

Walthamstow High School Magazine

Editor - C.R. Whittingham

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Walthamstow High School Old Girl's Association

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MISS C Whittingham, MISS G Wildash, MISS A Wise

Since the publication of the last Magazine the School has received the Report of the first full inspection by the Board of Education. This may not be published except in its entirety; but we may say that it is even more satisfactory (if that be possible) and much more detailed than Professor Sadler's Report, which probably all Old Girls have read, either in the Report itself, or from extracts in the *Guardian*. The Board of Education Report speaks in high terms of praise of all departments of the School, and of the conduct and tone, as well as of the method of teaching and alertness of the pupils. It may seem strange to some of the girls, who have left us for many years, to think of Inspectors' visits; these are not dreaded, however, but rather enjoyed, as we have had the good fortune to have very sympathetic and helpful Inspectors. It is believed that a new feature of this Magazine-the news of Old Girls - will be read with great interest. We have always kept in touch, to an unusual extent, with those who have left us, both mistresses and girls: and it is always pleasant to hear of them, so will all those who have anything to tell us of their doings write to B. HEWETT?

The degree of B.A. (Classical Hons.) was conferred on FLORENCE INGRAM on May 18th, presentation day of the London

University. FLORENCE INGRAM is now training for Secondary Teaching at Bedford College, London University.

KATHLEEN REEVE gained a First Class in the History Group of the Cambridge Higher Local in December last (English, Roman and distinction in French History) and a pass in the Language Group (French). She has now completed her Higher Local Certificate, and is also training at Bedford College. MARJORIE BERNARD was placed 9th on the list of successful candidates out of 128 competitors for women clerkships in the Civil Service, in the March examination. GERTRUDE WREN is the first woman to win the Herbarium medal of the Pharmaceutical Society. NELLIE CHAPPELL is now Mathematical Mistress at the Putney High School, G.P.D.S. FLORENCE POLLARD, GRACE SPAREY, and ETHEL SCUDAMORE are training for elementary teaching at the Walthamstow Pupil Teachers' Centre. ETHEL SCUDAMORE has passed the first part of the Preliminary Certificate for elementary teaching. DORA GOODCHILD has gained the Higher Certificate of the National Froebel Union; she is now doing supply work under the Walthamstow Education Committee. ALICE HOUGHTON has entered the Children's Hospital at Shadwell as a probationer. DOROTHY SHADWELL has given a successful recital at Leicester. EDITH SLACK has entered the Rotunda Hospital at Dublin to train for maternity work. JESSIE FOXON has entered Guy's Hospital as a probationer. FLORENCE SLACK is a Queen's nurse at Kettering. EVELYN WHITTINGHAM is an assistant matron at one of the Cheltenham College Boarding Houses. EMILY BELL, who is a woman clerk in the Civil Service, was taught her office work by REBECCA BARLTROP, Miss BRYANT is Mathematical Mistress at the Kent County School, Bromley.

MISS STRUDWICK is Science Lecturer at the Training College, New Cross, MISS STEWART is Science Mistress at the Ipswich Municipal School. MISS BLACKMORE has gone back to her work in Chefoo, North China after a year's holiday. In a competition for Art Needlework, in which the prizes were awarded by the

Northern School of Art Needlework, Manchester, prizes were won by: - MISS J. C. ROBINSON, First Prize of £10 for Church work; FLORRIE CLARKE, extra prize of £2 for a bedspread; LILY CLARKE, extra prize of £2 for a mantel border.

The Girl of Today

One of the greatest difficulties-and there have been many-with which I have been confronted since I was talked into writing this paper has been the question of an age limit. Will the girl of to-day who has just left school be offended at being classed with those who are no longer "standing with reluctant feet where the brook and river meet," but who are well into the stream and are doing this just to keep with the current. I am afraid she will be slightly contemptuous at being classed with those "old things" who in her opinion should have settled down on the shelf long ago. As a matter of fact she should be flattered at being discussed in the same category as her elder sister, for while she can only theorize, her sister has learnt from that greatest of teacher's, "Experience." That the girl of to-day is greater than her predecessors is a very difficult matter to decide. That she should be will need very little discussion. In every way she has dozens of opportunities for growth offered to her for each one her great-grandmother received. In those days her education was considered complete when she knew a smattering of general subjects, and had studied dancing and deportment. Nowadays, a girl may study practically anything for which she has a bent. Regarding her amusements, no one nowadays objects to their girls playing cricket, basketball, or tennis, for instance, but if such ideas ever entered the heads of her great grandmothers, they were surely never allowed to stay there. Perhaps because of it all, she was gentler than the girl of to-day. As to her speech – well, it is not credit to the girl of to-day that she talks slang as she does. Its usefulness no one denies, in fact it reminds one of the small boy's definition of a lie, "a very present help in time of trouble," but it has no beauty.

