

IRIS June 1906

Walthamstow High School Magazine

Editor C.R. Whittingham

Sub-Editors: MISS GOLDWIN and MISS GOWER.

Notes.

Working parties for the High School Bazaar are held at the School every Tuesday afternoon, at 4o'clock. The date of the Bazaar is July 14th.

Walthamstow High School Old Girls' Association

At a reunion of former pupils, held at the Walthamstow High School on Friday March 2nd, it was decided to form an "Old Girls' Association."

The object of the Society is to keep a common interest between Girls who have left and are leaving School; to arrange for two meetings a year, when old associations may be renewed, and to publish a magazine to tell of what is being done by past and present W.H.S. Girls, and to contain literary contributions from members.

A Committee of twelve, Treasurer, and Secretaries, were appointed, and Miss Hewett kindly became President.

A Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 20th, when the Annual Subscription was fixed at 2s., inclusive of two copies of the magazine "Iris," issued in June and November.

Subscriptions should be sent without delay to the Treasurer, Mrs. Maud, Peveril, Hempstead Road, Walthamstow, and a Rule Card will be duly forwarded.

VIOLET CHAPPELL, Hon. Sec.

Appointments

L. BEALE, Form Mistress, Parkstone School, Dorset.

EMILY FOXON, Form Mistress, Rayne School, St. George's-in-the-East.

Miss Kühn, Singing Mistress, Riebeck College, Uitenhage, S. Africa.

HILDA WHITTINGHAM, House Surgeon, Belgrave Hospital for Children.

MURIEL WHITTINGHAM, Science Mistress, Camden School for Girls, Kent

Examination Results

MAY SPAREY, Intermediate Science, University of London.

MURIEL FLETCHER, Intermediate Arts, University of London.

EMILY BELL, 34th place Women Clerks' Examination (50 appointments)

MILLICENT JACKSON, A.R.C.M.

Editorial

On Friday, March 2nd, a reunion of former pupils was held at the Walthamstow High School. About eighty girls were present, and all can testify to the success of the evening. The programme consisted of music and conversation, the latter item filling the greater part of the evening. Refreshments were provided, the Forms V. and VI. of the present girls kindly presiding over these.

During the evening Miss Hewett brought forward a proposal to form an Old Girls' Association, the aim of which should be to bind together girls who have now left the School. Miss Hewett suggested that the Association should consist of various sub-sections, Literary, Athletic, etc., and that a magazine should be started in connection with it. During the evening the Association was formed and the names of the committee read.

The first number of a magazine must always be more or less of an experiment, and cannot be taken as typical of all it is hoped the magazine will be. The aim of "Iris" will be to treat of all that is of real interest to the members of the Old Girls' Association.

Articles on the various professions in which Old Girls are engaged will be welcomed, and these will probably not only be of interest, but of real value to girls who are uncertain as to which field of labour they will enter.

The editor will be glad to receive reports of births, marriages, appointments, and any other items of interest to our Association. It is impossible to write individually to each Old Girl for contributions to the magazine, but if each member of the Association will remember that the work in which they are engaged is of real interest to their old school-fellows, the magazine will never be at a loss for material.

Origin and Objects of the O. G.A.

The connection of former scholars with the School has always been maintained by means of the annual sale, social gatherings, and other means, but until the reunion held last March no definite association of Old Girls existed.

Many things have now made the desirability of forming a definite organization of past scholars of the High School evident to those of us who are deeply interested in the School, and in all who were or are connected with it. Some reasons, among many others, may be mentioned. A considerable number of Old Girls are settling in the locality in homes of their own, and their increasing responsibilities will lead them to take a

wider view of school life and child training, and their experience will be of interest and help to one another, and to all of us at present in the School, both mistresses and girls, as we hope we may soon welcome among us some of the School's grandchildren, as we have already welcomed grand-nephews and nieces.

