



· SIBFORD ·



OLD · SCHOLARS' ·
· ASSOCIATION ·

20TH
ANNUAL
REPORT
1925

"YE MENNE OF SHEEP-FORD WENDATH
WHITHERSOEVER THEY WILEN."



FRANK LASCELLES,
President of the S.O.S.A.,
1924-25.

Sibford Old Scholars' Association.



TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.



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EDITORIAL.

SINCE the publication of the last Annual Report the Editorship has it is hoped that the present issue will "uplift, edify and comfort."

There are several slight variations in this Report as compared with that of last year. The account of Re-union is given in the "plain statement of facts" style, which we trust will enable Old Scholars who were not with us at the gathering, to follow our movements. In addition to the usual articles and reports, we also publish an account of the activities of Frank Lascelles as a Pageant Master. This article should prove to be of unusual interest to our "readers" as F.L., in addition to being one of our most distinguished Old Scholars, was born in Sibford, and is, therefore, a thoroughbred Sibfordian. At the request of a number of our members we publish with this issue a summary of Past v. Present cricket matches, while for the benefit of those who have joined the Association during the last two or three years the Rules of the S.O.S.A. are printed in this Report. Owing to lack of space and partly because it is unnecessary, we are not publishing an up-to-date list of members and only the names and addresses of New Members are given.

We regret being unable to reproduce the group photograph taken on Whit-Monday, but to compensate for this, another very suitable photograph is substituted.

With regard to the cannot be too strongly emphasised that if each report is to be an improvement on the last, considerable assistance must be given. Old Scholars who have criticisms to make or articles to offer should forward them to the Secretary. We feel the need for a few brilliant suggestions.

Now a word about subscriptions. It is always at this time of the year that the Treasurer becomes a source of annoyance to everyone, and as we go to Press he is complaining that there are a large number of subscriptions overdue, and that he will be pleased to receive your money. It was stated in last year's report that there was a time when editors were not worried with financial details; but the forgetfulness on the part of many people to pay subscriptions is, apparently, an old complaint, for is it not written in the Book of Daniel—"Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." May we appeal, therefore, to those who have not paid their subs. to do so forthwith.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

President for the Year 1925-26 :

MARGARET H. BRADY, B.A., M.B., B.S.

Past Presidents :

1904	JOSEPH SPENCE HODGSON.	1912-13	ARTHUR B. ODDIE.
1904-05	DR. RICHARD L. ROUTH.	1913-14	LUCY S. LAMB.
1905-06	MICHAEL T. GRAVESON, J.P.	1914-16	JAMES T. HARROD, B.A.
1906-07	ROBERT B. ODDIE.	1916-19	ELIZABETH F. BROWN.
1907-08	JOSEPH S. K. PARSEY.	1919-20	THOMAS JACKSON.
1908-09	ELIZABETH M. ODDIE.	1920-22	MABEL T. HARROD, B.A.
1909-10	EDWARD P. KAYE, M.Sc.	1922-23	FRANK W. SNOW.
1910-11	CHARLES E. BRADY.	1923-24	ETHEL M. SHARP.
1911-12	ETHEL M. HARRISSON.	1924-25	FRANK LASCELLES.

Honorary Secretary :

FREDERICK E. GOUDGE, 3, Brewster Road, Leyton, London, E.10.

Honorary Treasurer :

HENRY J. RANDALL, The Mount, College Road, Hoddesdon, Herts.

Local Secretaries :

MABEL T. HARROD and JANE SABIN.
Sibford Ferris, near Banbury.

Branch Secretaries :

Birmingham—GORDON A. WELLS, 466, Moseley Road, Birmingham.
London—HENRY LAWRENCE, 186, Addison Way, Golders Green, N.W.

Committee (in addition to above ex-officio Members) :

ARNOLD J. KAYE.	GEORGE F. LAW.
MARJORIE BIRKETT.	L. WINIFRED JOHNSON.
ALEXANDER F. NORMAN.	IRENE MAYO-SMITH.

Representative on the School Committee :

HENRY J. RANDALL.

Honorary Auditor :

ARTHUR B. ODDIE.

THE WHITSUNTIDE GATHERING.

AT last the great day arrived—May 31st—and it was hard to wait for the time for the train to take us to Banbury, en route for the event of the year—Old Scholars' Gathering at Sibford. At last the motors leave Banbury—a quicker and breezier way of locomotion than which we enjoyed when our Association was born 21 years ago! How delightful the country looked, and as each well-remembered bend in the road brought us nearer our objective, so our spirits rose. The stormy Friday night had filled us with some apprehension about the weather, but we drove into Sibford in glorious sunshine, which promised to continue over the week-end. The cordiality of the welcome we received recalled happy memories, both of childhood as scholars in the school, and later as "Old Scholars," and one could not help remembering the words of the chorus of our first "Re-union Song":—

"Old Scholars may you bring to memory everything
That happened years and years ago,
When free from every care, you breathed the Sibford air,
Eager out into the world to go."

(By surely they ought to be recorded in the archives of the Association!) Our two energetic and ever-cheerful local secretaries were at once bombarded with the query, "Where am I lodging?" and soon we were all off to our various quarters, to return presently for the appetising lunch that awaited us. To those who had not been to a re-union for some years it was a real delight again to sit in the familiar dining-room and be waited on so cheerfully by the present scholars, and to greet old friends like Mrs. Woolgrove. Throughout the whole week-end the catering was perfect, and much time and thoughtful planning must have been given on the part of our friend Miss Thorne and her helpers in supplying our needs and catering for such a fluctuating number. We hope they all realise how much we appreciated everything.

Our honoured President came and welcome us to Sibford. To most of us his name was familiar, and it was good to meet him personally on such friendly terms.

After lunch the Annual Cricket Match of Past v. Present Scholars was played with customary zeal and watched with keenness and appropriately applauded. The School won the toss and decided to bat, but apart from Roland Herbert, gave a poor display, being dismissed for the low score of 46. The Old Scholars fared even worse, as, with the exception of Eric

Quinton, the earlier batsmen failed completely, and with seven wickets down for 35 the game became really exciting. However, some vigorous hitting by the last three batsmen decided the issue, and we won by 22 runs, thanks largely to a brilliant, all-round display by Eric Quinton. Full scores:—

PRESENT.		PAST.	
J. W. Thorpe, run out ...	9	E. Quinton, b. Herbert ...	30
R. Herbert, c. Thomas, b. Norman ...	15	C. Brady, b. Thorpe ...	0
F. Parkin, b. Quinton ...	8	H. Randall, b. Thorpe ...	0
H. Quinton, b. Randall ...	1	G. Law, run out ...	2
H. Poulton, b. Randall ...	1	R. Barber, b. Thorpe ...	1
R. Geering, c. Norman, b. Barber ...	4	A. Norman, c. Thorpe, b. Parkin ...	0
T. Brown, run out ...	2	L. Poulton, b. Thorpe ...	8
S. Morrish, b. Norman ...	0	F. Goudge, b. Herbert ...	0
F. Sheldon, b. Norman ...	1	O. Clayton, c. Morrish, b. Thorpe ...	7
F. E. Henley, run out ...	0	C. Blackburn, not out ...	6
J. W. Timms, not out ...	0	H. Thomas, st. Quinton, b. Parkin ...	9
Extras ...	5	Extras ...	5
	<hr/> 46		<hr/> 68

During the afternoon more old friends arrived and by 6.30 the Lecture Hall was filled with an expectant company ready to be entertained by the present scholars. I do not think many of us could say that the evening's programme recalled old school days. We had expected something good, but had scarcely anticipated the splendid performance given by the children, when they rendered A. A. Milne's little play "Make-believe." Surely most of us never had the opportunity of taking part in anything so delightful. Should we have been allowed to "transform" ourselves so much? Could we ever have acted so admirably and naturally; remembered our parts so well, or had less stage-fright? It was a truly clever production, and the school is to be congratulated not only on the talent of the children, but on possessing such a producer as Mrs. Harrod. Most of us were introduced for the first time to that animal of Timbuctoo—the cassowary—and so realistic was he on the stage that we did not crave a closer acquaintance! It was all over too soon, and we were left to exchanging expressions of surprise and appreciation, and all around one could hear, "Oh, wasn't such and such a character splendid?" but comparisons with such an all round lot of performers would hardly be fair.

The re-union which followed supper was enlivened by excellent music, and a contribution in elocution by our President. Some of the younger members of the gathering adjourned to the Elm afterwards; but the present chronicler, not being one of the number, is unable to record the happenings there! Rumour has it, however, that the usual Whitsuntide songs were sung, and that the proceedings terminated with a firework display.

Sunday at Sibford is always a unique day. The peace of the village leaves nothing to be desired, and the quiet, restful Meeting gives time for reflection, and Praise to our Father is spontaneous

“ For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.”

“ For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled.”

During the afternoon we “ wended withersoever we will’en,” but many wandered down to greet and be welcomed by our dear friends Mr. and Mrs. Oddie and family. This little gathering has become to many an anticipated item in the programme for the week-end, and we hope to enjoy such gatherings for many years to come. Most of us managed two teas that afternoon, for we adjourned to the school where Mr. and Mrs. holding their reception and cordially greeting all friends. The School Evening Meeting this year was addressed by Mr. Harrod, and everyone appreciated the opportunity of again hearing a message from him, and were encouraged to go forward and “ play the man.”

Monday—the great day of the week-end—dawned brilliantly, and we gave ourselves up to the full enjoyment of the day. Fresh members arrived by various routes; tennis tournaments were played; the old Gym witnessed exercise in other forms than rings and bar-bells! of the Association had been transacted. The Secretary will, no doubt, be giving a clear and correct statement of this meeting, but it may be said here that those who did not attend because “ business meetings are such dull affairs, you know,” need not have this fear the business meeting a tennis match was played between the School Staff and ourselves. We were represented by Mr. and Mrs. Brady, Arnold Kaye and Phoebe Badham. After a number of interesting and exciting games, the Old Scholars won, and it is pleasant to reflect what a fine “ sporting crowd ” the school staff really are. The influx of extra guests at dinner did not seem to tax either the commissariat or the cheerfulness of the helpers, and it seemed a fitting opportunity for showing our appreciation by something more than words, so we in our turn supplied refreshment to them in the form of boxes of chocolates, accompanied by expression of sincere thanks for all they did for us during the week-end.

