

"And the Menn of Sheep-ford wendath whithersoever they wilen."



SIBFORD

1916.

OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION,



TWELFTH

ANNUAL REPORT,

# OLD SCHOLARS AND VISITORS, 1916.



*Top Row*—E. B. Oddie, R. T. White, A. Moore, C. Reynolds, E. Quinton, E. E. Millard.  
*Second Row*—M. S. Oddie, L. Williams, I. Taylor, N. Snow, H. M. Oddie, E. F. Brown, J. Sabin, W. Appleton, V. Brown, A. Bishop,  
D. Oyston, M. Buckley, M. Birkett, A. A. Miller, M. Kevorkian.  
*Sitting*—Mrs. M. S. Oddie, F. Snow, L. E. Wilkinson, R. B. Oddie, Mrs. Harrod, J. T. Harrod, A. M. Abbott, J. H. Hibbs, S. Harris,  
L. S. Lamb.  
*In Front*—N. Millard, G. Harrod, D. Oyston, E. Wells, M. Rose, R. Taylor.

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION.



TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT,  
1916.



CHENEY & SONS, PRINTERS, BANBURY.

## TWELFTH ANNUAL GATHERING, June 10th to June 13th, 1916.

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It was a cheerful, if slightly damp party of Old Scholars that descended from the brake at the hall door about 5.30 p.m. on June 10th. A hearty welcome awaited them from Mr. and Mrs. Harrod and Miss Wilkinson, and soon all were enjoying "high tea" in the dining room. Only one table was needed this year, and the sight of the boys and girls at the others brought schooldays back once more. Then we adjourned to the lower schoolroom which had again been placed at our disposal. The vases of wild flowers which decorated it were very beautiful. Name tickets were found upon the notice board, and were soon attached to their owners. Just before the Present Scholars' entertainment commenced, our numbers were increased by the arrival of two Old Scholars of the fair sex, who, ignoring the threatening clouds and the advice of their friends, had cycled from Birmingham.

Mr. Harrod presided at the entertainment, and in a short speech of welcome referred to the reasons for the somewhat small attendance. He read a telegram he had just received from H. J. Randall, at Malta, conveying heartiest greetings. The following programme was given, and was much enjoyed, particularly the singing, which reached a high standard of excellence. At the close all joined in singing "Forty years on."

### PROGRAMME.

1. Two-part canon—"Sunrise" .....Choral
2. Recitation—"The Jackdaw of Rheims" .....E. Bywater
3. Unison song—"The Mountaineer" .....Choral
4. Two-part song—"Welcome, Beauteous Springtime" Lower IV.
5. Recitation—"Big Ships".....Freda Bax

6. Two-part song—"Blow, Bugle, Blow" .....Choral
  7. Duet—"Lauterbach" ..... D. Kendall and M. Wells
  8. Unison song—"The Little Shadow" .....Form II.
  9. Folk song—"Dabbling in the Dew" W. Murphy and  
D. Stebbings
  10. Two-part song—"Home they brought her warrior"...Six Girls
  11. Piano solo—"Nocturne" (by Gurlitt) .....D. Kendall
  12. Two-part canon—"What the nightingale sang"  
Upper IV. Girls
- "Forty years on."

A vote of thanks to the performers and those responsible for the entertainment was proposed by Anna M. Abbatt, seconded by H. Lawrence, and heartily accorded.

Re-union followed supper, and as we joined in the favourite choruses we thought of many who would have been present with us, had not duty called them elsewhere. Songs by Winnie Appleton and Edna Quinton, a pianoforte solo by Elsie Wells, a recitation from Maritza Kevorkian, and a game called "Poor Pussy" were much enjoyed.

After breakfast on Sunday morning Old Scholars walked round the School garden, and Mr. Harrod was soon busy cutting roses. He moreover produced a paper of pins, and in a very short time all had buttonholes.

The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting was read at the commencement of the meeting for worship; a very helpful time followed. Those who took part made special reference to many usually present with us, now holding posts of difficulty and danger, and to others who were suffering "for conscience sake," and to all sympathy and goodwill were extended.

A Committee Meeting was held in the Art Room before dinner. In the afternoon, after a pleasant time spent in the "Parlour," nearly everyone joined the girls in their ramble to Swalcliffe Common. The bluebells which adorn the slopes of "Hill Bottom" were over, but wild roses and honeysuckle were making the common gay. Only a short stay could be made here, as ominous looking clouds were gathering over Sibford, and the low roll of thunder could be heard. Our return walk led us right towards the storm, and when the football field was reached big drops of rain were pattering down, and a rush for shelter had to be made. No one was much wet, but all hopes of the usual Sunday tea on the lawn had to be abandoned. We were therefore officially welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Harrod in the Lower Schoolroom, and several from the village joined us for tea and social intercourse. Songs and music followed, from Edna Quinton, Winnie Appleton, and Lieut. Scott, and then a hearty send-off was given to two Old Scholars who were obliged to return to business.

The School Meeting took place in the dining room at 7.15, in the course of which a short address was given by Mr. Harrod on the subject of "Blindness," the story contained in H. G. Wells's "Country of the Blind" being given as illustration.

The re-union which followed supper was a most enjoyable time. Songs were rendered by E. Quinton, W. Appleton, and Frank Snow, and recitations most ably given by M. Kevorkian, Miss Wilkinson and Mr. Miller. The weather was too damp and chilly for anything in the nature of the customary "rambles," but a visit was paid to the Elm, which seemed to have suffered very severely during the March blizzards, practically all the remaining branches having been destroyed.

