

# Walthamstow High School Magazine

Editor C. R. WHITTINGHAM. *Sub-Editors:* MISS GOLDWIN AND MISS GOWER.

## Walthamstow High School Old Girls' Association

**OFFICERS FOR 1908.** *President:* MISS HEWETT.

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MISS M. BERNARD, MISS H. GRIGGS, MISS A.

WISE, MRS. W. E. CALVER, MISS I. HODSON,

MRS. W. A. WORKMAN.

THE Literary Section held four meetings this winter, on October 29th, November 26th, January 7th and February 25th respectively.

On October 29th several papers were read on "Occupations for Women," followed by a very interesting discussion.

On November 26th a discussion on the Simple Life was opened by Alice Wise, and opposed by Dora Goodchild.

On January 7th Sheridan's play, "The Rivals," was read, and on February 25th Miss Hewett opened a discussion on Mrs. Humphry Ward's book, "*The Marriage of William Ashe.*"

The attendances this year were much larger than before, but they could easily be bigger.

If any girl is prevented from coming because she is afraid of making a speech, let me point out here, that we *never*, by any chance stand up to make our remarks, and upon occasion we have been known to speak more than one at a time.

The meetings are always very informal and the Committee are always glad to see and welcome girls who are not in the habit of attending.

M. E. GRIGGS.

## Sports Section.

### Basket Ball.

SINCE the last number of "the IRIS" was published we have formed a Basket Ball Club. Miss

Damon has kindly consented to coach us, so we soon hope to get up a match team, but so far we have only had a few practices on account of the weather. As yet we have not a great number of members, but we hope as this summer advances that the greater number of the O.G.A.S. will take part in the game.

GERTRUDE WILDASH

## Report of Whist Drive.

A SPLENDID plan by which to achieve the object of the O.G.A., namely, to bring former pupils of the School together, was carried out on Friday February 13th, when a Whist Evening was held at the School. Tickets were at the nominal fee of one shilling.

It was a marvel to see the business-like schoolroom transformed into an elegant and cosy drawing-room. Windows were curtained, the floor carpeted, whilst plants and flowers, tastefully arranged, completed the effect. Here were gathered some fifty-five Old Girls and their partners.

Play began at 7.45 p.m. When the first half of the programme had been played refreshments were placed on the tables and opportunity was given for conversation-the presence of the gentlemen perhaps slightly modulating the *remarkable* flow and volume of conversation characterising our previous socials. Prizes were awarded to the winners as follows:

Gentlemen's	First	Prize:	Miss Goldwin.
	Second	"	Mr. Fritz Hodson.
Hidden Number		"	Mr. Cecil Barton.
Ladies'	First	"	Miss Alice Wise.
"	Second	"	Miss Mabel Gillett.
Hidden Number		"	Mrs. Ling ( <i>née</i> Emily Briggs)

All enjoyed themselves to the utmost and are looking forward

greatly to the next Whist Evening. Many thanks are due to all who arranged this most enjoyable Social.

D. GOODCHILD

## The Christmas and Spring Terms.

THE Christmas term, which started on September 12th, proved to be a very interesting one, for it saw the Prize Giving and the Concert, both of

which were distinct successes. By the latter we raised the usual £30 for the maintenance of the School Cot at the local hospital.

The Cambridge Examinations took place during the week beginning on December 15th. The Senior Scripture Paper was one of exceptional difficulty, and has been the subject of much comment.

The results of this examination, which were issued in the Spring Term, were highly satisfactory.

Three seniors passed: Gladys Barrow, Nesta Newmarch, and Florence Wakefield. Of the juniors, Winifred Archer, Dorothea Gillings, Elsie Hill, Cathie Steer, Elsie Simpson and Helen Mercer succeeded in satisfying the examiners.

During the Spring Term, which began on January 14th, we achieved a great success! On April 11th we were awarded the first prize for part singing at the Stratford Musical Festival. The piece selected was "In the Forest" (M. B. Foster), and as a voluntary we gave "A Bird in Hand" which is perhaps better known as the "Three Old Maids of Lee."

We have played several net ball matches and have been more successful than ever before, showing great improvement in the First VII.

