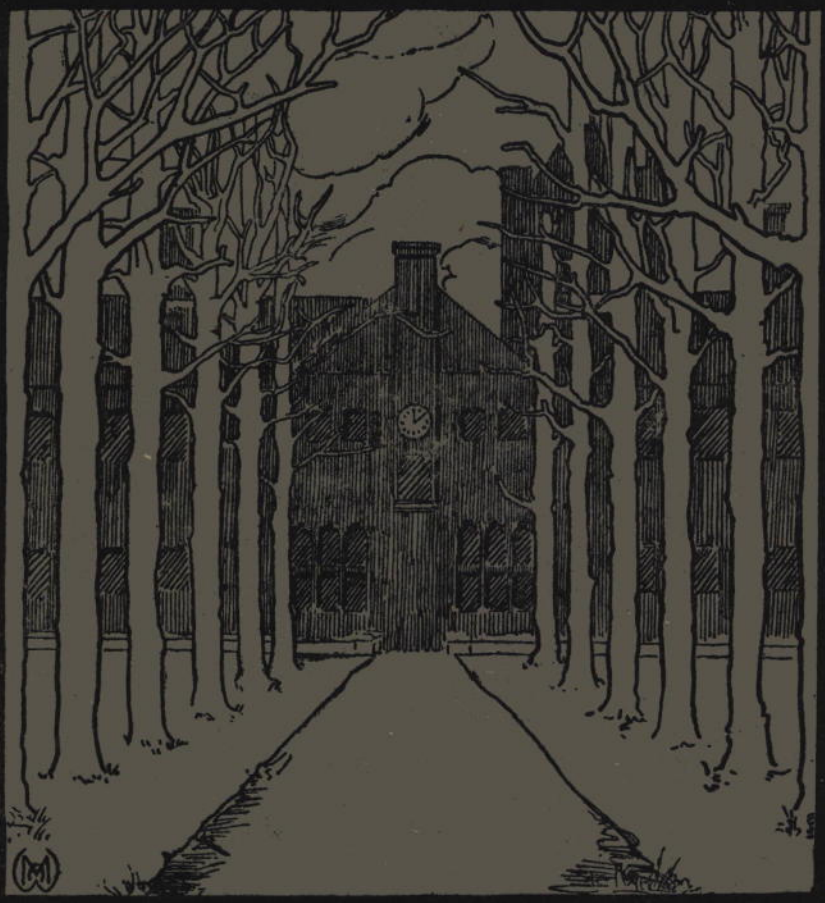
THE AVENUE



JULY 1927

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Photograph by] [H. BEDFORD LEMERE.

THE SANATORIUM



The Magazine of the Friends' School, Saffron Walden.

VOL. XVIII. JULY, 1927. No. 53

FOREWORD.

AT the end of last term we were sorry to lose Miss Norrington and Miss Rees, the former of whom was forced to resign, after thirty-three years of faithful service to the school, owing to ill-health. We extend here a welcome to Mrs. Martin and Miss Noreen Wright who have come in their places. We have also with us for this term Mr. Hodgkinson and Miss Colley as student teachers, and Miss Allen as temporary 'cello mistress.

This term we returned with a record number of pupils, a hundred and eighty-two in all, ninety-four of whom were girls.

Once again, owing to quarantine during the Spring Term, the Inter-School Sports were not held; but our own sports were run off with the usual enthusiasm.

The House Competitions last term were carried out exceptionally well, so that instead of our usual evening spent with plays, recitations and music, we had to set aside two nights for our programme which included six lecturettes, this being a record number.

We are pleased to hear that Geoffrey Tawell has won a prize in the Inter-School Natural History Diary Competition for the third time. We all wish him great success in the future.

General Meeting this year was on June 11th and proved a great success both for performers and visitors. There was an exceptionally good display of work and the dancing and gymnastic displays were a new feature.

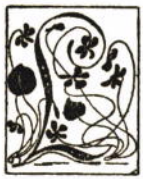
The chief tennis fixture this year is the mixed match against St. Christopher's School at Letchworth. We hope that the friendship between the two schools will continue and flourish.

This term we have been unusually lucky and, but for a few cases of tonsilitis, have been free from any epidemic.

Mary Close.
(Stage 7.)

RANDOM IMPRESSIONS OF WHITSUN AT WALDEN.

BY AN OLD SCHOLAR OF LAST CENTURY.



IMITATIONS of time and space make it impossible for me to include in my Whitsun impressions the happy Staff welcome on Friday night, much of the cricket matches and the "admirable displays of gymnastics and aquatics given by the girls and boys respectively" (*vide* "The Friend," 17.6.27, p. 572).

As members of the Staff seem to have a special gift of making one appear welcome, however inopportune the visit, and as I was able to enjoy the prowess of boys and girls in the bath and gymnasium the following Saturday on General Meeting day, my loss has in part been made good.

It was very pleasant to find myself on Saturday afternoon among so many old friends and to hear news of others.

Though there were not many who were at School with me, I knew many by sight (names are always a difficulty with me) and I found Old Scholars who were children of my contemporaries. It won't be long, I suppose, before I shall be tracing resemblances to my schoolmates in their grandchildren.

The performance of "The Bishop's Candlesticks" on Saturday evening was remarkable in many ways, though, unlike the previous performance to present scholars, the second passed off without a "hitch." The Bishop, whose skull cap seemed a trifle superfluous, one felt was "wise as well as good," though he disappointed some of us by his extravagance in putting the discarded bone in the fire instead of the stock pot. Of the "wiseness" of his sister, whom it was hard to identify with our President, one felt a little doubtful at times—that she was "good" the impunity with which she rested her hand on the top of the stove on which the soup was boiling was surely sufficient evidence.

The table manners of the bad man were certainly not "wise," nor were some of the words he uttered with evident relish. Much, however, must be forgiven a man who had sojourned for ten years in the locality to which he referred several times.

The need for training in Domestic Science was evinced by the reticent maid but the efficiency of the sergeant as a drill instructor, whose squad marched as one man, was beyond reproach.

Joking apart it was an altogether excellent and moving performance, which those privileged to see it will not soon forget.

The bonfire provided a magnificent spectacle and a welcome warmth. In spite of previous practice in the Lecture Hall the singing round it was not quite as "community" as it might have been. Unless a conductor can be found to lead us from the centre of the fire I fear complete unity of time will be difficult to achieve.

At the crowded meeting next morning we missed some well-known faces. After meeting we had the usual delightful experience of a visit to the gardens of Mrs. Midgley and her daughters whose hospitality is proverbial.

A " reception " on the front lawn after dinner to whom Old Scholars invited the Staff provided another opportunity for drinking tea.

