O. Whitlock, Price. Pugh.

HOCKEY (MIXED).

December 2nd.—v. Banbury Town; 1. 1-2.

A very hard match against skilled opponents. We hope to turn the tables on our own ground.

March 10th.—Mixed xi. v. Banbury; d. 1-1.

A splendidly fought-out game, played in the rain.

Team:—Miss O'Neill,—E. B. Oddie, E. Wells,—Ward, E. H. Richardson, Miss Lawton,—Miss G. Oddie, Mansfield, P. O. Whitlock, Russell, Miss Davidson.

THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE SCHOOL PREMISES

TO Old Scholars the accompanying ground-plan, kindly supplied by the School Committee, will be almost self-explanatory. Starting from the accepted principle that a boarding-school for less than a hundred pupils cannot be both efficient and economical, it is intended to provide accommodation for about 55 each of boys and girls. The new class-rooms will be nearly in the position now occupied by the boys' covered playground; they will be separated by partitions which may be removed to make a large assembly hall or lecture room. Close at hand will be an art-room, and a room where the girls will be taught cooking. The present stable and harness-room are to be fitted up as a natural-history room for boys and girls. The well-built sheds beyond the gymnasium will be adapted for the requirements of educational metal-work and carpentry for the boys, a change which will also allow the boys' playground to be more than doubled in extent, owing to the removal of the block now containing the workshop. This enlarged playground will, under certain conditions, be used by both boys and girls; a portion of it is to be covered so as to provide opportunity for exercise in wet weather.

The enlargement of the dining-room is to be accompanied by a necessary piece of rebuilding at the north-end, where a large bay window will open up the beautiful view across the valley to Sibford Gower. The extension of the bedrooms will be above the new assembly hall, where provision for more boys will allow of some re-arrangement of the bedrooms in the main block.

It is hoped that the alterations mentioned above will be carried out during the next twelve months. Old Scholars will

be interested to know what has been done during the past summer holidays.

An important feature directly affecting the boys and girls has been the decorating of those class-rooms and bedrooms not likely to be disturbed in the alterations to take place later. The bath-room and lavatory accommodation for the girls has been greatly improved. The well in the School field has been cleaned, and its water submitted to the analysts, Southall & Co., of Birmingham, who report that it is excellent for drinking purposes; since then the well has been partially cement-lined and covered, and is expected to furnish an adequate supply without the need of using the village spring. For heating purposes a new system of hot pipes has been laid throughout the School, with a boiler large enough to warm the whole premises when the extension is complete; this will lead to a great economy in coal, time and labour, as it replaces the three heating systems formerly in vogue. The floor of the dining-room has been levelled, and laid with wooden blocks, which add greatly to its appearance and feeling of comfort.

A Matron's room, where small ailments can be attended to, has been fitted up where the Library used to be. The books have found a temporary home in the adjoining boys' school-room until a permanent place can be found for them when the School is again in full working order. There are a number of minor alterations which need not be specified here, and a new system of lighting is still under consideration. The carrying out of these changes entails considerable expense, and it remains for present and future Sibford Scholars to reap the benefit.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

GIVEN BY

CHARLES E. BRADY.

I AM sure that we all deeply regret—and no one probably regrets more than I do—the absence to-night of our esteemed President for the year—Michael Graveson, J.P.

It was with something of a shock that I received about three weeks ago (whilst much engrossed with the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of poverty), the news that the President would not be able to preside at this Gathering, and a request that I would undertake the duty of delivering an Address in his stead. I appreciate the honour greatly—but it is embarrassing. For if you remember, and I am sure you do,—the excellent address given by our first President, and the very admirable and interesting address given by our President last year—what is there left for me to say, and how can I hope to interest you?

The words of Mark Antony sum up my feelings and my position with regard to the S.O.S.A.—“I am a plain blunt man who loves my friends.”

And here I would willingly stop, but I am given to understand that something more is expected of me. Therefore, if you will bear with me for a few minutes I will give you some of my experiences of Schoolmasters, and some stray reminiscences of School Life. I have not been able to introduce much method into the notes I have made, through heavy pressure of work

curtailing my time, but I am sure you will be lenient considering the circumstances.

Of course the greatest of all Schoolmasters is Experience. Not only is he the greatest, but he is the best. Nevertheless there are some heavy school fees to pay. We find, however hard the lessons, or however easy the teaching, whether in the school of adversity or in the school of prosperity, yet with unwavering hand and with certainty the fee is taken. To aid us to receive instruction from Experience, the ordinary schoolmaster and our schools endeavour to train our intellects and to make our minds receptive and keen. It has been said that Experience is the school for fools. A moment's consideration will show us that this is not so. Experience is the schoolmaster of the wise. It is only the fool who is too wise to acquire wisdom. Probably the greatest lesson Experience impresses on us is to make the best of our disadvantages, and the wisdom of utilising hindrances and obstacles.

