THE AVENUE



MARCH 1918

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TO OLD SAFFRON WALDEN SCHOLARS

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FRIENDS' SCHOOL, SAFFRON WALDEN.



The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

VOL. IX. MARCH, 1917. No. 25.

FOREWORD.

WE are glad to report that, thanks to the kind consideration of our publishers, Messrs, Headley Bros., and to a wider circulation, it has not, so far, been found necessary either to reduce the size of *The Avenue* or to increase the price. The highly successful School Concert given in the Autumn in aid of *The Avenue* funds, also materially assisted us in meeting our increased expenditure. With this number is enclosed a statement of accounts for 1917.

It was anticipated that it would take nearly three years to make up the loss of pupils due to the military occupation of the School in 1915. This result was fully achieved within that period, while a further influx this term has brought our numbers up to 103 boys and 75 girls, a record in the history of the School. The considerable "waiting list" augurs well for the future.

The new term opened with somewhat severe weather, a foot of snow falling on the 22nd and 23rd of January. Doubt-

less this was responsible for the early appearance of an outbreak of colds.

We must take this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks the gift to the School of £20 from the Old Scholars' Association. Details of its allocation are to be found elsewhere in this issue, but we should like to remark on the happy thought of bringing the photographic album of class-groups up to date. These will be practically complete from 1892, and no doubt, in time to come, will be a source of much interest to those who were at the School during that period.

J. E. WALKER.

HOUSE COMPETITION, 1917.

	Points.		Points.
1st.—Morland ..	228	4th.—Crosfield ..	217
2nd.—Godlee ..	224	5th.—Mennell ..	211
3rd.—Gibson ..	219	6th.—Lister ..	209

In considering the results of the House Competition for the past year it is interesting to note how near the Houses are in the number of points scored; also how the House that was apparently hopelessly behind the rest at the end of the first Term of 1917, finally came out second.

Below are the details of the points scored under the different sections. (It should be noted that, owing to some variation in the number of Girls and Boys in each House, some re-adjustment of the totals is necessary. The figures given above are after re-adjustment, and therefore do not appear to tally with those below).

	Morland.	Godlee.	Gibson.	Crosfield.	Mennell.	Lister.
Athletics	55	47	32	17	28	16
Literary Work ..	9	9	8	13	11	15
Natural History ..	—	3	2	1	2	—
Manual Work ..	3	10	24	8	14	17
Art, Music, etc. ..	11	10	12	8	7	8
Class Work ..	41	46	36	49	45	45
General Conduct	108	99	106	125	109	99

In Athletics, Morland easily headed the list, while Crosfield, in General Conduct, and Gibson, in Manual work, were far in advance of the other Houses. Crosfield also came out first in Class work, and Lister in Literary work. It will be interesting to note whether the Houses will maintain these particular traditions in future years.

The Old Scholars' Association have very kindly offered to provide a House Trophy, in the form of a Board upon which the name of the Head House each year can be inscribed. It is proposed to place this Trophy in the Dining Hall.

VILLAGE CHARACTERS.

IN the country, where everybody knows everybody, and where no great poverty and no great riches exist, the fashionably dressed are looked down on, and good nature admired rather than good clothes, perhaps more than anywhere else. This, and the fact that few rise above the lower middle class, helps to produce an openness of character, and an absence of almost all self-consciousness, that makes the inhabitants of the country districts what they are, and accounts for the proverbial country bumpkin, whose wonder and bewilderment at things urban, figures in so many humorous stories and anecdotes. This results from openness of character and lack of self-consciousness—the characteristics of nearly all country folk. The townsman when out of his element would usually pose guarded questions and try and find out things by himself, and would not thus appear so ignorant to his country cousin as his country cousin would on visiting him.

Thus it is that one hears so frequently of a certain labourer or village inhabitant, spoken of as a "character"; and it is usually those engaged in more or less independent occupations

that are thus spoken of. The old village Hedger is just such a one. Although well over seventy, and receiving the Old Age Pension, he ignores all his doctor's orders to give up work, and trudges off every morning at six to the work he would be unhappy without. You will not, probably, be up to see him then, but you may as he returns in the evening. He has his newly sharpened hedging hook over his shoulder, an old felt hat on his head, his corduroy trousers tied at the knee, and tough hedging gloves on his still tougher horny hands. Thus he may often be seen returning from a hard day's work with as much vigour in his step as in that of a man of half his years.

Being more or less his own master he is treated with more respect than the ordinary labourer by the farmers, who keep him busy all the year round attending to hedges far and near. On all matters of hedge planting and cutting, or indeed anything to do with the hedge, his word is final, and if he says a neglected hedge ought to be cut right down, the best thing you can do is to cut it right down.

It is always a pleasure to talk to the old man while he is at work, and to watch the clever and practised way in which he treats the most rambling and untidy hedgerow, and leaves it almost as trim and neat as a trained garden one. In talking to him, however, you have to beware of two things. The first is confusing a hedge and a quick. "A quick's living, a hedge's dead," he will tell you, if you have committed the unpardonable sin, which shows the ignorance of the younger generation. The second topic is Lloyd George and the Insurance Act. By working a week for one and a day perhaps for another, the keeping of his insurance book is a continual nuisance and cause of bad language, some of which you will hear if you unwarily mention that much abused gentleman's name.

His memory is still excellent, only the other day he repeated to us several verses of a rank imperialistic song he had learnt at school at the time of the Crimean War.

The cottage where he and his wife (who is still living) started their married life and brought up their children, has long been in disuse as a human habitation. It stands in an ancient orchard amid gnarled apple and plum trees, and is now used for storing ladders, baskets, and other picking apparatus. It contains one room down stairs and one up.

Another character that exists in nearly every village, or group of villages, is what Richard Jefferies calls "the moucher." He gets a precarious living in all manner of ways; gathering mushrooms, blackberries and watercress, and by poaching. During the summer months you may often see him trudging along the river bank, dressed in an old yellowish grey overcoat, which he wears all the year round, and bent under a load of baskets, full of blackberries and mushrooms, slung over his shoulder. He touches his hat with a "Good-day, sir," and makes his way slowly towards the village. To gather this quantity he must have tramped many miles of fen and wash. These are his favourite hunting grounds and no one knows them better than he. In the winter, when very little wild produce is forthcoming, he is forced by want to do odd days' work for farmers in the district, but at this he never stops one day longer than he need.