The results of the matches are as follows:

#### 1ST SEVEN.

School.	Ground.	For	Against
Skinner's	Stamford Hill	21	31
Coborn	Bow	5	14
Chelsea II.	Chelsea	15	6
Chelsea I.	Chelsea	15	6
Stepney	Stepney	19	31
Stepney	Stepney	14	7
Club (Gym.)	Baths	4	20
Lond. Gym. Soc	Baths	17	1
Chelmsford H.S.	Chelmsford	14	12

#### HELEN MERCER

### Prize Distribution, 1907.

THE Annual Prize Distribution of the School took place on December 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in the Public Baths, where a large audience was assembled.

Two of the youngest scholars, Dorothy Jones and Esmée Clark, presented illustrated programmes to Mr. Edward North Buxton, who has kindly consented to distribute the prizes, and to Miss Hewett.

The evening began with the singing of Kipling's "Recessional." This was followed by a speech by the Chairman, Dr. Wise.

The next item on the programme was a pianoforte duet "Niger Tanz," which was well rendered by Winifred Bean and Violet Latham.

"A Legend of Bregens" was very effectively rendered by Beatrice Norwood, and afterwards the

song "With a laugh as we go round," was given by the girls of the Upper Forms.

The two solos in this song were well sung by Edith Thornton.

The next item, one of deep interest to the girls, was the "Examiner's Report," which, on the whole, was a very good one.

The girls of Form II. then went through a series of pretty and graceful exercises.

A humorous recitation, "On a Girl's Education," from "The Rivals," given by Helen Mercer, was highly appreciated, as was also a selection from "The Princess," recited by Girlie Foxon.

These were followed by pianoforte solos, "Happy Enough" and "Album Leaf," by Elsie Bolter.

Two carols, "What Child is This?" and "We three Kings of Orient are" were then sung by the Lower School.

Next came the Head Mistress's Report, and after that another selection of exercises by Form 11., followed by a part song entitled "Sunbeam," by the Upper School, and a pianoforte solo, the "Mota Continus," by Miss Horton.

Tosti's "Good-bye" was next sung by Miss Kingsford. This was highly appreciated, and an encore was demanded.

The prizes were distributed by Mr. Edward North Buxton, and after this interesting item, the well-known song, "A Bird in Hand," was sung by the Upper School.

A poem entitled "Christmastide" was charmingly recited by Muriel Dale.

Hilda Pritchard and Mabel Hill played an effective pianoforte duet, "Danse Hongroise."

The next items on the programme were two songs by the whole School: "It was a Lover and his Lass," and an appropriate Scotch air "Here's to the year that's awa."

The singing of the National Anthem brought to a close a very entertaining and successful programme.

#### E. HILL.

#### Concert.

ON December 6th a most successful and well-attended Concert was held in S. Saviour's Hall "in support of the School Cot in the local Hospital": this entertainment took the place of the bazaar of former years.

The first part of the programme was enacted by past and present girls; the second—a comedy adapted from *Nicholas Nickleby*—by the former only.

Winifred Bean and Elsie Boulter played; Minnie Foxon, Edith Thornton, and Mary Reed-

who were accompanied by Ella Lewis - sang; Beatrice Whittingham played the violin, and Constance Gibson and Ruth Heron recited. Opportunities of realising that "lack of memory is the first sign of age," were afforded the "old girls" by the singing of French nursery rhymes by Form 11., and by a French scene entitled "La Saucisson," brightly acted by Winifred Archer, Kathleen Griggs, and Katie Whitfield; whilst Forms 1. and Preparatory were perfectly delightful in the production of Nursery Rhymes in Character.

"The Gentleman in the Next House" had been so great a success in a former concert in connection with the O.G.A. that it was repeated, with the addition of Miss La Creevy, Nicholas Nickleby, and Tom Linkinwater, which parts were splendidly played by Alice Wise, Delia Gower, and Edith Allen respectively. Isabel Hodson made the most of the retiring part of Kate Nickleby, and Edith Foxon as Mrs. Nickleby, and Florrie Gower as the Gentleman in the Next House were, as usual inimitable. The net profit of the concert was a little under £30.