But to come to the more material schoolmasters. I think it was a headmaster of Eton who once claimed that he ruled this land. For, he explained, I rule the boys, the boys rule their mothers, their mothers rule their fathers, and their fathers rule the nation. Without discussing how far this dictum may be true, it is certain that the schoolmaster (and in this case, as I

believe sometimes happens in other cases, schoolmaster embraces schoolmistress), I say it is certain that the schoolmaster and the school have necessarily a very great influence on the character, manner of living and method of life of those who become the full-grown and responsible citizens of this great country.

The schoolmaster is *sui generis*. There is no other profession or calling which resembles his. It was decided some time ago in a court of law, I believe, that he is not a "gentleman," at least by description, but this does not seem to have discouraged him.

In former years the schoolmaster was armed generally with a fair amount of knowledge, and invariably with a birch or cane. To his credit or discredit, it must be said that with this implement he generally hit below the belt, and possibly the decision that he is not properly described as a "gentleman," may arise from that fact. But, this is, or was, a painful subject, and we may turn our attention to the schoolmaster of to-day. The old riddle and its answer—Why do the schoolmaster and scholar lead a cat and dog life?—Because one belongs to the canine and the other to the feline tribe, has lost its point. At the present time the schoolmaster is equipped with learning, and frequently with a B.A. or B.Sc. degree, and with this advantage, coupled with trained persuasiveness, he instructs the rising generation in elementary or higher elementary education.

The first schoolmasters with whom I came in contact (literally in contact at times) were, to use an Irishism, schoolmistresses. At the age of about six I well remember going to my first school. It was reigned over by two ladies. One walked on crutches, the other always looked in weak health and wore a heavy drab-coloured shawl. Most of my time was spent, I believe, in study-

ing them covertly and with awe. This state of semi-somnolence was sometimes varied by the sudden disappearance of the school cane—which created a mild and general excitement. The excitement generally increased, so far as I was concerned, when the cane was found.

I recollect the Christmas School Party, when prizes were distributed and raids were made on blanc-mange and tarts. We had prizes. I remember we all seemed to receive a reward for something. Those who could not get a prize for reading or writing or spelling, apparently were awarded a prize for good conduct or neatness. The schoolmistresses worked hard, and looking back I can appreciate the patient heroism of their dull lives. They were amongst the last survivors of the Dame School type of instructors.

The next school I went to was ruled by a choleric old gentleman. He was something of a martinet, and the cane was used freely, especially on the larger boys. Being small, and of a modest disposition in those days, I escaped lightly. I did not learn much here, and at the age of nine I came to Sibford. I clearly remember the first Sibford School Teacher I met. She taught then in the Girls' School, and was at that time known as Miss Sophie Binns. If you wish to know her name now, probably Joshua Lamb can tell you. With this lady and a boy named Herbert Whiting, I walked from Banbury to Sibford. We were expecting to meet Austin Gardiner with a conveyance, but did not. I remember arriving at School tired and utterly miserable. What a different place it was then. The first and second classes were held in two rooms where the first class is now held. The lower schoolroom was a storehouse. The gymnasium a barn. The bicycle house and carpenter's

shop—cowsheds. The region contiguous was a walled-in unsavoury farm yard, a rather mysterious place—out of bounds—from which, with a certain grim quietude, William Wycherley emerged from time to time. Compared with the present time, the whole School seems to have been cramped and confined. I was quite a small boy, and at “collect” ranked near to Frank Graveson, Tommy Davis and Hugh Gower. Mr. Spencer and Mr. Waites were the Masters in those days, under Robert Oddie as Superintendent.

I have pleasant recollections of Mr. Spencer, although he was fairly strict. Mr. Waites after he left the School played Association Football for Essex County, a fact of which I was very proud when I became aware of it. When Mr. Waites left, a Friend, well known to many of those present probably, was taken from the first class and made the Junior Master. He was Lewis Howard Brooks.

Mr. Spencer was succeeded by a canny Scot, R. S. McDougall. With the assistance of Mr. Oddie, and a free hand given him as to details, Mr. McDougall gave the School the advantages of athletics. A field was obtained and a football team started. Every boy who had enough pocket money bought a blue jersey to play in, and we were taught football. Our first match was with Ark House School, and we lost it. A cricket team was also started.

Previous to this we had no playing field. Only the School playground, where we played cricket with curious iron wickets, hockey with sticks cut from the hedge and a hard india-rubber ball, chivey, and I spy.

I suppose Mr. McDougall had not been at the School more than a fortnight when half the boys in the School had told him

of the Scotsman who went to London, and had not been there three days before bang went saxpence. It grew monotonous. In class, whenever in the history lessons we came to the battle of Flodden, or to any incidents which to a Scotsman would be considered of a regrettable nature, before we reached the episode he would say, with a mouth twitching with anticipatory amusement, there was too much noise and talking, and the next culprit would be severely punished. He was a good master and well liked.