Monday morning's business meeting was an interesting one. It was presided over by Mr. R. B. Oddie, who proved a very able chairman. A good deal was said in reference to two distinguished Old Scholars who had passed away during the year, John Law-

rence, M.D., D. Litt., and Joseph Marshall Collins. R. B. Oddie also spoke of Herbert Simms, the first Old Scholar to give his life for his country. Letters containing news of other Old Scholars were read by J. T. Harrod, and were listened to with great interest. The meeting showed its enthusiastic appreciation of the excellent services rendered to the association in the past by Miss Wilkinson (who was leaving the School). As Local Secretary she has done so much to ensure the success of the annual re-unions, and her capable management of all arrangements for the comfort of Old Scholars have won the admiration of all.

Letters which had been received during the year were left on the table and were afterwards read by many with great interest. Greetings from Percy Hodgetts and John W. Dearden arrived by telegram.

The weather, which had been unpropitious so far, seemed to take a turn for the worse. It was so cold that the fire which was lit in the Lower Schoolroom was really most welcome. Rain prevented any tennis or cricket, so Old Scholars devoted their energies to the practising of items for their concert. They were determined to do their best, and were spurred to greater efforts by the remembrance of the dismal prophecy made after the Saturday evening's entertainment that there would be no Old Scholars' concert worthy the name this year! (If only the prophet had been able to stay the full time, he would have had a surprise). So everyone worked with a will, wonderful costumes were designed, and songs practised with great care.

Partly on account of the weather, and partly owing to the postponed holiday, our official photographer, Percy Simms, was unable to come over; so shortly after dinner, the rain having ceased, Mr. Harrod grouped us on the lawn, and secured two good photographs. No picnic was possible, but the boys and girls joined us at tea, and all seemed to be very happy. Four more of our number were obliged to leave immediately after tea.

The Old Scholars' Entertainment was preceded by J. T. Harrod's Presidential Address, the text of which appears elsewhere. Then the following programme was given :—

1. Pianoforte solo .....Elsie Wells
2. Chorus—" Johnnie Schmoker " .....The Choir
3. Song—" The clock-work leg " .....Frank Snow
4. Reading—" Over-heard by a Little Bird ".....Adeline J. Lamb
5. Recitation .....Mr. Miller
6. Song .....Irene Taylor
7. Recitation—" How I discovered the North Pole " M. Kevorkian
8. Chorus—" John Brown's Baby " .....The Choir
9. Recitation .....E. E. Millard
10. Song—" Just her way " .....E. Quinton
11. Recitation.....M. Kevorkian
12. Chorus (in character)—" Poor Cock Robin " .....The Choir

The concert was greatly enjoyed by both audience and performers.

After supper came the final re-union. In addition to those who so willingly and capably entertained us on preceding evenings, Miss Reynolds and Irene Taylor gave songs. Games and talk filled in the intervals, and it was towards 12.15 a.m. (summer time) when the singing of " Auld Lang Syne " brought another Whitsuntide Re-union to an end. In spite of the war, the weather, and the small attendance, everyone felt that it had been well worth the effort, that the old flag had been kept flying, and interest in the Association maintained. We hope that by next Whitsuntide peace will be restored, and that a record number will attend the re-union.

The thanks of all are due to those who again laboured on our behalf, and to Mr. and Mrs. Harrod for their interest in our welfare.

There were none of the familiar scenes in connection with Tuesday morning departures, only one motor being needed to convey the travellers to Banbury. Two or three Old Scholars stayed on in the village until after General Meeting, which took place on the following Friday.

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## OVERHEARD BY A LITTLE BIRD, 1916.

IT is June once more, a showery time, such as we birds love, and after the showers men say our songs are sweetest. Well, as I was sitting with my mate on the bough of a leafy beech just opposite to a building made by man, called a school, where two legged beings go when they are young, I heard a chattering. Two beings were saying something like this—" Yes, eight have come, not many, is it ? " " No, but we hope more will arrive. You see Bank Holiday not being observed this year, prevented some at the last moment ! " Then I heard whispers about entertainments, I thought that meant songs, and wondered if things

like that could sing like us. I watched and listened, and at last flew on to the window sill just outside a big building called the Gym. I there heard the humans sing. I didn't understand much about it, as I dared not look in at the window.

The next morning, which was Sunday, I saw a lot of two legged things, younger and older, go off to their Meeting House. I flew after them and sat on a branch of a fir tree and listened. Things stood up and spoke, one at a time, then there was silence. Nobody sang. Then somebody read, an Epistle they called it;

about what people were to do to prevent war, and how they were to love each other. It was very nice—even a bird like me could understand that, and it said they were not to peck each other, but to be kind to those who had been pecked, and not to be greedy and all want the same worm, but to leave nice juicy worms for other birds.

In the afternoon there was a tea. I had some crumbs afterwards that a maid threw out of the window. My wife had some too, they were nice crumbs. Then I heard a voice singing as we do, it was a girl thing, she warbled like a nightingale.

Then there was another meeting, some singing and speaking. A man thing told a story about blind things and one that could see.

The next day the two legged things were still about, and the same thing again happened in the evening. The same man thing

with round things over his eyes, read a paper. All flapped their wings when he had finished. Then there was more singing. I fell asleep before the end.

The next morning the two legged things went away in a thing that snorted, and they waved their wings to each other, and I heard them say they hoped the war would be over before next June, and that the gathering would be larger, but though few in numbers they had had a pleasant time.

Then I went back to my wife and children, and said to them, "Do not peck each other, be kind to those who have been pecked, do not be greedy over the same worm, and leave juicy worms for other birdies!"

ADELINE J. LAMB.

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## THE BUSINESS MEETING.

Min. 1. On the motion of L. E. Wilkinson, seconded by Lucy S. Lamb, Robert B. Oddie was elected as Chairman.

Min. 2. Arthur Bishop proposed, and Dr. Routh seconded, that the minutes of the last meeting, printed in the 1914 report, should be taken as read. This was agreed to.

