

*The
Wathonian*



JULY. 1930. No. XI.

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Editorial.

The entrance into the new buildings is such an historic event in the life of the School that the Committee has decided to make this magazine a special issue. We would remind our readers that the first seven years of life are always the most fruitful in development. During that period we have grown more rapidly than we are ever likely to grow again. The Staff has increased from four to twenty-three, and the number of pupils from 77 to 520. It has also been a time of continuous change; new forms have been started every year, and the school has developed from a Junior School until it now has a big Upper School of four fifth and two sixth forms. Only six of the original pupils and only two of the original masters still remain in the School.

Up to the present, we have suffered in many ways from temporary buildings: now that we are in our permanent home, we have to build up a reputation for the School. Those who still remain in it can by their efforts make the School a great School as well as a big School. Those who are leaving can carry outside the district the reputation of the School by showing at the University, the Training College, and house of business that Old Wathonians are men and women of industry and of sound character. "By their fruits ye shall know them," and by the careers of those who leave, this School will be known.

The Committee gave the magazine its old title when it first started, because they could think of no other. Now that we have an Old Wathonian Society, it has agreed to re-name the magazine, and consequently the first issue from the new buildings starts with the title of "The Wathonian."

It is with genuine regret that we have to announce that three mistresses, all of whom have given good service to the School, are leaving. Miss Shilvoek and Miss Spraggon have both been with us since 1925. Miss Shilvoek has been the Housemistress of Athens, the only Mistress on the Science side, and the founder of the Guides. Miss Spraggon was the original Housemistress of Carthage; she has brought the Latin up to a high standard, and as Chairman of the Girls' Games Sub-Committee has rendered valuable service to the

school games. Miss Holt came to us in 1926 to take Miss Restieaux's place. Under her tuition Geography has proved itself one of the strongest of School subjects. She has worthily followed her predecessor as House-mistress of Rome, has been curator of the museum, and has served as a most efficient secretary to the Games Committee. Their places will be hard to fill: we thank them for the work they have done and the example they have set, and wish them every success and happiness in the future.

The following lists give the names of those boys and girls who are holding positions of responsibility in the School during the present term:—

School Prefects.—C. Elliott, P. Dobson, A. Tennyson, J. L. Smith, R. Breislin, J. Lloyd, R. Prendergast, J. Scholey, R. Kirk, W. Shaw, M. Lythe, G. Foster, S. Scott, W. Clayton, M. Greenwood, M. Barrett, M. Rowley, C. Winstanley, W. Brookes and A. Brown.

Games Committee.—R. Prendergast, E. Rawson, J. Carr, P. Dobson, W. Clayton, I. Chesney, C. Elliott, J. Smith, A. Tennyson, H. Bailey, M. Barrett and S. Atkin.

Magazine Committee.—M. Flavell, C. Winstanley, G. Forster, P. Dobson, C. Howse, V. Carroll, J. Gill, S. Scott, A. Tennyson, A. Brown, R. Beasley and J. Lloyd.

Vale Atque Ave.

Thou served thy purpose, now, old School, farewell,
 I loved each room, I loved each brick for long,
 But Time has now tolled out thy passing knell,
 And we must wander, now, new rooms among.
 I thought that leaving thee, I should be sad,
 I thought thy rival would distasteful prove,
 But I was wrong, for now my heart is glad,
 As 'mid bright corridors and rooms I move.
 Thou served thy purpose, Time doth alter all,
 Time deemed thee fitting, now thy work is past,
 New opportunity and hope do call.
 And we look forward with bright joy at last.
 So, dear old School, "Vale" I bid to Thee,
 And, Bright New School, "Ave" accept from me.

K. DICKINSON (VI. L.L.)

The School Buildings.

It has been stated that "Architecture . . . gives a history of the state of society in which it was erected," and even a casual comparison between architectural and social history bears this out. Indeed, so true is it that the social history of a nation, which has perished, leaving few written records, can be largely reconstructed from a study of the remains of that nation's buildings.

Let us suppose, then, that a terrible calamity has overtaken this civilisation, and has, in some remarkable way, destroyed people and records, but has left our buildings standing. We are, for the present, a party of tourists of the future, visiting the New School in an endeavour to learn something of the people who built it.

On approaching the school two things strike us. First, the size of the place, second, the immense proportion of wall-space devoted to windows. Considering the purpose of the building we conclude that the builders were a provident people, wise enough to understand that the future of the state depended on the training of the future generation, and further that they were liberal enough to spend vast sums of money on this training. Never in any previous age had such extensive buildings been erected for this purpose. Here, then, is progress !

The large amount of window space denotes a love of light and air, and this is further borne out by the plan of the School. The two quadrangles exist solely for the purpose of admitting a maximum of light and air to corridors and classrooms. Quadrangles were used in earlier ages, for strength and seclusion rather than for comfort and health.

Entering the building we admire the long airy corridors with their clean tiled walls. Other schools of this period were not so gaily decorated, and the pink of the tiles comes as a shock to us. Do we like it ? Some of us do, and all admit that it is at least cheerful. There is too, a simple severity that is, in itself, dignified and pleasing to look upon.

The central feature of the building is the Great Hall, obviously, from its size and its platform, a place of assembly. Here, too, simplicity lends a dignity fitting to the purpose of the place. The curved ceiling gives height and saves the Hall from appearing too gaunt and boxlike.

Here is the Gymnasium with its bright yellow apparatus. More than ever we are impressed by the lightness of this

room. There is a spaciousness which makes us want to stretch our limbs and exert ourselves.

Above the pure white tiles of the Dining Hall are refreshing, one might say appetising. The Kitchen shows that these English were, above all, clean. No soot or ashes are here, all is done by the turning of a switch. Truly, a clever and scientific people !

The variety of rooms proves how wide was the scope of their education. Rooms for Science, Art, Housecraft, Wood and Metal-work, besides many ordinary classrooms, all reveal their special purpose in their planning and fittings. Throughout all there is a freshness produced by the large windows and warm, light decoration.