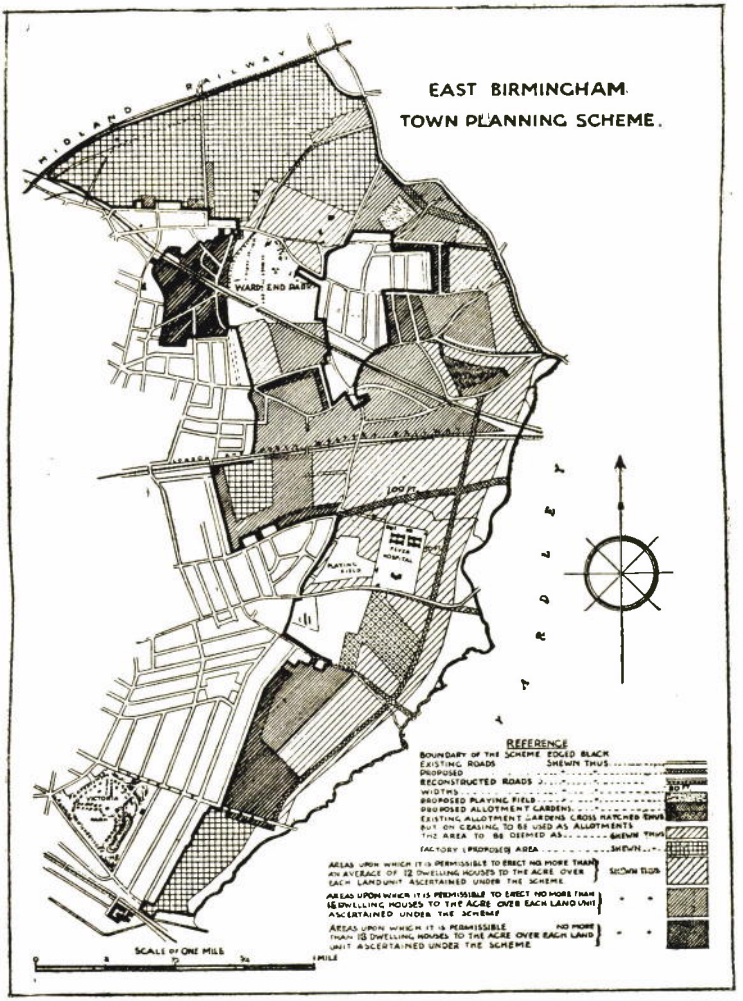
Not long since he was brought before the local magistrate for taking wild ducks' eggs, some having been found by the policeman in a hovel in the Washes. The fact that the water was very high in the river and ditches, and therefore the ducks had built up in willow trees, had enabled him to find a great number of nests and even to live for some time on the eggs. He appeared in Court in his old overcoat and with a good-natured twinkle in his eye, and indeed seemed so little upset, that even the magistrates could not suppress a smile when he interrupted the policeman, who was explaining how he had put the eggs in a hovel for the purpose of eating them, with "That I'd never eat them; they're rotten uns."

You cannot help liking this old man, in spite of his precarious existence, who is always jovial and ready to talk to you at any time. He was no doubt born with a roving instinct strongly in him, and although one of a prosperous family, preferred to live a hard but free and independent life than to work regularly and live more or less in comfort.

His knowledge of the habits of birds frequenting the fens in the district is wonderful, but as to how this knowledge is acquired I do not care to enquire. One cold morning I was out after snipe, when he came along and pointed out a certain corner, overlooked by pollard-willow trees, which was, he told me, a likely place for snipe to drop. Sure enough, there I put up two or three, which were nearly all I saw that day.

Though perfectly free among themselves village folk are very shy at first of strangers who settle among them. This seems especially to apply to such officials as the policeman and stationmaster, who, if strangers, are never really admitted as true inhabitants or thought of as such, however many years they may have spent in one place. Their home is always spoken of as being in such and such a county. This idea of the birthplace being the true home is very wide-spread ; country bred people who settle in towns and perhaps have a house, and in the ordinary sense of the word a home, there, always speak of coming to their " home " when they spend a short holiday in their native place. Thus I always think that the tie of home to a countryman, to whom it means the house and garden and stretching fields where he was born, must be much greater than to the townsman, who thinks of number so-and-so in a row, each house of which is only distinguished by a name or number.

C. Frederic Tebbutt.



Lent by] [*Mr. Culpin.*

7

TOWN PLANNING.

(Continued).

THE factories of a planned town are built along by the railway, so that big vans will not have to pass through the town to take the manufactured goods to the station. The factories must also be situated in such a position at the outside of the town that the prevailing wind will carry the smoke away, and not down among the houses. The roads of a planned town, besides being of width according to circumstances, are arranged in the easiest manner for communication with one another, and also to allow for the proper growth of the town all round. They generally radiate from a square in the centre, thus forming a kind of wheel with the spokes connected in many places. The streets of most towns are arranged side by side in no definite directions, but just to see how many unhealthy little houses can be packed on to a certain area of land. Hitherto the making of towns has been based on economy, but one of the objects of town planning is to combine the economic and social standpoints. If a town is properly planned it is possible to let the houses at a lower rent. Poor little houses in the slums sometimes have a rent of nine shillings per week, while that of a working-man's house, of respectable size and good appearance, in a garden city, is only four and sixpence per week.

Another immense advantage of having houses more spread out and divided by gardens and parks is that in this way the town is made healthier. It has been proved, by taking averages from model towns and garden cities and comparing them with those of manufacturing towns, that the fewer the houses per acre, the less infant mortality there is, a lower total death rate, as well as less consumption and tuberculosis. The average height, weight and chest measurement of a

Bournville boy far exceed those of a Birmingham slum boy of the same age. These facts prove the benefit of having towns properly planned. As a guard against disease, a belt of agricultural land is left round the towns, and as stone walls in former ages defended our forefathers from attacks by their enemies, so these belts defend the town and people to a certain extent from disease.

In the future, after the war, there will be great work for the growing generation to do in building up Belgium and all the devastated parts, and if the towns are well planned, that district may be better than it was before the war. Town planning is going to hasten that time when there will be no slums, and all God's children will be able to benefit by His gifts of life, sunshine and happiness, which should be the lot of *all*, not only of the few rich ones. In this way the nation will be raised and made greater and freer, and all the people with one voice may cry :—

" Arise, O England, for the day *is* here ! "

Elsie E. Deane.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES.