Min. 3. The Secretary reported that very few Old Scholars had written in response to the paragraph inserted in the programme asking for news of any special service, etc. they might be engaged in. A number of letters and postcards conveying greetings from members unable to attend were read and left upon the table.

Min. 4. J. T. Harrod spoke of several Old Scholars from whom he had heard during the year. He referred to the death of

Minnie Roper, which took place at the School about a year ago; also to Dorothy Tuckey whose illness terminated fatally this spring. R. B. Oddie gave an account of the brilliant career of Herbert Simms, who lost his life whilst on active service, and Dr. Routh gave reminiscences of the late John Lawrence and Joseph M. Collins.

Min. 5. J. T. Harrod proposed that Elizabeth Foster Brown be elected President for the coming year. Elizabeth M. Oddie, who seconded, and several who supported this, spoke of the valuable work done by E. F. Brown, who was one of the founders of the S.O.S.A. Carried unanimously.

Min. 6. It was proposed by L. E. Wilkinson, seconded by E. F. Brown, and carried, that Nellie Millard be re-elected secretary.

Min. 7. The Treasurer, Percy Hodgetts, having joined the F.A.U., N. Millard was appointed to receive subscriptions. A special vote of thanks to Percy Hodgetts, for his business-like handling of the accounts, and the trouble he had taken to simplify the work of any successor, was accorded. The hope was universally expressed that P. Hodgetts will be willing to resume his post at the termination of the war.

Min. 8. It was proposed by Bessie Oddie and seconded by Ruth Taylor, that Jane Sabin be appointed Local Secretary in place of Louie E. Wilkinson, who was leaving the School. Eliz. F. Brown proposed that a most hearty vote of thanks be accorded to L. E. Wilkinson for her splendid services to the Association in the past. This was seconded by A. Bishop, supported by several and enthusiastically given.

Min. 9. It was proposed by N. Millard, seconded by J. T. Harrod, that Arthur B. Oddie be re-elected Auditor of Accounts. Carried unanimously.

Min. 10. Eliz. M. Oddie proposed, and A. M. Abbatt seconded that Chas. E. Brady be re-elected as representative of the S.O.S.A., on the Sibford School Committee. This was carried unanimously.

Min. 11. The retiring committee members are Henry Darden and Reginald Fieldhouse. In their places Louie E. Wilkinson and Henry Lawrence were appointed (the former proposed by B. Oddie, seconded by F. Lee, the latter proposed by N. Millard, seconded by E. F. Brown).

Min. 12. The Secretary, Nellie Millard, read her report.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

As no Whitsuntide Re-union was held in 1915, the Annual Report could not appear in its usual form, but members cheerfully accepted the leaflet sent out in its stead. All the officers of the Association consented to retain their posts for another year.

Our membership now totals 444, a slight decrease on that of last year. During the past twelve months six members have died, and there have been three resignations. Two new members have joined.

Very successful winter re-unions were held in London and Birmingham in January, 1915, but none were held this year.

Many of our most enthusiastic members are now serving their country; some engaged in ambulance and relief work, others in the army. To all we would send messages of sympathy and encouragement.

Eliz. F. Brown hoped that a very warm message of encouragement should be sent to all members who were away. She suggested that a copy of the yearly meeting Epistle might be enclosed with the report. This was supported by Anna M. Abbatt.

Min. 13. Owing to the scarcity and the increased prices of paper, it was agreed that the list of members should be omitted from the annual report, also that there should be fewer illustrations.

Min. 14. In the absence of P. Hodgetts, the Treasurer's Report was read by the Secretary. The meeting approved of the suggestion that the audited balance sheet as received from P. Hodgett's on May 11th be printed, and that other expenditure and receipts before Whitsuntide be carried to next year's account.

## CASH ACCOUNT.

DR.	INCOME.	£	s.	d.
Balance from last year ... ..		20	15	9
Subscriptions to May, 4th, 1916...		6	4	6
		£27 0 3		

CR.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Printing of Report Leaflets ... ..		2	9	0
Envelopes ... ..		0	1	4
Postage (Secretary) ... ..		0	17	3
General Postage (Treasurer) ... ..		0	3	2
Balance—Cash in hand, May 4th, 1916...		23	9	6
		£27 0 3		

PERCY HODGETTS, Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct, May 5th, 1916,

A. BREARLEY ODDIE.

Min. 15. It was proposed by M. S. Oddie, and seconded by E. F. Brown, that Dr. Routh be asked to allow one of his paintings to be acquired for presenting to the School this year. Dr. Routh, who hoped that this would not be pressed, hinted that something might be done in the future, and proposed that a picture should be given by the President and J. T. Harrod, in the usual way.

Min. 16. Arthur Bishop, Secretary of the Birmingham Branch, reported that no Winter Re-union had taken place this year in Birmingham. The Secretary of the London Branch, H. J. Randall, is in Malta. It was mentioned that good work had been done by Florrie Wilson, who in the absence of the Secretary, had tried to maintain interest, and had organised an outing in the autumn. A. Bishop and H. J. Randall were unanimously re-elected as Branch Secretaries.

Min. 17. Mr. Harrod gave a brief account of the School year. He mentioned that there had been a loss on the year's working, owing to increased prices. They had experienced some difficulty

in obtaining coal. In March, Sibford was isolated for three days, by the great blizzard. No newspapers, letters or telegrams reached it during that time. In some places the snow drifts were as high as the telegraph poles. The number of boarders this year, 98, was the largest on record. There were two day scholars.

Mr. Harrod stated that as no gathering was held last year, he had bought the picture which is presented to the School by the S.O.S.A. He had also had the enclosure by the Cricket Pavilion increased in size, and more seats added, so that the match could be watched with greater ease. (The meeting expressed its appreciation of this).

Min. 18. Bessie Oddie and Henry Lawrence were appointed to form a sub-committee to arrange for sports and entertainments for next year.

