

Russ.

THE SIBFORD MAGAZINE



"YE MENNE OF SHEEP-FORD WENDATH WITHERSOEVER THEY WILEN"

SIBFORD OLD
SCHOLARS'
ASSOCIATION

1942

The Sibford Magazine

Incorporating the SOSA Annual Report

The journal of, and published annually by, the
Sibford Old Scholars' Association

THE PURPOSE

There is discernible in our Association a desire to take a worthier place in the structure of progressive humanity. Two indications of a deepening collective consciousness are the considerable interest aroused by the introduction into the 1942 gathering of an informed talk upon Social Credit, and the thoughts, printed elsewhere, of a member who seeks to widen the motive for the Association's existence. These examples, which exhibit a desire to enlarge the area of spiritual and mental awareness, and to serve not self but a wider brotherhood, are, even if in a small way, symptomatic of the outstanding need of our day—a uniting sense of purpose, deeper and wider than any for which we have so far fitted ourselves to receive. The basis from which such a vision may arise is a conception of life as being essentially one, essentially unlimited, essentially spiritual, and essentially responsive to the law of love. Very rarely is this basis consciously defined, yet without it there cannot be that enlarging capacity for revelation from which alone springs the continuously developing urge and energy toward the good.

Unless we are to stagnate, our vision of life must grow not by faith alone, but also by the ruthless pursuit of Truth in its more concrete forms. A conception of life as something which exists concretely between the points of physical birth and physical death, and thereafter vaguely in the indefinable and unknowable "heaven" of tradition and belief, cannot everlastinglly continue as a satisfying revelation—nor is it right that we should so limit ourselves as to preclude at any point the search for a greater measure of the Truth. "No faith can satisfy," says the Quaker Book of Discipline, "that cannot stand in the fierce light of truth": to the watchers on the hilltop the light of knowledge, which teaches us the Truth, floods even now into the theological "heaven" of tradition and belief. It is not unreasonable to expect that sooner or later there will emerge from the mass of evidence collected, sifted and studied by the science of psychical research a residuum of fact which none but the prejudiced and the blind will be able to withstand. There is a growing trend toward an era in which life will become *demonstrably* spiritual in its essential nature, in which man upon earth will be seen clearly as an immortal spirit, temporarily associated with a body of physical matter. To the psychical scientist, demonstrable survival has for long been a working

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hypothesis ; the tendency to go further and find it proved is steadily growing. The chief value which seems to be emerging is the possibility of life becoming here and now factually understandable up to points some distance beyond physical dismissal ; and the most important thing emerging from this understanding is that life is discovered to be gradually continuous, the continued life being as real and as concrete as the physical life used to be, with work for the talents to do, in surroundings automatically decided by the quality of the life upon earth. In the light of this wider conception of understandable life, death is indeed the great illusion. Illusions, too, are monetary wealth, power, and purely physical and material attainments. For the spirit which fills up its time on earth with the accumulation of wealth, the aggrandisement of self, and the satisfaction of personal pleasure, barren indeed are the surroundings to which it sentences itself. It becomes increasingly obvious that the things which matter most are the things of the spirit, that the attributes which last are the attributes based upon the fact that the essential life is the spiritual life—the attributes of service and of love. For this reason we welcome wholeheartedly the signs, however small they may be, that the Sibford Old Scholars' Association is uneasy with an existence which satisfies nothing more than the pleasure of its members. If we are to have an existence really worth while, then (as our contributor suggests) "to meet once a year, to fraternize one with each other, is not in itself a sufficient aim ; we need a greater purpose behind our activities". It is probable that at present little can be done, but we earnestly trust that, in post-war years, the "greater purpose" will receive the attention it undoubtedly deserves.

REUNION 1943

August is not possible for the next reunion, the School having been let for a Summer School. Easter and Whitsun are possibilities, with Whitsun the most probable. About 100 OS's could be accommodated in the village (plus the Boys' Common Room, kindly offered by Arthur Johnstone). The Secretary, Oldway House, Wellington, Somerset, asks for comments and suggestions.