We spend some time wandering round, almost lost in admiration of the efficiency of the building. The Laboratories with their supplies of gas, water, and electricity, the huge Art Room window, the heating in the Cloakrooms, the shower-baths, and a hundred other little points serve only to show how much thought must have gone into the setting out of the plans. Nothing has been forgotten, and we can find little to complain of, save, perhaps, a lack of sufficient stairway accommodation in the front wing.

We leave the building marvelling at the wisdom and foresight of a people who had the courage to put their theories into practice. We turn to look once more, and a silence falls upon us. Then the Artist speaks.

It is, I suppose, too much to expect perfection in every respect. These English were essentially a practical people, educating their children that their state might prosper, sparing no pains to give them every material advantage. Yet, look at this frontage. With all their organisation, wealth, and wisdom, they could not create a thing of beauty. They lacked vision, and "where there is no vision the people perish."

We protest. What is wrong with the front ?

"It lacks unity, and the centre block which should have been dignified and important, containing, as it does, the main entrance, sinks into obscurity when compared with the wings. The stone gables hint at roofs which do not exist. Even those who built it must have realized that something was wrong, for they have applied the stone and ironwork on this side in a vain endeavour to make the place impressive. Now come with me."

We follow this firebrand to the back of the building.

“Look at this. Is it not more dignified than the front? The simple massiveness of block towering on block in interesting stages, is more satisfying to contemplate than any amount of ‘fancy’ stonework. We cannot, however, give them any credit for this, for it is an unsought beauty of unadorned truth, a dignity born of efficiency.”

We ask him if he maintains that these people were devoid of artistic feeling

“Not utterly devoid,” he replied. “Have we not seen that they had sufficient good taste to refrain from plastering cheap ornament on much of the interior work, and was there not an attempt to obtain cheerful colour? Further, the presence of an Art Room alone argues a desire to appreciate beauty. The spirit was willing, but they were too near to the age of shams and revivals to produce a really vital architecture. Theirs was an interesting age, for, did they but know it, they were to witness the birth of a new spirit in Architecture. The germ is here, in this school, a germ of beauty, which was to grow until it produced an Architecture which combined the refinement of Greece, the skill of Rome, the vigour of Gothic Europe with their own feeling for simple Truth.”

The Houses.

The most recent history is commonly the least known. It is for this reason that we will give a few facts about the growth of the School Houses, in spite of the fact that the events recorded have occurred within the memory of many members of the School.

The original Houses were Rome and Sparto, and it is interesting to record that the first two House Masters are with us. Athens and Carthage were formed in 1925, and Thebes and Troy two years later. The changes in the personnel have been few, and there are still one or two Spartans who remember Miss Bouvier, a few Romans who know Miss Restieaux, and several Athenians and Trojans for whom Mr. Govier and Miss Smith are not mere names.

The House competitions have always been closely contested. The “Talbot” Cup, awarded for games, and the Parents’ Cup for work, were presented almost from the foundation of the School, and the Staff Cup for the winners of the Athletic Sports dates from 1927. The following results will be of interest:—

Talbot Cup.	Parents' Cup.	Staff Cup.
Sparta 6	Sparta 7	Rome 3
Carthage 2	Athens 6	Sparta 2
Thebes 2	Rome 3	
Rome 1		

An intelligent foreigner would be very puzzled by the word "House." "You have your School buildings," he would say, "but I cannot see any Houses," and we should have to admit that they do not exist. What, then, is a House? The present use of the word is derived from the large boarding schools, where for convenience the boys were lodged in separate houses, so that naturally the schools came to be organised on the House system, and the word "house" changed its meaning from that of a building to that of a section of the school. The system worked so well in boarding schools that to-day practically every day school of any size would be considered out of date without "Houses." Here the House system has been in existence from the very beginning, and the whole organisation of the School is based upon the House. As soon as a boy or girl arrives, he becomes a member of a House. If he gets high up in his form, he wins, if he gets in detention, he loses, points for his House. Likewise in the games and sports competitions, every boy and girl has an opportunity of helping his House to win the Cup. But the influence of the House does not end there. The House master is a benevolent uncle, the House mistress a benevolent aunt, to whom the child, erring or misunderstood, can take his troubles. If "A" is put in detention for not doing his homework, and there are extenuating circumstances, he is not slow to seek his House master's aid as a kind of poor man's lawyer. Then the House has its social side. It is not possible to describe the numerous social activities—they vary according to the House—but the Christmas "Social" with its games, gambols and guzzling seems to be popular in every House, and all Houses have their summer excursion when they walk for miles over the moors raising their drooping spirits by frequent recourse to gaseous but unfermented drinks.

Is the House system worth while? In moments of depression, when the same boys get in detention week after week, when girls do not turn up to play for their House team, when House excursions are attended by only a minority of its members, when sports practices require compulsion and House matches lead to ignoble squabbles; then, one is inclined to question its value. But there are more weighty

factors on the other side. Experience shows that normally the most intelligent, the most athletic, the soundest boys and girls are also the keenest members of the House—which proves that there is something in the House system that appeals to the best in human nature. There is little room in the House for the “silly ass,” but the asininity of the fourth form boy is usually merely a temporary stage, and as he grows older he becomes a pillar of the House. Therein lies the main value of the House system. While it stimulates the enthusiasm of the youngster, it gives the older boy probably his first experience of organisation and responsibility. It is not easy for a boy to speak at a House meeting, it is not easy for a boy to get others to do what they don't want to, but it is excellent training. The School is young, most of the Houses are younger still, and the old boys and girls are few in number: one of the most encouraging signs of the success of the House system is the interest taken in the Houses by those who have left.

This term Athens is losing Miss Shilvock, Carthage Miss Spraggon, and Rome Miss Holt. As they are still with us, we cannot adequately express our appreciation of all that they have done to build up the House system in this School—that task will be more ably and appropriately done next term by their own House correspondents.

The following are the House officials for the year, 1929-30:—

ATHENS.

BOYS.

House Captain Buckley
 Captain, Senior XV. Prendergast
 Junior XV. . Bramham
 Senior XI. Buckley
 Junior XI. ... Bramham
 Magazine Committee ... Flavell
 Games Committee . Prendergast

GIRLS.