Min. 19. A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

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WE are met here to-night as an Old Scholars' Association that will not give priority of place to any other in loyalty or enthusiasm. We are only twelve years old, but have been most fortunate in that the School itself is for the time being our actual headquarters, as year after year we draw together for good fellowship, to entertain and to rejoice. But there are other attractions less easy to define; the fact, for instance, which we never admit to ourselves, that while we were at School we did our best to make it a success, so that it has thus become a part of each of us; or again we have found the world's work has made us weary, or we have strayed from the path, and we wish to regain the freshness of our childhood vows and ideals; others again return because they are full of the undimmed vigour of youth and their aspirations are becoming higher and nobler as the years go by. But there are some to whom these Whitsun meetings mean much more; they mean a whole year of inspiration for the battle of life. Those who are in a difficult position from which they see no way of escape, have found a friendly listener and helper among their former comrades, and the very peace of a Sibford Sunday has caused difficulties to vanish like melting snow.

By those who are younger and passing through the School, the Old Scholars' Gathering is looked forward to as a time of many delights, and when the occasion arrives, even the youngest begin dimly to realise that they are prospective members of a great and goodly fellowship to which it will be an honour to belong; so they will strive to walk worthily, and the honour of the School shall be safe in their keeping.

Some previous Presidents have pleased their audiences with interesting stories and reminiscences of past days. To me the

past is not easy of recall, and some of my hearers may be gratified to know that their delinquencies and such escapades as called forth castigation when they occurred, have so absolutely faded from my memory that I can hardly believe them when reminded of them. It has often been delightfully refreshing to be privately reminded of long-forgotten monkey tricks by their authors, who, truth to tell, are not ashamed, and have nothing whereof to be ashamed.

But my own thoughts of Sibford, as far as present needs will allow, are always for the future. To-night I would ask you to think onward in the life of this School, but first there are two features of its life to-day which call for a little notice, one physical, the other intellectual. The first is the unrivalled position of the School; the surrounding scenery is delightful, the air is bracing, the space for play is unusually liberal, there is a swimming bath and much of the class work is of a health-giving nature. These and other advantages have resulted in steady increase in weight on the part of the boys and girls beyond what is usual for their age. The other point arises from the recognition of the educational value of Latin. Why do we not teach Latin at Sibford? Because the early work in this subject is mainly a severe task for the memory, unaccompanied by a fair share of intellectual development. The memory can be equally well trained in the learning of good English, a process which also lays up a store for use and delight in future years; intellectual training is vigorously promoted by work in which bodily activity takes a considerable part; doing makes the learner think. It is not too much to say that handicrafts cultivate originality and intelligence, and ability to meet emergencies; they develop technical skill and artistic feeling, they lead to economic independence. That they do serve to promote intelligence at Sibford is, perhaps, indicated by the fact that

out of 30 Transference Scholarships granted by the Central Education Committee in eight years, Sibford, in competition with three other schools, has gained 15. Personally I feel sure that this result is largely due to the admirable choice, made by the Governors of the School twelve years ago, of a new scheme of studies in which handicrafts take a large share.

In American Schools, appliances are often to be found which are not much in use in England yet, but which are, nevertheless, of service as devices for saving time, labour, inconvenience and irritation. There may, for instance, be one central clock ; all the others are only dials, controlled from the centre by electricity. What a blessing such a thing would be here, especially if it were arranged, as could easily be done, to ring electric gongs in various parts of the house, as a signal for school-time, meals, &c. The installation of telephones would be a further convenience, as will easily be recognised by anyone who has tried to find another in Sibford School. Many a time I have gone out to speak to someone whose whereabouts could not be immediately discovered ; when he learned that I was seeking him he followed me up ; meantime I was following him up by a different route, and so we chased one another round and round. In another phase of school life, very desirable are shower baths ; nothing elaborate is wanted ; a spout supplying water, in winter with the chill off, under which a tired and muddy footballer may speedily gain refreshment and cleanliness ; and surely every boy and girl should begin the day with just such an enlivening operation, which after all, requires less water than the orthodox Englishman's cold bath.

I want now to speak for a few minutes of some minor matters, which, if adopted, would do something to extend the value of the education given here, and would turn out boys and girls with an increased readiness for facing the life of the great world in a valiant spirit. And first, of a library. History and other subjects are often taught by means of lectures given by the Teacher. This process is advisable and indeed necessary, for giving a clear and

graphic outline of a story, or a description of a country ; it unfortunately possesses the disadvantage of giving much work to the teacher, and leaving little to the pupil ; the one who works little, learns little. So there should be added an opportunity for a class to do some investigation on its own account. In a School Library there should be about 30 copies each of useful and interesting books dealing with every subject of school instruction, but a little more advanced than the ordinary text books for school use. To these a whole class should occasionally be set, so that, under the skilled guidance of a teacher, each individual may burrow or forage into the appropriate volumes. The information thus obtained will be better remembered because of the personal effort needed to obtain it, and a habit of great importance will be acquired, the habit of investigation, the habit of consulting works of reference. Associated with this library there should be collections of pictures, or books of illustrations, carefully indexed and catalogued. Sets of lantern slides, for the purpose of giving a revision of a month's work, or even of a year's work, are of very great educational value.

Almost every week of the year, one or more people visit the School as strangers, and like to see over it. As they do so, I take a special pleasure in pointing out the beautiful pictures, which, by the liberality of Old Scholars, are accumulating on our walls ; each picture hitherto secured is of special value in the domain of art, and is interesting, not only for its own sake, but also because it is associated with the name of a President of the Old Scholars' Association. It is somewhat of a misfortune that this admirable plan was not commenced in the time of the first President, but surely we may some day hope to see our walls decorated with something to act as a reminder of each one, and dated with the year of presidency. The educational value of beautiful pictures is recognised now-a-days, and so is the importance of eye training by means of drawing with pencil and brush ; thirty years ago drawing was just finding its place as a school subject. In another branch of art progress has moved more slowly ; the important

work of ear training, even to-day, is hardly recognised as a duty by many schools, and the value of music is known to few. Something has been done in singing classes, but where these are limited to singing and voice production exercises, progress is still very slow. What is needed is a course of lessons given to every child in the land on "How to listen to music!" and an abundance of good music should always be at hand to be listened to. Especially, I think, every school should have its own orchestra. Recent Whitsuntide concerts have shown how excellent a choir can be obtained at short notice when Sibford Old Scholars meet together; a few years more and we shall hope to see a modest but capable orchestra arising in the same way, or at least a string band.

