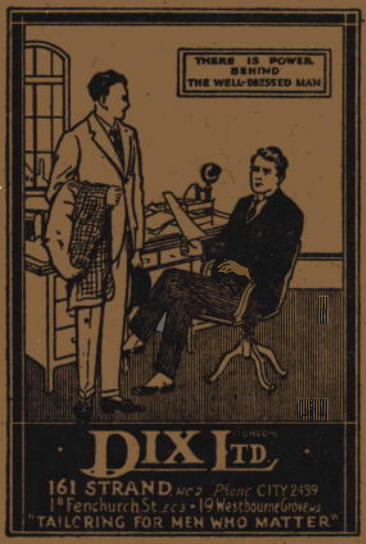
THE AVENUE



~~MARCH~~ APRIL 19~~16~~ 15

PER ARDUA AD ALTA



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Photo by] [J. E. Walker.

FRIENDS' SCHOOL, SAFFRON WALDEN.

THE AVENUE.

The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

VOL. VI. APRIL, 1915. No. 16.

FOREWORD.

AS I take up my pen to write these lines Saffron Walden School is in the hands of the military—an event unprecedented in the history of our Schools. Last term the war seemed, to some extent, a thing apart, and it was hard to realize that, while the daily round of classroom and playfield with their activities and preoccupations continued their smooth course, a few hundred miles away nation was locked with nation in the most titanic and sanguinary struggle that the earth has ever witnessed. Yet from time to time whispers from outside reached us, and we knew that the war had touched even our peaceful boundaries—now the news that some friend or relative had enlisted in the Ambulance work, in the Relief Committee's work, or in the actual fighting forces—now that some one whom we had loved had gone to the front—now that comforts were needed for both the hale soldiers in the trenches and for the wounded in the rear. Soon nearly every girl and not a few boys were knitting socks, belts and mittens, and numerous parcels were despatched each week.

Then came the news of the terrible events in Belgium and the necessity of making provision for the thousands of refugees that were thrown upon our hospitality, and the work of furnishing and raising funds for our guests at "Mon Abri" went forward.

Finally came the news that troops were to be billeted in the town and curiosity was aroused, but none, I think, dreamed that we should have to give up our school for the soldiers' use. On the 9th of December, however, Mr. Walker announced at breakfast that the School premises were requisitioned by the military authorities, and that it was necessary for all packing to be done and preparations made for an immediate departure. A busy time followed—boxes were overhauled, clothes packed at record speed, and it is delightful to note that in the inevitable confusion the boys and girls seconded the efforts of the staff in every way. Meanwhile, some members of the staff, aided by a working party of soldiers, stripped dormitory and classroom of all furniture. The desks and school apparatus were stowed in the laboratories, and by mid-day great progress had been made. By two o'clock our involuntary guests were beginning to arrive, and while a collect was being held in the Boys' Playroom to dispose of the last instalments from the laundry, soldiers in single file were passing in strings between our ranks. By 3.30 all but some half dozen boys and girls had departed, and the School was well on its way in its transformation into a military barracks. The Girls' Cloakroom was transformed into the guardroom, where a solitary prisoner languished; the Girls' Playroom held the ammunition and the quartermaster's stores, while a sentry moved up and down beneath the archway.

Our guests belonged to the 6th South Staffordshire Territorials, and some 400 men and thirty officers were billeted in the School buildings. The officers were accommodated in the Sanatorium; and the Dining Hall sheltered the Officers' Mess. Those of us who remained behind gradually became accustomed to sight of playground and field being used for drill and other military exercises, to the sound of bugle and drum, and the tramping of many feet through the quiet streets of our town.

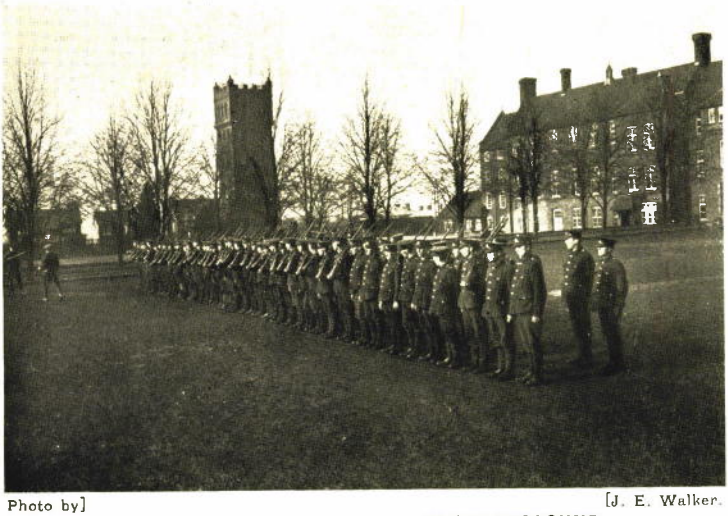


Photo by] [J. E. Walker.

SOLDIERS DRILLING ON THE BOYS' PLAYGROUND



Photo by] [J. E. Walker.

SOLDIERS DRILLING ON THE GIRLS' PLAYGROUND.

And so it has continued. When it became apparent towards the end of the School holidays that it would be impossible to re-open School at Saffron Walden, every effort was made by the Committee to obtain suitable premises at Malvern and elsewhere, but without success, and finally it became clear that the School would be unable to re-open before Easter, and parents and Staff were notified to that effect.

