THE AVENUE



JULY 1915

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(J. E. Walker).

MR. AND MRS. G MORRIS.

THE AVENUE.

The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

VOL. VI. JULY, 1915. No. 17.

FOREWORD.

FOLLOWING the introductory notes in our last issue, we can now relate that the troops finally left the school premises on the first of March. After some weeks spent in carrying out the necessary cleaning and repairs, the School reopened on April 28th with one hundred and forty scholars. Forty-five had left and twenty new pupils had entered the School so that the net reduction was twenty-five.

Except for this diminution in numbers the life of the School is now normal and it is not anticipated that it will again be disturbed. It is true that a further 4,500 men of the London Territorial Force (London Scottish, Queen's Westminsters, Kensington and Civil Service Rifles) have come into the town, but two regiments are under canvas in the Park, so that there is not the same pressure on private billets as during the winter. The only part the School has played in accommodating our visitors is to allow the picketing of a score of horses and an occasional cricket match or athletic sports on the field.

With the advent of fresh troops in the town the Meeting House is again being used as a recreation and refreshment room and all our meetings are held in the School Lecture Room.

We have had a visit from Mr. Whitlow, who gave us an interesting account of the work he has been doing in France

in connection with the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee, and also from Mr. and Mrs. Douglas B. Smith, who described their more special department of relief in distributing seeds. In this connection we note with satisfaction that our old scholar, Theodore Tawell, has gone to the stricken districts of the Marne to assist in working some of the mowing and reaping machines, the funds for which have been supplied by Friends of the Essex and Suffolk Quarterly Meeting.

J. E. WALKER.

THE WOUNDED INDIANS AT BRIGHTON.



HEN the great European War broke out in 1914, the Indians joined the British in their fight against Germany. Hundreds of Indians were wounded on the battlefield at Neuve Chapelle, and many of these were sent to England.

When the Indians were first brought to England, it was a difficult problem to know where to put them; but finally it was decided that Brighton should be the chief centre for all wounded Indians.

Five buildings in Brighton are used as hospitals:—The Infirmary, The York Place School, The Dome, The Pavilion, and the Skating Rink. These buildings were taken at once, and a great deal of money was spent in altering and arranging kitchens and sanitary places.

All five of these hospitals are now fitted out with wards, kitchens, and recreation rooms. The wards are all large and well ventilated, each soldier has a single bed and a small table with a drawer in which he keeps a plate and a drinking vessel. At the foot of each bed is a framed certificate bearing the name

of the wounded soldier, the nature of his illness and a few instructions for the nurse.

The Indian men are very proud of their khaki clothes, and those who are unable to get up, are always anxious to have their khaki near them. They wear khaki turbans on their heads; some simply roll them round the head, others wear them with long tails hanging down their backs.

Only a few of the kitchens are actually in the hospitals, the wooden huts which have already been mentioned are the most used.

Proper Indian cooks manage the food, and it is very difficult for an English person to see the kitchens, as the Indians will not eat the food if an Englishman's shadow has passed over it.

According to the different castes so do the kitchens differ. Each caste has its own kitchens and cooks. The food which the Indians eat, consists chiefly of rice and curry; they do not eat English bread but their cooks make pancakes of flour and water, which are fried in ghee before being eaten. Ghee is a white fat which takes the place of our English butter.

The Indians not only drink tea, but goats' milk. The goats which supply the milk are all fed on the grass in the grounds, but the goats belonging to the different castes are not allowed to be together.

Two goats were once brought into the Pavilion in the same cart, but because one goat belonged to an Indian of higher caste than the other, they had both to be taken out and brought in separately.

A large number are what one would call serious cases, yet owing to their physique, it is but few of these cases that have ended fatally.

The last rites paid to these heroes are very interesting; the different castes have different methods of dealing wifh their dead. Some one or two have been embalmed and taken back to India, others have been carried out to sea, and buried after

the English sea burial style; but the greater proportion of the Indians burn their dead.

On the hills just outside Patcham, a small village three miles out of Brighton, has been erected a large stone slab. On this faggots are laid, and on the faggots the body is placed, and when further faggots have been put on the top of the body, the whole is set on fire.

When a burial takes place the Indians see to it themselves. Convalescent doctors and soldiers are driven out in ambulance motors, and they dance and sing round the burning body and perform funeral rites the same as would be done in India.

The following was ordered for an Indian burial:

4 gallons of petrol,
2 pounds of butter,
15 yards of cord,
5 yards of linen.

The higher the caste the more elaborate the cremation, and sometimes instead of linen coloured silks are ordered.

One cannot find out the exact uses of the various articles, except that the petrol is poured on the faggots to procure a fierce heat, and that the body is wrapped in linen.

Mabel C. Wellman.

OUR BELGIAN GUESTS.

SINCE the publication of the last number of "The Avenue," five of our guests have left Saffron Walden. On March 20th, Madame Vanuytven and her baby joined her brother at York, where he is working as an engineer. Their places at "Mon Abri" were taken by Mme. Lauwers and her little girl.

On April 11th, M. Wandels obtained a temporary post with

a chemist at Sutton Coldfield, and this post has since become a permanency.

M. Polus has continued the French class at the Institute in the town, and has given talks in French to the older scholars at the School. He also has several private pupils for French and Flemish.

On June 1st, Mme. Lauwers and Mariette left Walden in order to rejoin M. Lauwers, who has obtained permanent work, with an increase of salary, which has enabled him to make a home for his family near his place of work at Hayes.