The situation of Sibford in a rural district suggests other experiments which have not yet been tried. Everyone knows that a cry has been ringing insistently in the ears of English people for many years, to which at last they are forced to attend by the need for more home-grown food. It is the cry of "Back to the Land," which echoed even in our Old Scholars' Concert of 1914. During the last six months, titled ladies have gone to work in the fields, and everywhere agriculture and gardening have claimed the attention of thousands of the fair sex to whom toil was formerly unknown. The need for help on the land has led even to the removal of boys and girls of school age from the lessons which are to help to make them intelligent citizens of the future, who will uphold England's commerce or home production. Farmers in one county demanded that boys should leave school one or two years before their time for the benefit of the farms, and then added, to their everlasting disgrace, that they wouldn't pay higher wages than two shillings a week, because the boys' work was not worth more. It is interesting to contrast with this the calculation made by a writer in *The Teacher's World*, who carefully compared the wages earned by an uneducated person with those paid to a well-trained man. As a result, he proved that the average value to the schoolboy of every day spent at School was £2 5s., and they would take him away to pay him two shillings a week! Sibford School has made

a beginning with gardening classes, under very difficult circumstances, and has proved their educational value both physically, intellectually, and socially. More is wanted, however, and I should like to see bee-keeping, and the rearing of goats, rabbits, and chickens undertaken as a business proceeding on a small scale by the boys and girls, with capable instruction. These should be undertaken voluntarily, and are of service, partly for the purpose of giving insight into certain features of food production and the economical bases of commerce, partly for the stability of character which is likely to follow on the performing of certain actions regularly every day, and partly for the benefits arising from intimate contact with animal life. In the United States Agricultural Clubs for boys and girls have been started. In Mississippi ten girls made over £170 profit out of an acre of ground by growing tomatoes. Clubs for rearing pigs and poultry are common. In Arkansas a boy of 16, with the aid of a goat to draw his small plough, produced four times as much corn per acre as the average farmer. In a few years it is probable that there will be a widespread demand that all schools should provide opportunities for boys and girls to develop their brains on the lines of service to the world by the aid of handicrafts or agriculture. Teachers are slowly becoming convinced that their pupils make greater advance intellectually by associating thought with action, than by the older methods limited to book study and lectures in schoolrooms.

It will, however, be evident to my hearers, that none of the schemes to which I have referred can easily be carried into effect and it has been no part of my duty to-night to suggest plans which call for the immediate co-operation of Old Scholars. What I would like to impress is the need for a definite outlook for the future, not a mere passive waiting for the war to end so that we may again return to our old round of pleasure and work. The national life of England needs much reconstruction, and those who are in a position to plan the re-building must be busy with their schemes, or they will be too late.

An address like this can only lightly touch the fringe of our aspirations for the future welfare of the School. Some of them are on too large a scale to be discussed to-night; others are too limited in their application; others again, are of a nature too matter-of-fact; and many are hidden in the deep places of our thoughts, whence to draw them forth is but sacrilege. Our lives may become worthy if we constantly aim at the heights beyond our reach. "Hitch your waggon to a star," says an American

poet. And this School of ours with its freight of human lives must not rest in contentment with its past, but must ever drive towards a higher goal. As new comers enter our walls year after year, the School must be capable of rendering them the exact aid that is most likely to meet their needs, and, in the words of the Book of Daniel, "so nourishing them three years that at the end thereof they might stand before the King."

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## SCHOOL NEWS, 1915-16.

**D**URING the year we have had quite our share of disarrangements. On December 1st, Mr. J. W. Thorpe left to take up ambulance work at Jordans; he has been greatly missed, and we are glad to think that he is returning in August. In April, Miss G. B. Child had to leave, under medical orders, for a prolonged rest; at about the same time we said "Good-bye" to Mr. W. F. Perry on his departure to take up an important post in his old school at Bournemouth. For a month we were three teachers short, and there was a good deal of slight illness in the School. Regular classes were very much upset, but everyone rose to the occasion, and the rest of the term passed off with surprising smoothness. We were glad to welcome Mr. A. A. Miller, who slipped into the ways of the School immediately, and revived some of the Educational Handicraft Classes.

The effective working of the School has been improved by a new system of rewards and punishments, which does away with very much "detention," and stimulates competition between classes for an extra holiday, which is now given for continued well-doing. To begin with the Second Form were most success-

ful, but since Christmas the Lower Fourth have gained four holidays and the Upper Fourth three.

Cricket, football and hockey matches have been few but fairly satisfactory, most noteworthy being a victory of the boys over the Banbury Municipal School by 12 goals to 0, and a victory of the girls' hockey team over Tysoe by 5 to 0. Snowballing and sledging have been unusually abundant and enjoyable, particularly in March, when we were cut off from the outer world by a terrible snow storm and blizzard, and for three days no letters, newspapers or telegrams were able to reach us. The Athletic Sports were held as usual; the champions of 1916 were Cecil Feugard and Elsie Deane.

The elder girls have again been very busy making garments and toys and dressing dolls for distribution in London by the Bedford Institute. Under Miss Wilkinson's management, they have done a great deal of excellent work; occasional working parties have been held at Home Close by kind invitation of Mrs. Boorne.