The meeting on Sunday night will be remembered both for the inspiring address on Treasure Houses by our Secretary and the haunting words and melody of some of the hymns on the sheets he lent us, but could neither give nor sell us.

A downpour of rain on Sunday afternoon and a gale at night which laid low two tents (the gymnasium having previously provided refuge for the inmates) showed us of what our weather is capable, but in spite of speculations as to what would be a suitable indoor alternative for the various functions on Monday, the cold was the only inconvenience caused to those not engaged in the more strenuous occupations of cricket, tennis and domestic duties. That the Staff did not collapse under the strain of these last was probably due to the fact that " a merry heart goes all the way." Doubtless the atmosphere of willing service had its subtle influence on the rest of us. At any rate there were no shirkers in theory when our President asked us if next year we would be willing to take a hand in the important tasks of washing and cutting up.

In spite of a strenuous innings at cricket the " bad man " of the play, who was a tennis finalist on Saturday, put up a splendid fight against the winners of Monday's tournament, and though he and his partner were beaten 6 to 1 in the first set (as advertised by the scorer) they left the result of the last set doubtful till the last stroke gave the chocolates to their opponents.

This excitement was a prelude to the ceremony at the other end of the playground, when a cheque and a bunch of flowers were handed with appropriate words of explanation to Miss

Norrington, who has well earned a rest after thirty years' faithful service to the School.

It is good to know that, like Miss Barnard, whom we all look forward to meeting at these School functions, she is not leaving Walden. The tradition she has created of efficient organisation on a large scale for our bodily needs was excellently maintained this year, for which those responsible have our sincere admiration and gratitude.

From her reply to the speeches of appreciation one would gather that she was well accustomed to public speaking, but I am told that this impression was erroneous.

Two concerts of a high standard of excellence and two dances in the gymnasium, demonstrating talent not all acquired (or developed) in school days, were much appreciated.

To the list of my impressions must be added several Committee meetings,—at one of which we heard with much regret of the resignation of two of our Secretaries,—and a lively business meeting to discuss the vexed question of blazers for Old Scholars, at which the Headmaster and our President swopped blazers in public. I am glad that it is not my job to report what really was the feeling of the meeting.

Tuesday morning with its last "au revoirs" came all too soon, and the process of saving up for next Whitsun has begun once more.

W.A.G.



AN OLD SCHOLAR IN THE COLONIES.



HAVE just re-read an article I wrote for *The Avenue* when, after an absence of ten years, I visited the old school two years ago. And it has occurred to me that some who read *The Avenue* and remember my name may be interested to hear briefly of my experiences since that time.

I left England again on May 8th, 1925, by the R.M.S. "Maloja." Sea travelling is always a delight to me, and I had a most enjoyable trip, reaching the Outer Harbour on June 13th.

On July 1st I took charge of the parish of Robe and Kingston in the South East of South Australia—only a hundred miles from the scene of my previous labours at Mt. Gambier. English readers will have some idea of our spaces when I say that only one parish separated me from Mt. Gambier!

Robe and Kingston are both small sea-port towns twenty-eight miles apart. I was exceedingly happy—Robe has a most beautiful Church—the surrounding scenery is very pretty and the climate is ideal. I soon found myself surrounded by as loyal a band of people as any clergyman could wish to work with, and under God's blessing our work prospered happily.

All too soon came the Bishop's call to move on, and on November 28th, 1926, I found myself faced with an enormous proposition. It was to take charge of a large and scattered area on the River Murray. I try to minister to five towns, stretching over one hundred miles—Waikerie, Moorook, Loxton, Paruna, and Alawoona. I am supposed to live at Waikerie, but as it is fifty miles away from the rest of my work it is a difficult matter. I spend half my time there and half in Loxton, from which centre I work the other three towns.

Waikerie and Loxton are good sized country towns—Moorook, Paruna and Alawoona would be classed as villages in England,

except that Alawoona is a railway junction. Needless to say I spend a great proportion of my time on the road in a Ford motor car. Visiting my parishioners is the biggest problem. Waikerie and Moorook are fruit growing areas, while the other places are wheat farming centres. It is interesting work but unsatisfactory in that one man cannot do justice to so large an area; but the people are appreciative of one's efforts and already I am beginning to see some fruit in the form of increasing congregations.

My trip home two years ago has left me more homesick than when I originally came out in 1914, and there is always the feeling that one is an exile and a longing to be among one's own people in one's own land. Not least would I wish to see again "the best school of all."

DONALD REDDING (1912-1914).

THE NATURAL HISTORY EXCURSION TO DEBDEN.

ON May 21st several members of the Natural History Society joined the Essex Field Club in an excursion along the old Debden Road and through Debden Park.

After an early lunch we bicycled or trained to Newport where, whilst waiting for Mr. Morris and the E.F.C. we looked over the church.

Having met our party, our first place of interest was an old quarry near the Newport end of the old Debden Road. Here we saw one of the few places where clay can be seen lying directly on top of gravel. On leaving the quarry, Mr. Morris showed us where the three valleys, Debden Water, Wicham and North meet. It may be said the River Cam has its source here.

The Debden Road proved very interesting for although formerly of great importance it is now a mere cart track following Debden Water valley.

There were many flowers found during this part of our walk —the cranesbill, cowslip, avens, bluebell, bugle, pink campion and woodrush being amongst them. A Scotch pine and wayfarers tree were seen in flower and also several oak catkins.

Leaving the valley we entered Debden Park and visited the church. The chief points of interest were a pair of Norman pillars and some cast iron window frames. The Chancel, which was built in 1780, is imitation Gothic. The Font dates from 1780 while the Porch has the original beams of 1350.

For the remainder of our ramble we passed through the park, past the lake and so around the road to Newport.

Before we left the park a heavy cloud was seen and we were forced to take shelter under trees. About a mile and a half on our way to Newport we were again troubled by rain, this time we were fortunate in finding shelter in a barn.

In the park more flowers were found, salad burnet, dog's mercury, wood sanicle, water speedwell, tway blade and dog daisies being the rarer specimens.

Owing to the rainy weather the parts through which we walked did not seem to abound in birds. During the light intervals, however, the willow wren, cuckoo, white throat, linnet, greenfinch and nightingale were heard.

A number of empty egg shells which were picked up were attributed to the work of the cuckoo and carrion crow.

Several nests were seen, amongst which were two wrens', one in process of being built and the other with young. A white throat's with four eggs, a chaffinch's, a wood pigeon's, with the bird on, and, of course, blackbirds' and thrushes' nests were found. Some young starlings were heard in an old woodpecker's nest but we were unable to get at them as the hole was too small. Partridge, snipe, wild duck and herons were seen in the park, also a dead jay.

Thus our very enjoyable, though somewhat wet, ramble came to an end, and after a much needed and very satisfying tea we returned home by road leaving the Essex Field Club to explore Newport Church.

