

SCHOOL NOTES

Two events must mark this school year as one somewhat out of the ordinary. In the first place we now have our own Board of Governors.

They are :

ALDERMAN R. S. EVANS (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR R. MORTON MITCHELL.

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. T. McCONNELL.

ALDERMAN RICHARD PRIOR.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR H. H. GODWIN MONCK.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. SOALL.

DR. E. C. BATHO, M.A.

MR. W. GARDNER HENDRY, F.R.C.S.

MR. H. A. T. SIMMONDS, O.B.E., M.A.

Secondly, we heard early on in the school year that we were due for a full dress inspection by H. M. Inspectors in the Spring Term. We were quite familiar before the actual week arrived with Mr. Adams who led the group, for he had been in and out of the school on many occasions. As usual at such times we approached the ordeal with mixed feelings, but when the long-awaited report finally arrived there was sufficient commendation to make us feel that the Minchenden tradition was being well maintained.

The close of the year saw several Staff changes. Mr. Wilks and Mr. Frost both left the English department for posts of greater responsibility. Mr. Bennett has joined the Trent Park Training College Staff and Mr. Cresluk has gone to a school in Blackheath.

We welcome Miss Redman and Mr. Whittaker to the English staff and Miss Harrison, temporarily, to teach Chemistry. Mr. Bennett's successor, Mr. Hart is expected to join us in January.

Miss Temple's illness left the girls without any P.T. or gymnastics in the summer term but very valiant service was rendered by those mistresses who assist her with games and our thanks are due to them for extra work undertaken so willingly. We are sorry to know Miss Temple is not yet well enough to return but we are fortunate in having the services of Miss Hirst for the beginning of the new school year.

We offer our sincere sympathy to those of our number who have been bereaved during the year.

We had four students in training with us during the year. Miss Lawrence (Music), Miss Harrison (Science), Miss Hutchings (English) and Mr. Findlay (Mathematics). We hope they found their time with us profitable and we wish them well in the future.

We had news during the year of the marriage of a former student of geography Miss Fitches who was teaching at Spalding. The headmistress of that school, Mrs. Driver (*née* Ouseley), was formerly on the Staff at Minchenden.

We enjoyed having three assistants for modern languages during the year and hope the school's fluency in French, German and Spanish improved as a result of their efforts. This year we welcome *Senorita Claveria* (Spanish) and *Herr Ratajczyk* (German). We regret we have no "assistante" for French.

Our School Secretary, Mrs. Howard, left us early in the year on moving to Norwich. We are very pleased to welcome Miss Gooding, an Old Minchendenian in her place.

It was with great pleasure that we learnt that Philip Message had been elected to a Fellowship at Caius College and awarded a Fulbright Scholarship enabling him to lecture at Yale University for a short period.

School parties visiting the British Museum met another Old Minchendenian Dr. John Kent, now Assistant keeper of Numismatics. He is also Director of the Enfield Archaeological Society to which one or two of our Sixth Formers belong.

At the beginning of the year Edmund Jephcott won an open Exhibition in Modern Languages to Queen's College and later Martin Dunwoody was awarded a scholarship in Mathematics at Manchester University.

There were notable successes in the G.C.E. and we congratulate Jennifer Clarke, Alan Weyman, Ludwig Celnikier and Martin Dunwoody on the award of State Scholarships. Sheila Pratt was placed on the reserve list.

Exchange holidays of three and a half weeks were arranged for ten boys and ten girls in Paris and its surroundings at Easter. In addition one girl went to Aix, one boy to Brittany and two to the district of Lyons. One or two other families offered hospitality to girls and boys from France.

A new venture for boys was the mountaineering course at Easter arranged by Mr. Carver. It proved very popular and is likely to be repeated this year with even larger numbers.

A severe blizzard brought down another of our beech trees and did some damage to the Canteen roof. It was fortunate that the School was not in session when it happened.

The Gardening Club continues its valiant efforts to make the approach to the school more attractive and their efforts were rewarded by a fine display of bulbs in the Spring and a gay profusion of other flowers in the Summer.

In conclusion we must express our thanks to Mr. Hilton and his assistants who labour to keep the school warm and clean. This is often a thankless task, their efforts being thwarted by careless people who leave doors open and scatter litter indiscriminately.

Mrs. Ford and the Canteen Staff also deserve our thanks, not merely for their regular task of satisfying the inner man each day, but for the extra work put upon them at times for out of school activities.

K.E.N.