We feel that the present time is an important epoch in the history of education, especially secondary, education; a time of change, of new ideas; a time when what education really is is beginning to be understood, when the value and need of true education is beginning to be appreciated, so that it will be of great interest to Old Girls, especially those who have left us many years to hear what is being done in the educational world, particularly as represented in our small sphere, which, though small is typical of, similar to, and in touch with the larger world around us. All who have worked with us will, for example, be interested to hear of Professor Sadler's visit to us on behalf of the County Council and to read shortly his report on the Secondary Schools of Essex; to hear that our first regular inspection by the Board of Education (an inspection of a very searching nature), is to take place in July; and to hear too of the way in which the present girls are upholding the honour of the School in work and play and the developments of the latter during the past year.

Another reason for forming an association is the fact that now many Old Girls have taken up various careers in the world (Secondary, Elementary, and Kindergarten teaching, Dispensing, Nursing, Civil Service, Clerical Work, and Business Training, etc.), and that their knowledge and experience will be of great interest to their contemporaries, and of great value to those who are leaving and about to leave school in their choice of future work; we feel that a

permanent record should be kept of the posts filled and the honourable work done by those who have been associated with us, and an opportunity given of asking and receiving information on subjects in which members can help and advise one another.

We want, too, to keep girls who are just leaving us in touch with the School and with those who have left earlier, to continue school friendship and common interests, and to help those who are still in the school to realize that school life is only a preparation for later life.

There are some objects of our Association, and there are many more which will occur to everyone. Perhaps they may all be summed up by saying that the main object is to form a corporate and continuous school life, in which the traditions of the School shall be maintained, by providing regular opportunities for meeting and discussion, when those representative of all stages of the School's history and performing different work in the world, may exchange ideas and hear what has been and is being done by members and by the School.

There is no need to refer in detail to the various ways of carrying out our plans; they will be mentioned elsewhere, but a general idea may be given. The magazine, it is hoped, will provide a means of communication and information as to the doings of the members, and it will also supply the dates of the meetings and occasions when we shall welcome our friends to School gatherings. The two meetings will be opportunities for social intercourse, and we hope at the summer meeting we shall see the children of some of our members being introduced to the scene of their mothers' early labours and triumphs. Then, by means of the sub-sections, we intend to have some more definite plans for combined work and play.

There is sometimes a danger in an association of this nature that it may become stereotyped, and representative of only one section of Old Girl; the constitution of the committee has been very carefully arranged to obviate this danger: the committee will be entirely changed in four years, while there will be an opportunity of re-electing valuable members after an interval; provision is also made for one member to be a girl who has recently left school.

The idea of an Old Girls' Association has been enthusiastically received, the membership is already large, and the work of the officers and committee has been taken up with great vigour, so that it may have a long and prosperous life is not only the wish but the expectation of its first President.

BLANCHE HEWETT.

Pharmacy for Women

Amongst the many occupations now open to women, Pharmacy is fast finding its way to the front.

To become a fully qualified Pharmacist or Dispenser, there are various examinations to be passed. A certificate from some approved examining body, such as the College of Preceptors or one of the Universities, has to be presented to the Pharmaceutical Society before they will permit you to enter for the qualifying examination. This certificate is better obtained before leaving school: it must include English, Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra and Euclid, Latin, and one modern Foreign Language. It is also necessary to present a certificate, signed by a registered chemist and druggist or a qualified medical practitioner, that the candidate has been "for three years engaged in the translation and dispensing of prescriptions." These three years are generally spent by men in a chemist's shop, but women are generally trained at a hospital dispensary, or in the laboratory of a private coach; the last year of the apprenticeship is generally spent in attending lectures and practical work at a Pharmaceutical College, such as the School of Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society.

The course of training required to cover the syllabus of the Pharmaceutical Society's qualifying examination is of a most interesting character, including Botany, Materia Medica (study of crude drugs), Chemistry, Pharmacy and Latin.