Yvonne M. C. Gundry.
(*Stage* 6).

"BARKINGSIDE."

LAST holidays, Marjorie, Bessie McGowan and I represented Walden at a delightful "At Home" at Barkingside. While changing at Ilford we saw the rest of the party, but not knowing any of them, we did not follow them into the carriage to which Mr. Hind Smith (we knew him though he did not seem to see us) led them, but went alone next door. Then it was that he opened our door, walked in, sat down, and began to talk to us. We talked a lot until we got to Barkingside, and of course we felt very exalted that he should have left the rest to come and talk to us, but put it down to the fact that we were Waldenites.

We started by visiting the church which, of course, is very new, though built in an old style. It was given by a lady in memory of her daughter and the organ was the gift of another. There are seventy cottages, each with its "mother" and an average of twenty children, and each cottage has a pew in the church and a seat beside it for the mother.

From seven upwards the kiddies make their own beds and go to school. There is a splendid school which we visited next. It is run on ordinary elementary school lines and has a splendid hall, asphalt with swings, and a playing field. They play hockey also. Of course as the village consists mostly of children, they use the playgrounds both in and out of school hours as their own property.

There is a lovely hospital with large, airy wards and verandahs, a cripples' house, an exercise and massage house and a laundry.

As a rule the girls leave the home and go out either to the colonies or into service at sixteen years of age, but the deficient ones, either mentally or physically, have to be kept at the homes. There is, therefore, a special house for these girls and women where they work at lace, weaving and embroidery, which is sold to enable them to earn their own living.

At the receiving house the babies under seven months old are kept until that age and the others are kept a fortnight while they are washed, dressed, disinfected and examined. Then they enter a cottage in the village proper.

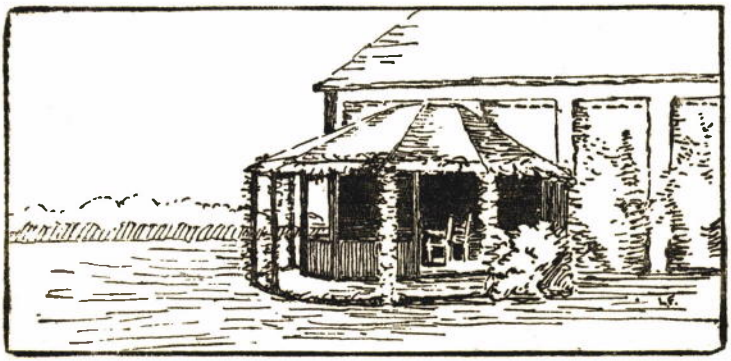
They have a Guide and Brownie Company with meetings on Mondays and Thursdays.

Mr. Hind Smith is a great favourite amongst all the children, who call him Daddy and dash up to him as soon as they see him.

We had tea in Oxford Cottage (all the cottages are named) and were entertained by the two cottage babies by name " Ursula " and " Ruthie."

As we were coming out of the hospital we had our photo taken and were told it was for the *Daily Mail* on the following day but we never saw it.

Mary Close.
(*Stage 7*).





Photograph by] [H. BEDFORD LEMERE.

GROUP B (Girls).

GENERAL MEETING, 1927.

THAT General Meeting is always an occasion of great festivity, nobody can deny, but that June 11th afforded the most successful General Meeting that the school has known for years is equally beyond question. Our official programme began at eleven o'clock, when a crowded meeting was held in the Lecture Room, for forty minutes. After this, the scholarships for the year were awarded. John Burtt took the first scholarship, while Iris Harris and Ernest Farrell shared the second place. Three awards of five pounds each were also given.

After the presentations, the visitors wandered round the building and looked at the exhibitions. These included dishes cooked by the girls, laundry work, carpentry and actual lesson books, besides the display of art and needlework in the art-room.

At half-past twelve, the visitors lunched in the dining room and the boys and girls enjoyed the originality of a meal in their playrooms. Lunch and the ensuing speeches lasted till a quarter to two, when the fun began in earnest.

The first event was a concert of musical items given by the scholars, conspicuous among which was the orchestra's rendering of Handel's water music, conducted by Miss Noreen Wright. At the same time a display of gymnastics was given by some of the girls in the gymnasium, this taking the place of their usual swimming display.

The boys, however, have not given up swimming yet, for which we are all very thankful, since their display for which we crowded into the swimming bath was as near perfection as they can hope to attain. It included some very good fancy diving and unusual tricks, in which the pyramid formed a very popular item. Everybody was delighted.

After this, the concert and gymnastics were repeated for fresh audiences, and then a half-circle of people waited outside

the pavilion for the Scandinavian and Morris dances. These, though something of an innovation, were a great success, thanks chiefly to the efforts of Miss Beecham and Mr. Whitlow earlier on in the term. The Scandinavian dances given by the girls were rendered more picturesque by the costumes worn, made by the girls themselves.

At five o'clock the visitors had tea on the Avenue, and after this they departed, having declared the day a great success. Thus officially the day ended, but we must not forget our exciting game of Terza on the field afterwards, which finally brought a very successful General Meeting to a close. Congratulations to all who helped to make it such !

Bessie McGowan.
(*Stage* 6).

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

THE attention of everybody was again attracted as Sports' Day approached. From the beginning of the term enthusiasts were to be seen training before breakfast and at other times. Entries for the various races were not numerous, and in the senior Cross-Country proved very poor, there being only four competitors.

However, when it was run off on the Saturday excitement prevailed everywhere, and everybody was glad to hear at the finish of the race, that I. Parley had broken the record by two-fifths of a second.

The Junior Cross-Country was better contested, O. Parsons being the winner, followed by R. Garside and A. Meredith.

The Senior Mile was won by I. Parley on the following Monday. It was a good race, K. Smith keeping well up to the winner until the last lap, but he was forced to run on the outside all the way. The Junior Mile proved quite a good race, the first two places being in the same order as in the Cross-Country.

The Thursday after came the first Tug-of-War. Morland won the toss and the first pull. The second pull took longer to decide, but after a long struggle Morland pulled Godlee the second time.

The following Saturday was Sports' Day and fortunately it proved to be fine but it was nevertheless very windy.

The boys' High Jump caused the greatest excitement, a new record being set up by I. Parley, thus breaking one of the long-standing records of the school, although not an exceptionally good one.

Both boys' and girls' Hundred Yards were good races, the boys' winner, H. Byles, gaining a lead at the start, went on to win easily. The girls' race, on the other hand, was very close.

The Handicaps, as usual, proved very exciting, as well as interesting. A large entry had been received both for the Two Hundred and Twenty Yards and for the Half Mile. O. Lush won the Two Hundred and Twenty Yards, having about one hundred yards start, while the scratch man, H. Byles, gained second place.