### **EMPIRE DAY, 1908**

As Empire Day fell on a Sunday, we celebrated it on Friday, May 22nd, when we had the very great pleasure of seeing the Rev. H. A. and Mrs. Allpass once again. We began with the hymn "I live for those who love me," after which Winifred Archer recited "Home Thoughts from the Sea," by Browning. Then in a recitation by Julie Foxon, "Santa Philomena," we were reminded of "The Lady with the Lamp"-a type of true heroic womanhood of our own nationality.

Next was a song very well sung by Edith Thornton, "There's a Land."

The Fifth and Fourth Forms had written compositions on "What England owes to her Geographical Position," and "What uses Britain has made of her Natural Advantages" respectively, and Miss Hewett read the best paper from each Form. These were Elsie Simpson's from the Fifth, and Ethel Hyde's from the Fourth, each of whom were presented with a book.

Much to our regret: Miss Hewett would not talk to us at all, saying that we heard enough of her on other days.

Then the School sang "The Reccessional," and Lilian Tucker recited "The Overhead Mail," after which "Rule Britannia" was sung.

When the Rev. H. A. Allpass spoke to us he said that he was extremely nervous, and his heart failed as never before, but he was delighted to come at the request of one he esteemed as highly

as he did Miss Hewett. He went on to say that since he had been so far away from England he realised what England was to him, and he quoted from Kipling:

"What can we know of England,  
Who only England know?"

He told us that we could hardly understand the regard other countries had for England and that if Spaniards want to convey their intensity of desire too act straightly they say "Palavra Inglesa," which means "the word of an Englishman." Britons abroad have only to mention their nationality to be trusted.

He asked us how this was to be accounted for. He thought it was primarily due to the religious character of a Briton, the Scotch especially influencing others by their integrity and uprightness.

Then he thought it was due to the women of England, Scotland and Ireland, and to the men who were true, downright John Bulls.

He ended by saying that this was but a feeble expression of his pleasure in speaking to us, but we all enjoyed it immensely.

Muriel Dale then recited part of the "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington," and May Matthews and Kathleen Griggs sang a duet, "Land and Glory," the girls joining in the chorus.

Helen Mercer then recited "The Coastwise Lights," and we closed with the National Anthem.

In the afternoon we spent a most enjoyable time; driving to Boadicea's Camp and then walking back to High Beech to tea and thence to Chingford.

### **NURSING**

GOETHE tells us that "everything in this world depends upon distinctness of idea and firmness of purpose." This is a very strong expression but, also, a very true one. When a woman decides to become a nurse, unless she has a very distinct idea of what she means by that, and what the process of training involves, she will inevitably waste a great deal of time, even if she has the "firmness of purpose" necessary for the attainment of the object she has in view.

People, too, frequently forget that nursing is an art; this fact must be remembered, and nursing must not be regarded merely as a profession.

When a girl enters a hospital she does so with the object of having any natural gifts that she may possess developed and cultivated to the best advantage. A really good nurse cannot be "made," even if she has had the advantage of the best training school in the land, unless she has natural aptitude and live for the work itself.

All would-be nurses should think of the responsibility on their hands. How completely all the doctor's efforts may be frustrated by careless carrying out, or neglect of his orders. Life may even be lost, and suffering cruelly increased by ignorant and careless nursing.

If a woman deliberately chooses to become a trained nurse she must count the cost.

There will be disappointments, jealousies, misunderstandings to be fought against, for, at any rate, her first year in hospital.

She will find that she loses sight of and touch with most of her oldest friends through lack of time and opportunity for letter-writing and visiting. On the other hand, she will be constantly making new friends, seeing fresh faces and places, and to a great extent will manage to have a very good time; certainly she is not to be compared to a worn-out cab-horse, which the *Daily Mail* so kindly insinuated a few weeks back, but it is hard work from the beginning to the end.

Nursing as a profession is not lucrative. There is a good deal of expense at the onset-in the way of uniform and premiums, and a great many hospitals give their nurses no salary during the first year. In their second and third years they may get anything up to £25, and even after years of nursing it is difficult to get a hospital appointment amounting to more than £35 per annum; unless one is lucky enough to secure a matron's post.