House Captain E Rawson
 Captain, Senior XI. . D. Harvey
 Junior XI. P. Humphries
 Magazine Committee L. Winstanley
 Games Committee ... E Rawson

CARTHAGE.

House Captain Swift
 Vice-Captain Hanwell
 Secretary Forster
 Captain, Senior XV. ... Carr
 Junior XV. Heal
 Senior XI. Carr
 Junior XI. Heal
 House Committee Carr, Shaw, Singleton
 Magazine Committee ... Forster
 Games Committee Carr

House Captain P. Soar
 Captain, Junior XI. E. Kilburn
 Magazine Committee P. Dobson
 Games Committee...P. Dobson

ROME.

House Captain Clayton
 Magazine Committee .. Clayton
 Games Committee Clayton

House Captain I. Chesney
 Magazine Committee. V. Carroll
 Games Committee .. I. Chesney

SPARTO.

House Captain Elliott	House Captain S. Scott
Vice-Captains ... Gill, Breislin	Captain, Senior X. ... J. Smith
Captain, Senior XI. ... Breislin	Junior XI. I. Midwood
Junior XI. ... Lord	Magazine Committee ... S. Scott
Magazine Committee Gill	Games Committee J. Smith
Games Committee Elliott	

THEBES.

House Captain Tennyson	House Captain R. Kirk
Captain, Senior XV. ... Smith	Captain, Senior XI. . A. Brown
Junior XV. ... Field	Junior XI. P. Crockett
Senior XI. ... Howard	Magazine Committee . A. Brown
Junior XI. ... Field	Games Committee .. H. Bailey
House Committee	
Tennyson, Howard, Outram	
Games Committee Tennyson	

TROY.

House Captain Brookes	House Captain M. Lythe
Captain, Senior XV. ... Barrett	Captain, Senior XI. C. England
Junior XV. ... Howdle	Magazine Committee . J. Lloyd
Senior XI. ... Brookes	Games Committee S. Atkin
Junior XI. ... Riley	
Magazine Committee .. Beasley	
Games Committee Barrett	

The Literary Society.

The School Literary Society held its first meeting in September, 1926, when members of the Upper Forms met in the Physics Laboratory to arrange the programme for the Winter Session. The programme was to include a few Staff papers, debates between the School Houses, debates between the Upper Forms, dramatic readings and dramatic performances. After the first session a Committee with House representatives was to draw up the programme, which would be provided by the pupils themselves, since the aim of the Society was to develop their interests and to afford scope for their own powers and activities.

From this initial effort a successful Society has been built up, holding fortnightly meetings from September to May. The VI. Forms, as seniors in the School, have taken the lead, and have provided many of the meetings, while, from the Upper Forms more response and individual effort arises each session.

The Society has not lacked variety. The Literary VI. has faced the Science VI. over such questions as Broadcasting v. Newspapers; Nationalisation; Disarmament; the Channel Tunnel; that modern facilities for amusement deaden individual effort. The Fifth Forms have debated concerning Science v. Classics; modern Advertising; value

of Sport; that Conversation is the highest art and the noblest pleasure. House debates have investigated such questions as Emigration within the Empire; the merits of our grand-parents as contrasted with our own; life in Country or Town; Cinema v. Stage; that Truth is stranger than Fiction. Snap debates have also been held, in which the usual method of handing slips of paper round in a box was employed, and the speakers had to support the subjects drawn.

Two Mock Trials caused much entertainment. The cases tried were civil cases, based upon plots from books read. Much of the evidence had to be manufactured, and considerable originality was shown. The first Trial, "The De Nomeris Succession Case," was conducted by the Literary VI., with Prendergast (Judge), Wetherall and Kirkby (Counsels), the Science VI. (Jury). The second Trial involved the Crown versus a Receiver of Stolen Goods; presiding Judge, Tennyson; Counsels, Flavell and Howse; Jury, the Literary VI. Presiding Judges, Counsel, Witnesses, Plaintiffs, Defendants, Clerks of the Court, held their positions with considerable ability, the evidence was followed critically by those present "in Court," while at times the atmosphere became tense. The occasions afforded good practice in clear and coherent speech.

Papers on Modern Novelists, Poets, Dramatists, have also been given by Form VI., together with a Science demonstration on Magnets, and two dramatic readings from "The Land of Hearts' Desire" and "Silas Marner." Dramatic performances have included scenes from "The Merchant of Venice," "Twelfth Night," "Coriolanus," "The School for Scandal," "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Rehearsal"—all from Form VI.; and "Henry IV." (Part I.), (IVa.), and "The Grand Cham's Diamond" (Vc.).

Each session has ended with a Literary Social, of which the chief feature has been the dramatic performance. The first year, Form VI. girls gave "Prunella," in which they maintained the delicate air of fantasy the play demands. Prunella (N. Knibbs), Pierrot (M. Steer), and Scaramel (E. Hincsliffe) did their parts with understanding and grace. Cutler and Buckley played violin obligatos and duets, which added to the atmosphere of the play. The next Literary Society Dramatics were shared by the VI. Literary and VI. Science, with "The Admirable Crichton" and "The Poetasters of Ispahan" respectively. Very good performances were given by Kirkby (Crichton), Joan Smith (Lady

Mary), and L. George (Aladdin). The latest Literary Social was conspicuous for a serious dramatic effort from the Lower Literary VI., the presentation of "St. Joan." Kathleen Dickenson succeeded in imparting to St. Joan an air of spirituality and strength which carried the audience with her. The Trial Scene and the Epilogue were played by the performers with earnestness and understanding. The evening ended with Galsworthy's "Little Man," acted by the Science VI.

The present Literary Society committee consists of the following: Miss Deeks (Chairman) Secretaries, Tennyson and Joan Smith; Staff Members, Miss Baker, Mr. Axford, Mr. Clay; remaining hon. members, Steer, Buckley, W. Charlesworth, I. Chesney.

The last Literary Society meeting of this Session was addressed by a Canadian visitor, who explained to us the extraordinary variety of scene and life in her own land. She was impressed by the attention and interest of her audience, and will, we hope, give a good account of us to her fellow-Canadians when she returns.