X.—THE WORKSHOPS.

IN our last article it was shown how the Juvenile Literary Society organised work in Drawing and Carpentry, with the result that a branch was formed, known as the " Society of Arts," which existed separately from 1856 to 1871. As Drawing came, more and more, to be included in the ordinary School curriculum, it was possible for the Society to pay more attention to Carpentry, and, at the time that the J. L. S. once more took over the direct responsibility for the Workshop, a considerable impetus was given to this subject, as will be

seen from the following extract from the printed Report for 1871: "We have often felt that the capacities of the boys for carpentry were not well developed, and this has been partly owing to insufficient fittings and workshop accommodation. These wants are being supplied by the great liberality of our kind friend Joseph Pease, A new set of drawers and cupboards and a good carpenter's bench have been provided, and one of the lathes has been sold by the advice of Edmund Wheeler, and is being replaced by a better one. We anticipate that next session we shall be able to make a good start in general carpentering."

The work turned out still continued to be chiefly specimens of Turning, until the year 1874, when Fretwork for a time largely replaced the Turning.

1879. "A large quantity of fretwork has been executed during the winter months, and finished off in a style worthy of commendation. The competition for prizes at Ackworth has no doubt been instrumental in bringing this about; this work has taken up so much attention that it has driven drawing and mapping almost out of the field in the matter of competing for distinction."

It was just after this that the School was removed from Croydon to Saffron Walden, and this opened up a new chapter in the history of the Workshop. For the first time ordinary carpentry was seriously attempted, and "a few boxes, stools, drying horse, etc., have been creditably made."

Minute of the J.L.S., 1881. "A number of our Workshop products have been taken up to the Old Scholars' meeting at Devonshire House, and have earned great praise."

1882. "The workshop has claimed a very large amount of the time of our members. Great progress has been made on the part of many, indeed the articles are, we think, in some cases quite remarkable as being the work of boys. The following boys have done well and taken prizes at the Rawdon Exhibition . . ."

For the next few years there was some difficulty in finding accommodation for all who desired to make use of the Workshop (which at that time occupied part of the site now covered by the Physics Laboratory).

An interesting Minute of the J. L. S. in 1885 records the present of a gift of tools from Frederick Follows. By way of acknowledgment the boys using the Workshop subscribed "to purchase a pair of candlesticks turned by one of our members from wood of the old Yew Tree that for more than 100 years stood in the Friends' burial ground here, and that the same be forwarded to Frederick Follows . . ."

Some idea of the kind of things made in the Workshop at this time can be gathered from a list of the articles made in 1884, which include "about 20 school boxes, a dog kennel, 2 sets of chessmen, 2 screens, 6 writing desks, 4 inkstands in imitation of railway trucks, a what-not, a music-canterbury, 2 corner cupboards, 2 fossil cases, 2 egg-cups stands, 6 work-boxes, and between 20 and 30 picture frames."

For several years William Appleton gave enthusiastic help in the Workshop, especially in Turning. Some boys who left school during this period followed occupations in which the knowledge acquired in the Workshop was invaluable. One, who had been Curator, obtained various certificates of merit for wood work, and secured an appointment under the London County Council. Many did not appreciate fully, until afterwards, how much they were indebted to William Appleton for his devotion to their interests; but in September, 1902, fifty of these Old Scholars presented him with an illuminated testimonial. We are informed, by his son, that he valued this as much as anything he possessed.

In 1898 he was succeeded by Mr. Parsons, and this year "instruction in carpentry formed a part of the School curriculum in the second class (now Form IV.) . . . The handsome prizes offered by the Old Scholars . . . have no doubt been a great incentive."

In 1901, the completion of the Girls' Workroom supplied a long-felt want. Since then voluntary classes in Carpentry and Carving.have been held, and some creditable work turned out each year.

In the printed Reports of the J.L.S. during the next few years occur such phrases as " the space in the Boys' Workshop has been taxed to its limits."

In 1905, the present Workshop, much larger than the previous one, was opened. " In addition to the weekly lessons given by Mr. Bowtle to the Second Class, the boys in the lowest class (now Form II.) have had some instruction during school hours, and have succeeded in producing six small tea-trays." (For thirteen years Mr. Bowtle has been unsparing of time and energy in helping boys and girls with their carpentry, and much of the present success of the workshop is due to his efforts).

In 1906, " all the boys below the First Class (now Form V.) have regular weekly lessons. About forty boys make use of the Workshop during their leisure time."

Since 1906, the number of these " Members " of the Workshop has usually been between forty and sixty, which taxes the accommodation of the workshop, even though two extra benches have been added, one in the Workshop, another in the Boot-room.

An extract (slightly modified) from the 1907 report says, " The beginners usually choose to make small tea-trays, letter racks, soap boxes (as being articles which require no joints); the second stage introduces simple groove joints, *e.g.* brackets, bookshelves, letter boxes, etc; the third stage deals with hard wood (only soft wood is used previously) then comes dove-tail jointing (knife-boxes, desks, etc.), and tenon jointing (cabinets, medicine chests, etc.). After this come larger cabinets, book cases, corner cupboards, coal boxes, bureaus, etc. Each boy draws a plan to scale of the article which he is going to make."

This plan has been followed to the present time. When carpentry began to have its place in the regular school curriculum, the J.L.S. was relieved of the responsibility for the work. Once more, as in the cases of Natural History and Drawing, the J.L.S saw the work commenced by it in the year 1837, brought to full fruition.

In conclusion we repeat that it is difficult to over estimate the debt which the school owes to the Juvenile Literary Society.

C. BRIGHTWEN ROWNTREE.

OLD SCHOLARS' SOCIAL, 1918.

THIS year Old Scholars, which was held on Wednesday, January 9th, was a great success. At first very few turned up to the tea and social intercourse which is perhaps one of the chief delights of Old Scholars, but at the commencement of the Concert the room was filled with an eager audience of more than 100, ready to enjoy to the full the programme, which, however, was far too short.

Past and present scholars joined in the stirring school song by Henry Newbolt,—a most appropiate beginning to the series of delightful items to follow.

Marcus Matthews amused us with a recitation entitled "Hunting the Mouse," which was followed by "When I was a Boy at School," by Mr. Beer. This was met with much applause, for although some of us had heard it before, its interest will never pall. Mr. Beer also delighted us with two recitations, and his Impressions of an Italian Opera,—which is indescribable, but those who heard it will smile when they think of that evening.

