

Speech Day 1945

Hemsworth Speech Day Announcement. - The Grammar School is to have a War Memorial

Nineteen former students of Hemsworth Grammar School lost their lives on active service in the war, and a silent tribute was paid to them at the 24th Annual Speech Day at the Hemsworth Hippodrome on Wednesday. The Headmaster (Mr. R. W. Hamilton) announced that a memorial was to be installed at the school, not only to those who had been killed but to all who had served in the war. He asked parents and friends to let him have the names, addresses, and regiments of old students who had served in the Forces. Ald. A. Flavell, J.P., Chairman of the Governors, presided.

Savings Achievements

The Chairman congratulated the students and staff on their splendid achievement in raising over £2,000 in Thanksgiving Week, and said the school had played a great part in the war, in which it had been greatly affected. There had been many staff changes, and thanks were due to the Headmaster and the teachers for making the apparently impossible possible by their concentrated efforts. The school had done much to raise the cultural life of the surrounding districts, and its influence must have been felt in this and other countries in which students had dwelled. They could be proud that other students were holding posts of trust and responsibility in many parts of the world.

During the last 25 years, concluded the Chairman, the gap between the public school and grammar school had been considerably narrowed. Many of the important posts in professions and industry, which were formerly held by former public school boys were now held with distinction by former students of grammar and technical schools. Many of these people were from working class families, and educationalists must see that this progressive educational clock was not put back. There would be keen competition for the world's markets in the near future, and it was up to the people to see that as far as education was concerned they would not be behind in the race. The Government and educational authorities should give further encouragement and assistance to the universities, the accommodation of which must be increased so that they could receive more students. Provision must be made for more university trained personnel if England were to be successful in the world of the future.

Record Roll

The headmaster stated in his annual report that 93 pupils left during the year and 127 were admitted in September, making a new record total of 624. The school could have had another 100 but had no room for them. Five members of the staff left at the end of the school year, and Mr. W. L. Austin, the senior mathematics master, who decided to retire, had volunteered to stay on until a successor was appointed. Mr. Austin had given loyal service to the school in the 21 years he had been on the staff and was known, respected, and almost loved by every pupil who had ever been there. New members of the staff were Misses Shaw, Whitworth, Thompson, Stott, Mrs. Leigh and Mr. Foy.

Mr. Hamilton said that considering the unsettled conditions of the last few years, the examination results had been surprisingly good. Ten candidates passed the Higher School Certificate and 53 the School Certificate. 5 boys had won valuable scholarships. J. D. Storer and P. North won State Science bursaries, J. Bailey, a Senior Technological Scholarship, B. Cooke, a County Art Scholarship, and D. Ineson a County Music Scholarship.

Though the classroom work had gone on magnificently, activities in the other direction had suffered a slight curtailment. One or two societies had fallen away, but on the whole they had maintained a high standard of cultural activities.

The headmaster thanked the staff, particularly mentioning Miss Shortridge (Senior Mistress) and Mr. Crossland (Senior Master). The interpretation of the new Education Act was making their work more difficult, and if only they could believe that the new regulations would benefit the pupils they would be much happier. He also paid a tribute to the Chairman for his help during the past twelve months, in which there had been no meetings of the Governors.

"At the end of my last report," he concluded, "I expressed the wish that this year I would have good progress to report, despite the difficulties and handicaps we then saw ahead of us. I hope you are convinced that we are rising to the challenge, and that at Hemsworth you have a school as good as any grammar school in the country."

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Swift, wife of Professor H. Swift of the Department of Engineering, Sheffield University.

Purpose of Education

Professor Swift told the pupils that the main purpose of education was not to win prizes or pass examinations, but to prepare them to take a place in the world in the future. It was not only to prepare them for a particular job. It was true that the man who was master of his craft or profession had the satisfaction than one unsuited to it, but if each one of them was efficient at his job and nothing else it would be an unsociable and uninspiring world. In order that they might get the best out of life other things were necessary. They should realise not one of them was self-sufficient. They depended more on the work of other people than on their own work. They depended on other people not only for the necessities of life, but for their means of enjoyment. That enjoyment would be greater and their lives enriched if they learned to take pleasure in good and beautiful work, which had been done by themselves, not other people.