There are now six Belgians at "Mon Abri," M. and Mme. Breban, Mme. and Mlle. Schmitz, Mlle. Doensen, and M. Polus.

ROUND WALDEN.

Fifteenth Century Churches Round Walden.

THE School at Saffron Walden possesses a great advantage over many other Friends' Schools in that there are in its immediate vicinity many churches of great interest to Archæologists. A large proportion of these, speaking in general terms, are of Perpendicular architecture, that is to say, were built in the fifteenth century, which was the time during which the larger proportion of churches, and many domestic buildings now standing, were built. The typical feature of these buildings is the window, which has mullions traversing its whole length, or nearly so, from top to bottom.

Of such churches we have in the first place two of the finest examples in Essex—our own church at Walden and its sister church at Thaxted. These two churches are very similar, though whilst Walden Church is finer in general aspect and

splendour, Thaxted has many more interesting details such as the Adam and Eve window in the south aisle—an excellent old piece of stained glass ; the font with its magnificent cover, and also the quaint gargoyles outside the church—none of these have their parallel in Walden with the exception of, perhaps, the font.

In external appearance the two churches are very similar, and this fact is promoted by the great similarity between the towers and the spires, though if we had to choose between the two we should select Thaxted as the finer because of its flying buttresses. Few other churches in the neighbourhood have spires, though Finchingfield had one, until it was blown down and a small wooden belfry substituted.

Among the less important Perpendicular churches we find some well carved and ornamental rood screens. Balsham Church contains one of the finest examples in England. The rood loft remains with the stairs up to it, and the whole is painted in a curious manner. The same church also contains some beautiful choir-stalls and miserere seats, these also being the finest in the vicinity—in fact almost the only examples for some miles round.

The large proportion of the smaller churches around Walden are chiefly Perpendicular. Of these, examples are Chishall, Chrisall and Great Chesterford. Most of these churches, being comparatively modern, are rather uninteresting in detail, though they often contain brasses.

Most of the Perpendicular and other churches in this part of Essex are built of flint on the exterior and clunch in the interior. Clunch is a species of hard chalk found in the neighbourhood, and flint is also easily obtained because it is found in the chalk.

W. R. Appleton.
H. Diamond.
L. R. House.

SOME OF THIS SEASON'S NESTS.



WILL try to describe to you some of the nests I found during the last holidays.

One of these was the nest of the Little Owl. Twenty years ago, this owl could not be considered a British bird, but now I am sorry to say it is. A few of these birds were brought over to England from Egypt, and let loose in a park in Northamptonshire. Since then they have spread very rapidly all over the Midlands. A few may be seen at Walden. These birds can see in the day as well as in the night, and they eat anything in the way of young chickens, game and other small birds. This nest was simply a hollowed out place in the hollow branch of a tree, and contained two eggs. The eggs were pure white and nearly round.

You can usually see these owls sitting on the top of a post, where they are not easily distinguished from the top. They generally choose some hole in a tree for their larder. I remember being very frightened when I looked into a hole in a tree and saw a Little Owl within a foot of my face. I found out a day or two later that this was his larder. Another nest I found was that of the Tawny Owl. This useful bird is very unfairly treated by ignorant people, who think that because it feeds on flesh it destroys game. This is of course entirely wrong, for it has been proved many times that its chief food consists of mice, rats and beetles, and perhaps a pigeon or two when it has young ones.

As I climbed up a hollow oak tree out flew a Tawny Owl. When she had settled at a respectful distance I climbed to the top of the trunk and there down below were two young owls, covered with white down. Their eyes looked very red and they kept on uttering harsh little squeaks.

In another hollow tree in the same wood I found two Jackdaws' nests. These birds eat young peas just as they come up. But I do not know of any other harm they do.

The nests were of sheep's wool ; in one there were five eggs and in the other one. The eggs are small for the size of the bird and pointed ; the colour is greenish-blue with black spots. While I was examining the nests, the birds were flying round in circles over me and cawing loudly.

Another nest I found of a similar bird was that of the Magpie. These birds are unfortunately very common in the Fens, although I have never seen one at Walden. Like the Little Owl they are very destructive and will eat numbers of chickens and all kinds of young birds and eggs in preference to anything else.

The nest is one of the largest of our common British birds. It is always made of very prickly twigs and is lined with grass and hair. Over the nest a dome of sticks is built with a hole in one side. When finished the nest stands over two feet high. The eggs of the Magpie are very much like those of the Blackbird, and are not much larger. The nest is generally built in a high thorn hedge, or in an orchard ; but sometimes it is found on a high tree in the open.

Magpies will build in one hedge for years, as I have found seven nests in one hedge in various stages of ruin, although I have never known more than one pair in one hedge at the same time. Other birds, especially pigeons, often use the Magpies' nest when it is finished with, and I once found six Kestrels' eggs in one.

The next nest I am going to describe is that of the Long tailed Tit, or Pudding Bag, as this beautiful little bird is called in our district, because of the shape of its nest. The nest is built of very soft moss and lichen, with a dome like the Common Wren's.

There is a hole in one side and the nest I found was placed in a blackthorn bush. It contained seven eggs. The



THE MARKET PLACE.

birds usually lay twelve or fourteen eggs before they begin to sit.

The eggs were about the size of peas and were white. It seems a wonderful thing how so small a bird brings up a family of twelve or fourteen in a space not so large as a tea-cup.