Many had looked forward to the programme for the Monday afternoon when there was an opportunity of visiting the President's garden, into which previously we had only just peeped as we passed. The weather was delightful, and finally we were all seated in the lovely garden having our photographs taken—that one blot in the otherwise perfect week-end. However, uncomfortable as the process usually is, we always welcome the results as mementos of such gatherings. The President most warmly welcomed us to his home, and invited us to go through his study. Oh, for a ready pen to describe its wonders! A room portraying the personality of its owner in no unmistakable terms—a veritable pageant on its own! Both here and in the garden the masses of gorgeous flowers displayed the artist's love of colouring and of nature in all her wonder. Tea was enjoyed in the field by the Dove-cote, and we again admired the wonderful view, and refused to realise that our week-end was rapidly drawing to a close.

The evening's entertainment by the Old Scholars was as usual preceded by the President's address. Happily, this can be read by all who were not privileged to hear it, but they missed much in not hearing it. The entertainment was given under the Chairmanship of our new President, Dr. Margaret Brady, who received a warm welcome. The Old Scholars' concert, as compared with that given by the School was really a "variety show." Apart from the President, who delighted all with excerpts from Shakespeare, and the Quinton family, whose musical efforts always please, nothing of a serious nature was attempted. The Birmingham Guild gave us an amusing quartette and a cleverly acted play entitled "The Bathroom Door." The latter illustrated a number of embarrassing and amusing situations into which one might become involved while staying at an hotel. Quite a novel sketch was given by the London Guild in which they were obliged to call in the assistance of a prompter, who by a series of signs and actions prompted silently. The Londoners also rendered the final item, "Weights and Measures" (which was really a revised version of a popular song), and so well was this received that an encore was demanded and in response a topical song was given.

Our last Re-union ended all too soon, but gave another opportunity for us to enjoy the musical talent of the Quinton family, the elocution of our President, and the "not very serious" songs of Roland Herbert.

Tuesday morning brought with it the usual and only melancholy item in the whole week-end—farewells. Motors left the front door amid cheers from the fortunate ones who could remain behind, and as we sped towards our homes we registered a determination that next year should see us there again if at all possible. That the gathering was a success everybody agreed,

but these gatherings are only made successful by the work done by a certain few—principally, Mr. and Mrs. Harrod. We should like them to know that we really do appreciate the amount of work they do and the keen interest they maintain year after year. We should also like to thank all those who assisted in various other ways during the week-end—the carving committee, the chair removers, and quite a number of other people, not forgetting Jane Sabin, who does an enormous amount of work for us every year, and who always prefers to remain out of the lime-light.

PROCEEDINGS of the ANNUAL MEETING

Held at Sibford on Monday, June 1st, 1925.

Charles E. Brady was unanimously elected to the chair.

1. Messages of greeting from the following Old Scholars were read:—

E. Foster Brown (Austria), L. Calcraft (China), H. Calvert (Denmark), A. P. Lower (Tasmania), E. R. Angel, P. Arthur, W. Austin, E. Baker, P. and L. Ball, M. and F. Bax, M. Birkett, E. Blakeman, H. Bowen, E. Bragg, I. Brison, E. Cheney, M. Dinnage, E. Edridge, L. E. Gitsham, A. Goode, M. T. Graveson, A. M. Harris, E. M. Harrisson, G. and E. Harrod, S. Hopkins, E. P. Kaye, H. and E. Lawrance, A. Longman, M. M. Nainby, G. Nicholl, I. Nutter-Scott, F. Painter, K. E. Randall, C. Reynolds, H. Rose, A. K. and E. Rutter, E. F. Shortell, F. W. Snow and family, L. Squire, E. Stevens, O. Tite, J. H. Tyler, W. Wells, A. West, R. T. White, and C. Wilson.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting, as printed in the Report for 1924, we

3. The Secretary and Treasurer read his Annual Report and presented the Statement of Accounts. Their reception and adoption was moved by E. M. Sharp, seconded by W. Stebbings and carried unanimously.

4. H. J. Randall as S.O.S.A. representative on the School Committee gave a brief report of his duties and specially mentioned the kind reception he had from other members of the Committee.

5. J. T. Harrod spoke of the Bursary Fund which was started in 1924, regretting that made to the appeal printed in the 1924 Report. He feared that a Bursary Fund, requiring as it did a large capital sum as a

necessary foundation, was not popular with the majority of members. Other speakers agreed and several said they would prefer to subscribe to a fund which would benefit the whole school rather than one which would help merely one child. The prospects of an early extension of the School buildings were mentioned, and it was thought that Old Scholars would like to provide a definite part of the new premises.

After an ample discussion it was decided to hold the money already collected, subject to the donors' consent, to form the nucleus of a fund to be raised in the event of the contemplated building alterations being carried out.

6. R. B. Oddie referred to the great loss which Sibford village and the S.O.S.A. had sustained by the death of Lucy Sophia Lamb. He spoke of her help in the early days of his Headmastership and of the goodwill which existed between Mrs. Lamb and her old scholars. C. E. Brady, as one of the scholars of her time, mentioned an instance of her kindness, and he added his tribute to her memory.

As a token of their sympathy and regard, all those present stood in silence for several moments; and the Secretary was instructed to write to Joshua Lamb expressing the sympathies of Old Scholars.

7. The following members were appointed to arrange the evening re-unions and S.O.S.A. Concert for the Whitsuntide Re-union, 1926. Gordon A. Wells (Birmingham), Ismay Nutter-Scott (London), and Irene Mayo-Smith (Bristol).

8. The election of Officers then took place. On the retirement of Henry J. Randall, Frederick E. Goudge was unanimously elected Secretary.

The following were re-elected:—

H. J. Randall as Treasurer; J. Sabin and M. T. Harrod as Local Secretaries; A. B. Oddie as Auditor.

H. Lawrance as London Branch Secretary and Gordon A. Wells as Birmingham Branch Secretary.

H. J. Randall as S.O.S.A. representative on the School Committee.

I. Mayo-Smith and A. Norman were appointed members of the Committee to fill the two vacancies therein.

R. B. Oddie proposed that Margaret H. Brady should be elected President of the Association for the year 1925-26. He referred to her long connection with Sibford and to the help she had cheerfully given at Whitsuntide Gatherings. E. M. Sharp, in seconding, mentioned M. H. Brady's many

activities in the medical profession as an additional qualification for the highest honour which the S.O.S.A. could bestow. The proposition was carried with acclamation, following which the new President expressed her pleasure and thanks.

9. On the proposal of R. B. Oddie, seconded by E. M. Sharp, it was unanimously decided to purchase a picture for the School, to commemorate the Presidentship of Frank Lascelles. J. T. Harrod was asked to arrange the purchase with the retiring President.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH.

Applications for copies should be made to Percy Simms, Chipping Norton, who will be pleased to supply them at the following prices:—

Postcards, 3d.

8 in. by 6 in., unmounted, 1s. 6d.

8 in. by 6 in., mounted, 2s. 6d.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

WHITSUNTIDE, 1924 to WHITSUNTIDE, 1925

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.						
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Balance in hand,						Printing of Reports				
Whitsuntide, 1924	35	0	1			for 1924	43	15	6	
Subscriptions received:—						Envelopes and				
Per J. T. H. ...	3	10	0			Postage for same	1	15	0	
Per J. S. ...	2	0	6				45	10	6	
Per H. J. R. ...	31	12	0			Circulars <i>re</i> sub-				
	37	2	6			scriptions ...		13	6	
Profit on Whitsuntide,						Secretaries'				
1924, Re-union ...	4	19	2			Postages, etc.		1	12	2
	£77	1	9			Balance in hand ...		29	5	7
								£77	1	9

Audited and found correct,

HENRY J. RANDALL,
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

A. BREARLEY ODDIE,
Honorary Auditor.

June 1st, 1925.



Whitsuntide

1925



R. B. and Mrs. ODDIE, ERNEST WELLS and EDMUND GOWER.



PLAYERS IN THE WHIT-MONDAY TENNIS MATCH.



ROLAND HERBERT AND DAUGHTER.

Mrs. WOOLGROVE of the Catering Department.

(Photographs by H. J. Randall.)

SIBFORD SCHOOL STAFF.

WHITSUNTIDE, 1925.

Headmaster :

JAMES TYLER HARROD, B.A.

Headmistress and Mistress of the Family :

MABEL T. HARROD, B.A.

JAMES W. THORPE.

DORA F. MOULE, B.A.

FRANK PARKIN.

LUCY B. PIM.

ROLAND HERBERT.

JOYCE MOORE.

HOWARD QUINTON.

<i>Music Mistress</i>	...	...	...	...	DORIS M. A. HORTON, L.R.A.M.
<i>Housekeeper</i>	...	...	...	...	EDITH M. THORNE.
<i>Matron</i>	...	...	...	...	ETHEL M. COOKE
<i>Nurse</i>	...	...	...	...	DORA RYMELL.
<i>Gardener</i>	...	...	...	...	HENRY TARVER.
<i>Mechanic</i>	...	...	...	...	GEORGE WEBB.

TIES AND BADGES.

In view of the tax on silk and the possibility of an increase in price, a good stock of S.O.S.A. ties has been obtained. These can be purchased from the postage, 1½d.

A number of bronze badges at 1s. 6d. and silver badges at 3s. 6d. can also be supplied. The cost of postage should accompany orders.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

delivered by

FRANK LASCELLES.

IT is a priceless boon of yours—a thing to lay up in rosemary and lavender, the remembrance and love of this place on the hilltops, the place of your youth, one of the places of Eternal Youth. Let it keep you ever young in the distant parts of the earth where you may dwell, let it keep you ever in love with Youth, ever ready to help on the New Generation which day by day is always knocking at your doors. Not with advice only, as but with the strong bonds of sympathy and understanding. Let us try to feel again as we did in the days of our own youth, with the leaven only of our knowledge of the world added thereto. So shall we ever feel with, and be of use to, the Youth of To-day and To-morrow—the Youth who will hand on the torch which in a few years will have fallen from our nerveless hands even as it fell from the hands of those who were before us.