The examination, to enter for which the age of 21 years must have been reached, and a fee of 10 guineas paid, lasts two days; on the first day, Practical Chemistry and Dispensing are taken, and, if the examiners are satisfied in these, a few days later a viva-voce must be attended. If this is successfully negotiated, the candidate has a legal right to use the title of "Chemist and Druggist." To obtain the title of "Pharmaceutical Chemist," to which, however, few women aspire, another examination, for which the fee is three guineas, must be passed in Chemistry, Botany, Materia Medica, and Physics; the standard for this is very high, the Chemistry required being as much as is needful for the London University degree of B.Sc., and the monetary value to a woman is not great.

The cost of training, examination fees, etc., amounts to about £120, including the higher examination, and of course a woman must be possessed of sufficient means to support herself during the three years' apprenticeship.

To take up the profession of Pharmacy a woman needs to be strong, as the hours of work are long, and the responsibility entailed very considerable; she also needs a certain amount of tact, especially when pointing out to a doctor that in a certain prescription he probably meant to prescribe a drachm, although he has ordered an ounce, or a teaspoonful dose where he has ordered a tablespoonful, and it is on such points that a qualified dispenser can be of great help to the much harassed doctor.

Patience is also a virtue much needed in hospital dispensing, when remonstrating with a patient for taking seven days' medicine in two days, or bringing dirty bottles and rusty tins to carry away their medicines.

There is a sort of back-door into Pharmacy afforded by the Society of Apothecaries, who examine anyone who is eighteen years old and can produce a certificate of six months' "training" and a fee of five guineas. Their certificate gives the right to act as assistant to a Licentiate of the Society (this Licentiate is the easiest medical qualification to obtain, and only a small proportion are content with it), but gives no other legal qualification. It is impossible to obtain a proper knowledge of Pharmacy in so short a period as six months, even under a good and conscientious teacher, and several who "train" students for this examination are far from that, and it is greatly to be regretted that women (and men), in many cases because their want of education makes it impossible for them to obtain Pharmaceutical Society's qualification, take this examination and then pose as qualified dispensers. There is unfortunately a great deal of ignorance among the medical profession as to the relative value of the two certificates, and as many with the "Apothecaries' Hall" certificate are willing to accept very low salaries, the general rate of payment is kept low and does not yield a fair return for the time and money spent in qualifying. Nevertheless, there are a few good posts to be obtained.

G.E. BARLTROP

NORTH EASTERN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN,
HACKNEY ROAD, E.

Hsü ta soo – A True Story

Nearing sixty! Yet, through sorrow, sickness and loneliness, looking as though age had been left far in the past – dear, faithful Mrs Hsü. Let me introduce you to her. She is of considerable circumference (especially in her wadded winter garments!) and below of medium height. Her feet, alas, have been bound

since a small child, and now in old age walking is made still more difficult through asthma, with an accompanying trying cough. She has been Christian for many years, and a faithful witness to numbers of her countrywomen of the One who has made her sad life more than bearable.

Like so many others, Mrs Hsü's husband died long ago as an opium eater, leaving one son who inherited the craving fully. Instead of growing up to be a comfort to his mother, he became an increasing trial. His wife, with two dear little boys, took refuge from him in her native town, a few days' distance. Needless to say, he went from bad to worse, till he was quite unable, if desirous, to work, such a hold had the opium craving upon him. Frequently he came to see his mother, but only to beg money, and later, to watch any opportunity to take any of her things that might be useful to him. Of course, Mrs Hsü, with her mother's heart, could not help him in his poverty, yet she knew the money would be expended on opium. One day she came to me very much worked up, saying, "I must go away from here, I am afraid I shall die of anger." (Seng-k'i, to produce breath or anger, is a very real sickness among the Chinese, often incapacitating them for days, and sometimes ending fatally, so utterly can they lose control of themselves.) She had a sorrowful story to tell of her son's more frequent visits, and how they stirred her mother's heart to the depths. We could not think of parting with her for she had been sewing for us many years, so we arranged for her to change her room for a time, so that she could not be found by her son, who on coming, would find the usual door locked, and conclude she had gone away.