C. F. Tebbutt.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES.

IV.—THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

FOR some time it was the custom of the Juvenile Literary Society to hold alternately "Meetings for Business" and "Meetings for Discipline." The Business meetings dealt with admission to membership, reports from the Librarians as to the number of books borrowed, etc., reports from Curators of Natural History, Drawing, etc., and occasionally essays. The Discipline meetings dealt with "complaints" against those who had borrowed books and left them about, or kept them beyond the allotted time or damaged them, also with other cases of irregularity amongst the members.

The time devoted to "Complaints" and to Natural History Reports caused other things to be crowded out. The more literarily inclined members therefore formed themselves into a separate section, and met frequently, especially in the winter months, for definitely literary concerns under the name of the Select Committee of the J. L. S.

The Literary Society of to-day exercises no jurisdiction in Library concerns beyond the appointment of Curators. It has passed over to another society all matters connected with Natural History and Archæology, and is able to devote its whole time to literary work. Thus our modern Senior Literary Society has been developed from the Select Committee, not from the Juvenile Literary Society. At a meeting

of the J. L. S. held 2nd month 28, 1827, part of the third minute reads as follows :

> " That the members of the Society meet, as is now the custom, once in four weeks for transacting the business of the society. That with a view of more effectually promoting the improvement of those members most desirous of it, a Select Committee of fourteen members shall be formed, who shall meet in the intermediate weeks for the purpose of improving themselves in any way they may see fit."

Further suggestions were made—that the Select Committee, if appointed, should direct their attention to

" a revision of the rules "

" the nomination of a chairman for J. L. S. meetings,"

and that they should bring a written report to the next meeting

" defining the connexion which shall subsist between the Society and its Select Committee."

The fourteen names were duly submitted to the next meeting, which approved of all except one.

Four months' experience resulted in the following minute in the J.L.S.

> " A proposition having been received for the abolition of the Select Committee it has been agreed to : the disposal of their books and funds is left to themselves."

No further mention is found of the Select Committee till February, 1837, when the Conference proposed names to be added to an evidently flourishing society. There are no minutes of the J.L.S. from the beginning of 1834 till the end of 1836, so probably the Select Committee was revived during that period.

From time to time, reports were received by the J.L.S. from the Select Committee. They tell of the work done and of the method of procedure in meetings. The following extract is from a very long report dated 4th of 5th month 1841 :—

"The Select Committee having during the last four months met several times for the transaction of its business, deems it right to lay before the body at large a short outline of its proceedings. . . . The principal means of improvement within the reach of the members of this body are, as many are aware, asking and answering philosophical questions, delivering and listening to lectures and writing essays. An appointment is made of two members at every meeting to prepare a set of not less than five or more than ten questions of an improving character; these are produced at the next meeting, read, and at a subsequent sitting, discussed and answered. Such as are considered most worthy of preservation, are ordered to be recorded on the minute book of the Committee, and in conformity with a proposition made some time since at a meeting of the society, a book has been procured in which questions are to be copied; the Committee hope thus before long to be able to submit to the body at large, the most important of these questions, which at its various sittings have been submitted to its notice."

Two minute books, 1851-61 and 1861-70, of the Select Committee are extant, also two books into which the most important of these questions and answers were copied. In the first book, about which it was minuted that it should be placed

"under the care of the librarians for the use of members,"

the gradual development of answers into explanatory notes and finally into short essays is clearly traceable. Space forbids the quotation of these longer answers, but the following are a few examples of some of the earlier ones:

15. "Who first tamed a lion?
Hanna, the Carthaginian."

17. "To what age did the ancient Britons usually live?
One hundred and twenty years."

21. "Who founded Salisbury Church and how many windows, marble pillars and gates has it ?

Bishop Poor founded it and there are 365 windows, 8,766 marble pillars and 12 gates in it."

32. "For what were the Egyptians noted ?

For their gratitude."

71. "What was the name of that plebeian soldier who had served in the army forty years, had been in one hundred and twenty engagements, had received forty wounds, all of which were in front, had obtained fourteen civic, three mural and eight other crowns of different kinds, and had been rewarded by different generals under whom he had served with eighty-three golden collars, sixty golden bracelets, eighteen lances and twenty-five sets of equestrian furniture ?

Sicinius Dentatus."

88. "How is the shell of the snail formed ?

By the profuse perspiration of the skin becoming hardened by the air."

The second book is filled with answers which are, in reality, essays ; no date is given in either as to when the work was done, and the names of the essayist and copyist are not given in the first thirty pages of the book, though these are to be found in the minutes.

These essays occupied much of the time of the meetings, and in 1856, Rule 4 reads :

"The essays produced at the meetings, and also the answers to questions, shall first be read continuously by the member producing them, or by some other member for him, and then a second time by the secretary with suitable pauses for remarks or discussion."

Later it was agreed that the second reading should be discontinued from lack of time.

Evidently all members were not prompt in bringing their answers to meetings ; for in 1857 occurs this minute :—

"The following members are again continued on their appointments—10 names follow—These members are again earnestly requested to attend to their appointments before the next meeting; as the Committee is of opinion that the present large number of continued appointments is extremely unsatisfactory in itself, and pernicious in its influence on the habits of our members."

This 1841 report concludes with two pages of close writing setting forth the advantages of membership in the Select Committee, though not encouraging "premature application; if members really do not feel themselves equal to what would be required of them, they would not urge them to apply. But they do hope that some, who rather hold back from applying, will, ere long, become associated with them and will unite in their endeavours to drive the monster, ignorance, as far as possible from their borders. And they would encourage the younger members, some of whom, perhaps, are not yet much interested in the pursuit of those branches of knowledge to which the Committee more especially turn their attention, they would encourage even these to endeavour to burst asunder the bonds which enchain them, to rise superior to all the obstacles which obstruct their ascent to the temple of knowledge."

