

1932



Eleventh Annual Speech Day, Wednesday November 9th 1932

Ald. G. Price, M.P., presided, and the prizes and certificates were distributed by Mrs. Nigel Leatham, a Governor of the school. An address was given by the Bishop of Wakefield (Dr. J.B. Seaton). On the platform were Mrs. Schorah, Captain L. Hallam (vice-chairman), Messrs. E. Nettleton, E. Ford, J. Dunleavy, W. Exley, and C. E. Jagger (governors), Mr. A. G. Jenkinson (headmaster), Miss M.A. Griffiths (senior mistress), and Mr. P. Crossland (second master). Others present included Mrs. Price, Mrs. Ford, Mr. J. Potts, Canon W.H.W. Williams (Rector of Hemsworth) and Mr. C. L. Crossley (Clerk to the Governors).

The Sinister Circular

The Chairman said it was just over 11 years since the School was opened, and it had fully justified its existence. The extensions were now completed. That the School continued to make very satisfactory progress was borne out by the results of the School Certificate and other examinations. The thanks of the Governors and parents were due to the Headmaster and staff for securing such satisfactory results. Many of them were concerned about the suggested changes in educational policy. A circular (1421) had been issued by the Board of Education which suggested further reductions in expenditure, and restrictions on secondary and elementary education. There were 74 free secondary schools in the country with about 29,000 pupils. Fees would be charged for these, and the Board said they would hesitate to approve a fee of less than nine guineas. In other secondary schools there were 200,000 free places, but these would no longer be free unless the parents satisfied a means test. An increase in fees would be demanded in respect of at least 100,000 pupils in 1,128 schools. These schools met the needs of less well-to-do people. He assured the parents that the Governors would resist any attempt to reduce the activities of secondary schools and the opportunities of children who came from poor homes.

Headmaster's Report

An Important Milestone

In his annual report the Headmaster said the past year was an important milestone on the road of the school's progress, for it had witnessed the completion of the school buildings as far as the present scheme was concerned. Since the opening of the school in 1921 the accommodation had been inadequate, and though there must still be at least three forms which had no fixed classroom, the additional rooms which had now been built provided adequate accommodation and included special rooms for art, botany and geography. A room in the old building had been fitted up as a comfortable library, and this supplied a long felt want. The library contained some 1,562 books, and it was intended to add to them every year. He suggested that every boy and girl who left the school should present a book, to be chosen after consultation with the librarian, as a help to the library, and as a mark of appreciation of such benefits as they felt they had received from their career at school.

Careers

Sixty two pupils left the school during last year, and there were 91 new entrants this year, of whom 62 were County Minor scholars, and 29 fee-payers; the present number of pupils was 422. Of those who left last July, eight had proceeded to universities and training colleges, seven were teaching temporarily before going to a training college, seven had been apprenticed to shops or trades, three were being trained for nursing, seven had entered offices as clerks, one had entered the Royal Air Force, one had taken up domestic service, one banking, four had left the district, one had left through illness, and two were at home or their employment was not known. "As I have pointed out on previous occasions," continued the headmaster, "we have a master and mistress on the staff, Mr. Austin and Miss Shortridge, who have much information concerning future careers at their disposal, and who are anxious to help parents in any way they can. But I would impress upon parents the necessity of consulting them early so that any possible opportunity may not be missed. Only the other day a boy came to me about entrance to the R.A.F., and I had to tell him that he was too old. Teaching as a career is likely to become more restricted because of the increased difficulty in obtaining admission to a training college and the already crowded state of the market. With a revival of trade and industry we hope that more avenues of employment will be opened out for those leaving secondary schools. It is more particularly cheering to me, therefore, in these difficult times, to report the success of two boys in obtaining West Riding Technological Scholarships, which will enable them to take a course at Leeds University for an engineering degree, and eventually enter the engineering profession." The two boys were J. Marlow and C. Newby. The headmaster mentioned that the alternative courses which were started three years ago with the approval of the Director of Education had been very well justified. In the recent School Certificate examination, of the 25 pupils in the arts form, where languages were the special feature, not only did everyone pass in Latin and French, but all except one obtained credits in Latin and all except five obtained credits in French. Of 14 boys in the science form who took mechanical engineering, which was the special feature of this course, all passed, two with distinctions, and of thirteen pupils of the commercial class all passed in commercial subjects. The general results of the examinations were satisfactory and up to the normal standard. Fifteen candidates took Higher School Certificate examination and 12 passed, 71 candidates took the School Certificate examination, and 53 obtained certificates; of these 15 matriculated. In the Royal Society of Arts examinations, one candidate passed in shorthand at 100 words per minute, three at 80, four at 60, and three failed. In book-keeping (elementary) eight out of 12 passed, one with credit.

Successes of past pupils:

History Degree obtained by Walter H. Wright at Leeds University,

English Degree by Kathleen Jagger at Manchester University,

Science Degree by Olive Tooth at Manchester University,

A Royal Scholarship for Art at South Kensington awarded to J. Leslie Jago. Only ten such scholarships for the whole country were awarded, so that Jago's success was a notable achievement, the foundation of which was laid at the Hemsworth School.

In games and sport the school continued to maintain a high standard, although owing to financial difficulties they had had to curtail their activities in some respects. Great advance had been made in swimming. In other departments of recreation the school had done well, and although dramatic performances had to be dropped last year it was hoped to resume them this term with a production of Barrie's "Quality Street" and a production by the staff would probably follow next term.