Once a nurse has passed her exams and gained her certificate, and is a fully trained nurse (that is, having spent three or four years, as the case may be, in a hospital containing a hundred beds or more, there are various posts open to her. She can continue in her hospital career, aspiring to a matronship, or become a nurse in a large school or college. She may take up private nursing, joining an institute or co-operation, where she would receive a fixed salary and a percentage on the cases she nurses.

If she is able to make a connection for herself it is more satisfactory, but then the work is very uncertain.

Then there is the Military or Army nurse, who, having gained her certificate in a civil hospital, serves a certain time at Netley, or any of the military hospitals, and may have home or foreign service.

Good appointments can be obtained as Health Visitors, Superintendent Nurse of Schools under the L.C.C., and numerous other posts.

Now, a few words of advice to any of the IRIS readers wishing to be a nurse. Don't waste your time in going to a small, unknown, provincial or cottage hospital, you would be unable to obtain any post worth having afterwards, as the nursing profession

is already so much overstocked that there are crowds of women with first-class credentials waiting for more advanced posts, which they cannot get owing to the comparatively small number of vacancies, and the better your certificate the better your chance. Also, do not rush to any hospital just because your age does not yet admit you into a London one. Many matrons now refuse to take probationers with previous training, as they are rarely able to go through another four years without breaking down. It will be far better for you to wait until the required age, when your constitution is formed, and you are stronger to stand the strain of long hours and hard work.

It is not my wish to discourage anyone from becoming a nurse, for if a girl goes about it in the right way, realises what she will have to do, is prepared for hard work, and has a love for nursing, together with good health and a strong constitution, she will find no occupation that will give her more happiness, with plenty of change and excitement-and who minds hard work with congenial companions to share it?

Even if you do not make a fortune you can be satisfied with the knowledge that you are doing your best to help those less fortunate than yourself.

All you have to do is to write to the hospital you wish to enter for the Rules and Regulations, interview the matron: terrible ordeal! ! ! and get your name put down to await a vacancy.

You will probably want to run home a dozen times during the first few weeks, but *don't*. Give it a three months' trial, and if at the end of that time you do not like the life, then give it up, but it is very few who do so. If you care for it you will find it a bitter wrench when you finally have to leave your training-school to take up another post.

C.M.D

**APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>.**

THE 1st is the most important day of the year in an Art-School for all those who are trying to get qualifications from South Kensington. The Art Class teacher's and the first group of the Art Master's are the principal certificates for teaching, and to obtain these one must pass certain examinations and send up certain drawings to South Kensington on April 1st. These last are commonly called sheets.

There are five sheets in the Art Class Teacher's Certificate, Plant sheet, Geometry sheet, Design sheet, Shaded Models and Shaded Cast.

The Inexperienced Student starts with the

Geometry and Plant sheets, thinking them quite easy, but that delusion does not last long. The Plant sheet is a most interminable sheet, it consists of three studies of plant form, which may be worked out in pencil, pen or water-colour.

The Inexperienced Student always does it in pencil, which is the most difficult way, as he generally gets it grubby, and then he can't rub it out.

The Happy One, who has got his sheet through the year before, walks round and glances at the drawings in a compassionate fatherly sort of way, and is apparently thinking "Ah, yes, I remember doing all that sort of thing in my youth." He sees the poor I.S. with pencils, rubber and tissue paper scattered round him gazing intently at a very old leaf which he is holding a few inches away from him.

"What on earth are you drawing that withered old thing for?"

"It's the only one I can get," says the I.S. sulkily, "I've been to all the florists in the place and they haven't any."

"How much have you got done to-day?"

"I've done quite a lot," and he draws back the tissue paper, proudly showing two leaves drawn as if under a microscope.

"Great Scott! that's not the way to do it. When I did *mine* I did it this way," and the Happy One demonstrates on a grubby little corner of the sheet.

The Geometry sheet requires a good deal of patience and care. Eight or nine problems must be worked out in ink. Every Inexperienced Student starts with the firm resolve to do them all on one sheet of paper.

Consequently if one problem is spoiled the whole sheet has to be started again.

Occasionally there is a wild wail, and fellow students run up from all directions.

"Hullo, what's up?" asks the Happy one, in a most unconcerned sort of way.