Songs by Miss Bird and Miss Tozer were very much appreciated, also a reading in the Yorkshire dialect, entitled "Goodies," by Mr. Lidbetter.

A vocal duet by Ina Farnell and Lilian Wright met with much applause, and as an encore they played together at the piano. Arnold Green,—without whom an Old Scholars' gathering would now hardly seem complete—gave us two humorous recitations, one accompanied by the piano.

Before the end of the evening our President and Chairman, Mr. Rowntree, left us, and so missed the "Auld Lang Syne," with which we ended this most delightful evening.

Marjorie G. Harrod.

[At the annual meeting of the Old Scholars' Association it was decided to make a grant to the School of £20. This has been allocated as follows: £5 for bringing the Photographic Record of School groups up to date; £5 for a "House" Trophy Board; £10 to start a Fund for providing an Old Scholars' Bursary or Entrance Scholarship, open to children of Old Scholars, in memory of Old Scholars who have lost their lives in connection with the War. EDS.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

"I read your paper in the 'Avenue' in the train yesterday and saw the query about 'Scimelle Hammer Heads.' I have no doubt they were used for the game of Schimmel, in which a little hammer was used for selling the cards by auction. It was played in Friends' families forty or fifty years ago. I have seen it for sale more recently called 'Bell and Hammer.' The chief card is the White Horse,—hence Schimmel (=German for 'white horse.')

"Yours truly,

"M. ADELAIDE MORLAND."

[Several other correspondents have written to the same effect. Although counters,—instead of coins,—were largely used in the game, it was not a game of "Cards" within the meaning of the term, and was therefore in vogue in Friends' establishments. May not the game, therefore, have been allowed at Croydon? If so, hammer heads might sometimes have been broken, and new heads required turning. EDS.]

OUR BELGIAN FRIENDS.



FTER having sheltered Belgian Refugees for rather more than three years, "Mon Abri" was closed on December 10th, 1917, in consequence of the numbers having been reduced to two. These two, Monsieur and Madame Breban, have gone to a smaller house in High Street, where they have recently had two nephews staying with them, "at home on furlough,"—their own homes in Belgium being of course inaccessible to them.

Two months previously Madame Schmitz and her daughter had left "Mon Abri" for London, where Mlle. Schmitz had obtained work with a chemist at Kensington. With some continued assistance from our Committee they have been able to take rooms not far from her place of work.

During the three years the School have contributed £188 towards the funds necessary for the upkeep of "Mon Abri."

C. BRIGHTWEN ROWNTREE.

AN OUTLINE SURVEY OF SAFFRON WALDEN AND ITS REGION.

BY MEMBERS OF THE SAFFRON WALDEN SURVEY SOCIETY.

EDITED BY G. MORRIS.

SECTION VII.—*The Anglo-Saxon Period.*

AFTER the early period of destruction, when the local Roman settlements fell before the raids of the North Sea pirates, who penetrated inland along the great military roads, a new phase opened in the middle of the Fifth Century.

Shallow draught ships came up the Great Ouse, and landed colonising parties along the eastern edge of the Fens. Their

settlements gradually crept up-stream until the region between Cambridge and Saffron Walden was occupied by sparsely scattered colonies.

Much of the heavy clay country on the higher ground and upper valley slopes had reverted to thick thorn-bush by this period, and it is significant that, while from the mouth of the Ouse to the Upper Cam a chain of early Pagan cemeteries can be traced, not one has been found in the equally wide area reaching southward over the Boulder clay and London clay country to the banks of the Thames, so that the Anglo Saxon, no less than the pre-historic settlement, appears to have been directly influenced by the natural factors of clay forest and chalk grass land. The early settlements were probably placed at a bend of the river, or at the junction of two streams, where a space of ground could be easily defended by a ditch dug from bank to bank, or on some steep sided knoll close to the water.

No traces of these early settlements are known, here or elsewhere ; only the cemeteries remain to prove their presence, and, by means of the ornaments and weapons deposited in the graves, to indicate the nationality of the new population.

The chief sites are the important burial grounds, or cemeteries, discovered at Little Wilbraham, six miles South-East of Cambridge, and at Linton ; the cemetery discovered in the grounds of Hill house, near the Battle Ditch entrenchments, Saffron Walden ; and those at Haslingfield and other sites west of Cambridge on the higher ground beyond the valley of the Rhea, and at Girton to the north. There are also the isolated burials at Mutlow Hill, Wenden ; Huckeridge Hill, Sawston, and elsewhere.

In the large cemeteries at Little Wilbraham and at Linton, the majority of the cloak-brooches found in the graves were cross shaped or square headed. This type of brooch is common in the Anglian districts of North and Eastern England, but in the Saxon territory of the South-West it is very rare.

The burial urns, too, are similar to those found in Schleswig, whence most of the Angles came. With these typically Anglian articles there were found, however, a mixture of Saxon forms. At Girton, north of the region, occurred a "window urn" or burial pot containing a piece of glass let into the base. This type is common in the cemeteries of the Saxons in Hanover, where it is found with an equal armed, or H shaped bronze fibula and this type of brooch has been found at Little Wilbraham and Haslingfield on the borders of the Walden region, while it is unknown in true Anglian territory. Several round, saucer-shaped brooches also turned up at Linton, and one at Little Wilbraham. This is a definitely Saxon type, and appears to have been developed after the Saxons arrived in Britain, as it is practically unknown in Hanover, etc., while here, South of the Thames, in Wessex, etc., it is the common type, and is rare in Anglian districts.

This mixture of Saxon with a majority of definitely Anglian relics in the local cemeteries, can best be explained, not by inter-tribal trade, which was practically unknown, but by an early Saxon colonisation of the Walden region from Hanover, in the fifth century, followed later by Anglian inroads which drove the Saxons westward along the chalk downland towards the Thames, leaving some of their people or ornaments in Anglian possession.*

On the continent cremation had been the almost invariable Anglo Saxon practice, but, after their arrival here, burial of the body laid out in a variety of directions gradually became general, although cremation occasionally, as at Girton, lasted to the mid-seventh century. After their conversion to Christianity the practice of burying ornaments or weapons with the dead was generally given up, and an east and west position adopted; finally about 650 Anno Domini, the pagan custom of burial in the open fields away from the settlements was abandoned, and the graves placed round the early churches.