The House Relay Races provided a good deal of excitement as usual. Crosfield attained a lead at the start in the Senior Boys' event and gradually increased until the finish, Morland coming second and Godlee last; the Crosfield girls repeated the boys' performance in their race, while Morland won the Junior event by several yards.

The last two items were a Tug-of-War between Crosfield and Morland, and the obstacle race. The latter was not as good as in previous years, time only allowing for a simple race. The Tug-of-War on the other hand caused great excitement. Morland won the first pull after a long struggle, both sides pulling well, but the second pull was soon over leaving Morland the victors.

Basil Clayton.
(*Stage* 5.)

RESULTS.

BOYS.

SENIOR.

CROSS COUNTRY :—1, Parley ; 2, Rees ; 3, Le Mare ; 4, Byles. 21 m. 1⅘ secs.*

MILE :—1, Parley ; 2, Smith ; 3, Le Mare ; 4, Rees. 5 min. 17 secs.

880 yds. :—1, Parley ; 2, Farrell ; 3, Gibb. 2 m. 25⅘ secs.

440 yds. :—1, Byles ; 2, Parley ; 3, Watson. 58⅕ secs.

100 yds. :—1, Byles ; 2, Forward ; 3, Watson. 11secs.

LONG JUMP :—1, Gibb ; 2, Byles ; 3, Parley. 16 ft. 6 in.

HIGH JUMP :—1, Parley ; 2, Gibb ; 3, Cousins. 4 ft. 10¼ in.*

THROW :—1, Farrell ; 2, Parley ; 3, Gibb. 80 yds. 1 ft. 6 in.

JUNIOR.

CROSS COUNTRY :—1, Parsons ; 2, Garside ; 3, Meredith ; 4, Cousins ; 5, Burtt ii. 13 m. 6⅕ secs.

MILE :—1, Parsons ; 2, Garside ; 3, Cousins ii. ; 4 Burtt ii. 6 m. 3⅗ secs.

880 yds. :—1, Garside ; 2, Parsons ; 3, Thurtle. 2 m. 53⅕ secs.

440 yds. :—1, Thurtle ; 2, Harris ii. ; 3, Parsons. 70⅗ secs.

100 yds. :—1, Harris ii. ; 2, Garside ; 3, Thurtle. 13⅕ secs.

LONG JUMP :—1, Thurtle ; 2, Dell ; 3, Harris ii. 12 ft. 7½ ins.

HIGH JUMP :—1, Harris ii. ; 2, Parsons ; 3, Thurtle. 3 ft. 6½ ins.

THROW :—1, Reynolds ii. ; 2, Parsons ; 3, Harris ii. 49 yds. 3 ins.

100 yds. under 12 :—1, Junghanns ; 2, Wooding. 14⅕ secs.

RELAY RACES.

BOYS (600 yds.) :—1, Crosfield ; 2, Morland. 77 secs.

GIRLS (450 yds.) :—1, Crosfield ; 2, Godlee. 66⅘ secs.

JUNIOR (Mixed) (450 yds.) :—1, Morland ; 2, Crosfield. 67⅘ secs.

TUG-OF-WAR :—1, Morland ; 2 Crosfield.

BOYS' CUPHOLDER :—Ivor Parley ; runner-up, Harry D. Byles.

JUNIOR CUPHOLDER :—Owen Parsons ; runner-up, Richard Garside.

GIRLS' CUPHOLDER :—Joan Bull ; runner-up, Margaret Berry.

JUNIOR CHAMPION :—Joan Parley ; runner-up, Marian Bird.

SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

THE FOOTBALL SEASON, 1926-27.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals For	Goals Agst.
1st XI.	3	0	3	0	5	10
Boys' XI.	14	5	9	0	48	48

Our list of fixtures once again was decreased lamentably by epidemics, but happily enthusiasm was sufficient to allow

practise matches to be arranged on the free half holidays. and this, no doubt, was one of the factors which contributed to the fairly high standard of play which was reached during the season.

However, the Boys' XI. did not have a successful season, losing many matches against town teams which formerly we have beaten regularly.

The forwards combined well, and Parley at centre-forward kept the forward-line working together. Both wing combinations were good and that on the left often resulted in a goal by Gibb. The shooting was at first by no means so good, but towards the end it improved considerably.

The halves did good defensive work, in which Cooke, at left-half, played a great part ; but their attack was weaker, both in passing forward and in shooting. The backs did good work, but were at times a little unsteady.

We were unfortunate in losing the valuable aid of Francis, at Christmas, but Glaister filled his place in goal with considerable success.

Colours were awarded to Glaister, Byles, Cooke, Stansbury, Clayton, Parley and Watson.

E. T. Farrell.
(Boys' Captain).

HOCKEY 1926-27.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn	Goals For	Goals Agst.
School XI.	7	2	5	0	12	25
2nd XI.	2	0	2	0	3	8
Girls' XI. ..	2	1	1	0	4	8
Girls' 2nd XI.	2	0	2	0	2	5

As we had more girls than usual in the school this year, we had four games instead of three as before. Also we had a third pitch marked out, which was much smaller, and therefore much better for the younger girls.

We were fairly successful in arranging a number of matches for both first and second elevens. But as we were in quarantine for measles during most of the Spring Term we were unable to play many of them.

For the first time for many years we lost both of our matches against the Old Scholars. But it was hardly surprising in the Spring Term as only four of the first eleven were able to play.

This year we played the House Tournaments both terms instead of in the autumn term alone. The results were as follows: Autumn Term—Crosfield 1st, Morland 2nd. Spring Term—Godlee 1st, Crosfield 2nd.

Colours were awarded to Mary Close at the end of the Autumn Term.

B. Milne.
(Girls' Captain).

FAR AND NEAR.

Concerning Old Scholars.

Old Scholars who were in Group C. last Term:

Raymond E. Alexander is accompanying his uncle on a voyage round the world.

Winnie Cooper.

Jack R. Cuthbertson is convalescing after an operation. He expects to go to Leighton Park School, where he has gained a Major Scholarship.

Alec Gibb is working at Messrs. Clark & Brangwin's Office in London.

* * * * *

Hilda Rye Carter (1909-14) writes from R.C.A.F., Camp Borden, Ontario:

"My husband was transferred East in January, so we are now at Camp Borden, forty miles north of Toronto. The nearest

town is Barrie, sixteen miles away. There are about 400 men and fifty officers in the Camp; only four of the officers are married, and only three of us are living in Camp. . . . This month (May) about fifty University boys, who are to train as officer pilots, will be coming to camp; we then start tea dances in the Officers' Mess—which are great fun. These boys fly all over the country to find partners to bring to the dances, and with so few married officers in Camp to entertain them it means I am likely to have my house full all summer. . . . I *was* expecting to be coming to England this summer for two years. My husband was chosen to command a station in the far north, on Baffin Land, to investigate conditions *re* navigation, etc., in Hudson's Bay. He was keen to go, but the 'powers that be' finally decided not to take married officers."