In 1852 it is minuted that

"a proposal, on behalf of the Literary Association at Ackworth School to interchange questions and answers with them has been considered and discussed. It is thought quite advisable to attempt carrying out the objects of the proposal as far as we can. We have received the following series of questions from them."

Then follows twelve questions, two of which read as follows:

"Describe the adaptation of the human neck to the wants of man."

"What are the tenets of the Mormonites, when and how did they rise, and what are their present prospects?"

Replies to these were sent to Ackworth together with twelve questions for consideration, and this interchange continued during the winter session. In October, 1856, Croydon asked Ackworth for a renewal of the practice, but no reply to this question was received, and in April of the following year the matter was dismissed.

In the minutes of the S.C. are some interesting entries. We read of the admitting of M. F. Freelove in 1861, and the following year of his resignation on account of "not feeling unity with our proceedings."

In 1869 two entries deal with the Juvenile Aeronautical Society, one recording "an (unsuccessful) balloon ascent, attempted from the lawn," and the other, a week later, mentioning a similar "entertainment" as "signally successful."

No minutes of the Select Committee are to be found from 1866 to 1869, and the few after that date end seventh of third month, 1870. The report of the J.L.S. continues to mention the S.C. till 1871, and in the minutes the last entry concerning it is on sixth of eleventh month, 1874, when it was reported that three meetings had been held at which about twelve essays had been read; evidently the Committee was gradually re-absorbed into the J.L.S.

The "Society of Arts" mentioned in the December 1914 number of "The Avenue" was not in any way connected with the Select Committee and will be dealt with in a future number.

LILIAN PICKARD.



(J. E. Walker).

THE PREFECTS, 1914-15.

THE NEW PEPYS.

Being further extracts from his dairy for 1915.

April 26th.—To Schoole again, and righte merrie to be returned after so long a time away. On looking around I did finde that there had been much alteracons and paynting so that the schoole doe look more gallant than ever before, with which I am infinitely satisfied. I understand how that Mr. M——— hath been wedded in the holydays.

May 1st. We doe have prep. of a Saturday evening, the which I suppose to be necessarie as we have missed a term, but doe hope it will not bee after this year. There is now a suggestion box into which may be put all suggestions for improvement in the school, which methinks a brave idea.

May 5th.—To Berden, a very sweet place where to the Church, an ancient edifice and an interesting. On the return I did fall to a-picking of cowslipps for to send home.

May 9th.—[Lord's day.] Come Mr. Whitlow to Walden from his being in Paris, and in Meeting he did give us an account of his doing there which was good.

„ 10th.—One of the new schollers hath been stricken with the scarlet fever [I did nearly say the plague, as I am so used to]. Methinks we but seldom pass a term without some illness.

„ 20th.—This day and the previous I did understand how that some 5,000 soldiers are come into the town, but doe not occupy the schoole, for which I am mightie thankful. To the towne where I did see the soldiers to be very plentiful in numbers so that they doe almost exceed the civilians.

May 22nd.—All day at home without stirring at all with infinity of lessons which makes my head full. The dedde-nobbe or Jocolatte hath now some milk in it which is an improvement but yet not as the tee.

,, 23rd.—[Lord's day.] In the evening Miss Priestman did adress us on the work of the Friends' Ambulance Unit in France. No more have been stricken with the fever, for which I am mightie thankful.

,, 24th.—In the forenoon and also after dinner the Queen's Westminsters, who doe now finde themselves in the towne did disport themselves on the lower field, which did amuse me much especially the five-mile race which I verilie did think would never finish or else woulde ende for the men getting too dizzy for walking in so small a space; but a good race and worthy of a good prize. The band-race did also please me much and make me to laugh, for the big drum did win though with all the playing there was so greate a noise I could make but little of the musique. The staff also did play the schollers, the masters playing left-handed and sundry other rules. Miss Pickard did make 60 runs which was good. In the evening we did perform a game of terza.

,, 26th.—Come Mr. Downham's XI. to play us at cricket. Although last time we were beat, this time we did win, at which my heart was very glad and Mr. Pumphrey did make 52.

,, 27th.—Doe find myself much troubled with the bugels which the soldiers do blowe in the morning and at nighte.

Howard Diamond.

A STORY OF LEGEND, FACT, AND TIME.

THE sun, which was just rising over the top of a small wood, sent golden streams of brilliant sunshine through magnificent oaks, on to a moss-grown path, which in those days led across the moor called Dartmoor.

A small band of Druids, with long white beards, wearing white robes adorned with gold, walked beneath the trees, and halting under an oak, larger than the rest and bearing large bunches of mistletoe, began to chant in a low musical strain. Then one, evidently the leader, cut a piece of the mistletoe, and all kneeling, they worshipped it. It was not the mistletoe they worshipped, but the god that it impersonated.

As I watched, the scene faded and then reappeared again.

The morning sun, now high in the heavens, shines down on the path, the same, though altered by Time. Many of the trees have disappeared and through the thick undergrowth that grows in abundance all around, can be seen the glitter of silver. A knight in full armour emerges, followed by two other knights. It is King Arthur, riding away to "the last weird battle of the west." He rides perfectly upright on a large white horse, but his head is bent and his whole attitude is that of utter dejection; for he has just found that his Queen, Guinevere, has deceived him.