* *Thurloe Leeds. Archæology of Anglo-Saxon Settlements.*



ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY IN THE GROUNDS OF HILL HOUSE, SAFFRON WALDEN.
(From an old print.)

The Anglo-Saxon cemeteries of the region well exhibit these variations of custom, and some, at least, of the east and west burials without ornaments may be those of early Christians, although burial with the face towards the sunrise was common in pagan times.

At Little Wilbraham twenty-four out of one hundred and eighteen burials were without funeral deposits of any kind, and were probably those of poor people, while the better class ornaments were contained in a very few graves. Necklaces of large coloured glass beads were the commonest find. The nineteen iron "umbones," or shield bosses, showed that the shields had generally covered the warrior's body. Only four of the long, straight, two-edged swords were found, each by the right thigh—probably they were valued objects and seldom parted with. The thirty-five iron spear heads lay usually at the shoulder-level,—only one man had two spears,—while the "fibulæ," or cloak brooches, lay on the breast. The bead necklaces of the women lay on and around the collar bones; and their knives, shears, keys, and purse-mountings (?) at their girdles. A few of the little wooden buckets, or "situlæ," mounted with bronze, were also found.*

In the cemetery at Saffron Walden there were no cremated burials, shields or swords. Small spear-heads, knives, keys and ornaments were scarce. Two skeletons only had any notable remains. One—a series of thin, bracelet like rings, which may be of late Roman date, and belong to an earlier burial. The other—that of a lady—had a fine necklet of silver, cornelian and rock-crystal beads, with a pair of circular bronze pendants, which differ from anything else found in the region. The decoration, neither Anglian nor Saxon, belongs to the Scandinavian "Zoomorphic" class of ornament, composed of the closely interlaced limbs of animals, whose scarcely recognisable heads appear at intervals. They belong to the Viking period, 700—950 A.D., possibly as late as the era

* *Nevilles. Saxon Obsequies, etc.*

of Charlemagne, (died 841) but it is difficult to account for their presence in the Walden cemetery, unless the settlement at Walden was held by the pagan Danes in the early ninth century, as it is very improbable that the Christian Anglo-Saxons of that period were still burying in open field cemeteries away from their churches.

The grave at Mutlow, Wenden, was probably a tumulus burial, and the shield boss found there, together with large iron spears, differs from the low type found in the Anglian graves at Wilbraham, etc., and resembles the tall conical form used by the Jutes of Kent, who also commonly heaped up a small tumulus, or mound, over their dead; so that there is some possibility that this burial was of Jutish origin, and a trace of the political influence which they exerted over Essex under Aethelbert in the late sixth century.

GUY MAYNARD.

THE BREAKING-UP CONCERT.

ROUND last term's breaking-up concert many pleasant memories cluster; it was, in fact, one of the best concerts that have been held in the School. The Dining Hall was chosen to hold it in, and at a quarter to seven the concert began.

After a pianoforte solo by Peggy Horsfield, some of the boys silently acted "The Jackdaw of Rheims," while Marjorie Pollard read the poem. With much laughter we followed the story of the Jackdaw and the Cardinal's ring, and were very sorry to see that poor bird lying dead upon the stage, while he was being canonised with due solemnity, as "Jim Crow." The gorgeous costumes of the Cardinal and his retinue made an impressive scene.

Mr. Whitlow then gave us a recitation, "Christmas Bells," accompanied at the piano by Mr. Beer, and Mr. Brereton sang

us "Stone-cracker John" and "The Bandolero," both of which were very much appreciated.

The next item was a violin solo by Lionel Wright, and after it the Girls' singing class sang "The Coral Caves of Ocean."

The great event of the evening came now. It was a humorous play, "Ici On Parle Français," which was acted by some of the Staff.

Mr. Spriggins, who is commonly known as Mr. Beer, gets the idea that he will take in lodgers, and, inspired by the success of his "French before Breakfast," puts a card in his window :—"Ici On Parle Français." In preparing his house for lodgers, Mr. Spriggins shows his cleverness in curtain hanging by falling down the steps and throwing his whole household into confusion. When a Frenchman arrives with a lady, his "French before Breakfast" is shown to be a trifle faulty, and on the arrival of Major Regulus Rattan he gets a decidedly bad time.

In the end everything turns out well, and Mr. Spriggins' daughter is restored to her French lover, whom she had met in Paris some months before, while Major Regulus Rattan discovers his wife, who is the lady the Frenchman had brought to the house. The play was a great success, and few will forget Mr. Whitlow as a Frenchman, or the exciting adventures of the Spriggins family, and the hardships of their maid-servant.

During the evening Carols were sung, and at the close a collection was taken to assist in providing Christmas comforts for the wounded soldiers who were in the hospital, and we went to bed having all thoroughly enjoyed the time we had spent together.

Clifford Jones.

HARRY'S HERO.

IT was a cold, wet evening in November when Mrs. Gray and her little boy Harry were seated round a low fire in their little cottage on the heath.

Mrs. Gray put her last piece of coal on the fire to keep it from going out, for she saw that Harry was shivering with cold. He was the only joy of her life, because when Harry was a tiny boy Mr. Gray died and left her with very little money to keep herself and her little son ; but she did not mind having to work hard as long as they kept in good health. Mrs. Gray did the washing for the squire's family, which did not bring her any too much money, but she did it for one or two other families as well.

On this particular evening, when they were talking round the fire, they suddenly heard a noise like a dog scratching at the door. " What ever can that be ? " said Mrs. Gray shivering.

" I'm going to look," answered Harry, and with that he went to the door and opened it. Outside, Harry saw to his amazement a big collie dog with the rain running off his drenched coat, who ran in joyfully at the sight of light and fire.

" Oh ! " said Harry delightedly, " what a lovely dog ! Can we keep him Mummie ? Poor old thing," he said, patting his wet fur.

The dog was so pleased to feel even a little warmth, for he stretched himself on the rug in front of the fire, and would have gone to sleep if it had not been for Harry's affection.

" I know you will say we can keep him, Mummie, won't you ? " said Harry, not thinking of the expense. " I wonder where he has come from."

" Well," said Mrs. Gray," We will keep him till he is owned." For she thought that the big collie dog that stretched before her would soon be discovered.