"I've upset my ink."

"But I thought you were much further than this."

"What do you mean?"

"Why, I thought you only had three more problems to do."

"I spoil that one, I've started two since then. Look here."

"But you can get a whole sheet out of what you've got left. Those problems are all right. When I did mine, I did it in pieces."

"Well, I suppose I shall have to cut it up after all, Jones did his in pieces last year." And it is promptly done.

The Design sheet consists of a study of a plant and three designs—one in a square, one in a circle, one in a rectangle—based on the plant.

Last come the shading sheets, which are the

most unpopular of all, if anyone could get out of them he would. They are worked in chalk and stumps with little pieces of leather and scraps of old handkerchiefs.

The H.O. strolls leisurely in and finds a poor being—very bad-tempered—with her hands, her overall, and her work covered with chalk and even a long black mark on her face. This sight always makes the H.O. feel more pleased with himself than ever, and he *never* mentions the number of times he had his sheet rejected. He merely remarks cheerfully:

"Little scraps of paper, little grains of chalk,

Make a dirty drawing, which it didn't ought."

The I.S. looks up despairingly.

"Do you think I've got it sharp enough?"

"It's a bit woolly, when I did mine I sharpened it up with Conte pencil"

The I.S. takes his advice and gradually gets more hopeful. Next year she also is a Happy One.

At last the first of April arrives and the week before is most exciting.

The students come early in the morning and go at 10 p.m. or later, having all their meals at School. Most of the parents get sarcastic about this time of the year and ask if it is impossible to hire a room for the night at the Art-School. During this last week the sheets have to be mounted as best they may, and a few noble students volunteer to do it. On April 1st itself everyone stops to tea—masters and all. Tea is generally forgotten till about eight o'clock, when some of the boys suggest that they are hungry. They are promptly sent over the way for the milk. There are five tea-spoons and four knives, and not a cup and saucer match, but we have two kinds of cake for a luxury, and new bread. As soon as the bread is cut there is a rush for the bread knife, while the others have to wait till a knife comes round to them. Spoons are also in common, and of course those who do not take sugar are not allowed one. After tea the packing starts, while some are still feverishly putting the last touches to their mounted work. These are at last relentlessly taken from them and put in the ominous-looking box that stands on the landing. The students stand round as if they are watching a coffin being screwed down, and directly the last nail is put in remember something which they meant to rub out but forgot, but it is too late, Pickford is at the door and the boxes are relentlessly dragged down the staircase and vanish out of sight.

Truly as Solomon says:  
"Of making many sheets there is no end and too many examinations are a weariness to the flesh."

MARY REEVE. RUTH CUNNINGHAM.

### **Examinations.**

South Kensington Examinations, 1907 for Art Teacher's Certificate.

#### *Light and Shade*

Ruth Cunningham, 1st Class Pass.

Mary Reeve, 1st Class Pass.

#### *Plant Memory*

Mary Reeve, 1st Class Pass.

Charlotte Cunningham, 1st Class Pass.

#### *Geometry*

Charlotte Cunningham, 1st Class.

#### *Freehand*

Mary Reeve, 1st Class.

South Kensington Examination, 1907, for Art Master's Certificate.

#### *Drawing from Antique*

Ruth Cunningham, 1st Class.

Teacher's Diploma (University of London).  
Florence Ingram.

Teacher's Diploma (University of Cambridge).  
Kathleen Reeve.

Many Old Girls will be interested to hear of the brilliant success of Gertrude Wren in the examination of the Pharmaceutical Society. Last year she passed the Minor Examination and gained medals from the Pharmaceutical College for Practical Chemistry and Botany and was bracketed for the Theoretical Chemistry and Physics Medal. In the April of this year she passed the Major Examination and has been awarded the Redwood Scholarship, tenable in the research laboratory of the College, and the Pereira Medal, which has never before been won by a woman. As she is still going on with her Science work we shall look forward to chronicling still further successes in the future.

### **Boarding-School Life in Switzerland.**

LOOKING across the blue lake Léman, standing in the midst of vineyards, is a little "Pensionnat pour Demoiselles." Here many girls have spent a happy year surrounded by the powerful mountains and feeding upon the pure air and fresh sunshine of Vevey.