As it is good to look Forward to the untold wonders of the future, of which we have even now the distant glimpse, so it is good to look Backward, for that will help us on our way. What the race will be that will inhabit these lands a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand years hence, who can tell—but what the races were which inhabited these lands a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand year ago, we can tell if we will. And it seems well on this 21st Anniversary Society to look back and see what sort of a place this has been through the ages—it may give to us who love this place Inspiration for the years to come.

But can we have any true appreciation of the history of a place unless we know something of the history of its very beginning; as to the place indeed of the World itself in the cosmos, this planet on which we occupy such an infinitesimal space? Was thi

mass, in the far off myriads of æons since, a mass which gradually cooled, leaving the centre a vast flaming cauldron even as it is to-day, whilst we inhabit this thin crust upon it? Science tells us truly that it was so—that after the fire, waters and ice and again waters

And what is the place of the world as we know it now, in the vast cosmos—this little gnat that dances round the sun for a myriad, myriad ages, and at last will pass into oblivion as other planets have done before? With all our knowing, what do we know—what shall we ever know? So vast it is, so magnificent, so amazing that the brain of man cannot comprehend it, nor his imagination fathom it. "Whence come we? Whither go we?" The cry of all the ages, unanswered yet.

Science has taught us something and inspired us to wonder more of these great visions of the past. The greatest masters of Science even tell us that it will show us in the not far distant future, if it has not already done so, something of the world of Spirit which surrounds us, but which we do not see, which we speak of individually as "the world to come." But by Geology, which lies at everyman's door, perhaps even more than any of the other "ologies," which sound so terrible, though fascinating beyond all the Romances ever written, we can see and learn and wonder day by day. And so from Geology comes our first knowledge of this place, of these hills and valleys in the days gone by. The fossils in our walls and by our roadsides show us how they once were merely the irregular surface of an all covering sea which rose many thousands of miles above the highest of our buildings to-day, and this which is now our land of pleasant fields was once the home of sea plants and of shell-fish, whose remains are built into our very walls and pave our roads. Coral reefs were near by. And then the waters subsided and rivers rushed through these valleys. What a fascinating story, what a romance this "ology" has become! What child will not thrill at the thought of it, properly told, as much as at any story of "Dare-Devil Dick's Last Ride," or the "Haunted *Chatty Chips* or *Comic Cuts*."

But alas! Up to now we have hardly our Youth. The story Oxford and Cambridge, and almost every school and university throughout England. Though time, we hope, is changing this, and a few generations hence these things will take their place as the ground work of all knowledge.

The cause of education has suffered much in the past, and suffers sadly still from the dullness of the pedagogue, who thinks that History as well as Science can be taught without inspiration. The greatest of Fiction are not half so interesting as those of Fact, but the dry bones must be made to live. There is nothing I tell you that will not be acknowledged by every historian, though it may leave a half-educated pedagogue wondering how it can be proved. He can find, if he knows verse for every detail of the History of this place as I will recall it. But he must know how to look for it.

Then after these marvellous beginnings the pre-historic flora, fauna and mammalia—here are thrilling stories for our imagination coming down Sibford Hill to drink, and the dinosaur with its lair in your very school yard maybe, and the brontosaurus snoring by the Meeting House. And now, when the pre-historic forms of life, after hundreds of thousands of years have passed away, and on these hills are primeval forests, and Man, after an ascent in physical form, from, perhaps, protoplasm beneath

ape tribe maybe, we come to "Homo Sapiens." We can think of his first dwelling in his cave; it might be at Edge Hill, or Broughton or Brailes, and then in his hut on the river bank; perhaps in the school orchard or Burdrop Hill, for our present little brook that babbles so softly was then a river still, he fished in its waters as he did through all England, and chased the wild animals in the dense forests which covered all these hills. Then, later on in this pre-historic past, he gathered together those great monoliths and built Rollright Stones. He was probably split up into tribes by this time, and the ancient British tribe of the Dobuni made their trackway across from Nadbury Camp by Edge Hill, down the old British trackway as we know it now, through Sibford Heath and Traitors' Ford, and over Otley Hill to the high place whence the roads led out like the spokes of some great cart wheel, and where at the summer solstice there was a great gathering of all the clans that they might see the rising of the sun over the distant horizon beyond Banbury, and celebrate his coming with a sacrifice according to the early Druidic rite—it may have been a human sacrifice or not—we cannot tell. But who can stand by the circle of Rollright Stones, older by far than Stonehenge, without a vision passing before him of the ancient Druid High Priest in his long white robes; and his reverend beard, his fillet of gold and his golden sickle, the attendants in their green and white, maybe their Druid harps. So we may gaze far over those distant plains, and think what has passed in this England since those stones were set there, and what shall pass ere they decay?

But of these early times, half hidden in the mists, we have remains—bronze axe-heads above Ditch Edge; stone axe-heads found which date from centuries
 "High Street
 with the Carnabii, the other British Tribe who dwelt for so many centuries in what is now the valley of the Avon below. There was a long line of British encampments, of which many still remain—Crouch Hill, Nadbury, Tadmarton, Hook Norton Swalcliffe, Cha
 here the "Old Town," as it valley below Swalcliffe Houses, where British in their stone coffins have been dug up in our day. The land is still black there and is called "Black" And when the British welcomed by the Dobuni, who enlisted them to assist coming their old enemy the Carnabii) had a military station in Swa
 been found by the sackful within the memory of many living not a quarter of a mile from the high road which runs from Swalcliffe and Tadmarton. No Roman roads came by here; nothing but track roads across the heath. At this times

Plautius was Governor, sent by Claudius Cæsar, ten years after the death of Christ. Cannot we picture those Roman Legions as they, perhaps, passed this village with their standards and their swinging gait? How the British women must have admired them, especially when they came as friends and not as foes. It is said to be due to one of the Dobuni, banished from England by the Carnabii, and taken as prisoner to Rome, that the Romans first invaded England. And when, after staying here 300 years, their descendants went back to Rome, what sore and breaking hearts they must have left behind them among their wives and descendants! It is curious sometimes how one can trace the Roman features still and see their clear cut faces and their straight or curled black hair even among the mixture of dark-haired British, red-haired Danish and fair-haired Saxon of our country folk—a medley of races from which the Englishmen has grown.

The Roman left some traces of his stay here too, in many places round about. At Wigginton a Roman villa near the present church was unearthed about 1840 with its plan complete, even to the pipes for heating beneath the floor. At Great Tew a complete Temple and Cemetery were found, only to be destroyed at once by the ignorant farmer on whose land it happened to be. But pieces of the pavement remain at Great Tew Park and many other fragments of this Roman time in England. Banbury possessed the Altar Stone Inn which lasted till the 17th century—having before it a stone altar from Roman times. They destroyed it, as they have done everything else of interest in this most iconoclastic and benighted town of England. They had an amphitheatre which may have been Roman, and was afterwards in Mediæval times a Bear Garden, and they have covered it with market gardens and the jerriest of jerry-built houses. And so with their mediæval crosses, their castle, their church, even their panelled council chamber in the Globe Room Inn, all are destroyed or sold away. Then after the Romans went, the Saxons came, and we have the legend of St. Augustine passing through in 597 on his way through Long Compton to the Rollright Stones (which had been standing there already many thousands of years), and a legend tells us that when the parish priest complained that the Lord of the Manor would not pay his tithes, Augustine called up a dead man (a former lord) from the grave to tell what happened to such as would not pay their dues.

And some centuries later came the Danes to England, and we hear that in 914 they marched down the North through Banbury to Hocneratune, which was then a royal town (how has its glory departed!). And here at Tadmarton Heath the country people were called together. The men of this place must have heard the call and responded with all the primitive weapons they could find. With bill-hooks and knives and

pitchforks they came in their hundreds to Tadmarton and overcame the Danes with great slaughter close to the camp where you see it still, now a golf course, where great slaughter still goes on of another kind.

And later in these Saxon times we come to the first historic record of our villages. In Domesday Book we read among the lands held by the Bishop of Lincoln in the Dorchester Hundred, as this then was, lay "Scipforde," and you see by this that our river between these villages, by which the ichthyosaurus had grazed, and the Briton later built his hut, had become shallower by this time, and could be used as a "ford of the sheep." Yet how much deeper and wider it was then than now we can guess by this. "And one Columbanus—a monk—was Lorde of Scipforle." So in 1086 we have the first mention by name of this place, and the first whose name has come down to us. As a lover of doves I like to think how that was his name—it may have meant that he was a lover of doves too, or was he a follower of Columbia the Saint? I cannot tell you yet, but I hope to be able to tell you more about him some day. Did he live here? Perhaps his cell was here, and perhaps he loved these hills and watched the sun setting over there as we do now. I wonder if he heard here in this quiet spot of the victory of the Norman King and how Harold lay dead on Senlac Field? But of all this history tells us not, only it gives us the Saxon origin of our village name. The rest must be read in the Saxon tooling of the stones built into some of our walls—even in a single Saxon window which I have—two squares cut out of a solid stone, with the holes in which the shutters fastened before the days of glass—built into the great Hall at the Manor. It is said that in Domesday the men of Sibford are spoken of as "free to go withersoever they willen." I have not found this reference in Domesday, and I hardly think it will be found there. If it exists at all, it will probably be found to be in feudal times when all were dependent on the Lords of the Manor.

Now when William of Normandy has come to the Throne of England we find the history of this countryside very full. No Saxon was allowed to hold any position of trust, emolument or power, and the King gave the Saxon Manors to his Knights. Robert Doyley, who built the Castle in Oxford, and the Tower in the Cornmarket, which still stands, became Lord of Hokentune, Tadmartune, and a score of other manors. William himself held Brailes and maybe he visited the castle there, of which nothing now remains but the site on Castle Hill which we can see from here. Alexander de Bloire, Bishop of Lincoln (the See of Dorchester having been removed from there), built Banbury Castle, which played such an important part in the Civil Wars, and began the old Banbury Church. Both were destroyed by the Banbury natives later on! The church they thought was unsafe, so they tried to pull it down, but they found it was too strong for them, so blew it up.

And now in Domesday Book we read that "the same Henry de Ferrieres holds of the King 10 hides in Scipforde and Roulf of him, and there is land for 10 ploughs. Now there are in the Lord's domain (demesne) 3 ploughs, three serfs and three villeins, with three ploughs. There are 40 acres of meadow pasture," and on some of these lands these buildings in which we are, now stand. During the campaign in Normandy the King gave to William le Goer, another Norman Knight, who was afterwards killed with him in Normandy, the Manor of Sibford Gower, and in the Assize Rolls of 1240 we find a claim by his descendants that this grant shall be confirmed to his heirs for ever. One Amabel Gower apparently was the last of his race.