We feel our Society is gathering strength during each session; there is more willingness to help and greater care in the preparation of debates; more real understanding of dramatic work, and greater pleasure in seeing a somewhat serious performance. With our increased facilities the Society should become a vital force in the School.

The School Song.

Through the vale of the Dearne we go marching along,
 With a "Good luck to Wath," the refrain of our song,
 Through sunshine and rain, to the close of the day,
 Down our grey little valley we take our glad way.
 To our School on the hill we look up with great joy,
 'Tis our pride, 'tis our love, both of girl and of boy;
 To it the devotion of young hearts we bring:
 As we go through the world, of its glory we sing.
 We will make its good name, we will bring it great fame,
 What success we achieve, 'twill be never the same
 As the guerdon of praise beyond custom or rule,
 Which may ring in our ears, "You've done well for the
 School."

Our endeavours are true and our hearts are sincere,
 Within our quadrangles the law we revere;

We are free, yet obey, we are trusted, and rule
 All our thoughts and our hopes for the good of the School.
 O'er our wide fields of play with our hearts glad and gay,
 We marshall our teams in battle array;
 Do we win, do we lose, yet we strive with a will
 To bring victory home to the School on the hill.

(Girls only):

Let the hockey ball fly, let the tennis ball speed!
 We can dribble and pass, we can volley at need.
 With our hearts beating gaily, we speed for the goal,
 Come on, forwards, come backs, come on servers, come
 School.

(Boys only):

We may shove, we may tackle, or run with the ball;
 We may drop-kick, or place-kick, or not kick at all;
 But we must play the game and obey every rule,
 For the good of the team, and the good of the School.

Art Club.

The success or failure of any enterprise can only be estimated by comparing its aim or object with its results, and, bearing this in mind, the Art Club can safely be said to have met with its fair share of success.

We have two principal aims. In the first place, we seek to promote in the School a livelier interest in Art generally; and, secondly, we endeavour to give to those who are sufficiently interested an opportunity of practising any of the Arts or Crafts to which they may feel attracted. The latter is easy, and the former is difficult. How have we worked to attain these ends?

In order that the Club should be as attractive as possible, we reduce our rules and regulations to a minimum, thereby giving individual members the greatest freedom allowable. When the Club was started in the autumn of 1926, we demanded two things only, namely, that evidence of work should be submitted for the terminal exhibitions, and that subscriptions should be paid. We elected a committee to deal with what little business might crop up, and we obtained permission to use, in moderation and with care, school materials. That was all. In that first term 100 people were sufficiently interested to enter their names as members of the Club, and approximately 60 proved to be keen enough to do any work. The following Spring saw a

any
 let there who have left us some fun in our
 about the hill as our comrades & cheer us
 Let our hearts glow with courage, along
 got eye, & feet ever, O school on the hill.

falling off in numbers, which continued into the Summer Term. This has since proved to be customary. Beginning with an influx of new members each Autumn, the membership list is swollen. Gradually the "dabblers" tire and drop out till, by the end of the Summer Term, we are left with a handful of genuine enthusiasts.

In the Autumn of 1928 the full-membership system was introduced, enabling the committee to show their appreciation of the special efforts of keen members by allowing them little privileges. It was hoped, too, that the award of full-membership in itself would prove to be an incentive to work. In this it has been partially successful only, but it can truly be said that the majority of those so honoured have proved worthy of the title.

The Autumn of 1929 saw the Club at its largest, with a membership of 113, of which about 80 were working. So much for general interest in the School.

Success was coming to us in another way. In the three years, 1927-29, members obtained prizes in the County Health Poster Competition. We are hoping that this has become a regular annual event.

Concerning the actual type of work done by members, it would be easy to fill this magazine with lists as long as they would be dull. Our terminal exhibitions have shown that our time has not been wasted, and bears testimony to the varied activities of the Club. It is interesting to note that there has been a constant swinging to and fro of interest between crafts and pictorial work. There was at one time a craze for manuscript work, at another a glut of lino-prints. and again a passing fashion for the decoration of whitewood articles. Each craze dies a natural death, but each leaves its mark in some keen worker who has mastered the craft and remains true to it. The rest go on exploring fresh fields until they, in their turn, find some branch of activity which so fascinates them that they stick to it, develop it, and acquire a real proficiency. Not all members do this, of course. Some enter the Club already provided with a fixed interest, which is fortunate. Some keep wandering from subject to subject, and never settle seriously to anything, and these are unfortunate. Some join expecting to meet with immediate success, and are discouraged at the amount of "donkey-work" to be done before good results arrive. They leave, presumably to go where they can find glory without effort, wherever that may be.

Ours is a tale of constant experiment, of a perpetual exploration of possibilities, and it is rightly so. For when we settle down to do one thing only and for ever we shall be dead.

This year we have started a "Sketching Section," with the idea of giving those who "don't know what to do" a definite task. Every fortnight a subject is set, which may be illustrated in any manner and in any medium. This section has largely achieved its end.

Now, since moving into the new School, we have added facilities for experiment and the practice of Craftwork. We have a very efficiently equipped Art Room, and it remains to be seen what use we shall make of our opportunities. Our start has been an auspicious one, for one of our members has this Term met with hard-earned success. Barrett, who has been actively associated with the Club from its foundation, has won a County Art Scholarship. This is no mean achievement, as there are only two such awards made annually in the county, and competition is very keen. From the Club's point of view this is a mixed blessing, for it will deprive us of a really keen and brilliant member. However, we wish him further success, and we shall watch his career with more than usual interest.

Our committee this year is as follows: Lawson (Secretary), Barrett, Hargreaves, Clayton, D., Dickinson, Illingworth, and Wood. It is to be regretted that the girls are not represented, and we hope to see this defect remedied next Term.

Much assistance has been given in the running of the Club by some of the full members, especially by the younger element. We shall look to these enthusiasts to form the backbone of the Club in the near future.

The Cycle Club.

Captain, Tennyson; Vice-Captain, Webb; Hon. Secretary, Howse; Committee, E. Rawson, Beasley.