I can never forget my last sight of that poor young fellow. One bitterly cold day last winter I saw him leaning against the wall of the women's courtyard, where his mother lives, at the back of our school dining-room. He wore old straw shoes, blue cotton trousers, and a piece of course sacking thrown round his shoulders! His long hair all matted and thoroughly unkempt. He leant against the wall, shivering and clutching the sacking as tight as he could across the chest. None of us ever saw him again after that day. He is supposed to have been frozen to death within the next few days. No attempt to rescue him from the terrible opium curse proved successful.

Mrs Hsü found comfort in adopting the elder grandson of nine or ten years; she sent him to a Christian school close by, and felt happy that he would be able to care for her bye-and-bye. Last July the little fellow sickened, and early in August we gathered around a little open grave, and sang in Chinese "When He Cometh." All through the time of sickness Mrs. Hsü's face was pitiable to see, so full of sadness; yet

directly he had passed away she was a changed person, once more her usual bright self. How was it? Ah, she knew that her precious little grandson was "safely gathered in," whereas, had he grown up in all probability he would soon have developed the terrible opium craving.

One Sunday afternoon I went into her little room for a talk. I found her sitting on her stone bed, with her big glasses on, reading her Bible. She looked up so brightly, and then showed me a revival card she had had given her, and pointing to the verse that she was reading, Isaiah lvii., 18, said how beautiful it was, and how she enjoyed reading verses in Isaiah. This is not at all usual among Chinese women, but she had learnt to read for many years. Most of those who read only manage the Gospels or the New Testament. We talked together of her sorrow, and of the Lord's comfort, and she told me too of work going on in her native town, which greatly rejoiced her. I remember she spoke of an old woman over sixty who had only just heard the Gospel, but hearing, believed.

This story of sorrow I know will speak to many sympathising hearts; it is only one of many thousands. We are longing for the day when England will do her duty in helping to free China from the opium; will you all help to hasten that day by prayer? Hope is steadily increasing that it is not far off.

L.B.

Elocution.

Elocution is regarded too much as an art to be followed only by a favoured few who possess talent for it, and not sufficiently as a science which can be studied by all.

Naturally, some persons have the ability to act better than others, but it is possible for everyone to learn to speak distinctly. This is far more important than many people choose to think. How many children can be broken of bad habits in speaking when quite young, who, if left to themselves or to careless elders, will grow up with many imperfections in their speech which are harmful to their future careers and distressful to their associates. Such a number of people now are considered "bad spellers" suffer from a want of the sense of sound which could so easily have been developed in childhood. Children can readily be cured of stammering and stuttering, but with older people it becomes quite a difficult matter.

Then there is a very important branch of elocution which has a great effect upon health, and is worthy of study for that purpose alone-this is

breathing. Every child, unless physically deficient, breathes naturally and well, but bad habits seem to come with growth: many breathe wrongly at the early age of ten years, and the majority of grown up people breathe incorrectly. Several diseases could be resisted with fuller respiration, and in time the lungs would become more developed in the human race. So few exercise the full extent of their lungs, and are content to use clavicular breathing instead of abdominal to the detriment of their health. Voices improve with fuller respiration and become more resonant. This is particularly noticed that in those who dwell among mountains and, of necessity climb much. For instance, the Swiss, Welsh, and Yorkshire people are noted for the beautiful quality and the resonant tone of their voices. This is undoubtedly due to the amount of hill climbing they are obliged to do, and thus to use their lungs to the fullest extent. As a marked contrast may be noticed the weak voices of many city dwellers. Those who live in confined parts of cities, possibly from a natural repugnance to the disagreeable odours which largely pervade atmospheres of towns, do not breathe deeply, and as a result, thin voices are very much in common in cities.

It is not necessary to shout to be heard. A deep breath and the proper use of the organs of speech will enable a deaf person to hear more clearly than if shouted at. The tongue, teeth, lips, and nasal cavities are not used nearly sufficiently, and greater attention to the exercise of these organs will soon shew a marked improvement in articulation.

Surely, everyone could study elocution so far with much advantage to themselves and pleasure to their neighbours.