Now in mediæval times the plot thickens apace. The next entry I find is in the Kings' Book of Exchequer. In 1120 the Manor of Sibford Ferris came into the hands of the Knights Templars, together with the Chapel at Sibford Gower. Until a few months ago I had no idea that there had been a chapel or church at Sibford Gower till the present erection was perpetuated in 1840, but we find the record quite plainly—"in 1120 the Manor of Sibforde Ferrys came into the hands of the Knights Templars and also the Chapel at Sibforde Gower." Who gave these lands to the Templars I have no idea, but I imagine it must have been perhaps a descendant of the first Henry de la Ferrieres, of whom the present Earl Ferrers is a direct descendant. In a survey of the Knights Templars, made in 1185, we find other land which was given to them. They held land at "Sibiford of the gift of William, son of Roger, 12 hides, and the men underwritten held 2 hides of the demesne." Then follow the names of Alfred, William, son of Alfred, Irnchet, Simon, Thomas, Jordan the Baker, Theodric, Aldith the widow, Allan, Seaward the Carpenter, William, Gerard, Herebert, and others. Robert, brother of William, also gave them lands, as did William, the son of Roger. So we see the Knights Templars established in Sibford Ferris years this place was called Sibford Ferris or Sibford Temple. Then in 1306 Edward II suppressed the whole order of Templars throughout the country, chiefly through jealousy of other religious orders (how we christians loved one another in those days, even as we do to-day!). We have a list of the possessions of the Knights Templars here in Sibford. An inventory of them was made when they were taken possession of by the King, and also a list of their lands. In their chapel was one embroidered altar cloth, two chasubles, an embroidered cope, a silver censer, silver gilt candle-sticks, etc. In the refectory and the rest of the house they had one table-board and pair of trestles, sleeping boards (very hard!), two small forms, three best tablecloths, ("one much worn,"), one barrel, one tankard (only one!), one board to cut bread on, two scythes, a brass pot, ladd bowls, etc. In the mill was a chest and iron bills and various

other items. Then the King took the manor of Sibford Ferris into his own hands. He put a steward here to look after the goods and we have the steward's account for three years, with so much for cleaning out the mill-pond, so much for the great doors, so much for repairs for the dove-cote, and so on. The complete foundations of the dove-cote were found 60 or 70 years ago, which I have no doubt were those of King Edward's time.

At the same time that the Templars held Sibford Ferris the Abbot of Oseney held lands in Sibford Gower. The Abbey, which stood where the station at Oxford now is, was pulled down by Cardinal Wolsey at the time of the Reformation and Christ Church was built with the stones of the Abbey. You can see some of the original carving there.

Among the names of the people who lived in 1300, 1400, and 1500 were Lawrence the Chaplain, Roger at the Mill, Peter the Clerk, Thomas the Sarmoner (I suppose he preached "sarmons"), Thomas de Sibbeford, John West, Hopkins, Gilkes, Westbury, Sowden, Harris, Dumbleton, John at ye Crosse, who lived in a cottage which you saw this afternoon and who was witness to the deed about which I told you, and many other names which appeared in the Sibford Register till later years.

The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who also held lands here, were much opposed to the Knights Templars. There were so many entries about this time that I have given it up as hopeless as yet to give some consecutive history. In 1347 we have the complaint brought before the Assize Court by Wm. de Beauchamp that John de Evesham, Prior of St. Mary's, Worcester, and others, broke into his house at Sibford in the County of Oxford, and carried away his goods and so assaulted his servants and men that their lives were despaired of. Why this was done I cannot tell you—I may be able to find out some time. Then in 1433, about 20 years before the Wars of the Roses, John Crosse of Sibford and Thomas Wyckham of Swalcliffe are certified by the Knights of the Shire as persons who should take oath not to entertain peace-breakers. The Wyckhams, who lived at Swalcliffe Park, were a wonderful family. One was rector of Swalcliffe. Another was a famous Lollard, who gathered together a band of his tenantry and others and marched towards London. He was seized and put into prison and ordered to be drawn and quartered, but was forgiven by the King and sent back to Swalcliffe, where his family still lived. Another was the famous William of Wyckham, who built Winchester and New College, and whose daughter married a Piennes and was an ancestor of the present Lord Saye and Sele.

In 1519 we come again to a mention of our chapel. The Prior of St. John of Jerusalem granted a license to certain people who lived by Oxford to hold lands in Sibford Gower, on condition that they kept the Chapel in repair and found "an able Priest to serve at Sibford Gower as it hath been accustomed heretofore."

In 1547 King Edward VI appointed commissioners to clear up the goods of the churches which had been "spoiled," and to see what was left after Henry VIII had taken what he could. I have a full list of the goods which were left here, but most things had been taken, including some beautiful vestments from Epwell Church, embroidered copes, censers, candlesticks, chalices, etc. The year after another was taken, when we notice how grievously the list of goods was depleted. Here in Sibford Gower at this time this chapel was still standing, and there are many entries in the wills of the period—"A bullock to keep the light burning in the Chapel of our Lady," "a stryke of barley to keep the light burning before the altar of Saint Thomas," and many more. Then in 1547 the Chapel was put up for sale. It had three bells in the steeple, but was in a bad state of decay—"the walls being so old"—and it was offered for sale for the sum of one pound, but when I tell you that the Chantry of Banbury was sold for two pounds and the chapel at Adderbury for thirty shillings, perhaps it was not such a bad price after all. The "lamb lands" were also sold which belonged to the Chapel, and although I have not yet found what was done with the money I think we shall find that it eventually became our Sibford Charities, part of the money as a rule being given to the upkeep of roads, part to the poor and part for the upkeep of the church.

In 1557 the name of Lamb first appears, one Joram Lamb being the first of whom I have found record, and thereafter the entries are frequent in documents relating to Sibford; and the name of Harris, too, as later, one Joseph Harris bought these buildings from the Walford family and sold them for the founding of this school. In 1840 the account in the Churchwarden's book, still kept in the chest at Swalecliffe Church, shows how the Spirit of Freedom was abroad, for the Quakers refused to pay their taxes for Church Tithes. Richard Routh was one of these and he went down with Eza Enoch and others and resisted. A long meeting was held, which eventually had to be adjourned by Canon Payne, and it was not until a year later that anything further was done, when the large tithes were done away with. One William Reason was a terror to Church Authorities, for he would not pay his Church Tithes. It was only 1d. a year that he had to pay, but he let it run on until it was 1s. 8d., and still refused to pay it. I would like to tell you of many more entries of these centuries, but my time is, alas, at an end.

The road from Sibford to Banbury came originally through North Newington, then across to Sibford Heath after passing through Shutford, and then down Pound Lane to Temple Mill. It was not for many years that the road from Banbury came right through to Sibford as it does to-day.

My little story of Sibford has been all too short and disconnected, and I must remember that we are not all old people here this afternoon, and that the young ones will be getting tired to death with such an unusually large dose of history. But you will remember that this is but an incomplete sketch, to be filled in. I hope, when I find time amid a life of many varied interests, to complete this story of the little hamlets on the hilltops, which in Domesday Book is mentioned as "a place of no note."

IN MEMORIAM.

LUCY SOPHIA LAMB,

(President S.O.S.A. 1914.)

By the death of Lucy Sophia Lamb the S.O.S.A. loses a Past President and an interested member, and Sibford a well-known and greatly respected inhabitant.

L. S. Lamb was the daughter of Frederick and Lucy Ann Binns, of Sunderland, where she was born on the 31st July, 1855. She was a first cousin of the late Frederick Andrews, headmaster for 43 years of Ackworth School. Her parents removed to London in 1861, and she entered the Friends' School, Sibford, in 1866, remaining as pupil and teacher until the time of her marriage at Croydon to Joshua Lamb, of Sibford Ferris, in 1882. She retained lively recollections of her school days, and of the help and encouragement she had received, notably from Richard Routh and Margaret Ann Clark, whose memory she revered. To generations of Sibford scholars L.S.L. was known as of a kindly, approachable and sympathetic disposition, given to hospitality, and ever rejoicing in the well-being of those around her.

As the wife of a farmer and the mother of a large family, she led for many years a strenuous, devoted, and yet conspicuously cheerful life, probably knowing little or nothing of monotony or *ennui* in the "daily round, the common task," though her work and cares must often have taxed her never robust constitution. "Her children arise and call her blessed." The loss, after a short illness, of a dearly loved daughter of charm and promise, was a trial which, though borne with fortitude and resignation, had a marked effect upon her health. A

gradual failure of strength ensued, terminating in her peacefully passing away on the morning of May 10th, 1925, the anniversary, to the very hour, of her marriage 43 years before.

One who knew her well says of her, " I found Sophie Lamb for more than thirty years an excellent neighbour; broad minded, charitable, desiring the extension of Christ's Kingdom on Earth, the friend of all. She has left a memory of which her husband, her children, and her school may well be proud."

R. B. O.

The following appreciation has been received from Alice M. Harris.

In the cloisters of Chichester Cathedral there is a tablet placed in memory of a lady who died in 1784, of whom it says that she was a " Perfect example of conjugal fidelity and parental tenderness." When, quite recently, I saw this tablet I was reminded at once of Sophie Lamb because I felt that the same thing could truthfully be said of her. One of the uppermost thoughts of her in my mind is that she was a " Mother " in the truest sense of the word; and I know, too, that she was a real helpmeet to her husband.

Many years ago I had the privilege of spending about three months in the house of Joshua and Sophie Lamb. Their family numbered seven, which meant that there was very little leisure for the Mother, and I was much impressed by her unbounded patience and forbearance; she never seemed to get cross or flurried over the demands made on her Motherhood.

As the family grew to manhood and womanhood and they left the old home for homes of their own, her mother-heart still yearned over them and by keeping in touch she was able to enjoy the pleasure of their visits from time to time.