There is this to be remembered about the girl of to-day that she is still quite young, and has not had so very much time in which to settle down. A masculine authority on girls said the other day that he was very sorry for the girl of to-day, as she was in a between stage, and hadn't yet realised her position in life. There is, I think, a great deal of truth in that

remark. She is *very* inclined still to rush to extremes, but considering the number of for years which she has been strapped down one can scarcely wonder at it.

In fiction the modern girl's taste in girls leans towards sensibility. Very few girls nowadays admire the exceedingly simple and hysterical heroines of once upon a time. On the other hand, there are girls, who, though their authors are dead, yet are, in the best sense, girls of to-day. Such girls as Jane Eyre, Maggie Tulliver, and the March Family, to mention a few, will always as real friends. That a girl a century or so back had so few outlets for her energy is probably the reason why she was trained to think so much of matrimony. Possibly then the sexes were more evenly divided, or less ambitious, certainly then it was an almost unpardonable social crime to have reached mature age of twenty-three without being married.

Much has been said upon the great question of women workers other teachers, nurses, &c. It seems to be a fairly general idea that the homes of England will suffer, and by degrees, degenerate into just houses because of the number of girls who are obliged to earn their living in other than a domestic way-that, in fact, by so doing girls will become unwomanly and unfitted for wifely duties. Those, however, who earn their livings in offices will agree that going to business makes one's home anything but a house only. Moreover, a business training is most excellent discipline. If a girl learns nothing else, she learns to respect punctuality and neatness very highly. She knows the value of time far more intimately than her stay-at-home relations-that trains, like time and tide, wait for no one, and that meals should never be movable feasts. As for it being unwomanly to go to an office instead of staying at home, surely our talents were given us to be used; and if our particular talent is a business brain, are we not as great sinners if we neglect to use it as he, who of old, hid his talent in a napkin and buried it? In conclusion, I would like to offer a few words of advice with regard to earning one's living. Those of you who are going to business, *don't* be just ordinary clerks if you can it without thinking over the matter very seriously. I know it is the easy thing to

do at the moment; in most cases there is no special training required and, moreover, one begins to earn something at once, but there the advantages end. If you can learn a profession, it is worth almost any sacrifice. Every girl ought to have some means given to her of earning her living at any time. Suppose she marries, even then she may have to manage for herself later and what chance is there? She may get a position as clerk again by influence, and even then she will only be one in a crowd. But if she has learnt a trade or profession, it is her own fault if she cannot be independent. Never be persuaded either that there is no immediate necessity of saving. If the girls of to-day would only make a practice of saving a certain portion of their salary regularly-I know I'm not suggesting anything easy – they would at least have laid the foundation of a good habit if nothing more substantial. For in these days of keen competition it is so difficult to see in front of one a certainty of either employment or income as one gets older, that it can never be too early to start a provision for oneself. Never let yourself be persuaded that something will turn up. If it is going to it won't be prevented by the fact that you have a few pounds of your own. "Sufficient unto the days" is a very good theory, but like a good many other theories it doesn't work out very well.

Secretary's Report of O.G.A. for 1907

The Committee Meetings of the Association during 1906 have been well attended; with the exception of a meeting called for January 21st, when only five members were present-the lowest attendance has been twelve. The Summer Meeting, having been unavoidably postponed owing to other arrangements in connection with the School, was combined with the first meeting of the Literary Section on October 9th. Invitations were sent to all members, and a large gathering was the result. The membership of the Association now numbers 87. It is hoped that this may increase considerably, so that the Association may not be hampered by lack of funds, and that the Magazine may have opportunity to develop.