As he and his followers pass out of sight a change comes over the path. More trees disappear. The path is now almost a small lane, along which a knight is riding. His coat of linked mail, his long steel-headed lance with a little pennon bearing a red cross, his triangular shield, also bearing the red cross, all show that he is a Crusader on his way to London, and from thence to Palestine to drive out the Turk. His horse also is armed with a breast-plate, while its body is covered by a brilliantly coloured and embroidered cloth.

As he rides slowly out of sight, I turn and see that where I had last seen only trees there is now a long low building. There is a gentle breeze blowing, and it brings with it the low musical murmur of many voices—chanting.

Then along the road a cloud of dust appears and a small band of men on horseback come into view. They have evidently ridden far, for the flanks of the horses are covered with foam, while the riders themselves look hot and dusty. They cross the moat which surrounds the building and knock loudly at the door, shouting as they do so, " Open in the name of our king, Henry VIII." The door is opened by a monk who shrinks back in terror as he sees the men ; for he has heard the proclamation that all monasteries are to be levelled to the ground. An hour later, a group of monks huddled together, watched their home spring into flame. Leaping up from the roof, the flames sent sparks in all directions, lighting up the sky with a red dull glow, and making the massive oaks appear as though they also were a burning mass. As evening falls, the tempest of flame subsides, leaving nothing but a pile of smoking timber in place of the monastery.

A mist covers the scene, and when it again rises the narrow moss-covered path is a worn road stretching away between an avenue of leafless oaks. The air is frosty and the road frozen, so that the clatter of horses' hoofs can be heard long before they themselves become distinguishable.

Three men, dressed in plain black clothes, with strained, anxious faces, gallop past. They have been conspirators against the King, in the plot usually called the Gunpowder Plot, and their lives are therefore in danger. They are going to join friends in Cornwall in a large fortified house, but they will be overcome.

Time has passed, and the trees have all gone. Purple heather stretches away on all sides as far as the eye can see, while every now and then a huge boulder stands out in clear outline against the sky. Not a thing is moving, but a distant

thud shows that life is not very far distant. Then there comes into view a small band of men—in rows of fours, with their left hands chained. Close cropped hair and clothes covered with small black arrows show that they are convicts returning from a hard day's work in the fields. Two warders walk on either side of the men, and their faces are stern and sullen. Their natures have become quite indifferent to the misery and sorrow that goes on around them. The men themselves wear marks of ill-usage and hard work. A little farther down the road the whole gang has to go to one side as a coach rushes past, horses straining, driver whirling his whip in the air, bugle blowing and post-boy whistling, and before long no signs of its having passed, save the slowly settling dust and a speck on the horizon, can be seen.

The sun, a great ball of fire, is just sinking to rest over the heather. As it drops below the horizon, and dusk is beginning to fall, along the road comes a long, unending line of khaki-clad figures.

Nina Townshend.

SORROW AND LOVE.

"EH, Death, when ceasest thou ?"
All through the weary day, and endless night,
The cry arises from the inmost heart,
The land lies stricken by the awful plague.
"Ah, Death, when ceasest thou ?"
Bleeding we fall beneath thy lash,
We fall and may not rise—
"Ah, Death, when ceaseth thou ?"
Yet in the midst of woe comes love,
And men, love driv'n, break cloister, break their rule,
Tend sick, shrive dying, bear away the dead.
Great love aye springeth from the heart of joy,

But greater, nobler, purer love from woe,—
Love in grief's midst, love toiling in the plague,
Love giving life for life, Love hanging on a cross.
Was woe create for love? Ah, who dare say?
Our hearts demand the answer, which we know
We never shall obtain, we children, and God smiles,
And smiling, sends us answerless away.

MARGARET L. COATES (1906-12).

A SPRING EVENING.

THE sky on an evening in early spring is very beautiful, especially about five o'clock, when the sun is setting. One day I was out for a walk at about this time, and I watched the sun gradually sink below the horizon. It was indeed a beautiful sight. At first the sky was blue with numerous fleecy white clouds across it. But as the sun sank like a great ball of fire, it tinted the white cloudlets with pink, and turned the blue background to one of rich mauve. Presently the dark night-clouds began to gather round, and the sky was again slowly changed, but this time to a deep purple. The sun stood out amidst dark surroundings, casting ruddy rays through the leafless trees, and leaving a strain of dull red on the black sluggish river at my feet, like the trail of some wounded animal. Large domed roofs, church spires and many lesser buildings cast their shadows against the beauteous sky, and looked like some great monster blinking out of its millions of yellow eyes into the night.

The March wind went howling through the budding trees, making them creak as they swayed to and fro. The birds were singing their evening songs, or twittering their "Good-nights" to one another. The sun had now completely sunk below the horizon and the moon was making a feeble attempt to shine through the fast-gathering clouds. By this dim light

the trees threw fantastic shadows all around. The wind grew more boisterous and a storm seemed to be rising, so I hastily made my way home, leaving behind me a scene more beautiful than any picture ever painted by man.

Lilian Dell.

SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

THE FOOTBALL SEASON 1914-1915.

AN outbreak of illness in the autumn term and the military occupation of the School early in December resulted in only eight matches being played, of which seven were won and one drawn.