For those who wish to proceed farther, the benefit and delight is extreme. It expands the mind, stirs the emotions, and gives play to the imagination. The mind is expanded by it: for no study of elocution is complete without deep research in the works of the great writers, and the more the works are studied, the greater the delight in them becomes. It is necessary, too, to read all varieties of standard works, and not to be content with one or two poets. Many average people think the majority of great writers are very dull; some find much difficulty, for instance, in reading Browning. But surely, if one of his poems were read aloud in an intelligent way, no one would have any difficulty in understanding it. Generally it is something worth reading that has to be read and read again, and only superficial thoughts that can be grasped at one glance. Is it not worth much study to be able to phrase the words and modulate the voice so as to give pleasure to others by an intelligent reading from the works of a great writer?

Moreover, it stirs the emotions; for what Englishman can listen unmoved to Henry V.'s speech before Harfleur, or does not feel patriotism awake at Tennyson's "Revenge." Does it not brighten the lives of the poor to hear merry tales, and does it not help the struggling worker when he hears such a poem as "The Three Singers"? Who does not feel they would rather sacrifice life than honour when they hear "Virginius," and who can doubt the good to be derived from "The Legend Beautiful"? Whose blood does not boil at such villainy as that of Iago's, or who has not experienced the peace contained in the beautiful lines of "Crossing the Bar"? Every variety of emotion can be awakened, and instances could be multiplied to weariness.

Then again the imagination has full play in attempting to depict such characters as, for instance, Lady Macbeth, Romeo, Juliet, Sir Peter and Lady Teazle, and many more. It is only when one tries to put oneself into the positions of such people that one has some idea of the genius that portrayed such characters. What a tremendous mind that it must have been to have written such words as those of Romeo and Juliet: the former so essentially the words of a man, and the latter so intensely womanly. Not until they are really studied is the wonder found, and though some people might imagine they could understand as well by seeing a piece played before them, they should remember the arduous toil undertaken by the performers before the production of the play in endeavouring to faithfully depict the various emotions demanded by the different characters.

Thus the pleasure is obvious, and the benefit undoubted, that it is to be gained by a study of elocution.

Basket-Ball.

In the Spring of 1905, it was decided by Miss Hewett that a system of outdoor exercise, consisting of drill and basket-ball, should be introduced into the High School to improve the health and physique of the girls.

Miss Damon, of the Chelsea Training College, has successfully carried out this project, and in the summer term, a team was formed which is now composed of the following girls: - Gladys Simmons, centre forward; Madeline Whitfield, right defender; Elsie Cotching, left defender; Annie Cuthbertson, right attacker; Winifred Wise, left attacker; Alison Gillard, chucker-in.

Of this team, Winifred Wise is the Captain, and Alison Gillard the Vice-captain.

Athletic sports were held for the first time in the summer of 1905, when the basket-ball was one of the items of the programme, the Fifth Form playing the Fourth. In this the former gained victory.

The next term, the first School match was played at Chelsea, against the Physical Training College, and in the spring three others took place. In the first our team played the Central Foundation School on their ground at Leytonstone; in the second the Clapham High School came to us, and the third was a return match at Chelsea.

In none of these were we victorious, but, since then, four matches have been played, and the Old Girls' team has been defeated by the Fifth Form. Still, although laurels are at present few, the interest manifested in the game increases steadily, and we hope that further success will soon crown our efforts.

MARJORIE BERNARD, Hon. Sec.

MARY REEVE.

Sports Section.

It has been decided to form a Sports Section in connection with the O.G.A., and Gertrude Wildash has been elected Secretary.

Any members of the Association interested in sport are requested to send their names as soon as possible to the Hon. Sec., Beaufort Lodge, Prospect Hill, who will be pleased to draw up a programme for the summer months. Membership to the Sports Section will require no further fee.

There have been suggestions regarding tennis matches, cycle rides, and walking tours, but these matters cannot be definitely settled until some idea of the probable number of members is obtained.

The Marriage of Miss Maud Gower to Mr. Percy Donkin.

The weddings of old High School Girls have become quite an annual event, and this year they were more frequent than never.