V. CHAPPELL

Report of the Literary Section of the O.G.A.

On October 9th, 1906, the first meeting of the Literary Section was held. With it was incorporated the postponed Summer Meeting, and

about fifty members were present. Two Competitions were held during the evening, the first being Historical. Members came wearing badges representing persons known in history, and a prize was won by Miss Hewett for guessing correctly the largest number of characters portrayed. The second Competition was impromptu Speaking. We were astonished that more members did not take advantage of this, as the cleverness of the High School Girl to speak on all subjects, at any time, is well known. Violet Chappell and Edith Lewis took the prize.

The evening of November 9th was devoted to a Concert, the proceeds of which were given to the O.G.A. fund, as it is greatly in need of assistance owing to the cost of the publication of the Magazine. Peggy Barton sang, Bertha Longmore played the violin, three scenes from the Great Novelists were acted, and assistance was given by Messrs, Hartley Fudge and Donald Griggs, who both contributed songs. The Dramatic Performance was a great success. The first scene enacted was from *The Mill on the Floss*. Edith Allen made a decidedly snappish "Mrs Clegg"; Alice Wise was a damp and dolorous "Mrs Pullett" nearly flooding the stage with tears: and Bertha Longmore played "Mrs Tulliver" excellently--such a meek poor relation! The second scene was from *Adam Bede*. Katie Howlett as the "Squire" and Jessie Foxon as "Poyser" made a distinct sensation in the "male" parts. The "make-ups" were both splendid. The last scene was from *Nicholas Nickleby*. Ella Lewis did all she could with "Kate Nickleby"; Jessie Foxon made an excellent, aggravatingly inane, and simpering "Mrs. Nickleby": and Florrie Gower brought down the house as the mad "Gentleman Next Door." Her "make-up" was simply splendid, and Mr Tree will have to look to his laurels. The nett profit of the Concert was £4.

Great disappointment was experienced on December 3rd, when a paper should have been read, by Maggie Griggs, on "The Girl of To-day". Only six members were present, and it was felt that that a discussion could hardly be carried on under the circumstances. The meeting was therefore postponed until December 12th; but owing to Cambridge

Local and School Examinations, and the proximity of Christmas, 110 more members came than before, so Maggie Griggs has kindly consented to let her paper appear in the Magazine. The Meeting on January 22nd 1907, was better attended, about eighteen members being present. Shakespeare's play, Henry VIII., was read, and it afforded a most enjoyable evening. On February 11th was held a discussion of Meredith's book, "The Ordeal of Richard Feveril." Miss Hewett opened the debate, and several members took part. On March 11th, a most interesting paper was read by Miss Robinson. The subject was "Schubert," and it was illustrated by excerpts from his works for piano, voice and violin. Miss Baldock rendered great assistance with songs and violin solos. It is felt that in spite of the excellence of the fare provided for the Literary Members they do not sufficiently appreciate it, and we should be glad if those who have really enjoyed the past session's papers and debate, would send their names and addresses to Edith Lewis, with suggestions for the next session.

Secretary's Report of O.G.A. Sports' Section

Cycle Ride was arranged early in October, but the weather proved to be unpropitious, and only two members were at the meeting-place. Members wishing to receive notice of fixtures are requested to communicate with the Secretary, G Wildash. Fixtures:

June 12th - Swimming Baths. 9.30, High Street Baths.

July 2nd, Walk from Chingford to Epping. Train from Wood Street, 2.58

July 30th, Swimming Baths, 9.30, High Street Baths.

Sept. 10th, Cycle Ride to St. Albans. Leave High School, 10am. Picnic lunch.

The Christmas and Easter Terms

The Christmas Term of 1906 began on September 10th. It is perhaps the most interesting one of the year, being the last term of preparation for the Cambridge and School Examinations, and having from the first a distant vision of Prize-giving and its attendant pleasures. The Cambridge work was, usual, well chosen: in Literature, particularly, the subjects were such, as gave us a pleasing variety to the study and a charming contrast to each other; Shakespeare's Henry V. and The Tempest, Scott's Old Mortality, and part Childe Harold.