We are indebted to a number of other Schools for various offers of help; amongst others, Bootham offered to take our Sixth Form boys, Leighton Park our Fifth Form boys, and Miss Willmott, of The Towers, Colchester, our Fifth Form girls.

In most cases it was too late for members of the staff to secure temporary posts elsewhere, but Miss Allen joined the staff at The Towers for three weeks, Mr. Lidbetter spent six weeks at Ayton School, while Mr. Morris became Science Master at Doncaster Grammar School, Mr. Brereton joined the Bootham Staff, and Mr. Hutchinson went to Leighton Park. Miss Fairbrother and Miss Jones are at Woodbrooke, Miss Waites is teaching at Lancaster, Miss Pickard at Ackworth, and Mr. Pumphrey is at Dunkirk with the Friends' Ambulance Unit; Mr. Littleboy is working at the London depôt of the Friends' Relief Committee; Mr. Jenkins has been a member of the School Staff for a term (in place of Mr. Whitlow, who is working in Paris for the Friends' Relief Committee), but he has not yet seen the School!

G. MORRIS.

* * * * * *

As we go to Press, we are able to state that the soldiers vacated the School on the 1st of March, and, after two days of disinfecting, the work of preparing the buildings for use as a School once more has been commenced.

WALDEN AT BOOTHAM.

THURSDAY, the 28th of January, saw three of us on the platform at the big station of York, wondering to what new circumstances we were to be ushered next. A burly Yorkshire porter put our luggage on a taxi and we were soon running through the streets of York—through a gateway in the walls, over the river Ouse, past the Art Gallery and Bootham Bar, to " 51, Bootham," a building facing straight on the road with the exterior of a large private house. Such was to be our home for the next nine weeks.

After we had had dinner we explored the buildings, and very mystifying we found them at first. They are built in the shape of an " L " with corridors on the two sides and three separate staircases. The finest room in the building is the John Bright Library, a large room panelled, floored and furnished entirely with polished yellow oak, named in the memory of John Bright, an Old Scholar at Bootham. It has a gallery at one end and a platform at the other ; two sides are occupied by bookcases, and on the third, or window side, are two tables fitted with reading lamps, where boys who have leave may read when they wish.

The Dining Room is not very large, but accommodates ninety boys. There are also six classrooms, the College, the Upper and Lower Senior, the Upper Schoolroom and the Middle Schoolroom I. and II. We are in the Upper Senior, which is equivalent to the Sixth Form at Walden.

The gymnasium is in the main building, and is very well equipped. Our drilling lessons come twice a week for short periods only—Swedish drill on Mondays and apparatus on Fridays. At the end of the playground is the detached science

block, containing two good laboratories, a lecture theatre, preparation rooms, an observatory and studies for the masters of chemistry and physics. There are also in the same buildings two fives-courts, one covered and the other open, the former having a spectators' gallery. The swimming-bath is another detached building, fitted with shower baths and spring-boards. It is excellently heated.

We do not sleep at the school as there is no room, but at the house of one of the masters who lives near. The School routine is somewhat as follows: at 6.55 a bell rings for getting up, and boys can get up as early or as late as they like, but they have to be in the library by a quarter past seven for five minutes' silence. Then, after ten minutes in the classrooms, we go in to breakfast, after which we clean our boots. About ten minutes later, at 8.30, school begins, and continues, with a five and a fifteen minutes' recess, until half-past twelve. Between school and dinner at half-past one we can go into the city.

Every day after dinner, except on half-holidays, there are games, or Ambulance drill in a neighbouring field. If it is Ambulance day we turn out on the playground with stretchers and bandages, then "advance by fours from the right" and line up again outside the school. After this we march along Bootham to the field and practise various formations, perform mystic evolutions, and every now and then "convey . . . wounded!" Our Drill and Ambulance instructor is an old Army Sergeant, who amuses us very much with his martial manner.

On football days we turn out to our various games. There are, theoretically, no games, but every day, except half-holidays, we have to change and be out of the buildings, so practically the only other alternative is "fives," a very favourite game here. The football pitches are exceedingly muddy; usually the mud is three or four inches deep, and hardly any turf remains on the surface.

After games we have first a hot and then a cold shower-bath, and change for school. There are also several footbaths supplied with hot water. Every boy has a locker for his clothes, for the key of which he pays a deposit of 2s. 6d., returnable at end of the term. Any clothes left about are put in the "pawn locker" and redeemed for 3d. if marked, and 6d. if unmarked. (Mr. Morris please note!)