THE BACK COVER PICTURES, taken at the Centenary Celebrations at General Meeting show (top) Sibford's four headmasters, Arthur Johnstone, James Harrod, Robert Oddie (represented by Roland Herbert), and Richard Routh (John Peile), and early pupils arriving at the School. Miss Prior represents Rebecca Routh, and Joe Canning the carrier.

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THE AUGUST REUNION



THE story of the wartime reunion of August 1942 is the story of a venture the success of which exceeded the brightest hopes. Between the 1st and the 6th a happy and useful time was spent by about 150 Old Scholars and their relatives, most of whom had arranged their leave (from a great variety of work and service) so that it should coincide with the gathering.

The difficulties of transport were overcome in many ways, the peak of endeavour probably being discovered in two girls who made the journey from Carlisle and back by bicycle. We ourselves reached Banbury in more orthodox style—but, then the fun began. Our bus, bound originally for Swalecliffe, bulged so with SOSA humanity (we, dear reader, standing on one leg and hugging a suitcase lovingly against a Swalecliffe lady) that our conductress decided to take us to the Elm.

The spirit of the Meeting House at the Gower must have rejoiced to see so many well-remembered faces in worship on Sunday morning. In the evening Jack Herbert led the meeting in the Gym.

On Monday morning we assembled on the games field to see a boat race, bicycle gymkhana, obstacle race and tug-o'-war in an exciting and amusing sports meeting. That afternoon, the picnic to Hill Bottom was, owing to uncertain weather, diverted to the Hill, whither the patient Selina, accompanied by a bevy of small boys and girls (there were ten young children of OS's at the gathering), brought our food and drink. The same evening, a team of cricketers, some of us not having played for years, met a team from the village and thoroughly enjoyed the game, even if we were easily defeated.

Tuesday gave us an excellent display of swimming in a gala held during the morning. The programme included diving, swimming, a most amusing competition involving a return to nature in the form of cries of birds and animals, and an exciting relay. Alister Rose, who ran the gala, showed the correct breast stroke and demonstrated the French "butterfly" version. During the afternoon, a party of hardy hikers set off with cheese and bread crusts, left over from the dinner tables, to walk to Rollright. We know that one or two fell by the way-side, because we saw them at Traitors' Ford, and the others were forced to skirt fields of grain that used to be crossed diagonally, so that they reluctantly gave up the pilgrimage owing to lack of time. A well-attended and interesting talk by E. P. Kaye on "Social Credit" took place in the evening, and was followed by animated and considerable discussion.

THE AUGUST REUNION

The following morning the girls took the men to task concerning their ideas on cricket, and each picked a team of doughty warriors to defend their rights. The girls went in first and made 53 runs amid many jokes and repartee. The men, playing tip-and-run, only just managed to get away with it by a dozen runs. In the afternoon we had a picnic to Traitors' Ford.

Kathleen Rice was responsible for the reunion concert arrangements. She produced a programme for us each evening except Sunday, when Mabel and James Harrod read again their History of the School, which had already given such pleasure to General Meeting. The Brains Trust on Monday was a most amusing performance. Questions which had been rolling in on Sunday and Monday were kept secret from the members of the Trust until they were hurled at them in the evening by their question master, Rolland McHerbert. Mabel Harrod, Leslie Cross, Janet Parkin, Brian Dancer, Elizabeth Holden, with Commander Jeff Long and Professor E. P. Kaye, gave quite seriously spoken answers, many of them keeping us laughing so much that one person said it actually hurt.

In the concert that followed, and again on Tuesday evening, Joe Canning of Sibford Ferris sang, to our obvious enjoyment. The other artistes in the reunions were Kathleen Rice and Marie Harrison in songs ; Mabel Harrod ; Jeff Long (alone, and with wife Alice) ; Julie Grimes ; Paul Caudwell ; Franz Rosen and Co. ; and Maria Wolf. The last reunion on Wednesday was a "Command Performance", each bedroom contributing. There could have been no happier finale, the items including sketches, a burlesque of "Excelsior", juggling without visible implements, guessing items, limericks of events of the week, talks, stories, songs and recitations.