The Cycle Club was founded by Miss Restieaux in the now mythical past. It is rumoured, too, that in the early days the meetings of the Club were attended by unheard-of numbers. Of recent years our activities, though strenuous, have not met with the response that they deserve. Cycling is a seasonal occupation, and the history of the Club during

the past few years may be summed up as follows. At the first meeting about twelve persons turned up, including the officials and some of the more active and intelligent members of the Upper School. The numbers remain fairly consistent for the first few runs. Then the House matches begin; we are compelled to limit our excursions to the afternoon, and numbers diminish. Then the House excursions are upon us, and it becomes more and more difficult to collect our members together. Finally come the examinations, and the season comes to an abrupt end amid the scratching of pens and the hasty scanning of notebooks.

It is a pity that the cycling enthusiasts are so few, for the surrounding country is well worth a closer inspection. For those who like moorland scenery—and hill-climbing—there are Wharnccliffe Crag, Ewden Valley, Strines, with its mountain stream and shady woods, and the better known hills and vales round Hathersage. For those who prefer the level fenland, there is the run to Goole, a veritable inland port, the Isle of Axholme, like a vast sea studded with windmills and an occasional village rising out of the eternal flats; Epworth, the birthplace of the Wesleys, and Gringley-on-the-Hill, from which you get the widest view in England. There are many buildings, too, of more than usual interest. Pontefract, Castleton, Tickhill, and Conisborough have their ruined castles, and the Dukeries abound in spacious parks and mansions of more recent date. The more famous Yorkshire abbeys are too far away, but Roche is at our very door, and there is a very fine Abbey church at Selby, as also at Work-sop and Blythe. Almost every village church is worth a visit, and this district is particularly rich in them: we have looked at more than we can remember, but we still recall Tickhill with its lofty tower, Womersley with the curious rood-screen, and Birkin, a gem of Norman architecture. Finally, for those who want to fly as well as to cycle, there is the aerodrome at Sherburn-in-Elmet.

We have a small but distinguished list of former members Miss Restieaux, our founder, who had a passion for abbeys and churches; Miss Smith, Mr. Clay, Mr. Wilkinson, whose machine has at last reached pensionable age; Kirkby for many years Secretary, Parkin the first captain of the School XV., Chapman who on one occasion was the only member to turn up, Hinds who possessed the bicycle of greatest antiquity, George with the little white haversack, and Ibbotson who once walked back from Hathersage. To this list will

soon be added Miss Holt, who has been with us for four years, who has so rarely missed a ride, and whose absence will be so much regretted.

The future is uncertain. Each year the claims of tennis and cricket become more exacting. But the School is growing, too: next year we should be well over five hundred, and in a school of that size there should be found a handful of enthusiasts to carry on the traditions of the Club.

The Choir.

In the summer term of 1928 a few members of the Upper Forms met once a week in order to learn and practice some new hymn tunes. After a very short time it was felt that a little more might be done, and a few simple part songs were attempted.

By the end of the Autumn term sufficient progress had been made to justify a public appearance, and a short concert was given to the rest of the School. The items were mainly two-part songs, as the members of the choir were mainly girls.

It was gratifying to find that after the concert a number of recruits presented themselves, and these included some of the elder boys. With this fresh material it was possible to attempt four-part songs. The practices went on steadily during the Spring term, but during the Summer term were rather irregular owing to games, examinations, etc. By the end of the Autumn term another programme had been arranged, and a second concert was given.

The items at this concert were mostly four-part songs and madrigals by well-known composers, and it was noticeable that the choir had enjoyed the task of learning these songs and, on the whole, they were well rendered.

During the last two terms we have been sufficiently ambitious to attempt "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast," by Coleridge-Taylor, and although this is a somewhat difficult work, we feel that the School will enjoy hearing this and other items at the end of term, and for the first time the parents will have an opportunity of hearing us.

Generally speaking, the members of the choir have displayed a notable enthusiasm without which it would have been impossible to continue, and their attendances have been very regular. The numbers now stand at about 40—45. Unfortunately, the parts are not too well balanced, and we

should welcome fresh members in September, especially boys from the Upper Forms who can sing tenor or bass.

It is worth mention that the Choir Social at the end of last term was suggested and organised largely by the boys and girls themselves, and a very enjoyable time resulted, some of the younger members especially contributing some very pleasing songs.

We have to thank the members of the Staff, who have given their time ungrudgingly and have been very helpful, especially Miss Spenser, who has been our accompanist from the beginning.

In conclusion, we feel that although our efforts may not always be perfect, yet we are developing a liking and an appreciation of good music, and, what is more, we enjoy singing. This encourages us to continue.

L'Architecte Sans Merci.

O, what can ail thee, schoolboy, pale,
 Alone, and palely loitering?
 The cricket bats await thee now,
 And all birds sing.

I met a sage out in the street,
 Full solemn, yet with fixèd gaze,
 His gait was slow, his face was, too,
 Full of amaze.

Full solemn, yet with fixèd gaze,
 We went into his study, dark,
 And nought else saw I all day long,
 For sideways did we look and search
 School plans among.

He found me plans of manner meet,
 Designs of every shape and hue,
 And sure, in phrases grim, he said,
 "This one will do."

And then, his voice sent me to sleep,
 And there I dreamed, ah! woe betide!
 The saddest dream I ever dreamed,
 Full sore, I sighed.

I saw pale heads, and children too,
 Pale masters, death-pale were they all,
 They cried, "L'Architecte, sans merci,
 Hath us in thrall"!

I saw their starved lips in the gloom,
With "New School" horror gaping wide,
And I awoke, and found me here,
Where I must bide.

And that is why I sojourn here,
For my Old School, so woe-begone,
Though cricket bats wait me without,
And winter's done.

VIOLET CARROLL, Form VI.
(Upper Literary).

The Opening of the New School

The official opening of the new school buildings took place on Monday, May 19th. The opening ceremony was performed before a large number of parents of the Upper School scholars, by Mr. Morgan Jones, M.P., who deputised for Sir Charles Trevelyan, the Minister of Education, who was prevented from being present owing to Parliamentary affairs.