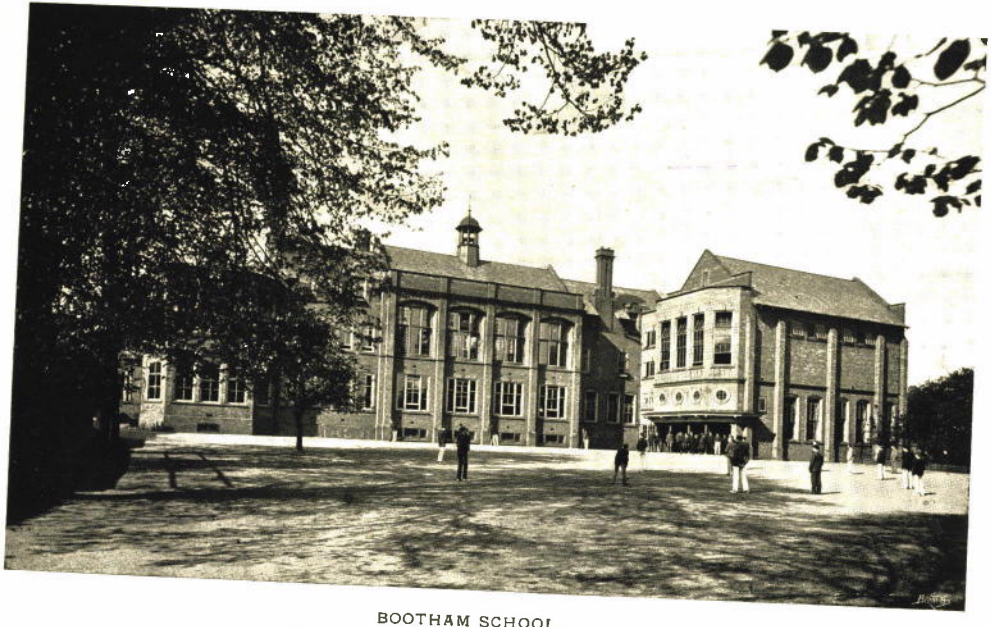
Afternoon school starts at 4 p.m. and continues till five minutes to six, with one break of five minutes. At six we have tea, and preparation begins at half-past, and on three days of the week goes on for an hour, and on the other three for an hour and three quarters. Preparation over, we are free till 8.30, when we have supper and go to bed.

On Sunday we get up half an hour later than usual, and after breakfast we have a Scripture lesson for three quarters of an hour. At 10.45 Meeting is held in the Library for York Friends and the School, because the Meeting House is now a hospital. Dinner is at 12.45, and after dinner we can go for walks, starting any time between dinner and half-past two, and getting back any time between a quarter past three and four; that is to say that the minimum time to be spent out of doors is from 2.30 to 3.15. At four o'clock we have an hour's text-learning! We have to say eight pieces a term. At five we can either continue to say texts or else write letters for half-an-hour until tea at half-past.

Meeting is half-an-hour after tea, and we have three-quarters of an hour between Meeting and supper. Unfortunately the post goes at 5.30, so we cannot write letters in the evening for that night's post.

On the Saturday after our arrival we were surprised to see Mr. Brereton and Mr. Lidbetter walking along the passage, and even more surprised and pleased to find that Mr. Brereton was temporarily on the Bootham staff, although he does not give us lessons.

On alternate Wednesdays we go to the "Mount" for



BOOTHAM SCHOOL.
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Headmaster.)

Meeting, which means a walk along the Roman walls from Bootham Bar to Micklegate Bar. After being in a co-educational school it seems curious to see the girls from the "Mount" once or twice a week in Meeting only.

It is possible to walk almost all round the city along the walls, although it is necessary to come down in two or three places. This forms quite an interesting round, but the nicest walk from Bootham is by the side of the River Ouse, possibly returning by the Great North Road.

The Natural History and Archæological excursions are not very frequent, but when they come they are very good, although they take place mostly by train and not so much on foot.

The place of our Literary Society is taken by Essay or Debating Meetings. At the former, essays are read, songs and recitations rendered, either serious or humorous, and readings given. Very little discussion takes place. We have had some good lectures this term, including one on "Colour Photography" to the Photographic Society, one on the "Poets of Ghent" by a Belgian (given in French !), and on one occasion we all went into the City to hear the lecture prepared by Mr. Ponting on Scott's Antarctic expedition, illustrated by films and slides. Every other Monday we attend a lecture in the City by a University Extension lecturer on some scientific subject.

Two of the most interesting details we notice here are the excellent fire equipment, accompanied by a well-organized fire-brigade, and also the way in which the school is heated. The water in the hot-water pipes and radiators is sometimes boiling. The hottest room is the changing room. The workshop deserves special mention : in the outer workshop boys make the usual small articles of furniture, whilst the inner workshop contains a forge and other apparatus for metal-work. Boys are making anything from a motor-bicycle or a garden seat to trousers presses and bookshelves.

Although we are having a very good time here, a yearning for Walden constantly arises, and sometime in the near future we shall not be sorry to see again old faces.

H. Diamond.
B. D. Skelton.
L. G. Salter.

WALDEN AT THE TOWERS.

INFLUENZA had struck us all—
Teachers and children, great and small.
In the mistresses' room A— and I slept ;
'Twas there, I heard, the young Ghost wept.

* * * * *

One, a ghost with long white beard,
Grew distinct, when the shadows cleared,—
Surely that figure before I had seen,
In our Walden Ghost, Waldoreen.

" Take care of them," I heard him say,
" Not too much work, and a lot of play."
" I'm doing my best," the other sniffed ;
'Twas our host, the Ghost, Towerift.

The above extracts from an Epic on the subject by May Hargrave give an insight into our life at The Towers, Colchester, whither we seven Waldenites immigrated on January 25th. We felt quite relieved to be in a fortified town, until the dropping of a German bomb on Colchester.

We heard the noise of the explosion while we were in bed, and windows rattled suspiciously, but we never dreamed of the truth. We have had fun out of it, planning what we shall put in our pillow-slips (to be used as knapsacks) when the Germans come. We have had exciting orders what to do in the event of an invasion.