It was good to keep up the tradition of after-breakfast readings from the Bible, and to hear each table in turn give some amusing reminiscence of school life. It was also good to visit once more our friend Sally Walker, and to enjoy a cup of tea in her parlour. And the ELM? Of course! Especially on Wednesday night, when, after "Auld Lang Syne" in the gym, we saluted her and sent forth verbal rockets in her honour. And we remember many other pleasant things : Jim Baily's announcement, "Has anyone found a black man's bathing costume?" ; Uncle Lionel's "conscientious objection" to waistcoats of normal construction ; and, among others, that overfull bus that scraped on the left flank, and the
it was going to Banbury, and that meant the end of a wonderful time.—ERIC GRIMES.

The following list was compiled by Lionel Geering, who felt that OS's unable through war conditions to be present would be interested in the names of those who were able to attend.

Among those present at the reunion were : Atkins, Betty ; Atkins, Richard. Baily, Jim ; Baily, Elin ; Baily, Roy ; Baily, Jim ; Baily, Peter. Baker, Nancy. Bunker, Grace. Bizzell, Earle. Blackburn, Peter. Bond, Barbara. Brookhouse, Frances. Bryan, A. Buckley, Margaret. Butler, Naomi ; Butler, Thomas C. Carn, Douglas. Caudwell, Paul. Chatten, Mildred ; Chatten, Janet ; Chatten, Christine ; Chatten, Josephine ; Chatten, Jeffery. Cheshire, Roy. Clarke, Mary. Cole, Allen. Collins, Jeff ; Collins, Joan. Coxon, John. Cross, Leslie. Dairy, Pamela.

BUSINESS MEETING

Dancer, Brian. Dearden, John ; Dearden, Bessie ; Dearden, Jean. Ehelers, Marion. Ellicker, Betty. Fiest, Margrit. Geering, Edith ; Geering, Lionel ; Geering, Richard ; Geering, Roslind ; Geering, Rosline ; Geering, Sydney. Gooday, Arthur. Goudge, Harry ; Goudge, Ethel ; Goudge, Edward. Green, Fred ; Green, Margaret ; Green, Alice. Grimes, Eric ; Grimes, Guilia ; Grimes, Christopher. Grimsdale, June. Hancock, Eva M. Harrison, Arthur W. ; Harrison, Marie ; Harrison, Graham. Harrod, James T. ; Harrod, Mabel ; Harrod, Lucy ; Harrod, May. Herbert, Roland ; Herbert, Eva ; Herbert, John ; Herbert, Edith ; Herbert, Barbara ; Herbert, Ina. Hilling, Joan. Holden, Elizabeth. Hunt, Edith. James, Ivor ; James, Thecka. Kaye, Arnold ; Kaye, Edward P. Kirkman, Marian. Ladell, June. Laity, David. Lamb, Bernard. Laurance, Henry ; Laurance, Kingsley ; Laurance, Elsie. Long, Jeffery ; Long, Judith ; Long, Alice. Morland, Betty. Mould, William. Neal, Hazel ; Neal, Richard. Norgrove, Vera. Norman, Humphrey ; Norman, B. Osbourne, Ruth. Oyston, Joan. Parker, Betty. Parkin, Hazel ; Parkin, Jannet. Parsons, Edward ; Parsons, Ian. Pearman, Reginald. Pollard, Wilfrid ; Pollard, Mabel ; Pollard, Tony ; Pollard, Sydney. Poulton, Louis ; Poulton, Henry ; Poulton, Mabel. Reynolds, Joy. Rice, Kathleen. Rodgers, Audrey. Rose, Alister. Rosen, Franz. Ryan, Gordon. Savage, Winifred. Seafert, Erwin. Secret, Bessie. Sinclair, Jean. Southall, Bryan. Stone, Wendy. Storey, H. Strong, Irene M. ; Strong, Ursula. Swann, Betty. Taylor, Eileen. Tebbs, Muriel ; Tebbs, Louis ; Tebbs, F. Thompson, Francis. Tingey, Eileen. Townley, Ralph. Ward, Lilian. Warren, Fletcher. Watson, Olive. Wesgate, Reginald ; Wesgate, Ethel. Winter, Molly. Wittker, Beryl. Wolf, M. M. Wright, Brian ; Wright, Doris ; Wright, Beryl ; Wright, Louis E. Yeoman, F. K.

THE BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting was held in the gym on August Bank Holiday. In the absence of the regular chairman (Charles Brady), E. P. Kaye was asked to preside.