Mr. A. J. Thomson, Chairman of the Governors, who presided, said he was very glad the School had found a permanent home after many years of wandering in temporary buildings, and he appealed to the pupils to make the most of the opportunities which the new building presented.

After the Bishop of Sheffield had dedicated the building the Headmaster reviewed the School-life from the time when the School opened in September, 1923. The School started with 77 pupils; it is now the fourth largest school under the control of the W.R.C.C., with 520 pupils. The standard of the work had steadily improved; good results were obtained in the July examinations, and the advantages of the new buildings would help the work to continue improving. The training and developing of character, which formed a very important part of modern education, could be carried on more satisfactorily. The prefects could have more privileges and they could take a greater share in the work of the School; and, as the School had now its own field, games could be played in a better manner and more systematically. This would tend to develop the team spirit throughout the School.

In conclusion, the Headmaster appealed to the scholars of the Upper School to support the Staff and to set an example to the Lower School, of hard work and play, good

conduct and keenness. Hence the School would continue to develop and would increase its reputation.

The scholars then sang, "Forty Years On."

Mr. Morgan Jones, in declaring the School open, said the opening of a new school meant the opening of the door of opportunity to boys and girls of the present and of the future. He congratulated those who were to receive certificates, but reminded them not to be too highly elated but to remember that the purpose of education was not to win prizes but to give them a desire to serve their fellow-men.

Addressing the elder people, he said that the educational system was being re-organised. Formerly the system of teaching was fixed and the pupil had to adapt himself to the system; the modern idea was to make the system fit the pupil. As a result of the re-organisation, pupils would have an opportunity to recapture the sense of beauty and pride in craftsmanship which had been lost, and they would be better fitted to solve the intricate problems of the future. "Your School which to-day provides fine buildings and playing fields, may, before you are ten or fifteen years older, prove to be the instrument giving into your hands the key by which you will unlock the doors of progress."

Sir Percy Jackson, moving a vote of thanks, gave the reasons why the Secondary School was built at Wath, and he also said the approximate cost of the School to individual ratepayers was very small relatively. He appealed to the students to make the best of their leisure hours and to do something which would benefit them.

Mr. G. H. Hirst, M.P., seconded the vote of thanks, to which Mr. Jones briefly replied, and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

After the opening ceremony, the parents were conducted round the School and on Monday, May 26th, the parents of the Lower School were allowed to inspect the building.

R. BEASLEY (Lower VI.Lit).

The Old Wathonians' Society.

An informal Old Boys' Society had met the Head, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Grear, and Mr. Wilkinson, on various occasions before February, 1929, when the first general meeting was held to inaugurate the formation of an Old Students' Association, including both girls and boys. A committee was chosen,

of which the Headmaster was elected President; Miss Deeks, Vice-President; R. Atkinson and W. Rawlinson. Secretaries; C. Eyre, treasurer; Birks, M. Hugh, Parkin (Old Boys' representatives); J. Wright, M. Copley, M. Chesney (Old Girls' representatives). Elections were to be annual. A discussion followed as to the general activities of the Society, and arrangements for an Easter Social were delegated to the Committee. The social evening eventually took the form of a whist drive, followed by supper, after which a short concert took place, together with dancing, accompanied by a jazz band provided by the then present members of the School. Thus ended a very enjoyable re-union.

On the following day matches between the School and the Old Students took place, the School winning matches against both Old Boys and Old Girls. The matches were watched by large numbers of staff and pupils, and all felt that the new Old Students' Association had made a very active beginning.

During the summer, Rugby and hockey matches were followed by the more seasonable cricket and tennis, while the ramble on the first Sunday after Term ended took the form of an outing to Penistone moors. A good party turned up, but as the weather proved to be unfavourable much of the day was spent in Langsett Wood.

At a committee meeting held in November, 1929, it was proposed that the Society should adopt a name and colours of its own. The committee decided that since the matter was of general importance the question should be raised at a short general meeting before the Christmas social. At this meeting E. Osgulthorpe and Ida Midwood were co-opted members of the committee owing to a vacancy, while B. Catton was co-opted as an Old Boys' representative.

At this meeting, so many suggestions were offered that the question was referred to the Easter meeting, at which the name of the "Old Wathonians" was adopted, while the colours selected were the School colours super-imposed upon a background of navy blue. Old Students' ties in these colours can now be obtained, particularly for wear when playing matches. The Christmas Social followed the meeting.

The Easter (1930) Social was slightly varied in form. In addition to the whist drive and musical items, a fancy head-dress competition and a balloon dance were introduced, causing much diversion. The privilege of an hour's extension of time was much appreciated, and everyone is looking

forward to our first Social evening in the new School, when, with the new members who will be added after the School Summer Term, a record attendance will celebrate an eventful occasion.

This last year has also seen the formation of the Old Boys' Rugby Club, of which the Headmaster was elected President. Parkin has proved a good and capable Captain, with W. Young as Vice-Captain. Mr. Wilkinson was elected as Staff Representative, and B. Catton has filled the office of Secretary-Treasurer. During the season the Club played nine matches, winning four and losing five. A Rambling Club has been formed to keep the Rugby players together during the summer months, and three good "hikes" have been held.

The Old Girls hope to form a Hockey Club in the near future, and they also suggest playing the School at Net-ball.

The School Magazine is enthusiastically supported by the "Old Wathonians," and forms a good link between the Association and those who will one day be old Wathonians themselves.

The present committee is as follows: President, the Headmaster; Vice-President, Miss Deeks; Secretaries, H. Willis and W. Rawlinson; Treasurer, Eyre; B. Catton, Parkin, Birls (Boys' Representatives); D. Rowlinson, D. Haigh, I. Midwood (Girls).

As the Society grows many more activities will develop, but whatever form these may take we doubt if the Society will have more enthusiastic supporters than those who have brought it into being. "Meliora Spectare."

On Entering the School.

At eight o'clock on Tuesday morning the new School seemed nothing but a nuisance. After a long train journey the previous day, one did not feel like getting up ten minutes earlier than had formerly been necessary, in order to cover the increased distance to School.