Governors and Staff

After stating that the staff had undergone some changes, the headmaster tendered thanks to Miss Griffiths (headmistress) and Mr. Crossland (assistant master) and every member of the staff for another year of loyal service and ungrudging support. "As the school grows more extensive," he proceeded, "discipline does not become easier, and it is only the watchfulness and promptitude of every member of my staff that good order is maintained. To all parents I tender my thanks for their confidence in me and their interest in the school, and I can assure them that they will always find me ready to give them any help I can. To the chairman of the Governors I take this opportunity of offering the school's congratulations on his election as Member of Parliament for the Hemsworth Division and our best wishes for his successful career. I can certainly say that if he serves the nation as well as he has served this school the House of Commons will be the richer for his presence in it. Unfortunately he cannot now devote so much of his time to his duties as chairman of the Governors of this school, and we are very fortunate in having so able a vice-chairman as Capt. Hallam to officiate in his absence. I am most grateful to him and to all the Governors for their sympathetic and ready support. In spite of present difficulties and anxieties I hope and believe that this school, now fully equipped up to an accommodation of 450, will continue to supply the educational needs of this district in an adequate manner, and that it will endeavour to uphold the best traditions of English education. What is of real importance in a school is its personality. Every school must have its own individual personality, and this maxim applies to schools whether they are 500 or 50 or 5 years old. Any new school may rapidly make its mark if it has a good personality, acquired by means of good traditions. It has been my endeavour during the short history of this school to achieve this end, and I shall continue to use every endeavour to achieve it."

The prizes were distributed by Mrs. Nigel Leatham, who was presented with a bouquet by Hilda Paley, head girl of the School.

The Bishop's Boyhood

The Bishop of Wakefield said that in going about the diocese he had been impressed by the wonderful growth of secondary schools, which afforded a high road to education for boys and girls of all classes. He was surprised to hear the headmaster say that the difficulties of discipline tended to increase as the School grew, for he had been astonished by the behaviour of the children who attended prize giving. When he was a boy their behaviour was a little more riotous. (Laughter) He was glad of the opportunity of visiting the School for many reasons, one of which was that he met many of the children in places which he visited for other purposes. In these days he was always haunted by the difficulty the scholars would have when they left school to find openings in which they could use the education they had acquired. He was glad to know that at Hemsworth they had specialists on the staff who tried to find openings for the scholars as they left school. He hoped a change for the better would come quickly. When he was a boy of 12, everything came crashing around him, and he was left with the narrowest means. If it was possible for one boy to make progress it was possible for others.

"Persons"

What did they think the School was for? They attended it to get information, but accumulated information was accumulated rubbish unless it was harnessed to some worthy purpose. They were at school to get the beginnings of technical knowledge which would fit them to take their place in life and earn their living. But there was something deeper. The School was really to

make character. That was a process which began in the home and was carried on in the School. They were a collection of individuals, but they were not yet "persons." The whole object of life was to make individuals into personalities. This could only be done by fellowship and contact. That was one of the great virtues of a school, for frank interchange of opinions between boys and girls was all to the good. It was in that way that they had their corners rounded and shaped and were built to take the buffets of life. But to make them real persons was only possible by reaching to an ideal. At the school they were guided to the appreciation of literature. They were well guided, for there were many books which only put the sordid part of life in front of them. There was another way in which the ideal was put before them - contact with good example. They who were older knew the influence of a good, sympathetic and wise teacher. They could only grow into what they were meant to be by keeping themselves in touch with what was true, beautiful and good. That was why religion must always be the spirit and basis of any kind of true education.

Boys and girls had a vague hope and vision of some way in which their lives might be used for the good of the world and the betterment of their fellows. "If you have ever had a dream of that sort, cling to it," One of the romances of life was the way in which early visions were fulfilled.

A vote of thanks was moved by Captain L. Hallam. Mrs. Schorah seconded.

A book was presented to the Bishop by the headmaster.

A musical programme was given by the school choir, songs by Miss P.E.M. Wright, and violin selections by Eva Harris, Eric Nuttall and Pattison. Miss Wright was the conductor, and Miss M. Agnew and Kathleen Perry accompanists. A French play was also given by George Elvidge, H. Shelley, Fred Smith, George Wainwright, Ernest Pointon and W. Cauldwell, and another play entitled "The Rehearsal," by W. Metcalfe, H. Hardy, F. Fullwood, H. Mason, Albert Fox, Ernest Mellars, J. Brown, A. Kitchen, Gordon Pratt, G. Crapper and Norman Julian.

The Prize List

The chief prizes presented were:

County Technological Scholarships: J. Marlow and C. Newby;

Distinction in School Certificate: Colin Hart, Richard Leeming, Kenneth Goodall, Henry Hackforth, Bernard. Allison, Laura Austin,

Form Prizes: Kathleen Perry, Henry Hackforth, Alice Hinchcliffe, D. Hall, Eric Ineson. Eric S. Whittle, Gordon Hopkinson, Ernest Pointon, V. Parkinson, Margaret Cunningham, Phyllis Blacknall, A. Evans, Mary Ineson;

Needlework Prize: Doris Hainsworth;

General Information: Ernest H. Wright;

Star Prizes: Phyllis Blacknall, Ernest Pointon;

Special Prizes for Head Girl and Boy of the School: Phyllis Stoker, Alec Ramsden;

General Progress: Hannah E. Field, Vera Bancroft, W. H. Shelley, J. Watson.

House Challenge Cup: 1. Talbot - 1,301 points; 2, Holgate, - 912 $\frac{1}{2}$ points; 3, Guest - 804 $\frac{1}{2}$ points; 4, Price - 797 points.