There were fourteen boarders at the Towers before our arrival, and there are also forty day girls. We are a strange company, coming from all corners of the earth, including India, Syria, Singapore and Egypt. Nearly all the other scholars are much younger than we are, but we have nice times. A school with two small children such as we have from Singapore can hardly be quiet.

Miss Allen joined us after several days, but we still had to do a good deal of work by ourselves, as so many girls and teachers had succumbed to influenza. In fact, the school had to be closed for a fortnight; at one time only three boarders, including two Waldenites, remained outside the sick room. These three went walks by themselves, had meals by themselves, and took it in turns to carve the meat, as there were no teachers left.

The Towers is a fairly large house, with accommodation for about ten boarders. The school buildings are about three minutes' walk from the house, and their most striking feature is the hall, which is used as a Gymnasium, and is surrounded by classrooms. At one end of it there are stairs leading to a gallery, which contains more classrooms.

We have a whole holiday on Saturdays instead of two half-holidays in the week. On Sundays the Walden girls accompany two of the teachers to Meeting, while the other girls go to Church.

Once a week we have a French lesson from a Belgian gentleman.

We miss our games, but enjoy the walks. We have quite enjoyed our stay at Colchester, but during any discussion

the Towerites exclaim, "Oh! you Waldenites will never be Towerites; you are Walden through and through."

Winnie Hargrave,
May Hargrave,
Dorothy Robson,
Florence Williams.

* * * * *

In addition to the authors of the above article, Katie Edmunds, Connie Wilderspin, and Lilian Kilbey are also at The Towers.

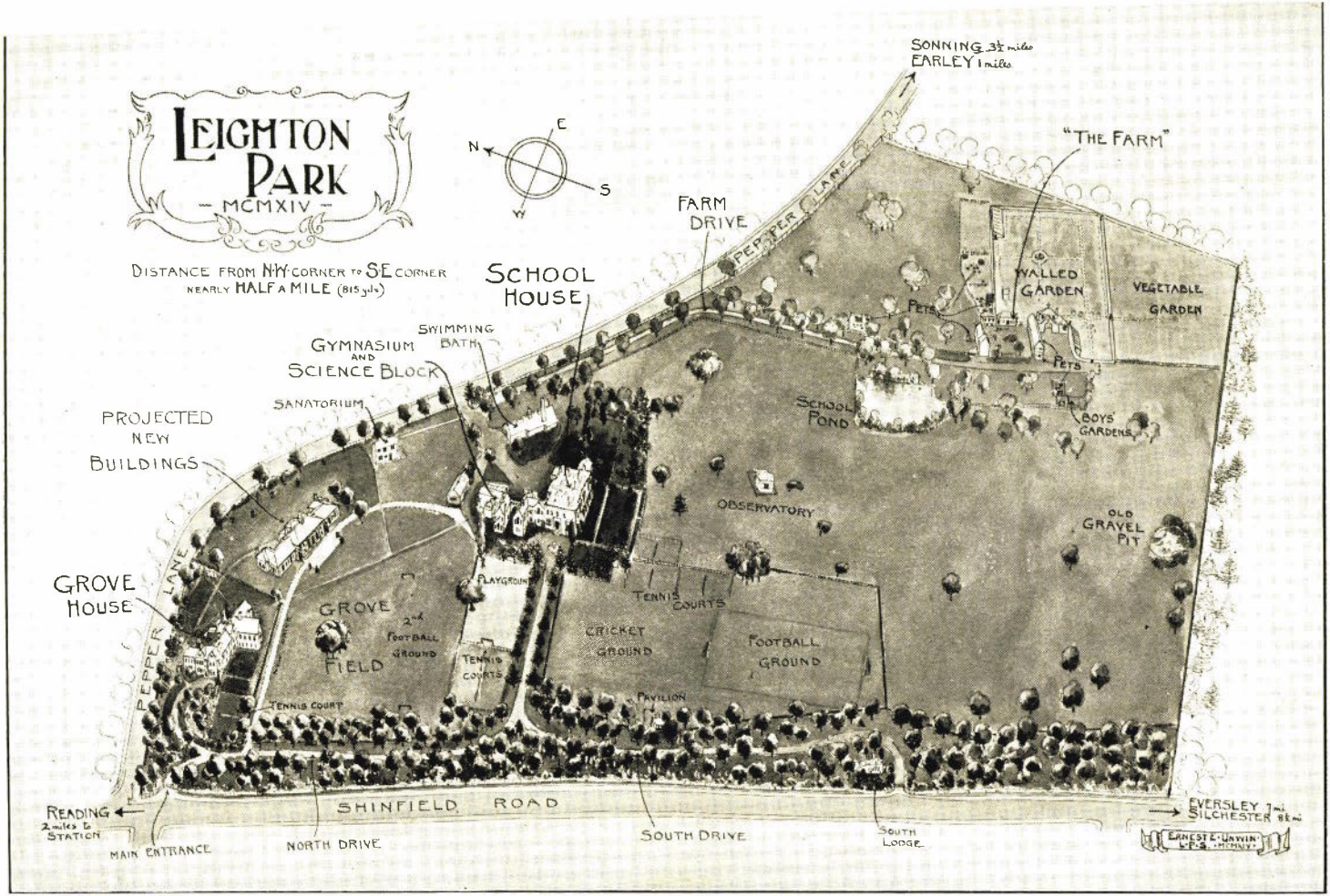
WALDEN AT LEIGHTON PARK.