At the time of her funeral a brother-in-law of L. S. L. said that in her were fulfilled the whole of the " fruits of the spirit"—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. As a teacher at Sibford School, L. S. L. was loved by her pupils, and one feels that her quiet influence must have helped them to be better citizens. To those who loved her it was sad to see her failing powers in the latter part of her life, but this, too, was borne with uncomplaining patience. In her humility of mind one feels that her wish would be for—

" Some humble door among Thy many mansions,
Some sheltering shade where sin and striving cease,
And flows for ever through Heaven's green expansions,
The river of Thy Peace."

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

SEPTEMBER, 1924 to JULY, 1925.

GREETINGS to all old scholars scattered at home and in far distant lands, whose thoughts, sometimes with happy memories, turn to the free and joyous life at Sibford.

The School year has been a full and happy one. In September we missed the faces of our old fifth form, and of two members of the Staff. Miss Wright had left to become entangled in the matrimonial net, and Miss L. B. Pim now reigns in the Domestic Training Department; and Mr. Howard Quinton (scholar 1912-1916, and caricaturist for O.S. Mags.) is now ably filling the post of Art Master, in place of Mr. Knapp.

We depend more than most schools upon frequent visitors to keep us in touch with the outside world; to talk on the burning questions of the day; or to introduce new enthusiasms into our midst. Mr. Brayshaw, in the neighbourhood on Q.M. business, in turn amused and edified us. Mr. Beck's keenness on Natural History was very infectious; and the gift of a new first-class microscope is due to his kindly efforts. Mr. Asher Davidson told the story of "Les Miserables" in his inimitable style. We have heard discussed by connoisseurs the possibilities of abolishing war, and the hope of accomplishing this through the League of Nations; the need for total abstinence has been emphasised; the danger of the growing habit of betting and gambling put before us. Entertaining stories of mission work in Pemba, Agriculture in Denmark, life in the wild jungles of South Africa, have fascinated us. Interest has been aroused and strengthened in our own bees by demonstrations and a lecture. "Men of the Stone Age" was the subject of Mr. Rowntree's splendid lecture in February; the budgeteer adds appreciatively "we could have listened with interest for twice as long."

After the busy hours of school were over, during the long winter evenings, we found many ways of entertaining one another. Each of the four Guilds prepared a Concert for the delectation of the other three. Included in every programme was a rollicking Guild song to a popular tune. Besides other items the Coastguards acted the scene from Nicholas Nickleby where Mrs. Squeers (Leonard Winter) dispenses the weekly dose of brimstone and treacle. The Pilots prepared an original sketch:—"Waiting for the bus," in which the boys and girls amusingly impersonated well-known village characters. The Watchmen gave two comic sketches:—"Mrs. Tubbins's Cat," and "Done Completely Brown." The Shepherds acted "When Japhet was Father," after receiving valuable help from Miss Moule. In March, items from these programmes were chosen for a social given to the school children of the neighbouring villages.



THE SIBFORD SCHOOL ART ROOM.

FEBRUARY, 1925.

The Art Master is Howard Quinton, himself an Old Scholar. The large painting on the right of the Picture is the work of the late Dr. R. L. Routh.

The Senior Literary Society had some good meetings. In November a mock election was held after 10 days of furious canvassing, the boy candidates even appearing on the girls' playground in recess to secure votes by their telling arguments. The result proved the fallacy of the well-known verse from the Bab Ballads:—

“ Nature wisely does contrive
That every boy and every gal
That's born into this world alive
Is either a little Liberal
Or else a little Conservative.”

For the election ended in a victory by an overwhelming majority for the Labour candidate. Cedric Johnston (Conservative) got 7 votes, George Hobson (Liberal) 9, and Paul Warner (Labour) 32. Other evenings were devoted to recollections of Wembley; a talk about H. G. Wells by Mr. Herbert Jones; and a succession of amusing scenes to illustrate the development of music from very early times.

Most of the school listened in to a very instructive course of lectures on Birds, by E. Kay Robinson, the great naturalist. A few scholars sent up essays from week to week which received commendation.

In October, a splendid gift to the School was a cabinet of beautiful butterflies and moths from our kind friend J. B. Braithwaite. Miss Kitching gave money for fireworks on November 5th, and Mr. Nott a Banbury cake all round.

All Hallow's E'en was celebrated by the fifth form in the lecture hall, where a log fire fitfully lit up dark corners where ghost-like figures were half revealed and half concealed. We ducked and bobbed for apples, and grabbed blindfold for raw carrots, cold sausages, and bags of sweets on a string; and the entertainment finished up with crackers, coloured lights, and refreshments.

The School games have been keenly played. The boys had a good football season, winning five matches and losing three. They were beaten by Brackley, at home and away, and by Banbury County School in November, but they defeated this team in March by 6—1. They beat the Village 2nd XI., and the Village Reserves, and had a victory over the St. Mary's Choir Boys by 13—0.

In Hockey, the girls played a team from Ratley, drawing once and winning once. A strong mixed team of Old Scholars from Bourneville gave a team of boys and girls a very good game in March, which ended in a draw, 6—6.

As of old, we find time for occasional picnics. Three times during the spring and summer we visited Whichford Woods, and in whatever mood we found them they were bewitching. On our first visit, in April, "Earth unto her finger tips, tingled with the Spring," the woods were carpeted with primroses, and of these we collected a large quantity, in small bunches, for the Horton Infirmary. In May the walk by the stream was wonderful.

"The blessed green comely meadows were all a-ripple with mirth,
At the noise of the lambs at play, and the dear, wild cry of
the birds."

The bluebells covered the floor of the woods with purple mist. In July, the tall ferns and undergrowth cooled the feet, and the leafy trees gave shade from the burning sun. Other picnics have been to Brailes, Traitor's Ford and Edge Hill. A popular dinner on these occasions is "a Cornish pasty each, of comfortable dimensions" (budgeteer), and at Edge Hill a plateful each of delectable strawberries enhanced the outdoor tea. All the leavers walked or cycled to Compton Wynyates on the last Saturday in July, and were conducted over the Mansion by a guide, word-perfect in the History if uninterrupted, but sorely put out by irrelevant questions.

More accidents have occurred than usual; black eyes from cricket balls or cricket bats; two dislocated elbows, one during a Sunday walk, and one during Sports practice; and two bicycle accidents; but all have happily recovered long since.

After a short hectic time of training and a rush of heats, the finals of the Athletic Sports were worked off on April 1st. Of the boys, George Hobson and Sidney Morrish were bracketed as Senior Champions, and Frank Phillips, Junior; Doris Roe was Girls' Senior and Eileen Gibbons, Junior Champion. The Guilds came in the following order:—Pilots, Watchmen, Coastguards, Shepherds, the Pilots leading for the fourth year in succession.

Rehearsals of "Make-Believe" for the Old Scholars' concert, were begun as soon as we returned in May; and the play was repeated in July, for the benefit of local charities.

In cricket, the boys have played 8 matches, only losing twice, against Old Scholars and against the Village. But they have had some great victories. Against Kineton Boy Scouts, they made 91 to 51. Our boys' 3rd XI. played St. Mary's Choir Boys, and beat them 69 to 14 and 10. Evidently we have good material for next cricket season. In the Guild Cricket tournaments the Coastguards were first.

The girls have not had many opportunities for cricket matches. They played one good game against a team of Village Ladies, strengthened by two crack players from Whichford; this ended in a defeat for the school by 39 runs. Tennis has been very popular, and tournaments (doubles) have been played; E. Bayly and B. Neave being Senior Champions, and K. Hinch and J. Hooper, Juniors.

June 19th was a day of brilliant sunshine for General Meeting. The usual routine was followed, novelties being a fine show of pottery, chiefly of local clay, turned on our own wheel, and baked in our own home-made oven, under the supervision of Mr. Herbert; and an array of cotton frocks made by the girls, which made the cookery room look for the nonce like a dress-maker's show room. A toy symphony and an original dance were pretty items in the Concert that followed on the lawn.

How few boys and girls there are to whom the rhythmic movement is not natural, who do not love harmony and balance. In some moods they desire to join in a chorus of "Yes, we have no bananas," in others, a solemn hymn unwontedly appeals. We have opportunities to suit all fancies. Our Cliftophone is a source of unbounded pleasure. On Wednesday evenings during the winter, in the hall, and reclining on the girls' lawn on warm Sunday evenings, we have many of us learned to love good music; and while the teachers are correcting exam. papers and adding up marks at the end of term, Mr. Harrod gives us the "Mikado" or "Pirates of Penzance."

Transference Scholarships were won by Betty Morland and Clifford Mortimer, who both expect to continue their education for three more years at Sidcot. In January, Joy Morland left at very short notice to go on as a scholarship holder to Croham-Hurst School, Croydon.

In our little community there is much that helps to encourage the spirit of brotherhood and co-operation; directly and indirectly its necessity is brought before us almost daily; a casual visitor may perchance pity us, and think we live behind "cramped walls where daily drudgeries grind"; but we find such drudgery divine, and feel that the daily round is the road that brings us near to God.

On July 28th, when most of us went home, four teachers and 23 boys and girls walked to Chastleton where they spent a "perfectly ripping" ten days of camp life.

M. T. H.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BIRMINGHAM.

On January 10th we had our Christmas Social, and it was, I think, one of the best we have had in Birmingham. Although Saturday is a difficult day for our "Sporting" Members, about thirty Old Scholars turned up, and such bruises and shin-hacks as had been sustained were forgotten for the period of the evening. It is gratifying to see our younger Old Scholars turning up at these functions.

The usual games were indulged in; a very amusing set of "Clumps" proving most popular. Before leaving, we were careful to demolish what remained of the refreshments, immediately following this with the time honoured "rocket." In this way, we hoped to make the feat more difficult, but were disappointed, for three "most helpful" rockets were given. We recommend this way of improving your rocket, should it require a tonic.

On Saturday, March 7th, we again took a hockey team to Sibford, and now feel the Sibford hockey match to be an annual affair. At no little inconvenience to himself, Mr. Harrod gave us a splendid dinner, encouraging us to do full justice to it, and to forget the match. Some people forgot the match and remembered the dinner too late!

The weather was quite fine, but cold, and it was not re-assuring to survey the shivering O.S. team. However, we managed to draw 6-6 this time, and hope great things for next March. Our "Sporting" Members were again prominent, delaying the bus in their eagerness to discover the luck of those three mighty teams of Birmingham. We returned feeling ourselves to be the fourth.

We regret we have no Summer gathering this year on which to report.
G. A. W.