If he were asked what were the advantages of a grammar school education, said Professor Swift, he would point to four:

1. In the first place it was essential for those who were going in for what was called the better careers or going for a career at all. Even for ordinary industrial kinds of occupations which at one time were looked upon as manual labour are regarded today more as a matter of technical knowledge.
2. The second point was that it made them adaptable and therefore less sensitive to the inevitable changes which were going to take place in their lifetime, which gave them a feeling of security, independence and self-respect.
3. The third point was that it gave them an increased power to enjoy the amenities of life which cost little but were worth so much, such as books, music, pictures and the theatre.
4. Finally, it enabled them to be able to see the point of view of other people, which widened their sympathies and gave them a sense of mutual help and esteem.

Professor Swift said examinations were useful for three reasons.

1. For some purposes it was necessary to have some definite proof of their knowledge and attainments that could be accepted all over the country, and nobody had yet devised another scheme.
2. The second point was that young people could not be expected to work continuously through their school days in the pious hope that they might be able to reap something in 20 years' time. They wanted something on a shorter basis, and they had a natural competitive spirit. The examination took advantage of the competitive spirit and provided a continuous stimulus to effort.
3. The third point was that examinations enabled them to show their ability to rise to an occasion.

There were other qualities and virtues which examinations did not show - courage, loyalty, helpfulness, sense of humour, and an ability to work together in a team. Those qualities were so important that it was becoming the custom of prospective employers not only to take reasonable account of examination results but to rely on the reports given by the headmaster.

Professor Swift concluded by saying he was impressed with the number of pupils at Hemsworth who stayed on to take the Higher School Certificate. The two years spent in the sixth form were the most important, for the students developed a sense of responsibility, personality and powers of leadership which were necessary in industry, commerce or the professions.

Professor and Mrs. Swift were thanked by the Rev. A. E. Duckett and Mrs. Guest.

A musical programme was given by the boys and girls choirs, under the direction of Miss J. Carter, with Joan Maw and D. Hardy as accompanist.

Awards

Higher School Certificate

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| R. F. Callaghan | |
| Frances Hemingway | A.G.Jenkinson prize for Latin |
| Cynthia M. Hemingway | Prize for Head Girl |
| A.A. Jagger | |
| Jean E. M. Maw | M. A. Griffiths prize for French |
| Iris Ventom | |
| J. I. Bailey | Prize for Senior Technological Scholarship |
| R. P. Brookes | |
| P. North | State Bursary in Science County Major Scholarship, distinction in Chemistry |
| J. D. Storer | State Bursary in Science, County Major Scholarship |

Higher School Part Certificate

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| D. Ineson | |
| Nellie E. Smart | Music Scholarship |
| Leslie M. Tate | Prize for Head Boy |
| Dorothy A. Wass | |
| A. Atkinson | |
| R. L. Batty | |
| Barry Cooke | West Riding Scholarship in Art, Senior Prize for Reading |
| D. H. Fox | |
| J. C. P. Hale | |
| Joyce A. Burton | |
| Brenda M. Kirkham | |
| Marion O. Lakin | |
| S. Clarke | Senior Boys Medal for P.T. |
| F. Noble | |
| K. R P. Trueman | Kubo Art Medal |
| G. Rogers | |
| Mary B. Griffiths | |
| Betty Hill | |
| Dorothy Marks | |
| Olive Mellor | |
| Brenda Swinbank | Senior Girls Medal for P.T. |
| Viva Wyatt | |
| B. Clatworthy | |
| A. Harrison | |
| Louise Bowden-Hunter | |
| Jean Goodall | |
| Madge Green | |
| Mary Halsall | |
| Gwendoline Haywood | |
| Shirley Price | |
| Patricia Rowley | |
| Phyllis M. Wilson | |
| Jean Axe | Distinction in Biology |
| F. Buckley | Distinction in Geography |