During the term several Botany expeditions to High Beech took place; these were made especially enjoyable by the delightful weather and the beauty of the autumn foliage. Basket Ball was played up to the end of the term as often as the weather and the state of the ground permitted. The usual Half-Term Holiday was arranged early in November, the term being a short one. A short time before the Cambridge Examinations, the School Examinations were held, the Examiner being the Rev. V. Manning, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Leytonstone, who gave charmingly interesting papers, and also held the oral examinations at the High School. About two weeks later the Cambridge Examinations took place; several girls took the Senior, and there were also a number of Junior candidates. The results of the examination were not, of course, received that term. On December 18th (Tuesday), the great event of the Christmas Term, the Prize Distribution, was held at the Public Baths. The programme consisted of songs, recitations from Shakespeare's Henry V., short poems, and pianoforte performances by the girls. Several of the Old Girls were there to assist in the vocal part of the entertainment, and some received their Cambridge Senior certificates for the previous year. The prizes and certificates were kindly distributed by Mr. J A, Simon, M P., who, in spite of a long and very tiring day, arrived in time to fulfil his promise and gave away the prizes. The whole evening passed very successfully, and gave great pleasure to all concerned: most of all, perhaps, to the fortunate recipients of the many and beautiful prizes which were presented by different friends.

The Spring Term began in January, after the Christmas holidays, which lasted about three weeks. Thirteen girls had left at the end of the Christmas Term and ten new girls came at the beginning of this term. The first thing of importance to be noticed is the arrival of the results of the Cambridge Examination. These were received by Miss Hewett quite early in the term, and were, on the whole, satisfactory. The Senior candidates all passed: these were:-Ruth Haywood, Elsie Cotching, Evelyn Thornton. Of the Juniors only three

failed, the successful girls being Winifred Allen, Gladys Barrow, Gladys Simmons, Marjorie Wise, Madeline Whitfield. As this year brings Easter very early, there was no Half-term Holiday, but instead, the Monday and Tuesday after Easter were given, making altogether nearly a whole week, as the holiday began on Tuesday, March 28th. A few Basket Ball matches have taken place this term, but with the exception of a match played on Wednesday, March 27th, against the Old Girls, the results have not been quite all that could have been desired as far as the High School is concerned.

Botany expeditions have also been made this term, but there have not been many of these, possibly owing to the cold and shortness of the days, which until lately have rendered anything of the sort rather impracticable. This term will end on Friday, April 19th, and the School will re-assemble on Monday, May 6th, after a holiday of nearly a fortnight.

IRENE B WILLIAMS

ESSEX GROSVENOR SKETCH CLUB

The annual Exhibition of Sketches will be held on Friday and Saturday the 18th and 19th October, at Grove Hall, Wanstead. This exhibition is interesting to us, not only on account of the talented exhibits, but because many of the members are High School Girls. Admission free, Tickets can be obtained from any members, or from the Secretaries :- Miss N. Casey, Northolme, Old Church Road, Chingford: and Miss B. Lewis, Knowle, The Drive, Walthamstow. All interested in this local club are cordially invited.

A RETROSPECT

Once as thoughtless children we
Troop'd to school so merrily,
There our many tasks to do,
There to meet our friends so true:
Some found learning dull and dry
Some had aspirations high;
Some were quiet, careful, good –
Others in disgrace oft stood,

Always happy, fun of fun,
Till our school-girl course was run.
Though those days have pass'd away,
Lovingly we think to-day
Of the many joys reveal'd,
Of the lasting friendships seal'd :
Of the efforts to inspire
In us all a keen desire
For a Knowledge of the Truth: Happy echoes of our youth!
We shall bear them through the years
'Mid Life's laughter, love, and tears

Births.

January 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. Donkin (*nee* M. Gower) a daughter (Nancy Maud). Christened at the Parish Church, Sunday, April 28th.

April 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Robertson (*nee* M. Goodchild) a daughter.

One of the most striking features of the November Magazine will be an article by E Foxon, entitled "East End Notes."

All contributions for the November magazine must be sent to C R Whittingham, before October 15th.

J C Phelp & Son, Printers, Beaulah Road, Walthamstow