However, once out of bed, the new quarters were to be looked forward to, just as Columbus must have looked forward to his landing in unknown territory. Previous glimpses of our future dwellings had only whetted our appetite.

In the large and airy hall one felt very strange; even the singing seemed subdued, and the Head's voice at prayers

penetrated to the back with about half its accustomed power. How strange, also, to see the whole Staff gathered on a large stage with heavy curtains gracefully falling away on either side, instead of only the heads of two or three masters and mistresses intermittently obscured by an uneven sea of swaying heads!

After a few words of advice on our future conduct, we adjourned to our new classrooms, with difficulty keeping our feet on the polished floor. A "Conducted Tour" enabled us to obtain some idea of the location of various classrooms in which we should take our lessons, but did not prevent us afterwards enjoying the freedom of getting lost and being late for class.

In the first rush of curiosity, the old quarters had been quite forgotten. But now, having satisfied the spirit of adventure, regrets and vague longings began to arise. How we missed the hospitable crowds of the old stuffy hall, the traffic jams in the narrow low corridors, and the general cosy air of our former cramped apartments. The new hall, the slippery corridors, the numerous electric lights, and the luxurious fittings, dismayed us and disconcerted us. We seemed for a time like beggars suddenly placed in a fairy palace. But I suppose we shall get used to it.

J. SCHOLEY, VI.

Hockey.

The School has had many hockey fields, each one a little better than the others. With the improvement of the pitch has come a gradual improvement in play. For two or three years after the start of the School there was very little hockey. 1928-29 can be called our first season, during which our 1st XI. played the 2nd XI.'s of Barnsley, Mexborough, Penistone and Rotherham, and in almost every case proved victorious.

Encouraged by this success and by our new field, which is the correct size and free from miniature jungles, in 1929-30 we challenged 1st XI.'s. The results have been disappointing; but, though the goals have been against us, the games as a whole have been fast and even. What we need is a forward line that can shoot and shoot hard. The forwards work well in the field, but when they reach the circle too often their work is undone by feebleness in shooting. With

practice this weakness can be remedied, and next season the results should be victories instead of defeats.

Up to the present there has been no 2nd XI., but the Junior XI., which played two matches this year, proved very keen and should provide good material for next season's 2nd XI.

This year has seen an improvement in House hockey. Too often House matches, particularly junior matches, resolved themselves into a mad scramble for the ball. Practice in the dinner hour is doing much, especially for the younger girls. The School as a whole is keen on the game, and keenness, in time, cannot fail to produce good results.

The following were in the 1st XI. during the season 1928-29: J. L. Smith (capt.), E. Rawson, S. Scott, K. Dickinson, P. Soar, M. Lythe, M. Hawksworth, M. Abson, C. Winstanley, M. Greenwood, M. Hardy, C. England, and L. Hoyland.

Rugby.

When an individual or community strikes out in an entirely new direction, and in one which is rather at variance with the accepted ideas of their neighbours, they need not be surprised if the journey is difficult. This was our experience in Wath when in 1925 the Headmaster decided that in future Rugger was to be the School game.

We had then been in existence for two years, and, for their size, our boys were reasonably proficient exponents of Soccer. We therefore decided to leave them to their Soccer and to begin Rugger with the new boys who arrived in September. The Head had previously arranged with Mr. Ireland, of Mexborough S.S., that they too would start a certain proportion of their new arrivals, the idea being that each school would provide the other with suitable opposition. Mexborough have unfortunately fallen by the way, but we nevertheless are greatly indebted to them for the service rendered during these earliest efforts. We must confess, however, that these early encounters did not reach a standard which would convince sceptical spectators that Rugby was an improvement on Soccer. Nevertheless, from this modest beginning the School Rugby has so much improved that now, in less than five years, we are able to meet on equal terms any Secondary School in the district.

Another difficulty with which we were confronted was the total absence of suitable playing pitches and changing accommodation. We commenced with a field which was bounded on one side by the canal and on another by the local Council's dumping ground. When it rained we were mired, when it was fine we were gassed. We next had the field at Quarry Hills. This was certainly more healthy than the other, but it had a considerable slope, and had deep transverse furrows all over its surface. These were very disconcerting, especially to visitors, and also held water so much that in a wet winter the ground was almost impossible from Christmas to Easter.

In the first season, 1925-6, we arranged some fixtures with a team, suited to our strength, from Hemsworth S.S., but by the next season we had so improved that we were able to ask them to play us with a Second XV. The first of these matches, played at Hemsworth in November, 1926, resulted in a drawn game, but in the return game in the following March, Wath proved the victors by 22 points to nil.

We will continue to follow our encounters with Hemsworth, as in this way we get a good idea of the progress made by the School in the new game. About this time, unfortunately, Mexborough dropped out, but Hemsworth were very helpful and always gladly provided suitable opposition.

Our policy up to this had been to start all new-comers on Rugby, letting the Soccer die a gradual death. In September, 1927, however, we resolved to burn our boats, and we became definitely a Rugger School, Soccer disappearing altogether from our playing fields. This naturally brought considerable brawn if not skill into our 1st XV., but the fact that the latter was not altogether lacking is shown by the result of our next tussle with Hemsworth 2nd XV., whom we defeated in October, 1927, by 46 points to nil.

Encouraged by this, we decided to ask for a meeting on equal terms. The first took place at Wath, in November, 1927, and we were beaten by 10 points. At Hemsworth the following February the result was Hemsworth 25 points, Wath 0.

Coming to the season 1928-29, we find more than 200 boys playing Rugby, with a 1st XV. facing a programme of about 12 fixtures. These included home and away matches with the 1st XV.'s of Hemsworth, Goole, Morley, and Silcoates. Of these eight, only six actually took place, and School won four and lost two.

A feature of the season which finished in April, 1930,

was the creation of the Old Boys' Rugby Club, which in future will be called "The Old Wathonians." They are as yet hardly a match for the School, but if they maintain their present keenness their first victory will come at a not very distant date.

In conclusion, I will give the School's record for the season 1929-30, the fifth year in the life of its Rugby, and the third since the game was adopted by the whole School: Played 13, won 9, lost 4; points for 288; points against 74. Since Christmas, 7 games were played and all were won, and as we are fortunate enough to have six of last year's XV. who are not leaving, we look forward hopefully to 1930-31.