The Secretary, James Baily, reported that the President, Howard Quinton, was, at the last moment, unable to be present. This was universally regretted. The Committee recommended that Roland Herbert (who, with Eva Herbert, had consented to act as Host and Hostess to the reunion) should be asked to carry out the duties of President for the week. Roland Herbert was unanimously elected Acting President. Howard Quinton was re-elected President. The chairman read greetings from the following : Dorothy and Wilfred Angerson, Howard and Doris Quinton, the Roe sisters, Francis Thomas, Elsie Harrod, Robert Rose, Olive Wagstaffe and Marjorie Hawkins, Alec Norman, Francis Tucker, Fred Sheldon, and Bernard Blunsom.

It was agreed that it was right that the Association's part in the School Centenary celebrations should be deferred until after the war.

In the absence of the Treasurer (Fred E. Goudge), the Assistant Treasurer, Lionel Geering, reported on the financial position (see over). He asked for a ruling about the funds of the gathering, and it was agreed that all resources should be incorporated in one SOSA fund, and that there should not be a separate fund for the gathering.

The Committee was re-elected, with the exception of Leslie Baily, whose term of office expired. His place was taken by Eileen Tingey.

The question of the status of the present gathering was raised, and after discussion it was unanimously agreed that the gathering was an official annual reunion of the SOSA. The Secretary was asked to write to Wilfred Littleboy, expressing the Association's thanks to the School Committee for the use of the School premises.

NEWSLETTER

The Assistant Treasurer was asked to prepare a statement of accounts, giving the position from Whitsuntide 1940 to August 1942. The statement is as follows :

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Balance in hand	7 15 0	1940 Report and postage ..	14 0 0
Subscriptions to date	65 14 6	1941 Report and postage ..	22 19 6
Donations	14 6 0	Loss on 1940 Gathering ..	37 1 6
Bank Interest	7 0 5	Postage	2 2 9
Balance of 1942 Gathering	83 13 9	Receipt Books	1 2 6
		Balance in hand	101 3 5
	£178 9 8		£178 9 8

The Life Membership Account stands at £239 8s. Subscriptions received during 1941 were £15 15s. and during 1942 £6 6s.

September 1st, 1942.

(Signed) F. LIONEL GEERING, Assistant Treasurer.

SOSA NEWSLETTER

We are indebted to Arthur Johnstone for the following.

M. B. Pulford, an old scholar of Richard Routh's time, called at the School on July 27th. He was 78 years old, but on arriving at Banbury station and finding there was no bus, he walked to Sibford and arrived without the least sign of fatigue ! The School has been given an oak garden seat by Evelyn Sturge in memory of her sister, H. Winifred Sturge. M. Sidney Oddie died at Sibford Gower on August 15th. It is known that Frank Holland's ship was sunk on February 15th. Since then there has been no news of him and it is feared he is lost at sea. Tim Pye is in the Ordnance Corps and stationed at Brighton. Dick Geering is a CO, exempted on condition that he continued his present work. He also organizes voluntarily a squad of rescue workers. Derryck Hill writes interesting letters from the deserts of the Middle East. Says Dick Harris has been very ill and gone on sick leave to Jerusalem. John Hughes is no longer a CO, but rejected medically unfit for service, so still farming. Jeanne Cottrell finished her course at Bath Domestic Subjects College ; now hoping to teach. Oina Patterson has passed Preliminary State Nursing Examination at Stratford Hospital ; going to Wolverhampton Royal Hospital. Frank Kaye writes interesting letters about farming in Cheshire. Has brought "20-30 calves right through the winter safely as well as all my pigs". Raymond Baseley gave up work at Cadbury's to do club work at Slough Social Centre. Brian Hooper is in the Merchant Navy as assistant engineer. April Fearon is in the WAAF. Noel Powell has obtained his degree in horticulture, but is now studying radio-location in the OTC. Vera Norgrove is in the FAU. Secretarial work most of the time, but has done part-time nursing centre work. Arnold Castres has been before tribunal as CO. Joined National Fire Service, also attending printing classes at Liverpool School of Art. Won free studentship three years in succession. Monica Foss is Deputy Matron at Wartime Nursery in Birmingham. June Ladell, Land Army at Stratford. Marion Upton, WAAF. Margaret Roberts, Land Army. Joan Roberts, Nursing Auxiliary, Aylesbury, Dorcas