Another Scot came into our School-life about this time. It was decided that we were to learn drawing, and Mr. S. H. Beale appeared on the scene. His first lesson was on styles of architecture, the Doric, the Ionic and the Corinthian, and the ornamentation of the acanthus leaf. I was no great hand at drawing, but managed by good luck to get a ride to Banbury once, to be presented with a certificate for building construction. Mr. Beale's success as a teacher is well known, and I believe he is still greatly appreciated at the School.

Mr. Aldridge succeeded Mr. McDougall. He was a strong man, and heavy, but could cover the ground on the football field at a good pace. And once again the School had in him a good master. The succeeding masters were of more recent times, and I will not take up your time by referring to them. When I left school, after five-and-a-half years, I know it felt very strange the last night I slept under its roof as a scholar: and a kind of sudden regret came at having to break away, which bothered me.

Many memories came back to me. The big boys who looked so big when I first came, had all left. Edmund Payne, Edmund Gower, Gus Lade, Charles Fox, Christian Chantler, Paul

Francillon, and many others. The Meeting House, with the same faces year after year. Grand old Richard Lamb with his unchanging appearance, David Wrench, and several other old Friends, who seemed to be part and parcel of the Meeting House. Football matches and the drives in brakes to the various football fields. The long walks, the general meetings, the lectures by dear old Thompson Sharp, and the excitement of hearing how one came out in the extra subjects in the College of Preceptors examinations.

All these are now past pictures, but not faded.

I could if I were merciless, weary you for hours with reminiscences of the School, with tales of things that happened, which were and are of interest to me, but which would probably not interest you.

At the next school I went to I landed in the Sixth Form. It was a day school. It seemed strange after the strict discipline of Sibford, to drop into a day school where the discipline could not of necessity be so rigid. The effect of this transition appeared in the report as to my conduct at the end of the second term. Conduct, it said, very good, but much lacking in seriousness. The Headmaster of this School was a courteous gentleman of high ideals and artistic nature, and I enjoy the pleasure and honour of his friendship to-day. The master of the Sixth Form—he is still there—was one of the most popular Schoolmasters I have met. He made lessons very interesting. Once for a time he endeavoured to train and lead out our poetic instincts (if any). Our compositions had to be written in verse, and were read to the class and marked for homework.

I regret to say that apparently the poetic instinct was lacking.

Tardy gaited rhyme displayed a truthfulness and materialism generally absent from poetic outburst, and the last occasion when poems were required of us was typical. One fervid poet described how—

Napoleon and his minions
Were soundly beaten by the men,
Who lived on steak and onions.

Another epic describing a fight in the Coliseum, relentlessly stated that—

At each other then they chop,
The floor is like a butcher's block.

A third poet had prepared a poem on Spring, but the outflow of poetry was stopped, and prose compositions again became the order of the day. This poet regretted the fact greatly. He had written a truthful poem on Spring, as you may judge from a sample verse or two. He said:—

The undertaker has laid in
Of coffins a good store,
He's always very fond of spring,
There's business then galore.
The cold wind blows through all the land;
The flowers have not a bud;
Pile up the coals upon the fire.
And gaze out on the mud.

'Tis glorious weather—for the ducks,
But just a trifle cold,
And influenza in its grip
Embraces young and old.
The balmy north wind blows anon,
It thaws and then it freezes,
There's not a leaf that we can see,
Among the withered trees.

I did not find the education at this School to be, from the point of view of learning, in advance of the education at Sibford, save perhaps in Mathematics and German; English subjects were certainly taught more thoroughly at Sibford.

And now before finishing my remarks, I wish to take the opportunity of stating how much I owe to this School and to Robert Oddie as its Superintendent.

I well remember, at rather an early age, being pushed up into the first class to make room for incoming pupils to the School. It had never occurred to me to be possible at that time, that it was within my power to learn things off by heart. I thought the matter over carefully, and decided that it could not be done—at any rate by me. As a result, for quite a number of half-holidays, I sat in the Schoolroom by myself, contemplating unlearnt Scripture lessons. I made no effort to commit the lesson to memory. It seemed to me to be absurd to expect me to do so; and having arrived at that decision there was nothing to be done. But once Mr. Oddie encouraged me when I came up, knowing not a line after several hours contemplative ruminating. He said, "I'll give thee a shilling for every verse thou canst say perfectly,"

I did not repeat one, not even badly, let alone perfectly—but the friendliness of the offer—and the lure of many blackies at Molly Payne's, it may be, caused me to reconsider the position. I sincerely think it was more the former motive than the latter. As I spent the following half-holiday with my Scripture lesson in front of me for the following day, the possibility of learning it came upon me. It was the 35th Chapter of Isaiah. I learnt the

first verse. I was surprised it was not more difficult and tried the second, and so on till the whole ten verses were completely in my mind. The next morning I came up as usual. I think it astonished everyone. I started at once, looking nowhere in particular, and recited it without a correction. At the end Mr. Oddie handed me all the money he then had in his pocket, and let me off some lessons I was in arrears with. From that time I remember keenly the satisfaction it seemed to give him, that the dull scholar woke up, or the stubborn one had relented, and his kindly appreciation and encouragement of effort spurred me on for many a day afterwards.