" Oh, Mummie, I knew you would say yes ! " said he, giving his mother an affectionate hug. " May I go to bed now,

and then I will get up early in the morning and take dear old Fido for a walk—for that's what I'm going to call him."

It was not often that Harry wanted to go to bed early, but his mother consented, and said that she would not be long before she followed, seeing that bed was the best place on earth on such a cold, wet night. The next morning Harry was up at seven, and by half-past he was out and racing round the common with his new friend. They had been out half-an hour when Harry heard a loud "Hulloa!" He turned round and saw in front of him the butcher's boy, the bully of the village. He was Harry's one fear, so you may be sure he was not very pleased to see him.

"What have you got there?" said the boy. "How did you get that beast?"

Harry hesitated.

"Tell me, won't you?" he said, savagely, looking at Harry.

Harry was so frightened that he told the boy all about the night before. The boy thought a minute and then said, still looking at Harry, "Give me that dog. It is my grandmother's; she lost hers, and that one is exactly like it."

"If it is your grandmother's," said Harry quietly, "I can take it to her; but I know your grandmother quite well, and I don't ever remember seeing a dog at her house. Anyway I will take it to her and ask her if she owns it."

"I should say you had better give it to me here," said the boy, "or else it will be worse for you."

"I'm not going to," said Harry determinedly. "I know it is not your grandmother's dog, and I won't give it to you!"

"All right then," said the boy, who started to fight him. The dog, not liking to see his little master hurt in any way, started to bark and bit the leg of his opponent. The boy ran for his life, for he was a coward as well as a bully.

"You dear old Fido," said Harry, "you're the very best thing in the world—after mother. Well," corrected Harry,

" mother isn't a thing, and you're not exactly : but still you know what I mean, don't you ? You lovely old thing, oh, I know you do ! " said he, rubbing his face on the dog's shaggy coat. " Well, we must go in now, or else mother will think we are lost or drowned or something awful. Come on," and with that they bounded off to the cottage.

Harry was very eager to tell his mother the whole story.

" I am proud of him ! " said Harry. " I am going now to Mrs. Payne's to ask if he is her dog. I am sure he isn't, but I had better go to prove it." So away went they together and found Mrs. Payne in her little sitting-room. Harry asked her his question, and she answered,

" I've niver had a dog like that in all my born days, and niver warnt to, thank you ! "

" Thank you, Mrs. Payne," said Harry. " Come on then, old boy," and once more they bounded off to the cottage.

A fortnight had passed, and still the dog was in Mrs. Gray's, or rather Harry's, care. Mrs. Gray was getting rather anxious about the dog, for she knew that she had not enough money to keep him.

One day Harry and his friend were walking on the Common. In the centre of the common there was a lake and as Harry walked up to it he saw a little crowd gathered round it with a lady crying frantically in the midst. He soon saw that her child had fallen into the water. Without a moment's hesitation the dog leaped into the water and soon had the child in its mouth. For a moment the onlookers held their breath, with excitement, but when the dog swam to the land with the child alive in its mouth they cheered enough to be sure, and Harry was too excited to speak.

Harry discovered with amazement that the mother of the child was actually the squire's wife. She too was too thankful to speak, but she pressed a piece of paper into Harry's hand.

" Oh, you good, dear old Fido ! It's all through you ; it's a pound note ! " he gasped.

He ran home with Fido at his heels, full of telling his mother their adventure.

"We can keep him now, can't we, Mummie?" he said, lovingly looking at the paper in his hand.

Mrs. Gray smiled and said, "We will try and keep your Fido now; you would be so lost without him."

Harry flung his arms round his mother's neck and said, "Oh, Mummie, I KNEW you would let me keep him! I think Fido is the bravest dog in the world, don't you?"

"Well, perhaps he is," said Mrs. Gray.

Marjorie Bayes.

SCHOOL.

I LIKE it very much, and I wish everyone did. It is such a happy place, and too, there are such a great manny things to do.

Now let us take a joly day together, we are up early in the morning, "What's that you say? you don't like getting up early," well, never mind then. Then we wash and dress, then we have Bible reading and breakfast, then bed-making then of course we must have a little fun before school, and when school is over we have dinner, then we have two and a half hours before school in the afternoon, then when school is over again we have a little time before tea.

Then of cause we have a joly time at tea, but not when we are stoped talking, then we have an hour and a half preparation, dismal, unless we have a nice subject, such as this, composition. A quatre of an hour after, then bed.

I forgot to say we have a five minuits resess after the first lesson, morning and afternoon, and half an hour at eleven o'clock.

I think the lesson I like best is carpentering, because I am of that nature.

A Second Form Composition.

FROM FAR AND NEAR.

Concerning old Scholars.

Old Scholars who were in the Fifth Form last term.

Marjorie Bax.

Cecil A. Falkner is in charge of one of his father's shops at Wimbledon.

Emmeline Fitt is doing Farm Work.

* * * * *

"Dec. 1918.

"I have passed the exam. that I entered for in May, and am now a Lady Literate in Arts (St. Andrews). Do you think that Mr. Rowntree would be interested to hear that I obtained Honours in Geography? I found the notes that he gave us for 'Senior' very useful when studying for L.L.A."

Muriel A. Baker (1908-12)

* * * * *

"B.E.F., France, Dec. 29, 1917.

"Thanks very much for the Christmas wishes from the O.S.A. received just before Christmas. . . . We are having very hard weather just now,—frost and snow several feet deep in places; but we prefer it to wet and the mud which comes with wet weather."

F. H. Trigg (1907-13).

* * * * *

"B.E.F. France, 20 1, 1918.

"I was very pleased to receive the Christmas card of greeting from the Old Scholars' Association; please thank them for me. . . . We had quite a good time at Christmas,—bought three or four pigs and had a huge dinner. We are at present well back from all the excitement, near the coast. We were up in the Ypres salient for six or eight months, had very hard work up there and quite an exciting time, but on the whole

came out of it very luckily. You know, of course, that I am in a Railway Construction Company . . Albert, you may have heard, is a Major in the Machine Gun Corps, Egypt.

He has not been well nearly all the time he has been out there."

Alec B. Bevan. (1900-04).

* * * * *

"R.F.C. January 4th, 1918.

"I am practising long distance bombing. . . . . I have been up for about an hour and a half this morning, doing a few 'stunts' at a safe height of about 3,000 ft. The other day I went across country to — which is about half way between here and —, so I may come your way some time"

Gilbert A. Blake (1909-14).

* * * * *

"London Rifle Brigade,

"January 9th, 1918.

"Thanks for the 'Avenue' which I received a short time ago. . . . . I have heard from Chacksfield, who is in the London Scottish; . . . . . he told me that an Old Scholar named Edward S. Trew was down here in this regiment, so I searched the Camp, but found that he had just gone out on draft the very same morning. Owen Price has just gone out to Dunkirk in R.N.A.S."

Charles R. Cherry (1911-14).

* * * * *

"F.A.U., France,

"November 26th, 1917.

"We recently moved from mud to sand and are glad of the change, though the recent very strong winds have been rather uncomfortable. The sand has drifted across some of the roads and otherwise made itself a nuisance. It is in our beds, food and everywhere else."

"December 23rd, 1917.

"I'm sorry that my leave will come too late for the Old Scholars' Social, but I hope to see you and the rest of the world at Walden a bit later. They are having considerable Christmas festivities at H.Q. and the Q. A. Hospital this week, and I hope to go over on Tuesday. L. R. House is still at H. Q., I think,—he was cooking when I last saw him. Kenneth Green is there too, driving a G. M. C. British Car."

R. Eric Holttum (1907-11).

* * * * *

"Australian Army Medical Corps, Palestine.

"I made my entrance into the Holy Land on a donkey; it was a memorable night ride in the moonlight.

"I wonder if I could briefly picture to you my surroundings. I am in a little bivouac made by digging in about eighteen inches; two blankets are joined together with bachelor buttons, spread over a wire between two posts, and pegged down on the outside.

"This is my present home situated with others in a little hollow surrounded by low-lying sand hills away in the desert of Palestine. I am very fit and happy out here; as yet work has not come my way, but soon we expect to be very busy.

"We had a wonderful trip from Australia in great comfort; in fact it was a real holiday, which we all enjoyed, and our wonderful day at Colombo will long be remembered. I spent the day sight-seeing in a rickshaw."

Donald L. Redding (1912-14).

* * * * *

"Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee,
"France, January 22nd, 1918.

"I have been lent from the Agricultural Department to take the place of an orderly not yet arrived. . . . . It's a nice place,—an old 'chateau' on a mound within a deep and wide moat like a canal. This is the new convale-



Photo by] [*J. S. Walker.*

C. B. ROWNTREE,
Special
Constable.

G. S. PUMPHREY,
Friends'
Ambulance
Unit.

J. P. WHITLOW,
Friends'
War Victims
Relief Committee.

G. MORRIS,
2nd Lieutenant
Essex Volunteer
Regiment.

scent and baby house of which you have read. At present we have fifteen babies in hand, with about seventeen in the bush; these latter are waiting because two of the Staff are on the sick-list. . . . . For an hour (in three or four portions) every day I work the force pump to get the water from the well into the cistern upstairs. Constantly going all day are two great fires in the basement; one is the furnace for warming the house, the other is for the hot water system. The stoking of these keeps me on the *qui vive* and my shirt at the dew point. . . . . On Saturday afternoon two waggon loads of wood arrived. By working myself all Sunday, and with two soldiers' help on Monday, I got this stacked in the basement and the well was left gaping open; we had to get the ladder out first, then close up the trench, 20 ft. long, 3ft. deep, leading from the pump to the well. There are two drains to fill in when I've time, and another one to dig! The soil is sticky clay. Before the kiddies arrived one of the builder's men helped me rig up a sort of open-air pen for the babies to play in, on the gravel in front of the house. I've a fine bedroom in the 'Stables;' outside the French window is a fine broad covered balcony. There is a big white swan on the moat,— (that is, when he isn't hanging round the kitchen door, on the watch for tit-bits in the way of big saucepans full of carrots or potatoes). He hisses at the puppy, and they go for one another like anything. A lot of fine big fish were killed in the moat by the frost. There is a boat, but it wants tarring (Orderly!); otherwise I'd go and fish them out."

T. Edward Tawell (1892-6.)

* * * *

"Pentonville,

"December 27th, 1917.

"In your last letter you said the O. S. A. balance was £39, is that correct? I am glad to hear that C. B. R. is President,—please. . . . . thank him for the card,

which I like very much. I am sorry that his year of office begins in war time and fervently pray it may end with a world at peace. I had so looked forward to working with him. Please convey my best wishes to Old Scholars for a more cheerful New Year.

My impressions of Christmas in prison are best expressed in this form ;—one Christmas day, some years ago, I was cycling on the road from Maidstone to Rochester, and saw a couple of tramps sitting under the hedge ; it was very cold too—they were away from everybody. And somehow I feel out in the cold,—detached, away from you all."

W. Russell Frayling (1898-1903).

* * * *

" New York.

" My husband and I took a two weeks holiday on the St. Lawrence in August. We went by water from Thousand Islands down the rapids to Montreal and then on to Quebec. Quebec is a glorious old town ; we revelled in its quaintness and its interesting history. Just fancy walking over the Plains of Abraham and scrambling down the path up which Wolfe climbed ! It was thrilling. And then to walk along the walls and explore the old citadel !

" The scenery round Quebec is grand. I expected an imposing situation, but I never realised that the Laurentian Highlands were near enough to make a background for the town. The mountains are about 4,000 ft. high, I believe, but, as the peaks were nearly always in the clouds, they might have been as high as the Andes.

" I am so glad you gave Marjory Townshend my address. She was my top girl for quite a while in the third class. Since we came home she spent a week-end with us, which we greatly enjoyed.

" Pauline Fellowes had dinner with us last Sunday. She is living with a Jewish lady, and is now doing art work in a studio in the day time.

" I saw Rosa Megirian the other day. She belongs to a sewing circle to which I also belong. She is well and lives at home with her mother."

Mary Haydock (*née* Lidbetter), Mistress, 1902-5.

* * *

Extract from a letter written by Margery Townshend (1903-08), who is working on Lord Northcliffe's staff in New York.

" I spent last week-end with Mrs. Haydock, and purposely put off writing until I had been,so that I could include news of her. She is just as charming as she always was, with an extremely nice husband and a dear, small son. She lives in the top apartment right up town, with a wonderful view of the river Hudson from her windows. The house is perched up on Fort George, way up aloft, with lots of open ground round it, plenty of air, and a delightful view. Hers is quite the nicest apartment I've been in here, compact and tasteful, with touches of her handiwork about.

" We went a lovely walk on Sunday, and, when admiring the brilliance of the turning leaves against the blue sky, agreed how much you would appreciate all the good things here. Really, this October has been a revelation to me,—I used to think the beeches at Walden were beautiful, but the crimson shumacs and pine oaks here, with the golden leaves of the tulip trees and the white bark of the birches, all intensified by the dazzling sunshine, quite took my breath away.

" I find American life very good, and especially that out here at Plainfield, much simpler than often is the case in England. Three meals a day—one meatless—is the usual scheme, and of course all the new dishes are quite interesting. Early hours seem to be the rule, and in Plainfield a lot of businesses start at eight o'clock, which we should regard rather as a hardship at home, I think. Of course New York is quite different, and luxury, dissipation and amusements about come up to their reputation.

" Our office is on 5th Avenue, the best street, so we see all the processions that go along, and there are a lot too. Quite the best I've seen was when the ladies held the field,—Ladies of the Red Cross, in white, blue and navy, just as far as the eye could see. On Thursday there was the Liberty Loan procession, with the British Tank as the *pièce de resistance.*"

SCHOOL DIARY.

Nov. 1st.—N.H.S. Mtg. Lecture on " Astronomy," Mr. Morris.

„ 8th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Girls' Diary, Margaret Robson. Essays: " A London Street," Donald Peverett; " Winstanley and the Eddystone Lighthouse," Margaret Robson; " The Building of the C.P.R.," Harold Raymond. Pianoforte Solo, Margaret Robson. Song, Mr. Beer. Recitation, Mr. Whitlow.

„ 9th.—N.H.S. Mtg. Lantern Lecture on " Astronomy," Mr. Morris.

„ 12th.—Dickens' Recital: " David Copperfield," Rev. Runnels-Moss

„ 14th.—Hockey Match, Boys' XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School, home, won, 7-1. Football Match: 2nd XI. *v.* S.W.G.S., 2nd XI., away, won, 3-1.

„ 17th.—Football Matches *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School, Boys' XI. *v.* Boys' XI., away, won, 8-0. 2nd XI. *v.* 2nd XI., at home, won, 12-0.

„ 18th.—Lantern Lecture in Evening Meeting by Miss Esther Kitching on " Sunday Schools."

„ 21st.—Football Matches *v.* Newport Grammar School. Boys' XI. *v.* Boys' XI., away, won, 3-2. 2nd XI. *v.* 2nd XI., home, won, 8-0.

„ 22nd.—Literary Society Social Evening.

„ 26th.—Lantern Lecture: " Back from Russia," Mr. Burtt.

„ 29th.—N.H.S. Mtg. Essays: " Westminster Abbey," Clifford Jones; " Flint Implements and Neolithic Man," George Fairbrother; " The Dispersion of Seeds," Mary Baker and Margaret Kirkpatrick; " Hibernating Animals," Dorothy Emson.

Dec. 1st.—Football Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Cambridge County School, away, lost 2-4. Girls' Hockey Match, 1st XI. *v.* Homerton Training College, 1st XI., away, won, 2-0.

„ 4th.—School Examinations began.

Dec. 5th.—Lantern Lecture: "Birds and their Near Relations," Mr. Walter Rowntree.

„ 13th.—End of Term Entertainment.

„ 14th.—Holidays began.

Jan. 11th.—School re-opened.

„ 17th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Boys' Diary, Henry Dent. Essays: "Wanderers on the Face of the Earth," Edith Newbery; "A Great Reformer," Mary Baker; "Village Characters," Frederic Tebbutt. Recitation, Mr. Whitlow. Violin Solo, Lionel Wright. Pianoforte Solo, Margaret Passmore.

„ 19th.—Football Matches *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School. Boys' XI. *v.* Boys' XI., away, won, 6-2. 2nd XI. *v.* 2nd XI., home, won, 20-0.

„ 20th.—Lantern Lecture for Forms V. and VI: "Art," Mr. Picton.

„ 24th.—N.H.S. Preliminary Mtg. Essay: "Some Branches of Church Construction," Henry Dent.

„ 26th.—Hockey Match. Boys' XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School, Boys' XI., home, won, 7-2. Football Match, 3rd XI. *v.* S.W.G.S. 2nd XI., away, lost, 1-4.

„ 31st.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Girls' Diary, Doris Thompson. Essays: "The Homing Pigeon," Cecil Trigg; "Local Records and Literature," Mr. Morris. Pianoforte Solo, Marcus Matthews, Song, Mr. Beer.

Feb. 2nd.—Hockey Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School Boys' XI., away, won, 4-2. Football Match, 2nd XI., *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School 2nd XI., home, won, 5-1.

„ 3rd.—Lantern lecture, "Ceylon," Mr. Roper.

„ 7th.—N.H.S. Meeting. Essays: "The Construction of the Monastery," Reginald Falkner; "Entomology as a Hobby," Marjorie Pollard; "Rambles by the Riverside," Clifford Culpin.

„ 9th.—Football Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Saffron Walden "Juniors," home, won, 5-0.

„ 11th.—Merit half-holiday.

„ 13th.—Football Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Grammar School Boys' XI., home, won, 6-1.
Lantern Lecture, "Fifteenth Century Printing," Mr. Peddy.

„ 14th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Boys' Diary, Donald Morgan. Essays: "The Panama Canal," Paul Tebbutt; "Local Records and Literature," Mr. Morris; "The Founding of Four Famous Abbeys," Eunice Tanner. Pianoforte Solo Doris Thompson.

NOTICES.

Three numbers of *The Avenue* will be published during 1918, in March, July, December, price 6d. (post free 7d.), or 1s. 6d. per annum (post free, 1s. 9d.).

Articles and subscriptions may be addressed to *The Avenue*, Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

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

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* To retire at the end of the year.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Magazines : *Penketh School Magazine*, *Stramongate School Magazine*, *The Beckside* (Ayton).

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS;

Associated Board of the R.A.M. and R.C.M., School Examinations. Higher Division (with Honours) Mary Baker and Margaret Horsfield, November, 1917.

INITIAL LETTER.

The initial letter at the head of the article on "The Breaking-up Concert" was designed by *Henry J. Nicholson.*

BOUND VOLUMES.

It is not intended to send up the numbers for 1917 at present, but any who wish may send them as usual, and they will be kept till prices become more normal, or to be bound together with the 1918 volume.



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