ON the whole the routine and life is much the same at Leighton Park as at Saffron Walden, so little need be said of it. But there are several things which are different, and we will mention a few of the more noticeable.

One striking feature is the studies. There are about fifteen of these cosy little rooms, for the use of some of the older boys, which are furnished by the owners themselves; and it is amusing on Sunday afternoons to watch the tenants prepare their afternoon teas, to which they invite their friends. The arising odours fill the adjacent common-rooms.

Each house has a reading-room, where a good selection of daily and weekly papers is placed. The Grove House reading-room is the better of the two, but when the buildings now being erected are completed, School House hopes to have a much better room. These rooms are greatly appreciated, and a similar room would be a great improvement at Walden, where the need of one has long been felt.

Drill is held on Tuesday and Friday evenings under the well-known instructor, Mr. Mauritzi. The building itself is


LEIGHTON PARK
— MCMXIV —
DISTANCE FROM N.W. CORNER TO S.E. CORNER NEARLY HALF A MILE (815 yds.)
N
E
S
W
SONNING 3½ miles
EARLEY 1 mile
"THE FARM"
FARM DRIVE
PEPPER LANE
SCHOOL HOUSE
WALLED GARDEN
VEGETABLE GARDEN
PETS
PETS
SWIMMING BATH
GYMNASIUM AND SCIENCE BLOCK
SANATORIUM
SCHOOL POND
BOYS' GARDENS
PROJECTED NEW BUILDINGS
OBSERVATORY
OLD GRAVEL PIT
GROVE HOUSE
PEPPER LANE
GROVE FIELD
2nd FOOTBALL GROUND
PLAYGROUND
TENNIS COURTS
CRICKET GROUND
FOOTBALL GROUND
TENNIS COURTS
TENNIS COURT
PAVILION
READING 2 miles to STATION
MAIN ENTRANCE
NORTH DRIVE
SHINFIELD ROAD
SOUTH DRIVE
SOUTH LODGE
EVERSLEY 1 mi.
SILCHESTER 8 mi.
ERNEST E. UNWIN L.E.S. MCMXIV

not nearly so good as the one at Walden. The Gymnasium is used for other purposes than drill, Collects and Art-classes being held there. The Swimming Bath is a few paces from the Gymnasium, and although not used this term, appears to be similar to the one at Walden, but there are better diving-boards and a water-chute.

All except Study boys go to bed at 9 o'clock. At the head of each bed is a small cubicle containing a washstand and drawers, where suits are kept. Three bells are rung in the morning before breakfast, and between the second and third most boys rush downstairs and have a cold bath one after the other, and then quickly dress.

On three evenings a week, between 7.30 and 9.45, boys spend their time at their hobbies. One of the most prominent is pet-keeping. Amongst the live stock kept are rabbits, guinea-pigs, poultry and two dogs. Carpentry is not carried on a great deal, but there is a metal-work class and also a very fine dark room.

We sincerely hope that we shall be able to return to Walden next term, but at the same time we shall be very sorry to leave Leighton Park.

G. Ardley.
W. Powell.

SCHOOL OR GROVE.

The Athletics at Leighton Park are made a great deal more interesting by the fact of there being two houses—School and Grove. Throughout each year the two houses compete in the various branches of Athletics for a shield which is awarded to the House gaining the greatest number of points. As can be imagined, great keenness is shown by the boys of both Houses, who, one and all, do their utmost for the success of their House.

The Football House Match was of great interest, and, from what we can gather, one of the most curious which had been

played, for both teams were just then decidedly weakened by the loss of several of their best men through influenza. School House suffered more heavily from this and consequently lost, though not without a valiant attempt on their part.

The Fives Competition, which covered a period of some weeks, finally resulted in School's favour, giving them a good lead in points, though Grove House are hoping to do great things in the Sports, which will settle the result of this year's competitions.

Our only regrets are that we were not here for the former events, including cricket, swimming, gymnastics and tennis, also that, though Waldenites are entering with zeal into the coming sports, our points (if any) are not to be included in the House contest.

Reginald W. Montford (Grove House).
J. Frederick Butler (School House).

* * * * *

In addition to the authors of the two preceding articles, the following Walden boys are also at Leighton Park: Appleton, Deane, Kilbey, Partridge, Thompson, Wright.

The bird's-eye view of Leighton Park which we show was kindly placed at our disposal by the Headmaster.



OUR BELGIAN GUESTS.

IN response to an offer by the boys and girls to contribute a weekly subscription of 15s. towards the support of a Belgian family of refugees, a Committee was appointed by the Saffron Walden Preparative Meeting, October 18th, to organize a suitable scheme. A house in South Road (originally built as an Orphanage) was lent to the Committee by Miss Gibson, and was named "Mon Abri." Guarantees were received eventually amounting to about £4 per week.

The house was furnished by means of gifts and loans from Friends and others, and an offer to take refugees was sent to the Belgian Ambassador's Relief Committee in London.