I am indebted to him for many things. As a scholar I learned that he hated cowardice and shiftiness, and was always down on anyone who did not look him straight in the face. He encouraged us to be straight; he strove hard amidst great difficulties to improve the School surroundings and buildings, and he succeeded. He strove, I believe, for the welfare of the Scholars, and for their appreciation and kindly remembrance in their after life. And he succeeded in this also. When scholars have left School he always seems anxious and grateful to be allowed to continue to take an interest in them.

So that after a quarter of a century's hard work, whoever may praise or whoever may blame, however he may be treated by others, at least I am sure he will have satisfaction in knowing that many of his old scholars feel strong and deep regard for him, and appreciate his friendship as the friendship of a man "faithful and honourable." And in our appreciation and regard I am also sure that Mrs. Oddie holds a similarly high place.

I have been particularly struck by the sensibleness and courtesy of the boys, of the School and their friendly manner with Old Scholars. . Probably they do not fully realise how much this is appreciated by the latter, but when they in their turn become Old Scholars, they will recognise that it adds greatly to the pleasure of revisiting the School when one is so met. The cheerfulness of the girls of the School in waiting upon the Old

Scholars at meals, and the trouble they take in looking after us, also adds to the charm of our Gathering. The kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Oddie and the members of their family who are present, and also of the Teachers in the Boys and Girls School, have greatly aided in rendering this, our Third Annual Gathering most happy and successful.



MR. AND MRS. R. B. ODDIE IN 1890.

MARRIAGES AND DEATH.

MARRIAGES.

WHITLOCK—TURNER. July 25th, 1905. At Charles Street Baptist Chapel, Leicester, Arthur John Whitlock, of Brackley (Scholar 1888-92), to Margaret May, 3rd daughter of the late Rev. Wm. Turner and Mrs. Turner of Leicester.

KNIGHT—WELLIN. August 10th, 1905. At Christ Church, Leigh-on-Sea, Hubert George Knight (Scholar, 1894-7), of Leigh-on-Sea, to Annie, second daughter of James Wellin of Westbourne Park, London.

MOLD—DEAN. September 28th, 1905. William Mold (Scholar, 1895-7), to Ada May, daughter of Henry Dean of Bournemouth.

DEATH

PHILIP RICKATSON (Scholar 1901-4), son of John and Ellen Rickatson of Scarborough, died 14th of May, 1905, aged 14 years.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

President :

ROBERT B. ODDIE.

Past Presidents :

JOSEPH S. HODGSON. RICHARD L. ROUTH.

MICHAEL T. GRAVESON.

Secretary :

E. PERCY KAYE, Pembroke College, Harrogate.

Treasurer :

(To whom all Subscriptions should be sent.)

PERCY O. WHITLOCK, Ackworth School, near Pontefract.

Local Secretary :

LOUISA WILKINSON, Friends' School, Sibford, Banbury.

London Secretary :

E. FOSTER BROWN, c/o Edward Grubb, M.A.,
43, Devonshire Chambers, Bishopsgate Without, E.C.

Committee :

ANNIE R. WELLS.

CHAS. E. BRADY.

JOHN WM. PROUD.

PHILIP A. SARGENT.

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL.

Headmaster : JAMES TYLER HARROD, B.A.

Senior Mistress : MABEL T. HARROD, B.A.

Assistant Mistresses :

Manual Instruction : GRACE ASHWORTH.

Physical Training : LOUISA WILKINSON.

Assistant Master :

Workshop and Duty : MATTHEW KNIGHT.

Matron Housekeeper : LOUISA E. HINCHLIFFE.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION.

ESTABLISHED 19TH JUNE, 1903.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, 253.

s signifies Scholar.

t Teacher.

c on the School Committee.