Partly as a result of the few matches played, but chiefly owing to weakness in the forward line, no arrangement of players could be persisted in long enough to justify its being called the first XI. team. This does not, however, mean that the school was deficient in football talent; for Henry Skelton, the boys' captain, was probably one of the soundest full backs there have been in the boys' team for several years. Colours were awarded to W. R. Appleton, C. J. Bannister, A. J. Chacksfield, L. G. Salter, B. D. Skelton and H. O. Teakle. Once again many, even in the first XI., could only kick with one foot, and until it is realized that a man who can kick with but one foot is only half a man, so long will the team as a whole, and especially the left wing remain weak.

G. STANLEY PUMPHREY (Captain).

HOCKEY SEASON, 1914.

THE Hockey season ended at Christmas, as the School did not reopen in January, consequently only three matches were played. The first of these, against Homerton College, resulted in a win for the School 5—1. In the two others, the School was again victorious, the score against Fowlmere being

9—0, and against Dunmow 10—1. In the last match no mistresses played.

There is a good deal of promising material in the School, and keenness was shown in the practices, although the fielding of the ball ought to be better. The first XI. was a good all-round team, quick on the ball and usually showing good combination.

E. ALLEN (Captain).

FROM FAR AND NEAR.

CONCERNING OLD SCHOLARS.

Old Scholars who were in the Fifth Form last term :

C. J. Bannister

Clive Bell is in a Shipping Office in Newcastle.

Bernard Blackburn is attending the Central Foundation School, at Cowper Street, London.

H. Rendall Bull

C. J. Chacksfield is in a draper's business at Folkestone.

Charles R. Cherry is at St. George's College, Walton-on-Thames.

Rita Gell is at Stroud Green and Hornsey High School.

Winifred Kaye is at the County High School, Leytonstone.

Madge J. Oliver

Winifred Price

Hilda G. Rye

Henry Skelton

Marjorie Teakle

Herbert Teakle is at a school in Westcliffe.

E. Stuart Trew is in a draper's business at Norwich.

Robert Trigg is apprenticed to an auctioneer at Bishop's Stortford.



(J. E. Walker).

J OVERALL AND N. TURNER

The Inter-School Diary Competition.

Extracts from the Report.

"Skelton is again quite unapproachable, and though he has not been able to do so much work this year it is of excellent quality. He has continued his special study of Saffron Walden with a good series of photographs and notes of old houses, so numerous in the town. As this may be the last time he will compete for these prizes one would like to give a final note of congratulation for the excellent work he has been doing for several years and the exhaustive survey he has made of old churches in the Essex districts within his reach."

"Skelton—a painstaking and exhaustive record well illustrated with fine photographs and heraldic drawings. Unquestionably the best of the diaries submitted."

It is interesting to note that Henry Skelton has carried off the first prize in this competition for three successive years, and has been awarded a special prize for his work this year.

* * * * * *

Extract from a letter written by Frank E. Butler (1903-7), *No. 2, Canadian General Hospital, France, May 24th,* 1915 *:*

"Yesterday a Saffron Walden Old Scholar was brought in wounded to this hospital where I serve, and, having renewed an old acquaintanceship, we both set to thinking and talking about our good old schooldays and school friends. It occurred to me that you would be interested to hear of our chance meeting in France. The school chum is William Bartlett, who enlisted in the 6th London Territorial ten months ago. He has received a gun-shot wound, but I am thankful to say that no vital parts were involved.

. . . Together we are convinced, after the experiences we have received, that war is wrong, nay more than that; our ideals of Peace, and the principles held so nobly by the

Society of Friends will be more firmly impressed upon us in the future.

This letter is written in haste, as I have little leisure time to-day, but it takes with it the joint good wishes to you of Bartlett and

Your sincere friend,

FRANK BUTLER.

* * * * * *

Extract from a letter written by Muriel Kingzett (1908-1911). *White Rock, British Columbia.*

We are now at White Rock, taking seven weeks' holiday. White Rock is a charming spot with sea near and the land tree-covered, with peeps of houses and tents here and there. It is the last town on the Canadian Border and about fifty miles from Vancouver. We have a little one-roomed shack, right in the Bush, with a glorious view from our windows and verandah.

On one side are the beautiful mountains, snow-capped all the year; on the other we have a clear view of Vancouver City, its chimneys puffing out black smoke all day, and we hear the sounds from the busy mills and factories.

We can see parts of America, especially the town of Blaine, with its salmon canneries, which I hope to visit sometime. About twice a week we walk two miles into the town to do some shopping. Canada is separated from America by the "International Boundary Line." These words are painted on a gate. Going, we have to report at the American Customs; coming back, we report at the Canadian Customs. I can now say that I have had one foot in Canada and the other in America at the same time. Almost everything is cheaper in America than in Canada, although duty has to be paid on all goods over one dollar.

The Inlet with its busy shipping scenes is most interesting. In time one learns to tell the incoming boats by the different

sounds of their sirens. The huge " Empresses " sail in slowly so as not to cause a tidal wave on the shores. In comparison with these all other boats appear very small. At present we have, in the Inlet, " The Komagata Maru," a ship containing three hundred and fifty-two Hindoos who have tried to enter Canada in defiance of the Emigration Laws. They have not been allowed to land and after lying in the Inlet two months, the boat is returning to India to-morrow.

* * * * * *

Extract from a letter written by Ernest C. Grimes (1905-9), *France, May 9th*, 1915.

" . . . We have had a nerve-racking time just lately, as no doubt you know from the newspaper accounts, which have about half the truth as regards details. I am very thankful to have come out alive and whole. It was not due to any judgment on my part. We had to cross a big stretch of open ground swept with machine guns, shells and the large shrapnel. The noise was bad enough without anything else, and our nerves suffered considerably.