NEWSLETTER

Harries, ATS Ambulance Driver. John Osbourne, RAF. Ruth Osbourne, CO. Kenneth Wallis, RAMC at Aldershot. Roland Hawkes was exempted as CO. Working on the land at Reigate. Doris Russell, training at Wellgarth, Nursery nursing. Kenneth Stephenson is somewhere in the Western Desert decoding and coding signals. Joined the Navy in October 1940 ; after three months drafted to Alexandria to join H.M.S. *Eagle*, but ship had left, so drafted to shore base. Been at Tobruk wireless station. Now with RAF squadron. Herbert Lucas is CO, with full-time ARP or land work. Has been cooking, and driving a workers' tea van. Paul Narroway is an RAF sergeant-observer. Trained in Canada for nine months. Now back in England. John Simpson, RAF, Canada. Arthur Harrison, CO. Terence Cragg, RAF, taking an air-gunner's course. Marcus Burtt, RAF. Elizabeth Holden is in a firm of Chartered Accountants in the City. Grace Beckerlegge went to Cardiff Technical School to learn bakery and confectionery. Now married (after an excellent training !) but still Beckerlegge, as she married a gentleman of the same name. Evelyn Reid is a nurse at Cardiff Royal Infirmary. Colin Goodbody left agriculture and became a driver in Talbot-Serpell Transport Co. Charlie LaCroix is working at mining engineering at Worcester. Was near a bomb which carried him to the other end of the workshop, but came through safely. John Llewellyn C. Thomas is registered as a CO, but before being called before tribunal went to Jersey under the Pacifist Service Bureau to dig potatoes in May 1940. Appears to be now working with State Engineer's office in Jersey in his own work, architect's assistant. Monica Knight is training at St. Nicholas Orthopædic Hospital. Passed Preliminary Orthopædic Examination with honours. Begins general training at Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham in January 1943. Margaret Herbert is at York Retreat helping to cook for 280 people. Has also worked in the Laundry and on Occupational Therapy. John Baxter, at Dunedin Boys' High School, New Zealand. Peter Payne passed two examinations in his course for the Navy. Peggy Yoeman is at the Middlesex Hospital as a Massage Student. M. Booth, training in a Rudolf Steiner School. Anthony Moore Eddington, CO, is farming. Geoffrey Pearson, RAF. Margaret Wootton, War Vics in London. Harold Lambourne, RAF. Cecily Eldridge, Children's Nurse at Crookham, near Aldershot. Daphne Ward, Children's Nurse. Jose Burtt, engaged to be married to a Squadron-Leader in RAF. Ralph Townley is a CO. The following were successful in School Certificate : E. Bibby, D. Butler, H. Gibson, D. Heckford, V. Lamb, P. Needham, J. Poplett, J. Wallis, P. Westover, J. Dale, P. Flinn, D. Hollis and M. Manasseh.

Our Wandering Ambassador (Uncle Lionel) reports : I visited Fred Sheldon at Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton, when I found him bright and cheerful and wishing to be remembered to Old Scholars. Has since been moved to Blackwell Convalescent Home, Bromsgrove, Birmingham. Molly Dale, with Nancy Baker, visited Shipston and Sibford for their holiday. Molly is nursing near Guildford. Brother Robert landed in Egypt from a merchant vessel and met several OS's