* * * * *

Barbara Sell (1920-23) writes from Cobham:

"I've got the most topping post with two dear little boys, and their mother and I get on splendidly. Peter is 7 and Dick 3½. The house is rather in the middle of nowhere, but as we have two cars it doesn't matter, and both children love Oxshott woods which are just by. The garden is delightful, full of little ponds and streams, and a plunge where we bathe in the summer."

* * * * *

Edna Ellis (1917-21) writes from Lago Maggiore:

"Here's greeting to all for a splendid Whit., with brilliant weather, and everything which makes a Walden Whitsun so unique. A few hundred miles keep me from joining you but I shall think of you next week-end.

"I've been in Germany five months now and like it very much. Munich is a beautiful city in spite of Mr. Pearson's condemnation of its picture galleries.

"At present I am revelling in the beauties of Lago Maggiore. The family I am with in Germany came to visit friends here.

"I am told England has had weeks of fine weather. Here we have had very bad weather, with only a few hot Italian

days. The villa where we are staying is 1,170 feet above the sea and looks right on to the lake. It has long cool rooms and a great terraced garden. The azaleas and rhododendrons are over now, and everywhere are roses and honeysuckle.

" One day we went up the mountain behind us, and had a grand view over the end of the lake. Great was my excitement and delight at finding my very first gentian, and I came back armed with a great bunch of them."

* * * * *

Grace Porter (1916-21) writes from Pommern, Germany:

" I may not have distinguished myself in any way while at school, but relatives who have not seen me since I was a child are often astonished at the way I have developed, and I always say with pride, ' It's my School that has *made* me.' . . . My school career was certainly far from being a brilliant one, but it has at any rate given me a great desire for more knowledge and what is even more important, a wish to make my life, if possible, a useful one. . . .

" I am very happy here. The children are not exactly spoilt, but up to the present they have had a very old nurse who has done everything for them, and although the girl is 11 and the boy 7, they cannot so much as wash their own faces or dress themselves, and Nora at any rate has no wish to do so, which makes it rather uphill work. This is the first time I have been actually in charge and it is rather an undertaking as Frau C—— is fearfully particular about the children. While we were in Berlin I was hardly allowed to cross the road with them and you can have no idea how thankful I am that now I am considered responsible enough to be left with them. These first six months haven't been easy, but it makes a great difference now the children speak English fairly fluently and I understand German although I can't speak it at all well.

" We spent three and a half months in Berlin at the town house while Herr and Frau C—— went to South Africa. It was very nice being able to go to Meeting again, and I was

also able to get quite often to the International Students' Club which is held at the Quaker Centre. They have a Polish and a French Study Circle, a Musical evening and an English Debating Society. Last week they debated " That co-education is preferable to Unisexual Schools "—my suggestion, but unfortunately I wasn't able to be there and don't yet know the result.

" We spent Christmas here and had a very jolly time with lots of tobogganing. I was also able to learn to skate. . . .

" How I wish I could be with you for Whitsun. This will be the fourth I have spent abroad."

* * * * *

Grace Gibb (1918-24) writes from Westfield College :

" The term has been very full so far, especially last week with Banquet and Presentation. We seemed to live in a perpetual state of excitement. I do wish everyone could get a chance of going to College. It is all so thrilling and fine. . . . I am in residence this term, having a room in the new wing just opened."

* * * * *

Christel Lierau (1924-25) writes from Erfurt, Germany :

" How nasty to have so many people in the San. ! I hope they are all well now, chiefly the mistresses. The weather makes all the coughs and colds. I am now here in the midst of Germany, but it is colder still than in the North. If only it would be the summer, nice and warm ! I am thinking of a lot of tramps, having many relations and friends at Erfurt, Eisenach and Weimar. The Thuringer Forest is lovely. We shall have a great time if the weather will be fine. I am here now since the 1st of April. I like the library-work still more than in Frankfurt. The only thing I am afraid of is the exam. which must be done in one and a half years. . . . . Co-education is a subject which at last begins to interest the German Board of Education."

Hazel Welch (1917-22) writes from Bedford Physical Training College :

" I do wish I could come to Walden for the Whitsun week-end, but we don't get any holiday at all then. We took our final Massage examination last term, and so we are doing almost all practical work this term which is great fun. How is the swimming going at school ? This term I am working for the Amateur Swimming Advanced Teachers' Certificate."

WICKEN FEN, 1927.

THE title of this article will probably arouse pleasant memories in the minds of some old scholars of 1908-1909 and 1914. The excursion of 1908 led by Mr. Farren, the naturalist of Cambridge, stands out as a red letter day in the annals of the writer. The Natural History Society, boys only in those days, visited the fen by way of Ely and Soham, and under Mr. Farren's guidance obtained many specimens of the larvæ of rare lepidoptera.

The following year a visit was paid via Cambridge, and by launch up the Cam to Upware. Girls were included in the party for the first time and we had with us Mr. Fred Enoch, who in those days delighted the school with his wonderful photographs and drawings of insect life. Fred Enoch was one of the old school of field naturalists, trained at the Friends' Schools during the last half of the nineteenth century, whose work has left a tradition behind which we may well try to follow. In 1914 the walking party in East Anglia again visited the fen via Cambridge and Upware, walking thence to Ely.

Although I have personally visited the fen once or twice since then, the cost of transport has placed it outside the radius of the Natural History Society excursions until this year, when the society decided to pay a visit to the fen on June 18th.

A small fleet of five motors left the school at mid-day and reached Wicken via Newmarket and Soham by 1.30. Leaving the cars the party proceeded at once to the fens.

Wicken Sedge Fen, which with St. Edmund's Fen consists of nearly a square mile of country, lies to the south of the curved uplands of Wicken and is distant about eleven miles from Cambridge. Originally the fen must have been bounded on two sides by downs and must have stretched away to the south for some considerable distance over the country which is now known as Adventurer's Fen. Now it lies at some little elevation above the surrounding country being bounded by broad ditches which are retained by artificial dykes.

This elevation is probably due to the combined effects of turf cutting in the surrounding fens, formation of peat in the fen itself and shrinkage due to evaporation in its drained surroundings. The fen itself during most seasons of the year appears as a brown waste dotted with bushes which are apparently increasing in number; in some places, especially along the northern edges of the fen, they form dense masses of cover excluding all other vegetation. Elsewhere when not entirely absent, they are scattered and are usually small in size.