School Certificates

5A

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| M. Craven | |
| G. Davies | |
| A. G. Downes | Distinction in History |
| Ivy Foster | R.S.A., Shorthand Certificate 60 w.p.m., and First Aid Certificate |
| Doris M. Gaskell | Distinction in History, French, Domestic Science, Biology and Commercial Subjects, R.S.A. Shorthand Certificate 80 w.p.m |
| Lilias Hall | Distinction in History, French, Domestic Science, Guest Prize for Domestic Science |
| A. Hall | |
| Buddug Hughes | First Aid Certificate |
| C. Kaye | Distinction in History |
| Dorothy Kirk | |
| Betty Laughton | |
| Iris Reynolds | Distinction in English Language |
| Rosina Richardson | |
| P. Trueman | Kubo Art Medal |
| Betty Winham | Distinction in French and Biology |
| Valerie Woodall | Distinction in English Language |

5B

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| W. Bates | First Aid Certificate |
| D. Birkin | R.S.A. Shorthand Certificate 60 w.p.m., First Aid Certificate |
| J. Butt | Distinction in History, French, Geography, Latin |
| Muriel Common | R.S.A. Shorthand Certificate 60 w.p.m. |
| Irene Croft | |
| Sybil Eyre | |
| Bessie Findler | Distinction in French |
| Winifred Griffiths | Distinction in French |
| Edwina P. Hipkins | Distinction in Domestic Science, R.S.A. Shorthand Certificate 60 w.p.m. |
| A. Hudson | First Aid Certificate |
| Miriam Jefferson | |
| Ralph Miles | Distinction in History, French, Latin, Col Hallam's Prize for Latin, First Aid Certificate |
| June M. Nash | Distinction in History, French, Latin |
| Leonard Parkin | Distinction in English Literature and French, First Aid Certificate |
| Joan Pinkney | Distinction in History |
| Sylvia Powell | |
| Pauline Riggott | Distinction in History, French, Biology |
| Ivy Simpson | |
| Marian Trickett | Distinction in Biology, R.S.A. Shorthand Certificate 60 w.p.m. |
| Margaret Wilcock | Distinction in French |

5C

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Jean Allen | Distinction in French, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Domestic Science |
| Keith Ardron | Distinction in Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Mechanical Science |
| Veronica Bate | First Aid Certificate |
| Muriel Farmery | |
| G. Goodall | Distinction in History, First Aid Certificate |
| Betty Johnson | Distinction in Domestic Science, First Aid Certificate |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| J. Linstead, | Distinction in Mathematics, Chemistry, Domestic Science, First Aid Certificate, Guest prize for Cookery |
| Margaret Medforth | Distinction in English Literature, History, Chemistry, First Aid Certificate |
| N. Morris | |
| G. H. Pacy, | |
| Betty Robinson | Distinction in Mathematics, First Aid Certificate |
| Georgina Smart | First Aid Certificate |
| H. Ventom | Distinction in Mechanical Science |
| P. Waller | Distinction in Mathematics and Chemistry |

Form Prizes

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1a, Winifred Fisher | 1b, Sam Brian Hughes | 1c, Maurice Bird | |
| 2a, S. Boulton | 2b, J. W. Wilkinson | 2c, Cynthia Stanney | 2d, R. Barrett |
| 3a, A. Womersley | 3b, Brian Beaumont | 3c, B. Kaye | 3d, D. Thompson |
| 4a, Laura Eyre | 4b, Elizabeth Storer | 4c, D. Anderson (Star Prize) | |
| 5a, Doris M. Gaskell | 5b, J. Butt; | 5c, Jean Allen | |

Other Awards

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Jack McGillivray | General Progress Prize |
| Thelma Robinson | Junior Prize for Reading |
| Clarissa Bray | First Aid Certificate |
| Brenda Fletcher | First Aid Certificate |
| Clara Chambers | R. S. A. Shorthand Certificate 50 w.p.m. |
| Eileen Race | R.S.A. Shorthand Certificate 50 w.p.m. |
| B. Blakemore | Senior Boys Medal for P.T. |
| Derek Wilkinson | Junior Boys Medal for P.T. |
| Amy Hepton | Junior Girls Medal for P.T. |