* * * * *

We are enjoying real spring weather now, and the last three days, since we have been out for a rest, we have had a bathe each day in slimy ponds. Yesterday the one we chose was against the railway track, and an old Frenchman objected very strongly. We concluded that it was his special frog pond . . . It's strange how these French people behave ; some are as mean as they can be, and make as much out of us as possible. Again, we meet the reverse; for instance, the lady of the farm where we are billetted now cannot do enough for us.

* * * * *

We don't talk of the war more than we can help, as it's too horrible ; the people at home cannot realize it fully, and perhaps it's as well. The sooner it's ended the better for all.

I often look back to the many occasions we had tea at Hazelwood with regret that those jolly times are over. I guess our schooldays are the best ; still, we don't know when we are well off. We have lots of fun, however, and our distasteful tasks are in the background for a while. At present we sleep between the calves and the pigs, and sleep soundly, too.

Well, I must draw to a close, as the Censor objects, naturally, to long letters.

* * * * * *

Extract from a letter from Anna St. John Sloane (1907-1910).

Mother and I have camped all the season through with Father, coming into head-quarters occasionally for a few days. Father has to visit the police-stations at least once a year, and at each he must stay four days. From the police-stations he visits the out-posts, at each of which he spends a night. Sometimes we accompany him to an out-post, and much enjoy watching one man drill two, command them to " form fours," etc. Three is the usual number of policemen at an out-post.

You will think we have lived under canvas all the year, but it is not so. Wherever the D.S.P. stops, that is called " camp." In most villages there is a good P.W.D. bungalow, which we occupy. Sometimes we have lived in a " mandap." This is a construction, the frame-work of which is made of bamboos and covered with cocoa-nut matting. Often the walls (?) are decorated with the scenery borrowed from the local theatre. Hindu gods and goddesses have adorned our rooms, sometimes hung upside down. Once only have we pitched our tents, and that was in an idyllic spot, in a grove of majestic cocoa-nut trees, and in front of us the illimitable expanse of ocean. There we fished and were able to swim. While staying there, we were invited to open some schools in Masura, twelve miles distant. The journey was full of variety ; first, two miles by tonga, then a row across the river to the opposite bank ; another eight miles by tonga and

the remaining distance up the creek by boat. The road journey was a "bumpy" one, the road being made by the passage of cart wheels in one beaten track. The creek is one of the most beautiful in this district, the banks being covered with a thick forest of cocoa-nut palms. The boat had to be pushed a little way as the tide was low, before we could get to our destination. On our arrival we saw a crowd of men standing on the shore to greet us, and as soon as Father touched land, we heard a loud report: it rather startled us, but when we saw the smiling faces of the people, and the band struck up "God Save the King," we knew it was a sign of welcome. We made our way to the Assembly Hall, preceded by the band playing "The British Grenadiers," only just recognizable. The ceremony took three hours to accomplish. I think the people were pleased we came, and the Educational Inspector, who was present, said that everything was carried out on a greater scale than at the Durbar festivity.



SCHOOL DIARY.

Nov. 3rd.—Sen. Lit. Soc. Boys' Diary, Philip Wright. Essays: "When the World was Young," May Hargrave; "Structure of Roads," Herbert Teakle; "A Morning in Oxford," Miss Jones; "Harling in Tradition," Gwyneth Morgan. Piano Solo, Rita Gell; Song, Miss Howell.

,, 7th.—Football Matches: 1st XI. *v.* Wimbish, home, won 5-2. 2nd XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School, away, won 5-0.

,, 9th.—Arrival at "Mon Abri" of our Belgian Guests.

,, 10th.—N. H. S. Mtg. Essays: "The Silver Blight," Basil Horne; "The Four Great Planets," Cyril Vaughan; "Autumn Berries," Grace Appleton and Joyce Watts; "The Geology of Saffron Walden," Mr. Morris.

,, 14th.—Arch. Excursion to Hildersham.

,, 16th.—Dramatic Recital, "Nicholas Nickleby," Rev. Runnels-Moss.

,, 17th.—Sen. Lit Soc. Girls' Diary, Florence Williams. Essays: "The Isle of Ely," William Tebbutt; "Recollections of Convent Life," Madge Oliver; "The British Army," John Thompson. Piano Solo, Delia Plant; Violin Solo, Grace Willis.

,, 18th.—Football Match. 2nd XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School, home, won 6-0.

,, 20th.—Bedroom Football Tournaments, No. 9 *v.* No. 6, No. 9 won 2-1.

,, 21st.—Football Match. 1st XI. *v.* Haverhill United, away, won 3-0.

Concert and Sale in Aid of Belgian Relief Fund.

,, 24th.—N. H. S. Mtg. Essays: "Leicester," Robin Appleton; "Duxford," Mavis Kemp; "Some Churches in South Essex," Reginald Montford.

,, 25th.—Football Match. Boys' XI. *v.* Newport Grammar School, away, won 5-0.

,, 28th.—Football Match. Boys' XI. *v.* Paul Mauger's XI. home, won 2-0.

Entertainment in evening.

Dec. 1st.— Sen. Lit. Soc. Boys' Diary, Frederick Butler. Essays: "Marley's Ghost," Delia Plant; "Two Aspects of Dickens," Mr. Lidbetter; "Si Vis Pacem Para Bellum," Robert Trigg. Trio, Music Staff.