ABBATT, ANNA MARY (<i>s</i> and <i>c</i>)	Sibford Gower, Banbury.	Bird, Albert	Winscombe, Somerset.
Abbatt, Mary Ann (<i>née</i> Enoch) (76-'82)	Braeside, Fulworth, Preston,	Bishop, Arthur ('95-'00)	71, Station Road, King's Heath, Birmingham.
Absalom, Charles E.	Walsgrove Road, Coventry.	Blake, Gladys	The Hawthornes, Duxmere, Ross-on-Wye.
Absalom, Mary Hester	2, Cottingham Villas, Melksham, Wilts.	Blake, Edith ('98)	<i>c/o</i> Captain Weaver, Summer Hill, Newport, Salop.
Absalom, John K.,	Acacia House, Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare.	Blacklee, Wilfrid	Manor House, Grendon, Northants.
Albright, John (<i>c</i>)	Hazeldean, Charlbury	Blacklee, Frederick ('03)	Ditto, ditto.
Allshorn, Alfred	70, Brondesbury Villas, London, N.W.	Blogg, Thomas A.	Cardiff School of Commerce, 54, Charles Street, Cardiff.
Amos, Ethel E.	Stoke Bruerne, Towcester, Northants.	Blunn, Jessie ('98-'99)	High Street, Alcester.
Adreason, Mary Ann	11, Hilton Street, Commercial Road, London, E.	Boote, Alice E. ('97-'98)	8, Church Lane, Banbury.
Appleton, Agnes Winifred	11, Thorn Road, Bourville, near Birmingham.	Boyce, Leslie P. S.	Upper Welland, near Malvern.
Ash, Annie May ('93-'95)	10, Bredon Terrace, Evesham.	Braithwaite, William C. (<i>c</i>)	2, Dashwood Road, Banbury.
		Brady, Mabel ('86-'88)	2, Hawthorn Villas, High Road, Wealdstone, Harrow.
		Brady, Charles E. ('82-'87)	Ditto ditto.
BEALE, SEYMOUR H. (<i>t</i>)	Banbury.	Bramfitt, Una M.	Wesley Mause, Thetford, Norfolk.
Benstead, Lillian Jane	Alliance Hotel, Oxford Street, Southampton.	Brooks, Lewis Howard (<i>s</i> '80-'82; <i>t</i> '82-'88)	Post Office, Winscombe, Somerset.
Bird, James	Sidmouth.	Brown, Elizabeth B. (<i>née</i> West) (<i>s</i> and <i>c</i>)	62, Broughton Road, Banbury.

Brown, Elizabeth Foster ...	c/o Edward Grubb, M.A., 43, Devonshire Chambers, Bishopsgate Without, E.C.	Dearden, John William ...	2, Middle Row, High Street, Maidstone.
(s '89-'92; t '96-'98)		Dudley, Robert ...	Clevedon Lodge, Warwick.
Burrows, Annie E. ...	27, Lake St., Leighton Buzzard, Beds.		
CADBURY, CAROLINE (c) ...	Pendle Hyrst, Bristol Road, Birmingham.	EDWARDS, CAROLINE LOUISA ...	82, Etnam Street, Leominster.
		('03)	
Carter, Wilfrid Cyril (t '02-'03)	Whaley Bridge, near Stockport.	Evans, Gwladys Elen ('93-'95)	Trewylan, Sarnan, Heullon, Cardiganshire.
Castle, Horace Faulkner ...	Woodside, Coalbrookdale, Salop.		
Clarke, Margaret ...	Friends' Mission, c/o British Post Office, Constantinople.	FARRINGTON, ETHEL ...	367, High Street, Cheltenham.
Clark, Mark C. ...	1, Gordon Road, Wellingborough, Northants.	Farrington, Walter ...	Notting Hill Gate, London, W.
Cleaver, Richard L. ('95-'96) ...	30, Selborne Street, Prince's Road, Liverpool.	Fearnusides, Joseph, T. ...	6, Cannon Hill Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham.
Colgrave, Sarah (t) ...	Little Tew, near Enstone, Oxon.	Fisher, Robert E. ...	39, Great Sutton St., London, E.C.
Collins, Joseph Marshall, B.A. ...	145, Kingsley Road, Liverpool.	Fowkes, Hannah (née Busby) ...	Rainbow Villa, Posse Road, Leicester.
(s and t '49-'60)		Francillon, George ...	5, Stroud Road, Gloucester.
Collins, Mrs. ...	Enfield, Church Avenue, Skipton Road, Harrogate.	Francillon, Paul ('80-'85) ...	3, Moseley Villa, Barnwood, Gloucester.
Comely, Robert ('82-'83) ...	Notgrove Station, near Cheltenham.		
Crosland, John Arthur ...	11, Upper Rice Lane, Egremont, Cheshire.	GIBBINS, WILLIAM B. (c) ...	Ettington, Stratford-on-Avon.
('69-'74)		Gibbs, Alfred ('03) ...	South Africa.
Crosland, Harold ...	North Terrace, Adelaide, S. Australia.	Gibbs, Edwin ('03) ...	Ditto.
Curtis, Luther ('03) ...	Hillcrest, Highfield Road, Malvern.	Gibbs, Winifred ('02-'03)	Cowpasture Farm, Hook Norton.
		Gibson, Samuel ('99-'03)	68, Dufferin Street, St. Luke's, E.C.
DAIN, PERCY E. ...	The Villa, Dunley, Stourport, Worcestershire.	Gill, Jessie M. (s and t) ...	40, Oxford Avenue, Southampton.
		Gittins, Nellie ('97-'03)	Institute, Selvy Oak, Birmingham.
Darby, William (c) ...	Ashleigh, 5, Westbourne Road, Birmingham.	Glaisyer, Thomas ...	1, Landridge Road, Fulham, S.W.
		Glaisyer, Edmund C. ...	Ditto ditto.
Darkin, Douglas, S. (t '00-'04)	Westgate, Gloucester.	Goffe, May ('03-'05) ...	Nil Farm, Hook Norton, Oxon.
Davidson, Jean, S. ...	Sibford School, Banbury.	Goode, Alfred ('97-'00) ..	Barnt Green, near Birmingham.
Dearden, Henry ...	1, Warriner Gardens, Battersea Park, S.W.	Goodley, Ada C. Jennings ..	
		Gouch, Benjamin (c) ...	Eatington, near Stratford-on-Avon,

Graveson, Michael, J.P. ('49-'54) Bank Road, West Kirby, Cheshire.
 Graveson, Agnes A. ... Ditto ditto.
 Graveson, Bertha B. ... Ditto ditto.