It is a cosmopolitan school, England, France, Holland, Spain, Italy and Denmark are all

represented and form little worlds of their own. Each girl gains a broader idea of life, each realises, perhaps for the first time, that there are other nations besides her own and that these have good points as well as bad. This does not mean that she loses her patriotism, in fact, she strengthens it. There is not a girl there who would not stand for her country till she breathed her last. Never does one fly one's flag so bravely as when it is in danger of being hauled down by another country.

The lessons and conversation are all carried on in French. For instance, an English and a Danish girl would not speak in English or Danish, but in French. The extra lessons, such as English, German and Italian are taught by a native of each respective country. It is surprising how well and with what facility these foreigners learn a language. The Dutch are peculiarly gifted in this way, but when one learns from a Dutch girl that even at a small function in Holland, such as a tennis party, one would always meet a foreigner, one is not surprised. Think of any English girl having for her tennis partner one hot afternoon, a Frenchman! There would be, without doubt, a conversation extremely interesting and intellectual!! However, the Dutch make such a point of languages that the most simple girl can speak four, and, in fact, there have been many cases when a baby could speak English before her native tongue.

The favourite study is literature. For many years a dear old gentleman has walked through snow and rain to give his weekly lessons. After many shakings and tremblings he settled down and immediately loses himself in his subject, but if a girl should happen to lose herself in another subject, his sharp eye spies her and she is immediately asked a question which of course she cannot answer. This lesson is immediately followed by one called "Actualities politiques," which is a series of lectures on such subjects as socialism and fenianism.

The only ordinary game that is played is tennis. Tennis! but not what an English girl calls tennis. "Oh, do come and have a game of tennis," cried a sturdy German. For a quarter of an hour the English girl waits on the court, having swiftly changed her shoes. At the end of the time three girls appear in boots of snowy white, stiff white blouses, stout smart skirts, evidently by appearance very swell players. The game begins. A German raises her arms, and with a cry "Play" lightly touches the ball. After an anxious five minutes the ball returns from its flight near the heavens and the opponent misses it. Thus the game continues and ends, leaving three very well satisfied Germans and one astonished and yet amused English girl.

In winter skating and tobogganing are the favourite

October 15<sup>th</sup>.

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sports. Up in the snow in the boiling sun the toboggans go whirling down the slopes of dazzling white. Many girls in their first runs get heavy tumbles, but the snow is quite soft and white and it only means the loss of a few hairpins and the gain of a few bruises. There has been much said against this sport, but really one does not run more risks than in any other sport if one is careful. A motor bus in London is much more dangerous.

The chief exercise for the girls is walking. Twice a day a crocodile is seen facing the country roads. The scenery is always perfect, but in spite of this, it is the greatest difficulty to get a foreign girl to walk. It is her *bête noir*, and she loses all the beauty of the view in her complaining's and grumblings.

In the summer months of July and August the whole pensionnat moves to the mountains. Here in a little chalet overlooking the Dent du Midi, they live the simple life. Free to wander where they will, they live right among the Swiss peasants and live on honey and daydreams.

It is here that they learn most about this beautiful country. A special guide is arranged to take them up the highest peaks, and at four o'clock in the morning they have been known to start in order to be on a height before the heat of the day. All grumblings are forgotten in this splendid air and every girl goes away with a sweet memory of those two happy months spent in the mountains.

**W.**

### **Births.**

MAY, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Fortescue (*née* Essie Wildash), a son.

April, to the Rev. and Mrs. Theodore Parks (*née* Mildred Pearse), a son.

February 6th, to Mr. and Mrs. Brabrook (*née* Gertrude Jackson), a son, Leonard, Thomas.

### **Marriage.**

ON April 14th, at Trinity Congregational Church, Beatrice Andrews to George Gillet, son of Mr. John Gillet, of Prospect Hill, Walthamstow.

THE Bazaar has been fixed for July 11th. Working Parties will be held at the School, on Wednesdays, at 4p.m. It is hoped that every one who can do so will attend these meetings as regularly as possible.

THE Summer Meeting has been fixed for June 25th.

*Contributions to the November Number of the Magazine must be sent to C.R. Whittingham before*

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