LONDON.

Another successful re-union of London Old Scholars was held at Devonshire House early this year, and although about sixty turned up, quite a number of well-known members were absent. One of the attractions the London Secretary always has to offer is a really excellent tea, and it may be said that on this occasion he surpassed all previous efforts.

In accordance with our usual practice at these gatherings we adjourned to the Library after tea, where we enjoyed a number of games, charades and sketches, as well as several really good rockets.

About a dozen O.S.'s met at Marylebone Station one Saturday in September to journey to Jordans and Chalfont, but on account of bad weather were compelled to abandon the visit after waiting for about an hour for the rain to stop.

F. E. G.



Marriages



- AITCHISON—MOSCRIP.**—On 13th October, 1924, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Wellington, New Zealand, David Aitchison, of Sunderland, to Mary A. Moscrip, of Wellington.
- ARTHUR—HENLEY.**—On 20th December, 1924, at Fulham Congregational Church, Ernest Haviland Arthur to Phyllis Henley, both of Fulham.
- BROWN—TWITCHETT.**—On September 12th, 1925, at the Friends' Hall, Walthamstow, Horace Alfred Brown, of Chingford to Bertha Ethel Twitchett, of Belchamp St. Paul.
- DIAMOND—DEANE.**—On 21st February, 1925, at Devonshire House, London, Howard Diamond, of Ilford, to Elsie Deane, of Westcliff-on-Sea.
- GRIMES—CALVERT.**—On 30th July, 1925, at Hinckley, Leicestershire, George Stanley Grimes to Janet Fairbairn Calvert.
- VICCARS—DAWES.**—On 19th September, 1925, at the Friends' Meeting House, Godalming, Jack Gregory Viccars to Emiline Mary Dawes, both of Godalming.

SILVER WEDDING.

- DINNAGE—WILLIAMS.**—On 21st August, 1900, at the Friends' Meeting House, Dorking, William Henry Dinnage to Mary Sarah Williams.

Births



- DEARDEN.**—On 12th February, 1925, at a Nursing Home, to Bessie, wife of John W. Dearden, a daughter.
- LAMB.**—On 7th January, 1925, at Woolman Cottage, Sibford Ferris, to Ivy G., wife of Frederick J. Lamb, a son, who was named Gerald Walter.
- PARKIN.**—On 2nd September, 1925, at Paradise House, Sibford Ferris, to Hilda, wife of Frank Parkin, a daughter, who was named Hazel Evelyn.
- PICKERING.**—On 2nd September, 1925, at 84, Tetley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, to Muriel E. G. (née Chalker), wife of Ernest T. Pickering, a daughter, who was named Barbara.
- RANDALL.**—On 30th June, 1925, at The Mount, College Road, Hoddesdon, to K. Elsie (née Wells), wife of Henry J. Randall, a daughter, who was named Mary Shore.
- RUTTER.**—On 2nd May, 1925, at Shaftesbury, to Ethel, wife of A. Kingsley Rutter, a son, who was named David Kingsley.
- WESTLAKE.**—On 21st November, 1924, at 92, Southwark Park Road, S.E., To Marjorie G. (née Harrod), wife of Aubrey T. Westlake, a son, who was named Ernest Keith.

FRANK LASCELLES AS PAGEANT MASTER

MANY would be astonished to learn that the Master of the Coronation Durbar at Calcutta in 1912 and the Pageant-Master-in-Chief at the Pageant of Empire in 1924 is the son of a country clergyman, brought up in the vicarage of a remote Oxfordshire village, making in fact his first acquaintance with the drama at a performance given at Sibford School, where, as a small boy, he saw one of the lady teachers act Lady Macbeth, her hands realistically stained with red ink!

Yet that is a brief summary of the career of Frank Lascelles. Richly gifted by Nature, he has made brilliant use of his talents and has lived a life rich in aesthetic development and artistic attainment. He will undoubtedly live as one of the great figures in the dramatic and artistic history of our times, and perhaps it will be easier for us to appraise his services in these connections if we remember that the Pageant-Master is the old and picturesque name for one whom we refer to now-a-days as the "Producer." Fortunately for F.L. this is the Golden Age of the Producer.

Frank Lascelles served a useful apprenticeship in the Oxford University Dramatic Society in such plays as "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "The Taming of the Shrew," and "Romeo and Juliet." He was fortunate enough for his dramatic talent to be appreciated from the start and incidentally he met many people who have since become famous in various walks of life. He afterwards appeared in London, notably with Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum, and with Sir Herbert Tree at His Majesty's, scoring his greatest triumph as Nero in Stephen Phillips' drama of that name.

All this was invaluable training for his work later as a Pageant-Master, but he had other qualifications to assist him. Besides being a sculptor and painter, he is a man of letters and a student of History and Archæology. Now, without going so far as to insist upon all Producers possessing these qualifications, one can at least express the hope that the commercial theatre and even more so the films will one day realise the advantage of employing educated and cultured men in this capacity. It requires no imagination to realise with what advantages such a man sets out, and one is thankful that occasionally a dash of genius of organisation is added to the mental equipment of a scholar like this in order to enable him to spread the benefit of his learning before a wider public.

The Oxford Historical Pageant in 1907 was F.L.'s first attempt in this direction and it was a great success. One may congratulate him, perhaps, on his good fortune in having such an ideal background as Oxford for an Historical Pageant, but it would be easy to lay too much stress on this point. The Ter-

centenary of Canada at Quebec followed in 1908, Frank Lascelles being asked by the Government to go over to organise the celebrations for the visit of the King, then Prince of Wales. On this occasion the ordinary difficulties were increased by those of harmonising the efforts of the French and English Canadians; these difficulties were triumphantly overcome, and F.L. received public thanks for eminent services rendered to Canada. When it is added that in 1910 he was engaged in getting British and Boers to collaborate on the shores of Table Bay in the Pageant at the opening of the First Parliament of United South Africa, one begins to realise how important has been his work for the Empire.

The year after the Quebec Pageant, in 1909, F.L. was Master of the Bath Pageant. How the writer, for one, would have delighted to see this. What wonderful material here for a master-hand to work on! The pleasure of seeing the characters from some of our favourite novels and plays in the flesh! Each one can imagine the scenes for himself and the Pageant itself was probably the quintessence of all our imaginings.

After this followed the Festival of Empire at the Coronation in 1910, and the Pageant of London before the King and Queen in 1911. This was a very big undertaking in which 15,000 volunteers from all the boroughs of London took part.

The following year Frank Lascelles was Master of the Durbar at Calcutta on their Majesties' Coronation in India. The Field of the Cloth of Gold must have seemed a tawdry village fair by comparison with this magnificent celebration with its thousands of Indian performers, the retinues of native princes in gorgeous trappings and the 300 elephants. F.L. visited all the ruling princes to select the finest costumes and armour from their treasure houses.

In 1914 he returned to the drama proper to produce Thomas Hardy's "Dynasts," but after that the War brought to a temporary close his activities in the pageant world.

After the War came the Harrow Pageant in 1923, the Bristol Pageant in 1924, and then the mightiest pageant of them all—the Pageant of Empire at the Wembley Exhibition. Some idea of the labour involved in such an undertaking as this can be gathered when it is mentioned that F.L. supervised the enrolling of 15,000 volunteers, designed all the costumes and colour schemes and arranged every scene from the notes of historians of each Dominion. He had among his assistants Sir Frank Benson and Mr. J. B. Fagan; and among those who helped by their contributions were Mr. Rudyard Kipling, Mr. Alfred Noyes, Sir Edward Elgar, O.M., Mr. Frank Brangwyn, R.A., Sir Charles Oman, M.P., and Mr. E. V. Lucas. Such a galaxy of talent might well bewilder a lesser mind. The Pageant was divided into three divisions—"Westward Ho!" "Eastward Ho!" and "Southward Ho!" given on different

days of the week and thus "making it really three pageants in one, any one of which was a bigger and better spectacle than anything previously produced." As to the fruits of Frank Lascelles' labours one cannot do better than quote what Prince Arthur of Connaught said of him at the complimentary dinner at the Hotel Cecil: "The genius, the enthusiasm, and the co-operation of Mr. Frank Lascelles won through. The success of the undertaking was almost entirely due to his untiring efforts, and he certainly deserves a very high place among that great fraternity of explorers and pioneers for the manner in which he has handed down to us our country's history in the truly realistic scenes which are of such unquestionable educational value."

In conclusion the writer feels bound to add that a book of reminiscences by Frank Lascelles might achieve the impossible by reconciling a much afflicted generation to that particular form of literature.

R. E. W.

PAST v. PRESENT AT CRICKET.

FOR the benefit of those interested in cricket the following summary is given of the results of Whitsuntide matches since 1904. Out of 17 games played the S.O.S.A. has won 8, lost 8 and drawn one.

- 1904. O.S. won by 27 runs.
O.S. 59 (Brady 16), P.S. 32 (E. Oddie 21).
- 1905. O.S. won by 8 wickets.
O.S. 55 for 2 (Kaye 35, Brady 13*), P.S. 46 (Whitlock 15).
- 1906. P.S. won by 17 runs.
P.S. 38 (Wells 18), O.S. 21.
- 1907. P.S. won by 2 runs.
P.S. 40 (Harrod 12), O.S. 38.
- 1908. Match Drawn.
O.S. 95 (Kaye 32), P.S. 73 for 4 (Bennington 20, Bracher 20).
- 1909. P.S. won by 3 runs.
P.S. 39, O.S. 36 (Brady 15).
- 1910. P.S. won by 17 runs.
P.S. 60 (Harrod 29), O.S. 43 (Kaye 17).
- 1911. C.S. won by 4 wickets.
O.S. 55 for 6 (Kaye 28*), P.S. 46 for 7 dec. (Harrod 16).
- 1912. O.S. won by 11 runs.
O.S. 46 (Hodgetts 11), P.S. 35 (Harrod 16).