NEWSLETTER

in the FAU—Derryck Hill, Ian Hedger and Dick Harris. Letter received from Herbert Calcraft says his brother Leslie wounded in Hong Kong, where he had been employed in a shipping firm. At time of writing was going on well. Roland and Eva Herbert, with Ina, spent fortnight with school camp at Ross-on-Wye picking apples and plums (picked 39 tons of plums in one week—no record of number eaten). Eva and Ina cooked for 35. Joy Reynolds spotted on a cycle in Banbury. Was running children's camp at Worm Leighton, Edgehill. Later visited Shipston and spent night before returning to her school. Sister Betty is mistress at Saffron Waldon, and Jane is Lance-Bombardier in the ATS. Quinton Geering inspected potato crops for Ministry of Agriculture in Devonshire for Colorado Beetle. David Laity still farming at Lostwithiel. Rendel Hill carpenter at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Birmingham, having recovered from motor-cycle accident. Caroline Jenkins appointed to Sibford School Committee, making six OS's now on the Committee. Line from Edgar Ince complaining he did not receive 1941 magazine. He did not notify me of his change of address—other OS's please note changes of address should be notified to me as soon as they occur. Mildred Chatten and her family of four arrived at the August gathering and very thrilled at opportunity of the holiday. Letter from Louis Wright and family congratulating arrangers of the gathering and hopes more August reunions will be arranged. This was his first for over twenty years. Was so thrilled he immediately became a Life Member. John Dearden (one of the August organizers) writes of the success of the gathering and also hopes more will be held. Earle Bizzell is married and lives in Coventry. Has a daughter. Grace Bunker is in London doing factory welfare work. Marion Ecroyd doing wartime postman's work in Sibford and Brailes. Harry Goudge manager of boot shop in Edgware Road, London. Gulie Grimes doing part-time teaching. Violet Harris mender of holes in socks and clothes at Sibford School. Pearl Mayo cook at school near Chipping Campden. Tim Pye at Brighton, in RAF. Louis and Henry Poulton still farming at Sibford. Winifred Wilson retired after twenty-five years at London Hospital, where she was Sister in the nurses' home. A letter from Freddie Goudge at Bournemouth says he has finished his initial training in the Navy and is now doing clerical work. In conclusion, here is an extract from a letter from Wm. Grimes, of Bracknell, Berks., who was at School from 1868 to 1871 and is now 87. Enclosing his half-a-crown he says : "When the 1941 Sibford Magazine arrived I was laid by with bronchitis and pleurisy. But now (August) I am able to do my garden of about half an acre and mount a 25-rung ladder to get my apples down, of which I have so far got about ten bushels, which my villagers eagerly purchased."

News from letters : Leslie Stoneham left the Orkneys many months ago and has been at Portsmouth, but is on the move again. Howard Campion (Army Pay Corps) is in India. Via the Campions I hear of Irene, who is doing ARP.—FLORENCE LEE, Wood Green, N.22.

On May 19th my wife produced a third child and second daughter who has since been named Gillean. Five days later Stuart's wife gave

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

birth to a third son at Chipping Norton Hospital, who was named Stuart Murray Gordon. Stuart senior has had many changes recently. Early last December he left England with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for an unnamed destination, but being taken ill on the way was put ashore in West Africa suffering from appendicitis. After the operation he met a pre-war architectural colleague who immediately made use of Stuart's experience in building to arrange for his transfer to the RE's. Stuart is therefore still in West Africa in his fourth regiment and is now Lieutenant. Ivy is keeping well and has taken over a new job, the first of its kind in her firm to be undertaken by a woman. A month or two ago I met Cedric Johnston ; he is a Lieutenant in the RA.—ALISTER ROSE, Harrow.

Other items to hand : The Assistant Commissioner of Police of Shanghai, a friend of Leslie Calcraft's, spent a fortnight with Lionel Geering after being repatriated to England. Lionel met him in Shanghai when visiting Leslie Calcraft few years ago. John Coxon and Irene Wagstaffe married in Birmingham in October. Leslie and Elizabeth Carn, Eastbourne, have another son, Alan, born on July 15th. The Editorial department, having produced this magazine for seven successive years, now reports the production of a son, named Jon, on September 16th, at the Warvic hostel in Banbury.

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT

The year has been one of quiet work and great happiness. As always, however, there have been experiments. In January it was decided to bring back gardening to the curriculum, and accordingly a qualified lady gardener was appointed. At Easter an additional mistress was appointed to take charge principally of the work in the junior form.

In the summer we lost the services of Miss Kenning, gym mistress for four and a half years. Miss Kenning's keenness raised our games and swimming to a high level and it is pleasant to record that at the last swimming examination for the " Bronze " of the Royal Life Saving Society, the examiner remarked that he had never before seen " a set of girls whose general skill in the water was so high ". While thinking of those who have given good service to the School, we must not forget our old friend Frederick Ward, who after sixty-five years of devoted service as boot repairer to the school, is retiring. That will be a record hard to beat. His little shop in Burdrop has been well known to generations of Sibford boys and girls. He began his work in the days of Richard Routh. We owe him warm thanks for his long and loyal service, and our best wishes go with him in his retirement.

At General Meeting there was a splendid crowd of visitors and a sunny day. Two delightful papers were read in their own inimitable ways by Herbert W. Jones and Mabel Harrod, dealing with the hundred years of the School's history, and through the generosity of the School Committee each member of the Old Scholars' Association will receive a copy of these papers as a centenary gift. During the afternoon there was a pageant of the School's history, written by Beatrice Saxon Snell. Over a hundred boys and girls took part.—A.J.

POST-WAR PLANNING

I used to wonder why past centuries produced many wise men whose recorded thoughts always seemed to me unequalled by any philosopher of the last hundred years. Six months recumbent convinced me that it was because in this modern age we give very little time to contemplation. In spite of the fact that our efforts are mainly directed towards saving time, the amount we save is rarely devoted to matters of real importance.

During months of enforced idleness I gave a good deal of thought to the SOSA, and came to certain conclusions. In forty years the first trickle of Old Scholars to Sibford has become almost an invasion, and we have much cause for satisfaction. Nevertheless it has occurred to me that the time has come when, by new ideals, the Association needs to be revitalized, if it is usefully to survive. To meet once a year, to fraternize one with each other, is not in itself a sufficient aim ; we need a greater purpose behind our activities. I should like to see the Association become more of a mutual aid society. Do we do enough, or indeed anything, to keep together our members, especially those in far-flung places ? Do we remember, visit, or try to help members in distress ? Are we content to leave it to the Committee, or do we feel our personal responsibility as members ? Within my own knowledge, one member has done much in this direction, and during the months when I was incapacitated I was greatly helped by his letters and his visits. Would it not be possible to extend this work, perhaps by using a group system, so that members living, for example, in South London could meet more often ? Scholars in that area could be called upon, and not lost to the Association. Perhaps in the future bi-annual reports could be issued giving greater detail about members. One member in each large town could be appointed as a consul for that area, roving members could be kept in touch. I note with interest that members who cannot afford the cost of the annual gathering may write to the secretary explaining their circumstances and the fee will be either reduced or waived, and I am assured that such requests are treated in confidence. This is a step in the right direction.

The time of the year at which the gathering is held has a bearing on the foregoing suggestions. The general feeling this year appeared to be in favour of continuing to hold the gathering in August. While we missed the company of the present scholars, the five days of the August gathering gave us an opportunity of getting to know and understand each other. One could indulge leisurely in those intimate little chats which make these affairs so pleasurable, while the short gathering at Whitsuntide is apt to make us slaves to the programme. Those who leave Sibford for other schools would be able to attend during the August holidays and encouraged to remain members ; many are lost to us through lack of contact immediately when leaving. Lastly, what a grand thing it would be if all our children were enabled to come to Sibford as scholars. One day we may find the answer to this and the other problems I have raised, and meanwhile, I commend these thoughts to you until we meet again.—HARRY GOUDGE.

MABEL HARROD

MABEL HARROD, the beloved wife of James T. Harrod, Headmaster of Sibford School from July 1906 to August 1930, left this life in the evening of Monday, November 2nd, at her home in Godalming, at the age of 71 years. Her passing was unexpected, for she had been active and vigorous until the end of the previous week. On the Saturday she had appeared in her usual health, and in the afternoon had been cycling and visiting her friends. The evening was occupied happily at the fireside, with reading aloud, sewing and a game. Her last work was to arrange for the Preparative Meeting at Godalming, which was to be held the following day. Immediately after retiring she had a severe attack of haemorrhage of the brain and was unconscious until the end, which occurred at about six o'clock in the evening of November 2nd.