JAMES TYLER HARROD, B.A.,

*President, 1914-1916.*

Of the three Transference Scholarships awarded this year by the Friends' Central Education Committee, Sibford gained two ; with the aid of these, Elsie Deane is going to Saffron Walden and Howard Quinton to Sidcot ; they take with them our hearty congratulations and good wishes.

In June, Miss Louie E. Wilkinson left Sibford after ten years of valuable and devoted service, both to the School—most noticeable in the Art and Drill Classes, Nature Study and Games—and to the O.S.A. As a token of remembrance, an entrée dish was presented to her by the teachers and scholars.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The spring blizzards damaged the Elm very severely, in fact very little remains but the trunk. The following lines were written by Septimus Harris, and are dated May, 1916. We are glad to say that, in spite of all, there are still *some* green leaves on the tree.

The Old Elm Tree *versus* The Wind.

Final.

The freshening breeze now unmolested blows,  
Where once the branches of the Ancient Elm  
Did intercept it. Not a trace remains  
Where for so long an age the sun was thwarted of his piercing  
rays.

Now not a trembling leaf reminds us of its glorious day,  
Its reign of majesty, its form sublime.

A portion of the furze-clad slope of Tyne Hill slowly slipped down into and across the road in March this year. The fall quite blocked the road, and the hedge, which bounded the bottom of the hill, remaining intact, was carried across to the opposite hedge.

In 1915 Transference Scholarships were won by Muriel M. Bentley for Sidcot, and by Harry S. Hartwell for Saffron Walden.

This year the winners are Elsie Deane, who is going to Saffron Walden ; and Howard Quinton, who is going to Sidcot.

Theodora Hodgkiss has gained a Woman Teacher's Scholarship for the Teachers' Training College, Bristol.

Lucy T. Salter, of the Bedford College for Women, London, has passed the Intermediate Arts Examination of the University of London.

Edna G. Lamb, of Sidcot School, passed the Matriculation Examination with honours, gaining distinction in English, Mathematics and Geography. She has just been awarded a Domestic Economy Training Scholarship, tenable for three years at the Battersea Polytechnic. A Sidcot leaving Scholarship was also awarded to her.

E. Eric Quinton gained Third Class Honours in the Cambridge Junior Local Examination.

On September 10th, 1915, a party of about ten Old Scholars from the London Branch had a most enjoyable excursion into the country. Then went by train to Rickmansworth, then walked to Harefield, where full justice was done to tea. They returned by train from Rickmansworth. The arrangements were undertaken by Florrie Wilson, and everyone voted the outing a great success.

The following Old Scholars are serving in the Friends' Ambulance Unit :—

Wilfred H. Bubb is Cooking Instructor in the Reserves Camp.  
Ernest Stevens is Steward at the French Motor Section (S.S.A. 13) at C. and W.

H. Bevington Jackson is general orderly at the Alexandra Hospital.

John K. Absalom is an orderly on Ambulance Train 17. Frank Elliott is on the same train. Henry S. W. Lingford is orderly on Ambulance Train 11.

Harold Bennington is on the clerical staff of the Hospital Ship *Western Australia*.

John W. Dearden is in training.

Percy Hodgetts is with a new section of the unit recently established at the King George Hospital, London.

Harry Stevens is at the Unit's Headquarters, France.

Godfrey H. Pool has left the F.A.U. and is now in the Royal Naval Division. One of his friends, Lieut. Tom Higginson, who delighted us at gatherings in the past with his singing, was killed in the Dardanelles last year by the falling in of his dug-out.

Arthur M. Pugh has been for some months in Ismailia with the Royal Engineers.

John H. Green, who went out to Australia some time ago, joined the Australian Forces and served in Egypt and the Dardanelles. He was wounded in the hip and was invalided to England.

Hubert Jones is a first class air mechanic in the R.F.C.

Robert Tozer is a prisoner of war at the Rühleben Camp.

H. J. Randall has been promoted to the rank of Quartermaster-Sergeant in the R.A.M.C. He has been stationed at Malta for some time, and is now in the Military Hospital at St. Ignatius.

Norman Charlish is in France as a Dispatch Rider.

Ernest C. Brock was wounded in France and narrowly escaped losing his leg. He has been invalided home to England.

Reginald Fieldhouse is now on active service in France in the Mechanical Transport Section of the A.S.C.

W. Roger Isaac is a gunner in the R.F.A.

Roy Bizzell joined the Royal Navy when war broke out. He was wounded and taken to Simonstown near Cape Town. He was discharged, but was unable to do any active work. He now examines cargoes on vessels.

Norman Ward was sent home wounded from the Dardanelles.

Some Old Scholars who have never missed an annual gathering since 1904, were unavoidably prevented from attending this year. C. E. Brady was in camp with the National Guard. J. S. K. Parsey was unable to come.

E. Percy Kaye, who has been so much missed at the last two or three re-unions, is teaching at Glasgow. Arnold Kaye is a special constable, and had to be on duty in London this Whitsuntide.

Arthur B. Oddie is doing a good deal of dental work for the army.

Elsie Rose is at Polam Hall, Darlington.

Mary Williams is secretary to a consulting engineer.

Phyllis Henley is a student in a nursery training school.

Several Old Scholars appeared before Local Tribunals as conscientious objectors. Harold Fassam, though only eighteen, stood up for his principles in a very brave way. Mr. Everett, a former master at Sibford, after an unfair hearing before two tribunals, was handed over to the military and sentenced to two

years' imprisonment for disobeying military orders. His case caused great comment in the country, and the sentence was ultimately reduced to about three months' imprisonment.

Henry Dearden has been out in France since the outbreak of war with the War Victims' Relief Committee, building huts for the French who were rendered homeless by the German advance in August, 1914.