HANDY, JOHN ... 9, Frankenwell Street, Newtown,
 Montgomery.

Harrison, Ethel Mary ... Polam Hall, Darlington.
 (t '01-'04)

Hamlin, Carl E. ('02-'03) ... The Friars' Lodge, Black Friars,
 Gloucester.

Hall, Jessie E. ... 9, High Street, Stony Stratford.
 Hall, Percy W. ... Newtown Villa, Ashfield, Ross,
 Herefordshire.

Harlock, A. J. (t) ... Parson Street, Banbury.
 Harris, Annie Maria (née Payne) ('74) Grasmere, Holy Road, Northampton.
 Harris, John Gilkes ... 5, High Cliff, Buley, Leeds.
 Harris, Septimus ('63-'64) ... Victoria Street, Morecambe.
 Harris, Alice Mary ('83-'86) ... 32, Cavendish Mansions,
 Clapton Square, N.E.

Harris, Sarah Eliza ('57-'60) ... The Cottage, Sibford Ferris,
 Banbury.

Hayllar, Robt. W. ('94-'97) ... 27, Amberley Grove, Croydon.
 Hill, Samuel ('98-'99) ... Priory Street, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
 Hill, Harold ('63) ... 6, Newbridge Crescent,
 Wolverhampton.

Hill, Sydney ('03) ... Ditto ditto.
 Hills, Joseph Francis ... Stanley Villa, Sudbury, Suffolk.
 Hodgetts, Edith ('97-'01) ... Dorland, Bournville Lane,
 Bournville, Birmingham.

Hodgetts, Percy ('97-'00) ... Ditto, ditto.
 Hodgson, Joseph Spence (Hon. Member) ... 26, Hesketh Avenue, Didsbury,
 Manchester.

Homan, George Henry ... 19, Culcombe Road, Denmark Hill,
 Camberwell, S.E.

Howitt, Francis ('85-'90) ... 14, Stuart Street, Luton.

Howitt, Thomas Henry ('85-'90) Holwell Bury Farm, near Hitchin.
 Hunt, Amy J., L.R.A.M. ... 46, The Green Banbury
 ('91-'93)

JOHNSON, ELIZABETH (62-'65)... Bynghurst, Springfield, Chelmsford.
 (née Payne)
 Johnson, Ann (s and c '70-'73)... 45, Victoria Road, Northampton.
 Johnson, Mary (s and c '75-'78) Ditto ditto
 Judge, Arthur W. ('87) ... c/o Cooper, Logan & Co.,
 East London, South Africa.

KANE, H. SOPHIA ... 32, Kelvin Road, Highbury Park, N.
 Kaye, E. Percy, B.Sc. (t '95-'97) Pembroke College, Harrogate.
 Keen, Ann ... Sibford, Banbury.
 Kirby, H. M. (t '03-) ... Friends' School, Sibford, Banbury.
 Knight, Alice (s and t '83-'91)... Laurel Bank, Sea View,
 Leigh-on-Sea.

Knight, Hubert G. ... Ditto ditto.
 Knight, May ('03) ... Hornsea House, New St., Kenilworth

LADGE, DONALD R. ... Housedean, Falmer, near Brighton.
 Lakeman, E. Pridaux ('72-'75) Ashridge, Ala., U.S.A.
 Lamb, Adeline Jane ... 14, Bath Road, Banbury.
 Lamb, Edith Eliza ... c/o Charles B. Lamb, Sandy Mount,
 Loughgall, co. Armagh.
 Lamb, John Alfred ... Holly House, Sibford, Banbury.
 Lamb, Major Richard ... Ditto ditto.
 Lamb, Lucy Sophia (née Binns) Sibford Ferris, Banbury.
 (s '66-'71; t '71-'82)
 Lamb, Rachel Jane ... Rye Hill, Sibford Gower, Banbury.
 Lamprey, William ('69-'92) ...
 Lawrence, John, M.A., D.Litt. 72, South Hill Park,
 Hampstead, N.W.

Lee, Ada E. Barton ... 35, Cross Park Terrace,
 Heavitree, Exeter.