Mabel Harrod was a daughter of the late William and Louisa Kitching, of Southport, Lancs., and Clevedon, Somerset. She was educated at Ackworth and York Friends' Schools, where she afterwards trained as a teacher, and at Aberystwyth College, obtaining a London BA degree. For some time she taught in Welsh schools with great success, and returned to work among Friends' schools in 1903, when she became headmistress of Sidcot School, Somerset. She married James Harrod at Clevedon Friends' Meeting House in 1906. Just before their marriage James Harrod had been appointed headmaster of Sibford, and for many years, in addition to tending her young family, Mabel Harrod played a great part in the life of the school, exercising a charming influence on everyone, in both school and village. In 1930 she and her husband retired, and moved to Birmingham, where Mabel Harrod spent eight years as a lecturer to schools, chiefly on the social and economic work of the League of Nations. On several occasions she visited Geneva to attend the Assemblies of the League of Nations and she kept in close touch with the work of the International Labour Organization. She was actively associated with the Women's International League and with Women's Institutes throughout Warwickshire and frequently visited Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire for further service. She was an able athlete, playing a good game of hockey until she was 60, and was active and energetic, physically and mentally, all her life.

In 1938 she and her husband went to Godalming, where both interested themselves in the work of several organizations. Mabel Harrod became clerk to the Godalming Friends' Meeting, for whom her husband is an Elder. She was also the President of Godalming branch of the British Women's Total Abstinence Union, and Hon. Secretary of the local branch of the League of Nations Union.

While at Sibford, Mabel Harrod brought up three daughters as well as acting as headmistress, and her influence upon the School was tremendous. The present writer recalls particularly her advocacy and support of movements designed to unite men in a common brotherhood; we remember as examples her untiring efforts for the League of Nations Union and her enthusiasm for Esperanto. We remember her also as someone whose teaching was backed by a sense of sincerity it was

MABEL HARROD

impossible to question. We remember, too, her vision, in which idealism was blended with a strong sense of reality ; there will be many who recall that long before the new School at the Hill became a fact she and her husband drew for us an outline of their dream of a new and greater School. So much of Mabel Harrod's idealism had this quality of reality ; so much of her life was service, and so much of her service was practical and to the point. Seeing clearly what was needed she never wavered in her struggle toward fulfilment. To that struggle she gave her entire strength ; she never held back or hedged. In many ways she was one of the most courageous women Sibford has ever known.

Cremation took place at St. John's, Woking, on November 5th, followed by a Meeting for Worship at Godalming Friends' Meeting House.

There was a large gathering, among the Old Scholars being Harry J. Randall, John Dale, the Myall brothers, Margaret Myall, Christine Myall, Mollie Dale and Bernard Blunsom. The family present included James Harrod (husband), Elsie, May and Gulie Harrod (daughters), Esther Kitching, Wilfred Kitching (of the Salvation Army), Lucy Harrod and others.

The Meeting, after a short silence, was full of contributions on the value of Mabel Harrod's life and work. Harry J. Randall gave a sketch of her work at Sibford and spoke of her lasting influence for good. Among many loving kindnesses that he remembered was when, one Christmas, she dressed up as Santa Claus, and went round the village distributing gifts. There was a sacramental joy in all she did, even in the way in which she stepped on to a hockey field—and her life was full of fun.

Wilfred Kitching recalled the eagerness which visits from "Aunt Mabel" aroused in the family of his childhood, and how on outings and holidays she would enter whole-heartedly into everything, often being the first to pick up the cricket bat. An Old Scholar of Sidcot recalled words of counsel and help which Mabel Harrod gave to her at Sidcot many years ago, when she was for a short time headmistress there. Bernard Blunsom spoke of her devoted work for peace and international friendship, which had a great influence and lasting effect on all with whom she came into contact. Many Friends of the Surrey Monthly Meeting spoke of her work among them. It was said of her that she was a great adventurer for Christ, and the true Kingdom of God on earth.

The words, "Love never Faileth", which appeared on the Memorial Card, were applicable to her life which burned with love. In conclusion, James Harrod read a poem and a short prayer.

The extent to which Mabel Harrod will be missed is even greater than Old Scholars, many of whom knew much of her work, will be able to realize, for her services, unstinted and untiring, were given to a great variety of forward looking movements. To the family, and especially to her husband, every Old Scholar will extend sympathy, and many will wish to join in an expression of thankfulness for the great influence which this fearless and enlightened woman was able to exert upon them during and after their days at Sibford School.