,, 5th.—Football Match. Boys' XI. *v.* Cambridge County School, home, won 3-1.
Hockey Match, Girls' XI. *v.* Dunmow Ladies, away, won, 10-1.

,, 8th.—Bedroom Football Tournament. No. 7 *v.* No. 10, draw, 0-0.
N. H. S. Mtg. Essays: "Flint," William Tebbutt; "What I saw in Exercising," Ethel Holznagel; "Life of a Butterfly," Mary Maitland.

,, 9th.—Sudden dispersal of School, owing to military occupation of premises.

April 28th.—School re-opened.

May 1st.—Archæological Excursion to Henham.

,, 5th.—Archæological Excursion to Berden.

,, 8th.—Archæological Excursion to Chishall.
Mr. Whitlow arrived to spend the week-end.

, 11th.—Lantern Lecture: "Distribution of Seeds in the Marne District in connection with Friends' Relief Work in France," Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Smith.
Sen. Lit. Soc. Girls' Diary, Constance Wilderspin. Essays: "Warfare with the Flames," Philip Wright; "Kenilworth Castle," Gwendoline Pigg; "The British Navy," Robin Appleton. Song, Miss Waites; 'Cello Solo, Miss Howell.

,, 15th.—N.H.S. Excursion to Newport.
Archæological excursion to Finchingfield

,, 18th.—N. H. S. Mtg. Essays: "The Cruciferæ Order," Miss Howell; "Some Birds' Nests of this Season," Frederick Tebbutt; "The Development of Tracery," Leonard House.

,, 19th.—Cricket Match. 1st XI. *v.* Mr. Downham's XI., home, lost 35-87 and 103 for 7.—Mr. Brereton, 6 wkts for 48; Mr. Pumphrey, 2 for 14; Mr. Lidbetter, 2 for 8.

,, 20th.—Arrival in Walden of 4,500 London Territorials.

,, 22nd.—Cricket Match. Boys' 1st XI. *v.* Newport Grammar School, home, won 59-55. S. W. Quarrie, 5 wkts. for 11. W. Tebbutt, 3 for 34. R. Montford, 2 for 5.
Miss Priestman and Mr. Evans arrived for the week-end.

May 24th.—Queen's Westminsters' Sports on the Lower Field.

,, 25th.—Sen. Lit. Soc. Boys' Diary, Maurice Jeffrey and Robert Trigg. Essays: "Leighton Park," Geoffrey Ardley; "A Story of Legend, Fact and Time," Nina Townshend; "On behalf of the Innocent," Mr. Littleboy; "A Village Mystery," Dorothy Robson. Violin Solo, Miss Clark.

,, 26th.—Cricket Match. 1st XI. *v.* Mr. Downham's XI., home, won, 111-85. Mr. Pumphrey, 53, W. R. Appleton, 29, Mr. Rowntree, 3 wkts. for 5.

,, 29th.—N.H.S. Excursion to Grimsditch.
Archæological Excursion to Lindsell.

June 1st.—N.H.S. Mtg. Essays: "The Bluebell and the Ground Ivy," Eva Diamond; "Some Churches visited this Term," Robin Appleton; "Some Common Wild Flowers," Joyce Watts; "Several Churches in South-West Essex," Reginald Montford.

June 2nd.—Cricket Matches: Boys' 1st XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School 1st XI., away, lost, 117-62. S. W. Quarrie 21, and 4 wkts. for 23. Boys' 2nd *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School 2nd XI, home, won, 148-56. R. Pater 42, T. Jeffrey 34, J. Milne 7 for 29.

,, 5th.—Cricket Match. Boys' 1st XI. *v.* Cambridge County School, away, lost 42-134.

,, 8th.—Sen. Lit. Soc. Girls' Diary, May Hargrave. Essays: "Southend and Neighbourhood," Bedford Deane; "The Old Curiosity Shop," Mabel Wellman; "1815 and 1915," Frederick Butler. Piano Solos, Constance Wilderspin, Delia Plant.

,, 9th.—N.H.S. Excursion to Barnes Pond.

,, 12th.—Cricket Match (Girls) 1st XI. *v.* Homerton College, Cambridge, away, won, 60-56. Miss Allen 26, Miss Pickard 20.

,, 15th.—N.H.S. Mtg. "Specimens."

,, 16th.—Cricket Match. Boys' 1st XI. *v.* Newport Grammar School 1st XI., away, won, 76-41. S. W. Quarrie 26, and 5 wkts. for 19. R. Montford 5 for 18.

ELEANOR GRACE JONES.

Howard Diamond.

NOTICES.

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Articles and illustrations in *The Avenue* by girls and boys are signed in italics.

SCHOLARSHIP.

The School Committee has awarded a Scholarship of £30 for two years, to Howard Diamond.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following School Magazines: *The Beckside* (Ayton), Stramongate School Magazine, *By Kent and Skerne* (Polam Hall).

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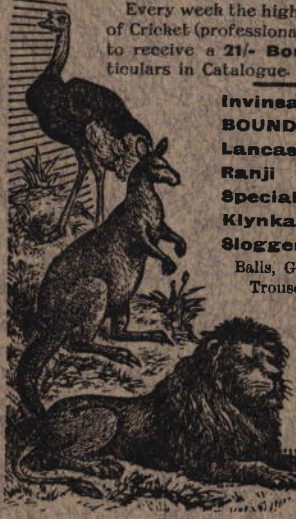
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