On October 21st a telegram arrived, "Can you take twelve refugees, husband a doctor, good family, including three children?" The offer was accepted, but the next day Essex was declared a "prohibited area" for all foreigners. After several days' delay it was ascertained that Saffron Walden was not included in this order; but by that time all suitable refugees had been allocated elsewhere, so far as the Belgian and English Relief Committees in London were concerned. However, a request from the Folkestone Relief Committee resulted in the arrival of six Belgians on November 9th, viz.: M. and Mme. Breban, proprietors of a milliner's shop at Ostend; Mme. Perpête, widow of an officer, of Brussels; Mme. and Mlle. Schmitz, proprietors of a chemist's shop at Ostend; M. Wandels, a qualified chemist who managed this shop.

On December 3rd two nieces of Mme. Breban joined their relative at "Mon Abri," Mme. Vanuytven, with her baby, Marcel, aged six months, and Mlle. Doensen. Mme. Vanuytven's husband, an officer, had been reported as killed

at Liège, but it has since been found that he is a prisoner in Germany.

On December 31st, M. Lauwers, a commercial traveller from Brussels, with his wife and child, Mariette, aged three-and-a-half years, reached Walden, and found a home at Hazelwood.

On January 14th, Mme. Perpête left Walden in order to try and join her mother in Brussels. She was met in London by Howard Diamond, who conducted her to the Belgian and Dutch Consulates, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey and Regent Street, and finally saw her off from Cannon Street for Folkestone. Up to the present we have received no further news of Mme. Perpête.

On February 12th, M. Polus, foreign correspondent at the Belgian Ministry of Railways, a personal friend of M. Lauwers —they live next door to each other in Brussels—took Mme. Perpête's place at "Mon Abri."

It has naturally been very difficult to find any work for our guests beyond what is entailed in housekeeping at "Mon Abri." M. Wandels would be glad to obtain a post as a chemist's assistant. He has given French lessons to a number of officers in the School Lecture Hall, where he has also taken a weekly class with Saffron Walden residents, organized by the Committee of the Institute, and which could not be held in the Institute owing to its occupation by the military. Several of our guests have also been able to give private lessons.

M. Lauwers has received an offer of some work, through his brother-in-law, at a Belgian Motor Car Factory at Hayes. The said factory had been established at Brussels, was moved thence to Antwerp on the approach of the Germans, thence to Ostend, and finally to Hayes, near London. M. Lauwers occasionally returns for the week-end to Saffron Walden, where his wife and child remain.

Several friends having subscribed money to purchase material for making into garments to send to France and

Holland, some of our guests have employed themselves in this work, Mme. Lauwers being an expert needlewoman.

Mariette Lauwers, by invitation of the Misses Gowlett, accompanies Henry Rowntree to Cambridge House School each morning, and is quickly learning a number of English phrases.

Monsieur Lauwers has written for *The Avenue* the following account of his experience in the Garde Civique at the commencement of the war, of his passage through the German lines, and of his subsequent escape to England.

"Le Régiment Reine Elisabeth de la Garde civique de Bruxelles auquel j'appartiens depuis 15 ans, faisait le service d'honneur. Jamais je ne vis spectacle plus émouvant que celui de l'enthousiasme débordant avec lequel ce jour là, la foule bruxelloise acclama notre Roi. C'est que nous avions confiance dans la loyauté des grandes puissances garantes de notre neutralité et que nous étions convaincus de la justesse de notre cause. Mais à peine le Roi était-il entré au Parlement que le bruit de la violation de notre territoire par l'armée allemande se répandit comme une trainée de foudre parmi la foule. Après un moment de stupéfaction générale—quand on est honnête peut-on croire à la fortaiture des autres—la foule se resaisit bien vite et c'est au milieu d'un enthousiasme dèlirant que notre Roi, l'air grave, rentra à son palais. Le même jour, nous reçûmes l'ordre d'endosser notre uniforme de campagne et 24 heures plus tard nous partions pour Heverlé lez Louvain, avec mission de surveiller les voies de communication et le train de ravitaillement de notre armée de campagne engagée à Liège et les environs. Nous passâmes ainsi une quinzaine de jours dans l'attente, lorsque le 19 août au matin l'ordre de nous replier sur Louvain nous parvint. Ce fut le jour ou nous reçûmes le baptême du feu. Il restera à jamais gravé dans ma mémoire. Notre armée était obligée de se retirer devant l'ennemi numériquement supérieur et ma compagnie fut chargée de contribuer à couvrir la retraite.

Nous tenâmes jusqu'à 500 mètres de l'ennemi puis, notre mission accomplie, nous nous repliâmes en bon ordre, bien que vigoureusement poursuivis par l'ennemi, sur Herent à environ 3 miles de Louvain. Déjà les lueurs des incendies allumés par les allemands au fur et à mesure qu'ils avançaient, éclairaient le ciel quand nous reçûmes l'ordre de monter dans un train formé en toute hâte pour nous conduire à Malines et de là à Termonde et Alost où nous arrivâmes en pleine nuit, exténués de fatigue et mourant de faim. Le lendemain nous fûmes envoyés à Termonde, puis à St. Nicolas. Après 2 jours d'un repos bien mérité—nous venions de couvrir à pied une cinquante de miles en 2 jours, chaque homme transportant une charge d'environ 65 livres—nous fûmes de nouveau renvoyés plus près du théâtre des opérations avec mission de contribuer à la surveillance et à la défense des ponts de l'Escaut. Cela nous met plusieurs fois en contact avec l'ennemi, notamment à Termonde, Calcken, Wetteren, Melle, Schoonaerde et Heusden. Pendant que nous occupons cette dernière localité Anvers tombe aux mains de l'ennemi et nous nous replions sur Bruges où un Taube nous lance une bombe juste au moment où nous allons nous embarquer pour Ostende, point extrême de notre retraite, car notre mission était provisoirement terminée. Pendant ce temps notre vaillante petite armée, après avoir combattue héroïquement pendant plus de deux mois contre une des plus grandes puissances militaires du monde, parvint à se retrancher derrière l'Yser et à prendre enfin contact avec le gros des forces de nos alliés.