The following represented the School last season:—

*Brookes.

*Prendergast, *Gill (V.-Capt.), Hollingsworth, Pears,
*Carr, Speight, *Elliott (Capt.), *Clayton, W., *Breislin,
*Barrett, Shaw, Hanwell, Clayton, D., Scholey.
* School colour.

Scouts.

The four fundamental aims in scouting are to develop the characters of the individual boys, to make them keen on helping other people, interested in hobbies—more especially those involving some form of handicraft—and to enable them to realise the value of physical fitness.

The method adopted throughout is based on the principles that to learn by self-expression is better than learning by impression, and to lead is better than to drive. The development of character depends essentially on the truth of these principles. For this reason every boy before he becomes a Scout has to be able to appreciate the meaning of the Scout Law and to promise to do his utmost to obey it. Then, when he becomes a Scout, he is expected to work at something which interests him. The type of work he finds pleasure in is a secondary consideration so far as character building is concerned, so long as it is harmless in itself, as his interest will enable him to tackle and solve those difficulties which he meets—preferably without external aid—thus inculcating initiative, self-reliance, and confidence. However, owing to the unlimited number of subjects from which he can choose, a boy can usually find something which is also of value in itself, and in order to develop his keenness

in this direction numerous proficiency badges are awarded for those forms of work which are in keeping with the other three aims of scouting.

The Scout Troop was formed four years ago. Meetings are held on Friday evenings after school, when the Scouts work for badges and tests and afterwards take part in games or a sing-song. Every Term a competition on general Scout work is held, and shield presented by Mr. Govier is awarded to the best Patrol. During the first two years two large tents were made, and last year we completed a small "hikor," also a fair amount of tent repairing has been done.

In the Summer Term outings are often arranged for Saturdays, and two or three week-end camps are held during this Term. Last Whitsuntide we had rather a long week-end camp at Treeton, where we entered our first competition with other troops, and gained second place in both the ambulance and sports events.

Probably the most important function in the year is the annual summer camp after school closes. These camps have been held at Stapleton Park, Grindleford, Whitby, and this year we have arranged to go to the Lincolnshire coast about eight miles from Skegness. At each camp there has been a marked improvement in the efficiency and general behaviour of the Scouts.

A committee of Senior Scouts has been formed to take a more active part in the management of the troop, and to coach and test the juniors. In the future we hope that the Scouts, through this committee, will not only be in charge of the cooking, but will also be of use in the organisation of and the preparation for the summer camp.

The present members of the committee are: Howse, Forster, Carr, Webb, Steer, Searle, Cresswell, and Prendergast.

Guides.

In May, 1926, a Guide Club, with 25 members, was formed. We had a weekly meeting and rambles on most Saturdays of the Summer Term, but it was not until January, 1927, that the Company—22A Barnsley—was officially recognised under Miss Shilvock and Miss Swift. Since its formation the Company has gone steadily forward, until we now have 8 Patrols—58 Guides in all. Some of us have passed

our Second Class test, but many more are now ready, waiting for an examiner. These people have been tested by Company Officers, but must be tested by a Guider of another Company as well, owing to the regulations for School Guide Companies.

The Company is under the personal direction of the Commissioner living in Leeds, so we naturally find it difficult to arrange visits for enrolments and tests. The Guides deserve a tribute for remaining so keen and continuing to work for badges and higher tests when they are not officially recognised as Second Class Guides, and when they are an isolated Company rather than part of the Guide movement.

We do not hold a summer camp, but spend every available Saturday together, tracking, cooking, and playing Guide games. Camp fires, cooking and appetites cause much amusement. Chops, steak, sausages, chips, pancakes—anything that can be fried in a billycan—disappear rapidly.

No account of our Guides would be complete without mentioning our keen Company Leader, Frances Chappell, who joined the Company at its formation and has never missed a meeting. She is very useful, not only to the Patrol, but to the whole Company and the Guides.

Patrol Leaders:—

Athens I.: M. Smith.

Athens II.: P. Humphreys.

Sparta I.: F. Chappell.

Sparta II.: D. Ryall.

Rome I.: E. Jackson.

Rome II.: E. Hallatt.

Carthage: D. Beckham.

Troy: N. Wroe.

New Lamps For Old

"And this our life. . . . I would not change it."
(Shakespeare).

Why do the heathen rage so furiously about the glories of our state in the new School? This seems to me to be an ungrateful forgetfulness of the pleasant days that were. I, for my part, feel no shame in declaring my affection for the conditions now past.

One does not merely enter the new building. It engulfs one, even as the whale disposed of Jonah. A complete tour of inspection reveals endless corridors taking about the same

time to traverse as Miss Amy Johnson required to reach Australia. The place is austere and bare: the lofty arrogance of the hall is overpowering, and while I have heard there is a gym, after a term's duration I have not yet had the good fortune to enter it.

I return with regret to the days when we had four homes and not one barracks. How pleasant were the classrooms of the outer building! When tired of one's labours it was usually possible to overhear with amusement the wrath descending on the heads of the unfortunate Philistines two doors away. And the leaking roof in the hall! How often have I exercised my mathematical bent by counting the number of raindrops to the minute I could catch between my neck and coat-collar, when the lesson proceeded slowly! Again, when worn out by the constant repetition of 'sum, es, est,' a turn of the head would unfold the vista of a rolling country-side, with the voice of Pan echoing down the summer breeze. Can any soul in torment now find relief in monotonous rows of squat council houses, or in the call of the tram-car.

Finally, nothing of the present can make up for the joyous journeys from one temporary school to another. How interesting, how educating, to observe on our travels the ordinary life of the populace. How we envied the young gentlemen at the various banks, gazing vacantly through the windows and digesting the end of their pens the while! If our observations subtracted a certain amount of time from the lesson, it was fully recompensed by the benefits we derived from the study of psychology.

No! Perhaps I am a trifle old-fashioned, even conservative, but I certainly prefer the good old days as illustrated above.

K. STEER, VI. (Lit.).