1913. P.S. won by 6 wickets.
P.S. 56 for 4 (Harrod 34*), O.S. 55 (Pool 23, Randall 14).
1914. P.S. won by 77 runs.
P.S. 101 for 3 dec. (Harrod 29, Thorpe 15, Gitsham 32*, Cook 16*), O.S. 24.
1919. O.S. won by 33 runs.
O.S. 55 (Brady 10, B. Lamb 14, E. Quinton 15, Gooday 11), P.S. 22.
1920. O.S. won by 36 runs.
O.S. 80 (Randall 26*, E. Quinton 18, Hodgetts 10),
P.S. 44 (Thorpe 21).
1922. O.S. won by 41 runs.
O.S. 81 (E. Quinton 20, Randall 16), P.S. 40 (Herbert 18*).
1923. P.S. won by 5 wickets.
P.S. 107 for 5, dec. (Herbert 40*, Thorpe 37, Parkin 17),
O.S. 44 (Randall 18, Barber 12).
1924. P.S. won by 43 runs.
P.S. 68 (Herbert 34, Parkin 20), O.S. 25.
1925. O.S. won by 22 runs.
O.S. 68 (E. Quinton 30), P.S. 46 (Herbert 15).
O.S.—*Old Scholars.* P.S.—*Present Scholars.*

* *Signifies not out.*

Records of the bowling are, unfortunately, not available.

To players who have not seen the Sibford ground the above scores may seem rather small; but to those who have encountered the long grass in the outfield, and vainly endeavoured to clear the distant boundaries, the totals, or some of them at least, will appear quite respectable. In these matches, however, the result has always mattered more than the score; and the writer, who has seen and played in most of the games, can recall some very exciting finishes, particularly in 1907 and 1909. The 1925 match, which is still very fresh in memory, was also exciting whilst E. Quinton nobly plucked us out of the fire—if one may use such a metaphor in connection with a wintry day.

During the first ten years two players dominated the play—E. P. Kaye for the S.O.S.A. and J. T. Harrod for the School. Since the war the glory has been more evenly distributed, although R. Herbert has the largest run-getter's halo. The only player to have played in all the matches is C. E. Brady whose skill increases as the years roll by.

We look forward to many more interesting games and to publishing a further summary of results in the year of our Jubilee, 1954.

DEGREES, &c., TAKEN BY OLD SCHOLARS.

University of London.—B.Sc. (Engineering), 2nd Class Honours, Robert Rose.

University of London.—B.Sc. (Engineering), Pass, George F. Law.

Board of Education.—Final Examination for Teachers Certificate, Gertrude M. Ostler.

University of London.—Intermediate Science Examination, Ethel Ostler.

University of London.—Intermediate Commerce Examination, Freda Bax.

FRAGMENTS

Being extracts taken from the Secretary's file of correspondence.

IVOR KEAR (Middlesbrough).

I am afraid that you will be thinking I am a bit of a rotter for neglecting the S.O.S.A. as I have done. My only excuse is that I have been living a pretty full life for the last six or seven years and have had no time for outside affairs. However, I am now more or less settled and am very glad you have reminded me of the good old School.

As the Education Authorities of this country have become exceedingly desirous that their teachers should possess the outward and visible signs of the inward grace, I have spent the time since 1920 at Liverpool University, acquiring various degrees and diplomas, and have been rewarded with the post of Senior Science Master at the Hugh Bell School in this town. I am still collecting, however, and hope to rake in an M.A. and a Ph.D. before long. Having once started on the business, the ease with which one can acquire the major portion of the alphabet is a constant source of astonishment to me. I once had a great respect for people with high academic distinctions, but that is rapidly disappearing under the stress of personal experience.

E. REEVE ANGEL (Kingston-on-Thames).

Many thanks for the programme of the forthcoming O.S. gathering, together with the memo. re subscription arrears. You remind me of Winston—"the well-known honesty of the British taxpayer, stimulated by the well-known efficiency of the Inland Revenue Department." Well, please let me know how much I owe and you shall have it.

MRS. L. M. PIKE (née Cooper) (Wallasey).

On Sunday, September 6th, I was able to pay a visit to dear old Sibford. I left the School in about 1879 and have never had the opportunity of seeing it since. That was, of course, in Mr. Routh's time, but my brother was at school for a year or two after me when Mr. Oddie was the Head. Mr. Harrod and his daughter took me round. What a lot of improvements and alterations I found. Like Mr. Horne in the 1923 report I *thought* I could go round blindfold, but everything is so altered except the outside of the house. The Monkey Puzzle is still on the lawn, but now there is a path across where, very occasionally, I was allowed to play croquet in the old days.

LESLIE CALCRAFT (Wuhu, China).

Being cursed with an indolent disposition, I have, and blush to admit it, purposely omitted to acknowledge receipt of last year's report until now, the idea being that I could thus advise my change of address, acknowledge receipt of report mentioned, and convey good wishes for a succesful gathering, all in one letter!

The report was excellent, but I am afraid I did not appreciate the "Hiawatha" account of the proceedings. Personally, I prefer a plain statement of facts, then I can use my own imagination to fill in the blanks.

I shall be glad if you will convey my very best wishes to all Old Scholars and I trust the weather will be kind, as a wet gathering is not nearly so cheery, although it takes a great deal of adverse weather to wet the spirits of Old Sibfordians. I should also like to thank everyone who signed the message forwarding "love and kisses." I foresee difficulties when I return to collect the kisses in kind.

A. P. LOWER (Tasmania).

I am writing in the hope that this will reach its destination in time for the Annual Gathering, which, I trust, will take place at the old School. It is now 14 years since I last visited Sibford, and then it was with hopes that I should have been there again before this.

I have had a varied experience of building, cabinet making, orcharding and lastly, store-keeping. The last mentioned seems to be my niche in this little island and with a radius of 30 miles one has a fair business. Motor cars have practically taken the place of horses and I spend two days a week out with a "motor shop," covering a distance of 60 miles.

It may interest some Old Sibfordians to hear of Mr. Kerr. He came here recently and it was a strange coincidence that the first time we met Banbury was mentioned; and then I found that his acquaintances were nearly all known to me. In humourous mood he called for a shillings-worth of Banbury cakes but they had not come to hand.

EDWARD P. KAYE (Glasgow) (The first S.O.S.A. Secretary).

May I, as an ardent well-wisher, be allowed to send the Society a word of special greeting on this the occasion of its coming-of-age. We seem to have had a wonderful measure of success ever since we first saw the light of day, every year adding to our membership and our importance.

I remember the old days, and it is difficult to imagine more enthusiasm than 1904-12; yet reports of to-day from reliable sources make wonderful reading. Annually it is a cause of the deepest regret to me that I live in a distant country where Whitsuntide is unknown, making it impossible for me to join in your work and your play.

A final word. Our Secretary is constantly working hard on our behalf; let us help him all we can.

AN APPEAL.

By AN OLD SCHOLAR.

I SHOULD imagine that about half the number of Old Scholars who (if I may judge by myself) look forward with eager interest to their reading of the Annual Report (and incidentally ask themselves whatever the Secretary has been doing to get it out so late!) will at a first glance at the heading above, be excused perhaps, if they think "Oh, more money wanted; well, I'm sorry but I can't spare any."

An error on your part, dear Sir, Madam or Miss. I am moved to indite these lines, not for considerations of pelf or gain (though doubtless they well deserve it) but only for the benefit of the Old Scholars' Association; and this even though, if I may paraphrase our friend the nautical song-writer, "I ain't no writer bold." In truth I have never before been guilty of an indiscretion such as this.

Well the purpose of this effort is briefly to draw the attention of a somewhat large and increasing number of O.S. to the fact that the delightful Whitsuntides which we anticipate with gladness when the opportunity arrives to revisit the old School and meet again our friends and our old Head-Master and Mistress, are not year after year poured out of moulds for our casual acceptance and delectation, but are the result of correspondence, effort and work extending over weeks and even months before the Bus lands us at the welcoming open door of the School. This, nevertheless, those who are appointed by us to attend to all the preliminary work, have done annually as a matter of course and as a matter of loyal duty to the School and the Association. I should perhaps add, by way of parenthesis, that Mr. and Mrs. Harrod will I trust, excuse the term "old," accepting it in my meaning instead of the literal one; for I'm sure that they can never of recent years have enjoyed a birthday, for they always seem exactly their same genial selves to us each year.

If my memory serves, St. Paul suggests somewhere in his Epistle to the Corinthians (no, please don't abandon me in desperation now you've got so far; this is not really meant to be a sermon), "And now abideth these three, Saturday, Whit Sunday and Whit Monday, and the greatest of these is . . ." well, perhaps it ought to be the Sunday, although some of us might vote otherwise. This whole period of Whitsun has to work itself out "according to plan" as they used to say in the Army reports from France. This plan, moreover, is worked out for the greatest benefit of the greatest number; and no single rule or restriction is laid down to circumscribe or detract from the pleasure of any O.S. present, but merely that everything may go smoothly, well and successfully.

We have, as a matter of fact, cheered and clapped Harry Randall at every Gathering meal-time for several years, when (risking all the perils of indigestion or worse) he has got on his legs before his hastily snatched repast is effectively terminated to give us counsel or advice and occasionally warning, or even prohibition if he thought it necessary. No one will ever know what he has suffered on our behalf (he may even have indigestion yet, for all I know!).

I understand we have this year a new Secretary. Surely we cannot be so inconsiderate or unkind as to desire that he too, finding it, especially at first, difficult to follow in the footsteps of such a remarkably able predecessor, should have to continue the lectures and the warnings of the past. It should not be necessary. It *must* not be necessary.

A sister association of ours rejoices in the possession of a motto in the Latin tongue—"Non sibi sed omnibus." This has no reference to anything belonging to Mr. Keyte, or even of The Midland Transport Company Ltd., but means that we are to do nothing for our own personal pleasure or benefit but all we can for the advantage of others. We cannot annex the motto, but we can do what is infinitely more important—apply it. And this is the object of my Appeal.

A certain proportion of Old Scholars who come to Sibford at Whitsunfide, miss, unfortunately, the real intention of our Gatherings, and are too prone to look upon them solely as a holiday affording a certain amount of freedom; possibly in the case of younger members, more than they are accustomed to get at home. Now I am one of the last who desires (or is entitled) to curb the general enjoyment; but the holiday notion falls far short of the ideals for which the Association was established and now exists. These to my mind are: mutual help, good fellowship in its best sense, an affectionate loyalty to the old School and a continuing interest in its well-being; with, as a natural consequence, its future ability to turn out good citizens. Not a single one of us, whatever our limitations, is entitled to

say "There is no need for me to do anything or to undertake any responsibility; I am not on any Committee," or "I have no time or opportunity to prepare any item for the Re-unions." This sort of thing is not according to the true Sibford spirit of Fellowship. In many simple ways other than these can the objects of the Association be furthered.