This area affords an almost unique example of the primitive flora that once extended over many square miles of country now drained and under the plough. In this sanctuary many rare and dwindling species of insects and birds find a home. In order to preserve them from extinction the fen has been acquired by the National Trust and will thus be preserved for the instruction and enjoyment of posterity. Each year portions are fenced off from the public and collecting rare specimens is strictly limited.

The dominant plant on the drier portions of the fen is the fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) and in the wet parts the reed (*Phragmites communis*). The bushes consist mainly of buckthorn, guelder rose, and sallow. Many other plants are present and on this occasion a list of seventy species was

obtained, which included the marsh fern (*Lastræa Thelypteris*), the yellow meadow rue (*Thalictrum flavum*), the marsh parsnip (*Peucedanum palustre*) upon which the larvæ of the swallow-tail butterfly feeds, the marsh orchid (*Orchis incarnata*) and the marsh vetchling (*Lathyrus palustris*). In the ditches many species of water plants were noted including the yellow iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*), the great water plaintain (*Alisma Plantago*), the arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*), the frogbit (*Hydrocharis Morsus-ranæ*) and the white and yellow waterlilies which were in full flower.

Wicken is famous as one of the few surviving haunts of the swallow-tail butterfly. Five specimens of this insect were seen on the wing but no larvæ were taken. The tortoiseshell, red admiral and brimstone butterflies were also seen and larvæ of the tortoise-shell, and of the drinker, oak egger and tiger moths were collected. Nests of the reed warbler, sedge warbler and reed bunting were also examined.

After visiting the fens the party walked along the dyke to Upware noting as they passed the wooden cowl windmill which pumps the water from the ditches surrounding the fen. At Upware a visit was paid to the south pit to examine the remains of a fossil coral reef. The Isle of Upware consists of a limestone ridge, rising about 20 feet above the surrounding fen land and extending for about three miles north of the village of Upware in a northerly direction. The lower beds consist of the coral rag which is composed of the remains of a coral reef of the Jurassic period. Some layers are composed entirely of masses of corals with the casts of shells, worm tubes and the tests and spines of sea urchins that lived among the corals. A pleasant half hour was spent in collecting and examining specimens of these fossils and exploring the swampy bed of the old pit for marsh and water plants.

Leaving Upware the party walked back to Wicken where a picnic tea had been prepared by two ladies who had remained behind for this purpose. Doughnuts, bread and butter, jam,

and cakes disappeared like magic and the party left Wicken at 6 p.m. arriving back at Walden after a most enjoyable and interesting excursion.

G. MORRIS.

AN INTRODUCTION—A MONTH'S OBSERVATION—A CONCLUSION.

IT so happens that last holidays was the first vernal breeding season I had spent in, or even near, the environments of an extensive area of wood, waste and marshland, on the farm which we have recently taken over in the district of Hadleigh, Essex. And in this essay I am going to make a short summary of some of the things I studied during the holidays. As I have already mentioned, the farm covers a good sized piece of land—roughly three thousand acres in all—and this is divided up into three different sections, namely, a thousand acres of cultivated and pastoral land, a thousand acres of marshland and a thousand acres of waste. It was on this area of land that I was able to make the following observations and take the accompanying photographs.

The birds with which I shall deal are nearly all aquatic birds; the reason being, chiefly, that the birds breeding on the marshes are far less molested by the "Bank Holiday East-Ender" tripper, or collector, who comes down literally as a thief, "to take the fresh air" *and* also to take every egg that he sees—consequently robbing the countryside of hundreds of birds. However, I will deal with this in the latter part of the essay. To return to the aquatic birds, let me take first the Redshank. I found, during the month I spent studying these birds, three different types of Redshanks' nests. The first one, the one shown, is situated in the ordinary marshland vegetation. In a slight tuft of grass, a mere "apology" has been scraped out and lined with finer grass and bents. Here the female laid

her full clutch, consisting of four eggs. She incubated these for a week and then, on the eighth day of close sitting by both birds, on my morning round I noticed she had only three eggs. My suspicions were aroused. Where could that egg have gone ? Any mammal would have emptied the nest ; the Cuckoo had not yet arrived ; the human being, ten to one, would not have found the nest ; for it had taken me a good two days' hard watching. When I visited the spot next day there were two eggs left, the day after, one. On looking round I found the three missing eggshells—they had been sucked ! The parents had naturally deserted the one remaining egg, though they had kept to two. I sat down and thought ; and after a time, a big, solitary, black bird came stealing across, with slow wing beats, evidently making a round-about way to the nest. Undoubtedly it would have made a meal of the last egg, had I not shown myself just in time to save the situation, and the crow turned its course and sought elsewhere.

In case of further emergencies my brother and I had made sure of getting a photograph of the nest and three eggs. We had no tripod or anything on which to rest the camera to focus it, so this is how we managed. One held and focussed the camera. This was done by stooping and resting elbows on knees. When in focus, the one had to hold it in the exact aforesaid position, while the other carefully closed the shutter, stopped down the aperture, set the exposure, took out the focussing screen and replaced it by the plate carrier, pulled the slide up and finally pressed the bulb. All this was done while the other stood in that perilous position, afraid even to breathe for fear of moving the camera nearer or farther away and so putting the whole nest out of focus.

I have said that I studied three different types of Redshanks' nests and I have described one. By a " different type " I mean that the nests vary according to the situation. Thus, the shank that built its nest in the formerly described vegetation lined its nest with dead grass (which is brown). The next



Photographs by] [*Geoffery H. Tawell*

CARRION CROW'S NEST
(see p. 59)

REDSHANK'S NEST
(see p. 56)

one I found, was in a part of the marshes which had recently been cultivated and laid down to beans (which are green) and the nest here was actually built in a row of beans, and was lined with a few pieces of straw and stubble, but mostly green sedges. The third type was in another part, adjoining the bean field, which was laid down to oats. The oats were barely two inches high and the nest was therefore practically on the bare ground. There was not even a " scrape-out " and the lining was so thin that I could actually count the pieces of material collected—three small pieces of twitch ! I will leave the reasoning of these facts to the reader. First imagine what a certain one of these three nests looks like, then compare it with the colour of the eggs and vegetation around, think why this should be and you can't help coming to the same conclusion that I have.

Although I have studied birds (including plovers) for seven years now, I had never seen a Green Plover's nest until last holidays, when curiously enough I found four of these nests in the course of three days. They, too, differed according to the situation. In the same bean field that I spoke of before I found three of the four nests. Each was built between two rows of growing beans. The nests were all exactly alike in structure, in each case having quite a thick foundation of stubble-like rush. In order to find these nests, I tried to follow out the usually given characteristics of the Plover, when nearing the nest. And it was in these four days that I was able to prove how terribly exaggerated and inaccurate many books on British birds are. I am sure that half the books that have been written have a bad error in the description of the activities of the Green Plover. They may mean alright, but, if so, they express themselves very indistinctly. For instance they say that when you are at the Plover's nest, whether intruding or not, the parent birds will wheel round your head, plaintively crying out and mocking you. To my mind they don't. When you are yards and yards away from the nest the male bird will rise, utter a few " pee-wits," circle round a certain place and

disappear—that's your first step towards finding its nest. Once in this circle, you hunt about until another bird gets up; but if you fail to mark the place where the second one rises with absolute accuracy you've little hope of finding the nest, for the second one is always the brooder. Then again don't take it that the brooder always shams lameness, or a broken wing, when leaving the nest; it does so rarely. In each case the female simply flew quietly up and circled anxiously round the spot. In a few seconds the cock bird reappeared, and they both flew silently around me as I approached the nest. When I was actually at the nest the birds knew there was nothing else to give away and so they weren't afraid to utter an occasional emphasised "pee-wit." So through the whole process of taking a photograph in the way described before, the parent birds were practically silent. The usual account is a bad error which, in the past, has been handed down, and handed down.

The Lapwing is a bird with great presence of mind, so it seems, for when you get quite near to the nest it suddenly becomes silent and remains so for the rest of your interview. Now if you take the eggs away with you, the birds will molest you and they will worry you whenever they see you after that. Another thing which is done to mislead you is that they build sham nests; sometimes one, at other times four or five. Of course the ordinary person takes it for granted, when the male lopes away from a sham nest, that the bird is building and so the trick comes off; but it so happened with me that I found three nests simply because I happened to come across a sham one. I went on looking and in a few seconds drove the female from the nest. This may seem a very simple way of finding a nest, but it most certainly is not always so, for one pair had constructed no less than half-a-dozen of these sham "scrape-outs" and placed them in nearly a complete circle. When I found all these nests I thought it was an absolutely sure clue, but nevertheless I never found the real nest, though I'm positive

that there was one. Evidently those nests were placed in that position for a definite purpose, but why, is a birdland problem.

Here I would like to advise other bird observers to try to find out by their own observation whether a thing is true, before taking for granted that what is said in any book is necessarily correct.

Next we will deal with the Carrion Crow. I spoke of what a long process it is to take a photograph of a nest on the ground, but that is comparatively easy. Imagine what it is like standing, hanging and sitting astride in various perilous positions, right at the top of a tremendous old elm tree, taking views of a Carrion Crow's nest. A Crow's nest is not an object you can focus in a camera about nine inches away—it is a huge massive structure of sticks (some over two feet long) combined together with smaller ones to make a substantial platform. Then a deep cup is formed and lined with soft bark and, in this case, red cow hair, with a piece or two of sheep's wool intermingled. The photo was taken with an ordinary Box Brownie, No. 2, with a portrait attachment, at about three feet distant. Although there were two of us up the tree, we found it extremely difficult to use more than one hand each at a time; thus we had two hands operating and the other two holding on for dear life.

Let me call my brother and myself A and B. While A strapped the camera to the trunk, B focussed it on the nest, stopped down the aperture and retreated. He now found himself standing directly in front of the sun, which would just shine nicely in the nest otherwise; so B had to find a foothold up another right-angled limb and by stretching from here he was just able to "snap it." We thought ourselves very lucky for having such a simple camera to work and more lucky still, when the positive turned out far above our expectations.

Practically everybody who has seen this photograph of the Carrion Crow's nest has asked me the same question—how does the Crow differ from the Rook?" There are three main differences. First the Crow may be distinguished by its

danger call. You all know that the danger call of the Rook is one hoarse " caw." The Crow's equivalent is " caw, caw."

So when you hear a double-barrelled " caw," you can be sure it is a Crow. Then the Rook has a beak which runs bare, bone coloured, to the base of the bill. The Crow, on the contrary, has a narrower black-brown beak. The third difference is that the Rook is gregarious, while the Crow is solitary in its habits.

(To be continued.)

Geoffrey H. Tawell
(Stage 4a).

SCHOOL DIARY.

Feb. 9th.—Football Match : 1st XI. *v.* Cambridge Friends, home, won, 3—2.

,, 10th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Diary : Bessie McGowan and Alan D. Furrell. Essays : " Opium," E. Dunstan ; " St. Osyth," Mollie French ; " Harmony," Ernest T. Farrell ; " Literature of the People," Joan Gundry ; Gramophone Selections : " Scheherezada." Two Songs by H. Williams ; " Molly on the Shore."

,, 12th.—Lantern Lecture : " Peasant Life in the Tatra," Mr. Morris.

,, 17th.—N.H.S. Mtg. Lantern Lecture : " Prehistoric Remains in Britanny," Mr. Morris.

,, 19th.—Football Match : Boys' XI. *v.* The Rangers, home, lost, 2—7.
Hockey Match : 2nd XI. *v.* Fowlmere Ladies, away, lost, 3—5.

,, 24th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Diary : K. Glaister. Essays : " The Evolution of Clocks and Watches," Alan Furrell ; " Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy," Norman Forward. Pianoforte Solos to illustrate the essay by N. Forward, J. R. Cuthbertson, A. Furrell. Essay : " Through a Kaleidoscope," Iris Harris. Pianoforte Solo : Handel's " Allemande," Alan Furrell.

Feb. 26th.—Football Match : 1st XI. *v.* R. Dobbin's XI., home, lost, 3—5.

March 3rd.—N.H.S. Mtg. Diary : Iris Harris and Molly Hodgett. Current Events Report : Bessie McGowan and E. Le Mare. Meteorological Report : D. Schove. Essays : "What I have collected," Bessie McGowan. "Weather Forecasting," D. Schove. Talk : "Bird Incidents," G. Tawell.

,, 5th.—Old Scholars' Lecture School Week-end.
Football Match : 1st XI. *v.* O.S., home, lost, 2—4.
Hockey Match : 1st XI. *v.* O.S., home, lost, 2—5.
Lantern lecture : "Six Centuries of Painting," Mr. Taylor.

,, 10th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Play reading : "All through Martha," Keble Howard.

,, 12th.—Lantern Lecture : "Sea Birds and Seals," Mr. C. J. King.

,, 17th.—N.H.S. Mtg. Meteorological Report, D. Schove. Current Events Report, Molly Hooper. Essays : "Moths," E. Burtt ; "The Sea Shore," K. Glaister.

,, 19th.—Peel Concert.

,, 24th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Diary : K. Glaister and Molly Hodgett. Essays : "Diaries," Hilda Jones ; "Sport," A. Goss ; "The Child and the Cinema," Molly Hodgett ; "Photography and the Criminal," K. Glaister. Gramophone Selections : "Rondo" by Dvorak ; "The Fire Scene" from Wagner's Valkyries, Caprice Viennois. Pianoforte Solo : "A Feast of Lanterns and Fireworks," Kameneff.

,, 26th.—Sports Day.

,, 28th.—Girls' Reading Club Mtg.

,, 30th.—Boys' Reading Club Rtg.

,, 31st.—Hockey Match : 1st XI. *v.* Saffron Walden, Ladies, home, lost, 0—1.

April 2nd.—Football Match : Boys' XI. *v.* The Rangers, home, drawn, 2—2.
Lantern Lecture : "In the Antarctic with Shackleton and Scott," Dr. Priestley.

,, 4th.—House Plays.

,, 6th.—Competition Concert.

,, 7th.—End of Spring Term.

May 5th.—Summer Term begins.

,, 7th.—Cricket Matches: 1st XI. *v.* North Essex Wanderers, home, lost, 55—59.
2nd XI. *v.* Cambridge County School 2nd XI., away, won, 77—65.

,, 12th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Diary: A. Goss. Essays: "Gains Manlius," Bessie McGowan; "Belgium," C. Hancock; "Games," Betty Milne; "Holy Week in Seville," Claude Hardy. Gramophone Selections: Sarasate's "Danse Espagnole" played by Heifetz; Intermezzo from "Cavallieria Rusticana"; "Schumann's Quintet in E flat Ma." Pianoforte Solo: "Poetic Tone Picture in E flat" by Grieg, Iris Harris.

,, 14th.—Cricket Match: 1st XI. *v.* Saffron Walden 2nd XI., home, won, 149—131.

,, 18th.—Cricket Match: Boys' 1st XI. *v.* Newport Grammar School, away, won, 147—90.

,, 19th.—H.N.S. Mtg. Meteorological Report: D. Schove. Talk: "Puys de Dôme," Mr. Morris. Business Mtg.

,, 21st.—H.N.S. Excursion to Debden Valley and Park in conjunction with the Essex Field Club.
Cricket Matches: Boys' XI. *v.* Harlow College, away, lost, 57—79.
Boys' 2nd XI. *v.* Cambridge County Schools 2nd XI., home, lost, 54—60 for 6 wkts.

,, 25th.—Cricket Match: 1st XI. *v.* R. Dobbin's XI., home, lost, 54—137.

,, 26th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Essays: "Man," Charles Kohler; "The Old Folks at Home," Barbara Sandwith; "Going for a Walk," E. R. Le Mare. General Knowledge Paper: Pianoforte Solo: "To the Spring," by Grieg, Mollie French.

,, 28th.—Cricket Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Cambridge County School, away, lost, 81—92.

June 1st.— Cricket Match: 1st XI. *v.* Bishop's Stortford Town, away, lost, 85—302 for 7 wkts.
Girls' Gymnastic Competition.

,, 2nd.—N.H.S. Mtg. Diary: Francina Close. Current Events Report, John O. Burtt. Meteorological Report, D. Schove. Report of Excursion with E.F.C., Hilda Jones. Essay: "Farming," Constance Bowtle.

June 4th.—Cricket Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Old Scholars' 2nd XI., home, drawn, 166 for 7 wkts—130 for 9 wkts.
Performance of "The Bishop's Candlesticks."

,, 6th.—Cricket Match: 1st XI. *v.* Old Scholars, home, lost, 76—124.
Presentation to Miss Norrington.

,, 9th.—Lit. Soc. Mtg. Diary: Clifford Hancock. Essays: "A Holiday in the Juras," Ruth Sandwith; "The Farmer's Year," Austen Tawell; "Motoring for Pleasure," Molly Trigg; "Holidays," Ivor Parley.

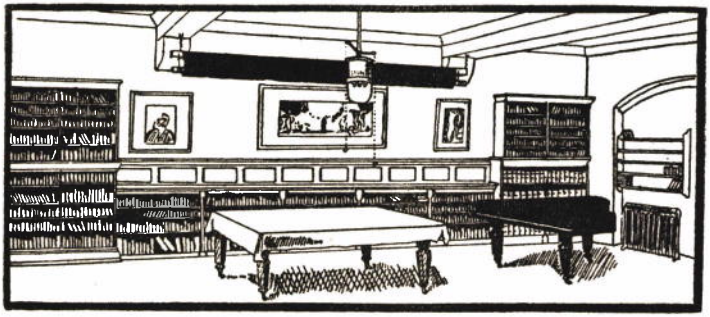
,, 11th.—General Meeting.

,, 14th.—Cricket Match: Boys' XI. *v.* Bishop's Stortford College 2nd XI., home, won, 166-84.
Tennis Match: Girls' VI. *v.* Perse Girls' School, away, lost 63—75 games.

,, 16th.—N.H.S. Mtg. Current Events Report: Marjorie Lee. Diary: J. P. Hearne and A. Phillips. Essays: "The Fens," P. G. Clarke; "Rare Zoo Inmates," Kenneth Smith. Talk on the Fens, Mr. Morris.

,, 18th.—N.H.S. Excursion to Wicken Fen.

,, 22nd.—Cricket Matches: Boys' XI. *v.* Harlow College, home, lost, 102—147 for 7 wkts.
Boys' 3rd XI. *v.* Newport Grammar School 3rd XI., home, won by an innings and 34 runs.
Tennis Match: Girls' XI. *v.* Saffron Walden Training College, home, won, 50—49 games.



NOTICES.

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

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

SCHOLARSHIPS.

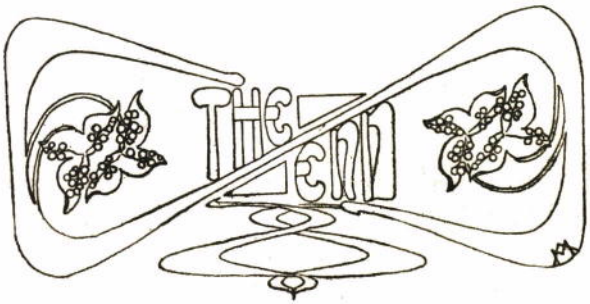
The following were adjudged by the School Committee to be of Scholarship standard :

1st, John O. Burtt ; 2nd, Ernest Farrell and Iris Harris ; 3rd, Elizabeth Milne, Kenneth Glaister, Mollie Hodgett.

From the funds at their disposal the Committee were able to award £50 a year for two years to John O. Burtt, and £50 a year for three years each to Ernest Farrell and Iris Harris.

SCHOOL MAGAZINES.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of *The Island* (Sidcot), *The Cupola* (Ackworth), *The Alfredian*, *St. Christopher Magazine*, *The Beckside* (Ayton), Stramongate School Magazine.



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