" A notre arrivée à Ostende, notre régiment est formé en carré sur la grand place et notre Colonel dans un discours plein de patriotisme mais d'une voix tremblante d'émotion nous donne connaissance de l'arrêté royal licenciant provisoirement les Gardes Civiques du Royaume. Nous avions à déposer les armes et à quitter cet uniforme que nous avions porté avec tant de fierté. A cette annonce les plus sceptiques



Photo by] [Lucy Fairbrother.



Photo by] [J. S. Lidbetter.

OUR BELGIAN GUESTS.

d'entre nous avaient les larmes aux yeux et toutes les souffrances physiques endurées au cours de la campagne ne sont rien à côté des souffrances morales que j'ai éprouvées à ce moment là. Mais il ne fallait pas tergiverser. L'ennemi nous pressait et pour ne pas tomber entre ses mains et s'exposer aux pires dangers—car bien que combattants réguliers d'après les lois de la guerre, les allemands nous avaient contesté cette qualité et avaient menacé de nous traîter en francs-tireurs—il ne nous restait qu'à quitter nos uniformes et à endosser les vêtements civils que voulurent bien nous procurer des amis ostendais. Le lendemain les allemands firent leur entrée à Ostende et après avoir passé deux jours à Blankenberghe, je me décidai à rentrer à Bruxelles en compagnie de trois amis, ex-gardes civiques comme moi. La route était à faire à pied, car les nôtres avaient fait sauter les voies du chemin de fer au fur et à mesure de la retraite. Après une journée de marche, mes compagnons et moi, nous arrivons exténués de fatigue au village de Somergem lez Gand (forty miles) complètement occupé par les allemands. Comme chambre à coucher nous ne trouvons qu'une grange que pour comble, nous devons partager avec cinq uhlans qui n'avaient pas du tout l'air de se douter qu'ils dormaient avec quatre belges dont ils avaient peut-être quelques jours auparavent essuyé le feu. La présence de ces serpents gris ne nous empêche pas de dormir à poings fermés et le lendemain matin nous voilà en route pour Bruxelles où nous arrivons sains et saufs à 6 heures du soir. Nous avions couvert en ces deux jours de marche eighty miles. J'eus le bonheur de retrouver en bonne santé toute ma famille, et je me croyais enfin sauvé, quand un beau matin deux militaires allemands se présentèrent chez moi pour m'arrêter parceque j'avais refusé de signer la déclaration que je ne prendrais plus les armes contre l'Allemagne. J'étais heureusement absent au moment de cette visite imprévue autant que désagréable et ma femme put me faire prévenir du danger que je courrais.

"C'était le 18 Novembre. Je ramassai à la hâte quelques petits bagages et le lendemain à la première heure par un temps froid et neigeux je quittai précipitamment Bruxelles pour la Hollande et l'Angleterre. Arrivé le 21 Novembre à Londres j'y reçus l'accueil le plus cordial et le plus fraternal, mais une grave appréhension me restait. N'avais-je pas abandonné au pays ma femme et mon jeune enfant et n'y étaient-ils pas exposés aux pires dangers? Cette responsabilité m'empêchait de dormir et j'en serais certainement devenu malade si grâce à l'aide d'une connaissance, je n'avais pas réussi à sauver à son tour ma petite famille, que j'eus l'immense joie de voir arriver à Londres pendant les fêtes de Noël. . . ."

FRANCOIS LAUWERS.

The above account concludes with a touching expression of gratitude for the kindness experienced by the writer at Saffron Walden.

FRIENDS' WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE.

SOME time ago, as most of our readers know, J. Penrose Whitlow obtained from the School Committee six months' leave of absence, in order to share in the work of the Friends' Relief Committee. Since the beginning of the year he has been stationed at Paris, where he keeps the various parties, or équipes, who are distributing relief, in touch with the headquarters in London. We give the following extracts from a letter written by him on March 5th :



A RUINED FARMHOUSE AT CHATILLON.
(Reproduced by courtesy of Editor of *The Friend*.



Photo by] [Hugh B. Clark.

A WOODEN HOUSE ERECTED BY THE RELIEF COMMITTEE AT GLANNES.

". . . Besides the Bellows party, which is purely distributing relief in the Aisne district south of Soissons, we have five équipes in the Marne district. They are scattered in different parts of the vast battlefield. Oh, we in England know nothing, absolutely nothing, of what war means! When I see the results it seems almost wrong to be in comfort and well clothed when so many are homeless and ruined. The sight of destroyed villages is so common that—sad as it may sound—one gets so used to them that there is a tendency to take no notice and to pass by as though it were the ordinary state of affairs.

" For the most part, our centres are in places left untouched, and so affording some accommodation, but with ruined villages all around, as at Vitry and Fère Champenoise, where we are building wooden houses—two, three and four-roomed,—and putting them up amid the ruins of the old homes. It is pathetically sad to see the old folks living in them, clambering over the *dêbris* of what was once their home, to get into the road!