I have no doubt from appearances that it is ever so much easier and more comfy to sit at the back of the gallery with a cushion, some chocolates and a girl, than it is to stand near the door of a full hall waiting for your turn, or missing the contributions of other folk to the general enjoyment whilst you are putting on strange garb in the woodwork shop, preparatory to catching your head with a smart smack on the door lintel as the curtains fall apart to receive you, all smiles, of course, on the stage.

Perhaps I may tell you a story: coming from me, reliable of course, and true. A charming meadow; a ditto view; bright sunshine; real Sibford Whitsun weather. Bevies of grace and beauty intermingled with knots of manly strength, sit about. Steaming kettles; plates and plates of provender; the merry rattle of cups and saucers. At last all are served; further supplies are carried round, pastries, buns and cakes, cut up to make a Sibford holiday, till finally all are satisfied and the crowds move off in groups to inspect sculpture and pictures. Unobserved, I tarry near by, curious to note how all this excellent arrangement for the general benefit is made. Who is it gathers up the residual loaves and fishes (three bags full), collects all the cups, saucers and plates into piles, runs off the surplus water, looks after the milk, replaces partially consumed cakes on wooden trays, empties the teapots and the urns, dictates the distribution of divers types of borrowed crockery, loads up the supply chest, helps to capture and harness the School donkey, attaches him (or her) to the cart, loads it up to a dangerous height, and prepares to depart? Eavesdropping, I gather that this remarkable personage bears the name of Jane. Not for a moment overlooking the gallant assistance of about five willing and indefatigable helpers, there is only one main answer to my questions above—JANE, harassed and hot, but ubiquitous and unconquerable in the Sibford cause. But stay. A hundred silver (?) spoons had been borrowed from the Meeting House. A tally is made for their return, it is not 100. Again the count is taken, but the total falls short. There were ninety and nine that safely lay in the shelter of the plate basket, but one was out in the field away and as a matter of fact it takes a long time and many eyes to find it lying hidden in the grass. Just you try yourself finding a spoon in a field.

And how many of us who had enjoyed that bountiful entertainment and then passed on to other pleasures, gave one thought backwards to Jane and the faithful few? They deserve Hon. Mention by name, did I but know them.

The lesson of my artless (and plotless) tale is clear. There are far too few at our Whitsun Gatherings who are willing, to put it quite bluntly, to help with the spade work. To many of us (for I cannot in fairness exclude myself) complacently take everything for granted and make the Gathering solely an opportunity for an individual good time. So it ought to be for everyone; but equally everyone ought not only to be willing but to offer his and her aid and assistance at any and all occasions to achieve that end. Take the simple instance of the transfer of forms and chairs to the Dining Room and back. This should not be an Order. The Secretary might announce that chairs will be required in the Dining Room at the next meal. Then surely it is up to each and all of us to see that the transfer is promptly effected. What is really needed is a wider sense of personal responsibility, and a cheery willingness to do our best for the benefit of "Old Scholars" as a whole.

I heard on the quiet last year that several persons (quite three or four) so took the then Secretary's Requests and Orders to heart that they were in bed by 11 o'clock. This is a splendid start, though the subject itself (that of the hour of retirement) is a delicate one, and the Rules have, it is understood, been broken on occasions.

But I must not bore you more. Frederick E. Goudge, in manfully stepping into the shoes of Harry Randall, has undertaken bravely what I imagine may be a bigger job than he is aware of, and we all wish him well. On our part we must, in acknowledgment of his self-sacrifice (for it is nothing less) unite to make the new Secretary's work as smooth and easy as may be. It is too common a thing to say, "Yes, I'll send in my sub. in a week or two; I'm a bit short just now." And how time does fly, to be sure! Then comes a second reminder—and possibly (but never in your case dear reader, I'm sure) a patient third; all of it quite unnecessary work for a busy Secretary or Treasurer. In fifty ways as simple as this we can help the Association, as we ought.

This, then, is my Appeal; my S.O.S. to S.O.S. in fact. Come to the Gatherings whenever you can, and with a fixed determination to help it in every way possible, little or large. In this way the enjoyment and advantage of everyone will be materially increased, and the Association we all love, small though it be, will grow to be an example of progress, utility and high aim, with the ultimate object of the benefit and advancement of the good old School and its Old Scholars.

SIBFORD OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION.*

The Association shall have for its objects:—

- (a) The continuance of the interest of former Scholars in Sibford School and its work.
- (b) The cementing of Schoolday friendships.
- (c) The provision of assistance to the School whenever possible, and
- (d) The encouragement of a spirit of loyalty amongst Present Scholars.

Subject to the rules of the Association membership of the Association shall be open to the following:—

- (1) Old Scholars of Sibford School.
- (2) Past and Present Members of the Staff.
- (3) Husbands and Wives of Old Scholars.
- (4) Members of the School Committee.
- (5) Other relatives of Old Scholars interested in the School.
and
- (6) Honorary Members.

RULES.*

1. There shall be an Annual Re-union of members held at Sibford at Whitsuntide, or such other time and place as may be found convenient. During this Re-union the Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held, and the decisions of this Meeting shall be duly recorded.

2. The Executive of the Association shall consist of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other necessary officers, who shall be elected yearly at the Annual General Meeting.

3. The Committee of the Association shall consist of all the officers *ex-officio*, Past Presidents, and six members who shall be elected for three years. Two of the elected members shall retire each year, and shall not be eligible for re-election for the ensuing year. Five shall form a quorum.

4. Notice of the Annual Re-unions shall be sent to all members resident in the United Kingdom. The Committee shall have full control of all arrangements at these Re-unions, with power to make such regulations as they may deem to be expedient. For the purpose of arranging accommodation at Sibford for Annual Re-unions, one or more Local Secretaries may be appointed.

5. Wherever the number of members resident in any one locality warrants the course, a Local Branch may be formed. A Branch Secretary shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and shall have power to arrange local re-unions, etc.

6. A printed report shall be issued yearly and circulated to all members whose addresses are known. The editorship shall be undertaken by the Secretary or such other person as may be appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

7. Subscriptions to the Association shall be as follows:—
- (a) Scholars leaving School, for the first year no subscription.
 - (b) Old Scholars under 21, a minimum of 1/6 per annum.
 - (c) Old Scholars over 21, a minimum of 2/6 per annum.

**As approved by the Annual General Meeting held at Easter, 1922.*

NEW MEMBERS

who have left School since Whitsuntide, 1925, and to whom membership of the S.O.S.A. is free until Whitsuntide, 1926.

Bayly, Elsie M.	...	...	30, Somerville Road, Penge, S.E.
Black, W. Leslie	...	...	22, The Avenue, Hornsey, N.8.
Bland, Philip	...	...	35, Yew Tree Lane, Yardley, Birmingham.
Bowles, Marion	...	...	138, Wimborne Road, Winton, Bournemouth.
Brown, Tom Herbert	...	...	74, Nightingale Road, Wood Green, N.22.
Carter, Allan O. L.	...	...	84, Finnemore Road, Ideal Village, Birmingham.
Clayton, Aylwin	...	...	256, Wimborne Road, Winton, Bournemouth.
Coxon, Norman F.	...	...	21, Little Moor Hill, Smethwick, Birmingham.
Edwards, Ralph	...	...	51, Chilswell Road, Oxford.
Flowers, William H.	...	...	Upper Tadmarton, Nr. Banbury, Oxon.
Geering, E. Marjorie	...	...	High Street, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.
Geering, Richard A.	...	...	High Street, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.
Henley, F. Edward	...	...	Cranmore Cottage, Wincanton, Somerset.
Hill, Rendel V.	...	...	197, Gristhorpe Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.
Hobson, George E.	...	...	36, Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey.
Jenks, Hylda B.	...	...	24, Raddlebarn Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.
Johnston, Cedric H.	...	...	4, Waldgrave Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Lissaman, Hilda	...	...	Ardleigh, Brays Lane, Coventry.
Morland, Joy	...	...	160, Church Walk, Stoke Newington, N.16.
Mortimer, Clifford H.	...	...	Staunton House, Whitechurch, nr. Bristol.
Myall, Edna	...	...	Pleystowe Farm, Capel, Surrey.
Neave, Bertha	...	...	45, Woodstock Road, Witney, Oxon.
Nicholl, Winifred M.	...	...	73, Winchester Road, Highams Park, E.4.
Poulton, Lewis W.	...	...	Burdop Farm, nr. Banbury, Oxon.
Richardson, Peter	...	...	The Bourne, Bold Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancs.
Roe, Doris	...	...	3, Albert Square, Aston, Birmingham.
Rufus, James H.	...	...	25, Fordhouse Lane, Stirchley, Birmingham.
Sargent, Helen	...	...	29, St. Annes Road, Caversham, Oxon.
Satchwell, Ruby	...	...	72, Beaumont Road, Bournville, Birmingham.
Sheldon, W. Frederick	...	...	66, Brougham Street, Birmingham.
Smith, Kenneth M.	...	...	12, Trewlawney Road, Cotham, Bristol.
Stansbury, Constance	...	...	24, St. Andrews Road, Henley-on-Thames.
Timms, J. Wilfrid	...	...	9, Sidmouth Street, Reading.
Warner, D. Paul	...	...	c/o Hall School House, Weybridge, Surrey.
Winter, Leonard	...	...	22, Salisbury Road, Maidstone.

The undermentioned have also become members of the S.O.S.A.

Dinnage, Mary (née Williams)	Butter Hill,	Dorking.	
Francillon, Paul	...	...	Les Huguenots, Hillview Road, Hucclecote, Glos.
Hunt, Amy I.	...	...	46, The Green, Banbury.
Knapp, William S.	...	...	99, Chichester Road, Portsmouth.
Pike, Louisa M. (née Cooper)	...	...	2, Rydal Bank, Central Park, Wallasey, Cheshire.
Pim, Lucy B.	...	...	Sibford School.
Thorpe, James W.	...	...	Sibford School.
Tarver, James	...	...	22, Shelley Road, Oxford.
Woolley, W.	...	...	88, Springfield Road, Cotham, Bristol.

All Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary.