

Sibford . . .
Old Scholars'
Association. .

DEAR FRIEND,

As, owing to exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, it was not possible to hold the customary Old Scholars' Gathering at Sibford this Whitsuntide, there was consequently a lack of matter for the Annual Report. It had to be decided whether no Report should be issued this year, or whether a departure from the usual form should be made. It was felt that the latter course was the better one, but it is hoped that next year the familiar booklet with its blue and white cover may re-appear. Meanwhile the following paragraphs may serve to keep up interest in the Association until things become normal again.

A Message from the President.

SIBFORD,

30. vi. 1915.

Dear Friends,

The regret we all felt at the necessity for abandoning the Old Scholars' Gathering this year was intensified when Whitsun arrived in glorious weather. Very few O.S.A. members turned up at Sibford, but among them we were very glad to welcome three former teachers, Ethel M. Sharp, Irene Brison, and Godfrey H. Pool. We are now looking forward to next June, hoping for a meeting doubly enthusiastic to make up for this year's disappointment.

The O.S.A. Committee decided to ask all its Officers to continue their duties for another year; this burden they are bearing with pleasure. The thoughts of many are turned, with a gravity unexpected a year ago, towards the call of their country. To those in the fighting line, and in the ambulance corps we would express our appreciation of the patriotic spirit they have shown, and of the noble self-sacrifice that lies in the path they are treading. Others who have adopted equally difficult, but less military ways of serving their fatherland will also find a great blessing on their labours when the days of peace arrive. Fame comes to some, but the many heroes are nameless. Among the bravest deeds brought forth by this year's carnage is the heroic stand of three hundred Austrian students, who, convinced of the ethical futility of war, refused to join their regiments when mobilisation began; they were marched to prison, and then taken out one by one to execution. Greathearts, surely, as those who die for their native land!

For the rest of us who are over or under military age or are hindered by sex or other qualifications, we would most earnestly desire that we may become more worthy of our country and of the sacred generosity of its defenders.

Yours sincerely,

J. T. HARROD.

The London Branch Gathering.

Through the gloom of the darkened streets, from all parts of London and the vicinity, from Coventry, and Croydon, Birmingham and Sibford, Old Scholars to the number of forty-seven, gathered in the warmth and brightness of the Eustace Miles' Restaurant at 6 p.m. on January 9th. Tea, which was served at two tables on the balcony, was an opportunity for great unloosing of tongues, and it would be hard to decide which was more enjoyed, the excellent fare provided, or the exchange of tales and reminiscences. Next, an adjournment was made to the Blue Saloon, where all quickly made themselves comfortable, and settled down to an evening's enjoyment. J. T. Harrod, who presided, after a few words of welcome, voiced the regret that all felt at the unavoidable absence of the energetic Branch Secretary, H. J. Randall, who was then in training with the R.A.M.C.; mention was also made of other Old Scholars who were serving their country. As an opening item, a few of the Old Scholars who have been known to wake the echoes in the neighbourhood of the Elm with their music, rendered the chorus "Oh, who will o'er the Downs." Then followed a succession of games, some of which required skill, some control of facial muscles, and others which were pure romps, but all of which were vastly enjoyed. One or two songs were given at intervals. A telegram was received from H. J. Randall, in answer to which, a letter signed by all present was sent. The gathering closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," everyone voting it a great success.

The Birmingham Branch Gathering.

There had been some deliberations as to whether the gathering should be held this year, but it was finally decided to hold it "as usual." So at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 14th, Old Scholars began to assemble in the Friends' Library, Dr. Johnson's Passage, kindly placed at our

disposal by Bull Street Friends. There was an average attendance, and the evening passed very pleasantly with games, songs, etc. Everything was of an impromptu nature, but with a slightly patriotic flavour. The songs, "England" by Emma Roy, and "June Roses" by Edna Quinton, accompanied by Winnie Appleton, were among the chief items. The gathering concluded at 10 o'clock with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," everyone promising to be at Sibford at Whitsuntide, which, however, was not to be

News of Old Scholars.

Frank Lawson and Herbert Calcraft have gone to Canada farming at Borden in Saskatchewan.

Margaret Clarke left Constantinople last autumn, and has been spending some time in Sibford, with Joshua and Lucy S. Lamb.

Frank Elliott is taking a course in Practical and Theoretical mining at Cardiff University.

H. Bevington Jackson went out to France in June, to help with hut-building work under the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee.

Roy H. Bizzell is now a lieutenant in the Navy, and was recently sharing in the oversight of the Königsberg on the Rufiji River in East Africa.

Robert Tozer is a prisoner of war, now interned at Ruhleben, Germany.

Norman Ward joined the Manchester Territorials and has been serving in Egypt. The latest news of him is that he is lying wounded at Malta.

Harry Randall trained at Jordan's Hostel for the Friend's Ambulance Unit, and then joined the R.A.M.C. where he soon rose to the rank of Sergeant. He left England in May for Malta, and is now at the Military Hospital, Valletta.

Marjorie Birkett writes of many activities of the girls of King Edward's School, Birmingham, including collections for Relief Funds, making garments, assisting Belgian refugees, etc.

John H. Reed left his farm in Canada and returned home on the outbreak of War. He now has a commission as second lieutenant in the 27th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, and is now at Ripon. He expects to go to France in a few months' time.

Chas. E. Brady is a member of the National Guard.

Tom Ward has joined the Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry.

Ernest C. Brock is serving in the 3rd Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Henry Dearden is in France helping to build huts for the homeless villagers at Sermaize.

W. Roger Isaac was at Jordan's Training Camp. He then joined the Bristol University Officers' Training Corps, and is now an honorary cadet in the R.F.A., expecting to be gazetted second lieutenant in the R.F.A.

Dorothy Ward is a Red Cross Nurse.

Harry and Ernest Stevens are in the Friends' Ambulance Unit, stationed at Dunkirk.

Dick Lamb is with the Royal Veterinary Corps, either in Egypt or the Dardanelles.

Norman Charlish is a driver in the Mechanical Transport, and is now in Dorsetshire, but expecting to go to the Front shortly.

Sidney George is now at Gibraltar, and is a driver in the A.S.C.

Robert Fisher, S. Gibson, and Paul Cope are all serving in the army.

W. H. Robbins joined a Devonshire Territorial Regiment, and when last heard of was on the Yorkshire coast.

Percy O. Whitlock, B.A. has left Bootham, and is now Professor of English at an Indian University.

Transference Scholarships have been awarded to Muriel M. Bentley, for Sidcot; and to Harry S. Hartwell, for Saffron Walden.

School Notes.

August, 1914 to June, 1915.

The Literary Association commenced its session last Autumn by celebrating Hallow E'en, when many of the Scottish ceremonies were described and practised. During the Winter, evenings were spent on Impromptu Speeches, Essays, a Parliamentary Election, and Music. In Spring the subject of Archæology was vigorously taken up. After an introductory Lantern Lecture by Mr. Harrod, interesting visits were paid to churches in the neighbourhood. Swalcliffe helped us to distinguish the styles of English Architecture, as it presents work belonging to all five Periods from Saxon to Perpendicular. Wiggington Church had some fine specimens of Decorated work. The grandeur of the "Cathedral of the Felden" at Brailes made a great impression. We were much interested in making notes, drawings, and plans of the places visited. The whole neighbourhood has many very interesting Archæological features.

Just before Xmas we heard that the usual entertainment given to village children was to be abandoned on account of the War, so it was decided to invite them as guests to our own breaking up Entertainment. This proved to be a great success, with a Fairy Play performed by some of the girls. Snowflake Song, and other musical items. The evening closed with the singing of "Good King Wenceslas," and the visitors departed happy with gifts of sweets and oranges.

Sibford has not been much disturbed by warlike preparations, and little of the stir and bustle has reached into our school life. Items from the newspaper have been

read out to us during dinner day by day. A few men from the village have joined the army, including Cooper the local Carrier. Occasionally we hear of the doings of some of our Old Scholars at the Front or elsewhere.

Our list of Lectures has been quite as interesting as usual. A rather fresh feature was a visit from Mr. Machin in the Autumn, when he brought his Kinematograph and showed some particularly wonderful pictures of animal, insect, and plant life. At Easter, J. A. Dell, M.Sc., gave us three lectures on Nature Study, illustrated by lantern slides.

On three occasions visitors have come to entertain us with music; Mrs. Eric Richardson and her sister Mrs. Gobey, with piano solos, and singing, Mr. Bevan Baker with a pianoforte recital, and Miss Baker (of Banbury) with piano and violin. These proved so enjoyable that we hope such opportunities will occur often in future.

A very interesting account of Friends' Relief Work in connection with the War was given by Dr. E. B. Ludlam and Bevan Baker.

Through the enthusiasm of Miss Thame, a Motor Bus has been started which runs on weekdays between Banbury and Sibford. This is often a great convenience to visitors. It was also useful in taking boys to cricket matches, and to the station on Vacation Day.

The health of the School has been extremely good during the year, but we regret to report the sudden death of Minnie Roper, on May 28th of Septic Pneumonia. A few cases of Chicken-pox right at the end of the term unfortunately led to the giving up of the Summer Camp at Chastleton, which was to have been attended by about thirty boys and girls.

At the end of June a large party of about 100 Friends from all over England, connected with the Friends' Home Mission, came and spent a long weekend at Sibford for rest and devotion. The delight they expressed at the beauty of our surroundings was very gratifying to all who love the good old School in the heart of England.

Reports of Secretary and Treasurer.

The membership of the Society has now reached 451. During the past year seven fresh names have been added (exclusive of new Old Scholars) and there has been one resignation. Members will greatly assist in keeping the List of Members correct and up-to-date if they will notify the Secretary at once of any change of address, or of any error they notice in the List. Information as to the doings and whereabouts of Old Scholars is always welcome. Subscriptions should be paid to the Hon. Treasurer, P. Hodgetts. "Glyndwr," Richmond Road, Lincoln.

CASH ACCOUNT.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
DR.	£	s. d.	CR.	£	s. d.
Balance from last year	15	6 3	Printing of Reports and Postage	11	9 4
Subscriptions	16	11 0	Notices, (Cancelling Whit. Gathering..	8	9
Profit on Gathering, 1914	2	19 9	Secretary's Sundries, Postage & Carriage	2	1 4½
Profit on London Gathering	1	11	Envelopes	5	4
Sale of Reports and Case	5	0	General Postage, Treasurer	3	4½
			Balance— Cash in hand		
			May 22, 1915	20	15 9
	<u>£35</u>	<u>3 11</u>		<u>£35</u>	<u>3 11</u>

PERCY HODGETTS,
Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct—
A. BEARLEY ODDIE.

On behalf of the Committee,

N. MILLARD,

Hon. Secretary.