" In addition, we are organizing a seed distribution for small owners—(the Government are doing something for the big farmers)—and distributing relief in kind wherever it is possible.

" At Chalons we have a maternity hospital, where there are several women from Rheims, whom we have brought from their cellars in the bombardment. We also distribute relief amongst the 3,000 refugees crowded into the town, which is a military centre.

" At Fontenelle a small party is doing splendid work repairing a ruined village called Soudan. But in some ways Sermaize-les-Bains is the most interesting, because it is one of the biggest places *entirely* destroyed. It was nearly as big as Saffron Walden, and now there are only about ten houses left; the rest are utterly destroyed by shell fire and incendiarism. As I walked its streets it reminded me exactly

of Pompeii, only there was more rubbish and *débris* of all kinds about. There is a Hotel, a sort of Hydro, about a mile outside, filled with 300 refugees from the town. . . . Then amidst the awful ruins some families still live in their cellars. I could, if time allowed, tell some heart-rending stories of what I saw and heard, but they must wait till I return. But this is War !—without its glamour, and this is what it must mean to those in whose country it is fought. Well, we've got a strong équipe there, and are organizing boys' and girls' clubs, distributing relief, and building wooden houses. As you may imagine, there is plenty to do. The first thing we tackled was sanitary arrangements; E. G. Montford, T. E. Harvey, an architect and myself spent several hours planning these on the spot. . . . We are anxious to ward off illness, from which we are fortunately so far free. . . ."

* * * * *

Funds in aid of the work of the Relief Committee should be sent to

ISAAC SHARP, 136, Bishopsgate, E.C.

Clothing, for the use of Refugees in France and Holland —and later in Belgium—should be sent to

DENNIS MILNER, 20, New St. Square, E.C. (Entrance in Middle New St., near Ludgate Circus).

Old Scholars wishing to share in the work of the Relief Committee should write to

E. W. BROOKS or A. RUTH FRY, 104, Ethelburga House, 91, Bishopsgate, E.C.

We are indebted to Hugh B. Clark, of Street, for the photograph of the wooden house at Glannes.

FRIENDS' AMBULANCE UNIT.

THE work of this expedition (see reports appearing weekly in *The Friend*) has aroused much interest. A number of Old Waldenians and two members of the Staff are among the party, whose object is "to serve both as a field and hospital ambulance corps. . . . The Unit is working under the auspices of the Red Cross and not under the Royal Army Medical Corps, and therefore no enlistment has been necessary, and no duties of a military nature are called for. The expedition is purely one of medical relief, surgical assistance, and first aid to the wounded." (*The Friend*, November 6th, 1914.)

The first section of the Unit left London on Friday, October 30th, and next day, soon after leaving London, were on the scene of the *Hermes* disaster :—

"To-day we had to stand by and pick up survivors of the *Hermes*, which we saw sink. I was one of the volunteers who manned the boats. . . . Altogether we picked up twenty to twenty-five survivors. Donald Grey dived in, but unfortunately his efforts failed, as the man he hauled out was dead. We are now back at Dover, and hope to start again for Dunkirk by 2 o'clock." (Extract from J. E. Thurnam, 1904-11.)

The Unit deals with both military and civil casualties, and Philip J. Baker, in his report dated December 14th, speaks of a total of 6,594 cases having passed through their hands up to that date.

Letters home contain many stories of bravery, and mention many touching incidents, of which the following extract is quite characteristic :

"Last Sunday a tiny boy of six was brought in. He had been playing with a cartridge and it had exploded in his hand, which was so badly shattered that it had to be amputated

at the wrist. But he has not cried once the whole week—a fact which has had an immense effect upon the grown-up babes in the other beds in the same ward, some of whom sing out if a bandage sticks. The majority, however, are very brave, and it is a pleasure and a joy to wait on a great many of them." (T. E. Tawell, 1892-6.)

Hard work it is, evidently, but always undertaken in the same cheerful happy manner. Creature comforts and toothsome delicacies are few and far between out there, and parcels from home are eagerly welcomed :—

" . . . very many thanks for the delicious sweetmeats which have given 'beaucoup de plaisir' to several Old Waldenites, viz., Tyler, Thurnam, Milton, Jennings and myself. There is no truth in the fanciful report in English papers yesterday. (January 15th) of an air-fight here." (T. E. Tawell.")

Since Christmas the Unit has been working hard in combating the outbreak of typhoid, which has been especially severe among the civil population. Special hospitals have been set apart for these cases, and many new members have left England to join the party as typhoid orderlies. Among these was G. Stanley Pumphrey, who, writing on March 11th, says :—

" I have at last finished at the College of Ambulance and have received my orders to go out to France to-morrow. I have arranged to be back at Walden on April 28th. . . . Five of us have been living for the past fortnight at the above address and have been roughing it so as to get some sort of practice for living in France. There are only two rooms here, and we have to do our own cooking, etc., for which we have a gas ring and a Primus paraffin heater. As for sleeping, when we got here we bought some straw, put it into bags, and slept on it, and it was really quite comfortable after the first day,—or rather night."

We shall look forward to verbal accounts of their doings



HOSPITAL ST. ELISABETH, AT P.



HOSPITAL SACRE CŒUR, AT Y., AFTER BOMBARDMENT.

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