E. Foster Brown has been very actively engaged in helping and advising conscientious objectors to prepare for their appeals. She also does a great deal of work in connection with the publishing of *The Ploughshare*.

Ronald Wells is farming in the United States.

Will new Old Scholars please note that after their year of free membership expires they are enrolled as ordinary members if their subscriptions are paid (1/- per annum until the age of 21, 2/6 afterwards).

Back numbers of the S.O.S.A. Reports can still be obtained, price 9d. each. Only a few copies of the very earliest are left, and members wishing for a complete set should apply early to the Hon. Sec., Sibford School.

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## MARRIAGES.

SARA—EVANS. March 31st, 1915, at the Friends' Meeting House, Bull Street, Birmingham, Thomas Skeffington, second son of George and Julia Sara, of Plymouth, to Mary Harle, eldest daughter of Richard T. and Sarah Harle Evans, of Birmingham.

LANGLEY—WHITLOCK. October 19th, 1915, at the Friends' Meeting House, Hook Norton, John Lythall Langley, of Banbury, to Edith Emily, daughter of Frederick and Rachel Whitlock, of Hook Norton, formerly of Brackley.

WHITLOCK—KING. November 15th, 1915, at the Scotch Presbyterian Church, Bombay, Percy Oddie Whitlock, to Esther Dorothy, only daughter of William Sewell, and Kate Harris King, of New Earswick, York (by cable).

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## DEATHS.

On January 22nd, 1916, at 145, Kingsley Road, Liverpool, Joseph Marshall Collins, in his 79th year.

On April 12th, 1916, Dorothy E. Tuckey, aged 23 years.

On May 4th, 1916, in Japan, John Lawrence, M.A., D.Litt.

May 5th, 1916, killed in action in the North Sea, Flight-Sub-Lieut. H. R. Simms, R.N.

August 3rd, 1916, at Chichester, drowned after rescuing two men, Laurence W. A. Horton, aged 17 years,

## IN MEMORIAM.

### JOSEPH MARSHALL COLLINS.

To most of those who knew J. M. Collins, the news of his death must have come as a great shock—at any rate so it was to those who were not in present day touch with him, but whose knowledge of him was of 40 or 50 years ago, when he was a scholar at Sibford, and then an apprentice to the art of teaching. But J. M. Collins hardly needed an apprenticeship, for he was a born teacher, and could even make thick headed lads understand what was his pet subject, mathematics. One who was a pupil of his somewhere about 1856 or '57, tells us of the marvellous industry and perseverance which characterised him. When work in school was over, and duty ended, J. M. C. could generally be found reading hard in every spare minute for the London Matric., and subsequently for the first B.A., both of which examinations he successfully passed at the first attempt—a fine performance. Then at the end of his apprenticeship he went to the Flounders Institute, and from there took his B.A. degree. He then returned to the Flounders as tutor, succeeding Dr. Willis and W. H. Longman in that capacity. His forte was mathematics, and from his earliest days he revelled in arithmetic in any form—Algebra and Euclid were his playground, and one who knew him well has declared that in these subjects he hardly had an equal as a teacher. At the Flounders he put in several years of good conscientious work, and when after a long dangerous illness he finally left there he started a private school in Liverpool, which he carried on up to the time of his death. There are not many left who were his pupils during the strenuous years of hard work at Sibford; but to those who knew him then, and knew the tremendous struggle of those early days, his memory and example, his earnestness and high principle, will always be associated with feelings of affection and admiration for a noble character.

### DOROTHY E. TUCKEY.

Dorothy E. Tuckey was a very bright and loveable girl. During last winter she worked as a nurse in a hospital in Banbury, and came over to Sibford to tell of her experiences. The work, however, proved too much for her strength, and she went home almost worn out, and a few weeks later died.

### JOHN LAWRENCE, M.A. D.Litt.

It is with unfeigned sorrow that we record the death of one who, though only for a short time a scholar at Sibford, yet left a memory which may well be envied for its real goodness.

John Lawrence was probably a man of more brilliant attainments than any one who has passed through the School. He and his delightful brother, Henry Lawrence, were scholars together somewhere about 1868 and 1869. The latter died some years ago. After leaving Sibford, J. L. went to Sidcot and thence to the Flounders, where he became tutor. From there he took the M.A. Lond. degree, and subsequently the D.Litt. Lond., generally regarded as the stiffest examination in the world. Subsequently he was elected to be the first professor of English Literature in the University of Tokyo, Japan, where he remained till his death last March.

His earnest devotion to his work, and his conscientious performance of it, were the most striking points in his character—and he had the courage to maintain the high principles which guided him, under circumstances where many would have slunk into cowardly silence.

Both he and his brother have left names which will always be regarded with deep respect and affection by all who knew them.

## HERBERT R. SIMMS.

The news of the death of Flight-Sub-Lieut. H. R. Simms, R.N., came as a blow to many Old Scholars. He is the first Old Scholar, so far as can be ascertained at present, to give his life for his country, and the deepest sympathy will be extended to his relatives. From his boyhood he had taken a keen interest in aviation, and afterwards adopted it as his profession. Before the outbreak of war, he held the post of instructor of aviation in the Greek Navy, but in May, 1915, he secured release from this appointment, and joined the Royal Naval Air Service. He displayed the greatest bravery on many occasions, notably on February 29th of this year, when he attacked an enemy aeroplane which fell in flames near the Belgian trenches. At a later date he brought down a hostile seaplane. His brilliant career was tragically ended on May 5th, when his body was picked up in the North Sea. By arrangement with the Admiralty, a public military funeral was held on May 11th, at Chipping Norton.

Herbert Simms was of a most modest and unassuming nature, never anxious to talk of his exploits; but his sterling qualities won for him the respect of all.

## LAURENCE W. A. HORTON.

All brave deeds are not wrought upon the battlefield. The following account of heroic self-sacrifice gives yet another example of the heroism of every day life, and who read it.