When one sees the charming homes so ably presided over by the "Old Girls," one feels that the High School can show many private, as well as public, successes.

Miss Maud Gower opened the season for 1906 with an April wedding. This month is not usually

favoured, but the fates were kind and brilliant sunshine added its crown to the ceremony.

The Parish Church was adorned with palms and flowers, and was well filled with guests and spectators. The service was conducted by the Vicar assisted by the Rev., W.T. Brown, of Leytonstone.

The bride was accompanied by six bridesmaids, the Misses Florrie, Ada; and Delia Gower, the Misses Winifred and Constance Donkin, and Miss Beatrice Andrews, all being Old High School Girls.

The bridegroom, Mr Bryan, Percy Donkin, was attended by Mr. H.B. Murray as best man. The bride wore a princess robe of white satin, with court train, trimmed with chiffon and orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of white roses. The bridesmaids wore princess dresses of mauve crêpe de chine trimmed with tulle and lace, white crinoline hats trimmed with foliage, and carried bouquets of white flowers. Each wore a souvenir, given by the bridegroom, and selected by themselves.

After the ceremony the guests were entertained at Orford House, where the large number of beautiful gifts were exhibited, including some very charming pieces of needlework, executed by school friends.

During the afternoon, in a shower of confetti, Mr. and Mrs. Donkin left for the Isle of Wight, where the honeymoon was to be spent.

Marriage of Miss May Goodchild to Mr. Robert Robertson.

The marriage, on Saturday, May 26th, at St. Mary's Church, Walthamstow, of Miss May Goodchild and Mr. Robert Robertson, attracted considerable local interest, and a large company assembled to witness the ceremony.

The officiating clergyman was the Rev. F. E. Murphy, Vicar of Walthamstow, and a special address was given by the Rev, W.H. Langhorne, the late Vicar.

The bride, who was attired in a dress of chiffon and satin, with pearl embroidery, was given away by her brother, Mr. Edwin Goodchild, and was attended by five bridesmaids-The Misses Dora and Florry Goodchild, Miss Dorothy Evans, Miss Adeline Long, and Miss Connie Donkin. Mr. A. Hirschman, of Hackney, officiated as best man.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at Prospect Hill Lodge, which was attended by about ninety guest. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, who were the

recipients of numerous valuable presents, left during the afternoon, amidst hearty congratulations, for Bonn-on-the-Rhine, where the honeymoon will be spent.

Printed by J.C. Phelps & Son, Beulah Road, Walthamstow.

Empire Day.

On Thursday, May 24th, we celebrated for the first time in the history of our School, the birthday of our late Queen Victoria.

In the morning we had prayers as usual, followed by a short entertainment. Winifred Archer recited "The Armada," by Macaulay, after which followed the reciting of a selection from Henry V. by Ethel Scudamore. Miss Hewett then addressed us, telling us a few ways in which we could show our love for our country and our duty concerning it. The next item on the programme was a recitation by Muriel Dale, one of the younger children, entitled "The Pilgrim Fathers." Helen Mercer then read her composition on "The British Empire," which told of the different nationalities under the English flag. All then united in singing "God Bless our Native Land," after which Winifred Wise recited Tennyson's "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington," and Girlie Foxon gave the "Recessional," by Rudyard Kipling. We were all very delighted when Mr. Wise rose to speak to us. He said that he was very glad that, indeed to be present at our little celebration, and told us we were one of the thirty-five thousand schools that, in England and her Colonies, were commemorating Empire Day.

After our applause had subsided, we sang "God Save the King," Marjorie Tomkins and Katie Howlett singing the second verse as a duet.

During the morning, Miss Richardson gave the School an interesting lesson on the growth of the British Empire.

In the afternoon, which turned out very fine, all girls over ten went with Mistresses to Chingford, where brakes conveyed us to the "Wake Arms." We then walked to High Beech, enjoying some extremely beautiful scenery. We had tea there, and then all "tramped it" to Chingford Station, going home by train after a most delightful and profitable day.

HELEN MERCER.

Contributions for November to be sent to C. R. Whittingham before October 15th.