RAPLEY, HAROLD ('03) ... 64, Norfolk Road, Dalston, London.
 Reeve, Charles F. ... Poonia and Indian Village Mission,
 Nasrapur, Bhor State, Bombay
 Presidency, India.
 Rickatson, Caroline ... 18, Westbourne Park, Scarborough.
 Robbins, Elizabeth ... Fylton, Furze Platt, Muidenhead.
 Robbins, Lucy ('03) ... Ditto ditto
 Rollason, Edwin ('45-'47) ... 5, Brookville Terrace, Much Park St.,
 Coventry.
 Rosevere, Helen May ('03)... Abbenhall, Mitcheldean, Gloucester.
 Routh, Richard Laycock, ... Sibford Ferris, Banbury.
 Routh, Rebecca ... Ackworth School, Pontefract.
 Routh, John ... Sibford Ferris, Banbury.
 Roy, Edna ... 220, Merry Vale Road,
 Bournville, Birmingham.
 Roy, John ... Ditto ditto.
 Roy, William J. ... Ditto ditto.
 Russell, May ... 3, Parson's Street, Banbury.
 Russell, Ernest C. ... 9, Bloemfontein Avenue,
 Shepherd's Bush, W.

SABIN, MARIE L. ('89-'93) ... Temple Mills, Sibford Ferris,
 Banbury.

Sabin, L. Annie ... Ditto ditto.
 Sabin, Jane ... Ditto ditto.
 Sargent, Philip A. ... Larch Cottage, Hitchin.
 Sargent, J. ... Ditto ditto.
 Selman, William N. ('00-'01) ... 41, Dagnall Park, Selhurst, S.E.
 Selman, Joseph Newton ('02-'03) ... Ditto ditto.
 Shuker, May ('03) ... 140, Penn Road, Wolverhampton.
 Shuker, Doris ('03) ... Ditto ditto.
 Shuker, Henry ('03) ... Ditto ditto.
 Simpson, Lucy (*née* Godson) ... 42, Market Place, Devizes.
 ('70-'73)
 Simms, D. Rutter (c) .. High Street, Chipping Norton.

Simms, Charles Price (c) ... Chipping Norton, Oxon.
 Simms, Herbert R. ... 13, High St., Chipping Norton, Oxon.
 Simms, Percy ... Ditto ditto.
 Smith, Annie ... Alma Terrace, Banbury.
 Smith, Sophie ('89-'90) .. Pittville, 234, Ifley Road, Oxford.
 Stokes, Edgar E. ... Longborough, Moreton-in-Marsh.
 Stimpson, Louisa ('90-'92) ... 20, Shipston Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.
 Stimpson, Sibley ... Ditto ditto
 Swann, Mary Elizabeth ... c/o Swann, Green & Co., Solicitors,
 (*née* Wood '55-'58) 103, Cannou Street, London.
 Sykes, George (c) ... Bernard's Road, Olton, Birmingham.

TAYLOR, AGNES (*née* Goundry) Locking Road, Weston-super-Mare.
 ('86-'89)
 Taylor, Mary Jane ... 25, East Parade, Rhyl, N. Wales.
 Taylor, W. J. ... Cavendish House, Cheltenham.
 Thorp, Emily (*née* Ashby) ... 321, West Front Street,
 ('44-'48) Plainfield, New Jersey, U.S. A.
 Toyer, Nellie E. ... 25, Langley Street, Luton, Beds.
 Trevethan, Perrin ... Westcote, Chipping Norton.
 Trevethan, Samson ... Brockhampton, Andoversford,
 Cheltenham.
 Tyler, Joseph Henry ('88-'91)... 27, Pavement, York.

VANDER VORD, HENRY S. ... Holly Lodge, Shefford, Beds., R.S.O.
 Vander Vord, Dorothy ... Ditto ditto.
 Venables, E. (*née* Jackson) ... 1, Rose Cottages, Doxey Road,
 Stafford.

WAITE, HERBERT ('03) ... 10, St. Swithen's Lane, E.C.
 Wallace, Margaret ('97-'99) ... 19, Chestnut Road, Moseley,
 Birmingham.
 Watkins, John William ('70-'73) 48, Crawford Street, Warner Road,
 Camberwell, S.E.
 Ward, Lily M. A. ... 9, Mintern Street, New North Rd., N.