On August 3rd, 1916, an Old Scholar, Laurence W. A. Horton, aged 17, was drowned near Chichester, after gallantly rescuing two young men who were in difficulties. It appears that he was sitting by the waterside, when he heard cries for help coming from two bathers. Horton, who was in a very poor state of

health, at first appealed to a passing soldier to render assistance, but as the soldier could not swim, the lad at once jumped in himself, fully dressed, and in spite of a strong current, brought one man into shallow water, and assisted the other into a boat. It was then seen that Horton was now exhausted and in imminent danger of sinking. Plucky attempts were made to assist him—by his sister, who swam out to him, and by several onlookers—who formed a chain and tried to reach him, but he sank in spite of all their efforts. His body was recovered and artificial respiration tried, but life was extinct.

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## Officers of the Association.

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*President for the Year, 1916-17—*

ELIZABETH FOSTER BROWN.

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—*

NELLIE MILLARD, Sibford School, Banbury.

*Hon. Local Secretaries—*

DR. ROUTH and JANE SABIN, Sibford Ferris.

*Committee—*

MRS. HARROD.

GODFREY H. POOL.

ANNA M. ABBATT.

LOUIE E. WILKINSON.

EMMA ROY

HENRY LAWRENCE.

## NEW OLD SCHOLARS

Who are Free Members until Whitsuntide, 1916.

Eric Angel ... .. 42, Conyer's Road, Streatham, S.W.  
James C. Baily... .. Belfast, Western Avenue, Ashford.  
Muriel Bentley... .. Silecroft, Wash Common, Newbury.  
Erle Bizzell ... .. 39, Essex Road, Watford, Herts.  
Joyce Carn ... .. Victoria Road, Hurstmonceux, Sussex.  
Muriel Chalker ... .. 176, Walford Road, Sparkbrook,  
Birmingham.  
Bernard Gibbins ... .. 78, Tamworth Road, Croydon.  
Stanley Glanfield ... .. Crown Street, Diss, Norfolk.  
Arthur Gooday... .. 51, Station Road, Sudbury, Suffolk.  
Guy S. N. Gostling ... .. 40, Rolle Street, Exmouth, S. Devon.  
Alfred Gostling ... .. 40, Rolle Street, Exmouth, S. Devon.  
Doris Harrison ... .. Baybourne House, Belgrave Road,  
Torquay.  
Henry Hartwell ... .. 100, Moyser Road, Streatham, S.W.

Raymond Lamb ... .. Elmridge Dairy, Sibford Gower.  
Geoffrey Long... .. 4, Whitehall, Stroud, Gloucester.  
Gladys Nicholl... .. 24, Eatington Road, Whip's Cross,  
Ismay Nutter-Scott ... .. Tuckton Lawn, Southborne, Hants.  
Phyllis Passmore ... .. 58, Birchfield Road, Northampton.  
May Quartly ... .. Swalcliffe, near Banbury.  
Malcolm Reynolds ... .. Leigh Nook, Street, Somerset.  
Marjorie Rose ... .. Aston Road, Haddenham, Bucks.  
Robert Rose ... .. 45, London Road, St. Albans, Herts.  
Rosalind Sampson ... .. 182, Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.  
Kathleen Snow ... .. The Poplars, Spennymoor, Co. Durham.  
William Stebbings ... .. 23, Middlemarch Road, Radford,  
Coventry.  
Elsie Wells ... .. 466, Mozeley Road, Birmingham.  
Ralph Wright ... .. 35, Bostall Hill, Plumstead.

## NEW OLD SCHOLARS

**Who have left since July, 1915, and are Free Members until Whitsuntide, 1917.**

Wilfrid Angerson	...	25, Staple Hill Road, Fishponds, Bristol.	Robert Jones	...	11, Crescent Road, Hadley, Wellington, Salop.
Dora Archer	...	66, St. John's Road, Isleworth.	William Machin	...	57, Foster Hill Road, Bedford.
Reginald Brock	...	55, Leslie Grove, Croydon.	Elsie Mason	...	8, Selly Oak Road, Bournville.
Evaline Bywater	...	41, Blenheim Road, Gloucester.	Irene Money	...	Tufley,
Victoria Byard...	...	34, Constantine Road, Hampstead, N.W.	Francis Murphy	...	60, Hunter's Vale, Hockley, Birmingham.
Howard Campion	...	42, De Beauvoir Road, London, N.	Alexander Norman	...	Severn Side Fruit Farm, Newnham, <span style="float: right;">Glos.</span>
Edith Chennell	...	Capel, near Dorking.	Florence Ockenden	...	103, Deacon Road, Kingston-on-Thames.
Emiline Dawes	...	15, Denzil Road, Guildford.	Joyce Peake	...	Swalcliffe, near Banbury.
Elsie Deane	...	84, Hamlet Court Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea.	Howard Quinton	...	27, Woodbrooke Road, Bournville.
Emily Dennis	...	Strode Cottage, Street, Somerset.	Dorothy Roberts	...	St. Margaret's, Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove.
Cecil Feugard	...	77, Sydenham Road North, Croydon.	Albert Rose	...	38, Halliford Street, Essex Road, Islington, N.
Frederick Goudge	...	3, Brewster Road, Leyton, E.	May Simpson	...	122, Westgate Street, Gloucester.
Ruth Hargrave...	...	52, Henley Road, Ilford, Essex.	Elsie Standing...	...	41, Neville Road, Croydon.
Cecil Hartwell	...	100, Moyser Road, Streatham, S.W.	William Taylor	...	Swalcliffe Grange, near Banbury.
Philip Hawkes...	...	Berkeley Cottage, Whitley Wood Road, Reading.	Marjorie Wells	...	466, Moseley Road, Birmingham.
Rosalie Henley	...	104, Waterford Road, Fulham, S.W.			