Ward, Jane (s '51-'57; t '57-'59)	86, Summer Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.	Whitlock, Harry H. ('98-'00) ...	26, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove, Bayswater, W.
Warner, A. Louise	Kothi Bazaar, Hoshangabad, India, C.P.	Whitlow, Alice (t)	417, Walton Breck Road, Liverpool.
Wells, Louisa (<i>nee</i> Hutchinson)	Hillcroft, Burdrop, Banbury.	Wilks, Nellie (-'03)	Sibford Gower, Banbury.
Wells, Ernest, B.A. (t)	Ashford, near Petersfield, Hants.	Wilkinson, John	Oakfield Lo., Selly Park, Birmingham.
Wells, Ernest (c)	Sibford School, Banbury.	Wilkinson, Louisa	Sibford School, near Banbury.
Wells, Samuel A. ('73-'78)	20, High Street, Uxbridge.	Williams, Alfred (t)	Hook Norton.
Wells, Annie Rebecca (t '90)	Prospect House, Sibford Gower, Banbury.	Wilson, Harry (s and c)	34, Warwick Road, Banbury.
West, Anne (c)	12, Parson's Street, Banbury.	Wilson, Winifred	Ditto ditto.
West, Fanny	Manor House, Horton, Banbury.	Wilson, Mary (<i>nee</i> Harris)	West Bank, Stafford.
Westlake, Ada	Shute Lane Villa, Long Sutton, Langport, Somerset.	Wilson, Rose V.	Bartholomew Buildings, Sivard Street, St. Luke's, E.C.
Whiting, William Rollo	6, Hastings Street, Lamboers Kloof, Cape Town.	Wilson, Florence M.	Ditto ditto
('02-'03)		Wilson, Frank	St. Edward's Bournebrooke Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.
Whiting, Nancy A.	c/o Mrs. Duche, Ashleigh, Dacre's Road, Sydenham.	Wilson, Annie	Ditto ditto
Whitlock, Frank J.	Grasmere, Avenue Rd., Leamington Spa	Wood, Emilie (<i>nee</i> Waddington)	N'gongo House, Nairobi, British East Africa.
Whitlock, Ernest E.	High Street, Brackley.		
Whitlock, Arthur J.	65, Bridge Street, Banbury.	<i>The following arrived too late for insertion in alphabetical order:—</i>	
Whitlock, Edith Emily ('90-'95)	12, Parson's Street, Banbury.	Austin, Geo. Wesley	Taunton College, Somerset.
Whitlock, Percy O., B.A.	Ackworth School, near Pontefract. (s and t)	Blake, Horace,	The Hawthorns, Duxmere, Ross.
		Davis, Birt Charles	51, Laburnum Road, Bournville, Birmingham.

The following have left the School since Whitsuntide, 1905, and are therefore free members till Whitsuntide, 1907.

GIRLS.—LEFT 'XMAS 1905.

Chirman, Hilda	13, St. Leonard's Road, Horsham.
Tozer, Henrietta	25, Langley Street, Luton, Beds.
Goffe, Kate	Nill Farm, Hook Norton.
Cheney, Ethel	72, Broughton Road, Banbury.
Cheney, Mary	Ditto ditto.
Dutson, Gertrude	
James, Phyllis	Bunton Latimer, near Kettering.
James, Marjorie	Ditto ditto.
Adams, Dora	Partridge Green, Sussex.
Lewis, Mary Agnes	Duxmere, Ross-on-Wye.
Lamb, Sarah	Sibford Gower, near Banbury.
Goodhead, Frances O.	7, Beech Rd., Bournville, Birmingham
Jeffs, Charlotte	11, Abington Grove, Northampton.
Roy, Emma	220, Mary Vale Road, Bournville, Birmingham.

BOYS.—LEFT 'XMAS 1905.

Morley, Philip John	Brailes, near Banbury.
Whiting, John C.	c/o J. C. Hose, 9, Provost Road, South Hampstead, N.W.
Hall, Charles	Newton Villa, Ross-on-Wye.
Kendall, Sydney	2, Amesley Grove, Nottingham.
Davis, Harry O.	301, Albert Road, Aston Manor, Birmingham.
Baird, David	Orchard House, Bakewell.
Digwood, Frederick G.	Much Birch, Ross-on-Wye.

GIRLS.—LEFT SUMMER 1906.

Cross, Marian V.	The Lawns, Numerton.
Harrison, Nora	47, Sandgate Road, Folkestone.
Grant, Gwendoline Nesta	34, Bridge Street, Newport, Mon.
Peace, Mary Dorothy	Barr Road, Aldridge, near Walsall.
Salter, Theodora Lucy	3, West Street, Leigh-on-Sea.
Priestley, Helen	Medled Cottage, Dawlish.
Ward, Dorothy	Strathmore, Ashfield Road, King's Heath, Birmingham.
Harvey, Rosamond	Beverley House, Arlesey, Hitchin.

BOYS.—LEFT SUMMER 1906.

Tozer, Robert	64, Gt. Titchfield Street, London, W.
Tozer, Frederick	Ditto ditto.
Mansfield, Albert	88, Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham.
Bramley, Rudolph	Yew Tree Farm, Harlestone, Northampton.
Price, Richard F.	c/o Samuel Price, 5, Pakenham Rd., Birmingham.
Potter, John A.	16, Forest Road, Loughborough.
Pugh, Arthur M.	Station Hill, Buxton.
Evans, Ernest L.	18, Brent Street, Hendon, N.W.
Lingford, Henry S. W.	25, Court Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham.
Blake, Ernest B.	4, Brook Street, Gloucester
Russell, Robert H.	9, Bloemfontein Avenue, Shepherd's Bush, W.
Phillipson, G.	c/o Mrs. Loves, Middle Fens, West Hartlepool.