

BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL.

SPEECH DAY.

Barnard Castle school at its speech day Thursday had the distinction of being the first school to have at its distribution prizes Sir William Marris, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the new Principal of Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Big School as usual crowded with visitors. Mr. William Burkitt, M.Sc., Vice-Chairman of the governors, and an old boy of the school, presided, and also on the platform were Major A. G. Coombs, D.S.O., Head Master, and the members of the staff, Sir William Marris, and a number of the other governors—Messrs Ernest Lingford, J. G. Hall, W. J. Sowerby, W. Banks, C. T. Sanger, and James Peacock.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, spoke of his own association with Armstrong College in welcoming Sir William Marris to the School. As Armstrong College could not make bricks without straw, it must have a feeder, and he was glad to feel that the School was a kind of nursery in which the raw material was prepared for the work that Armstrong College did. As one who spent six years at the School as a boy, he could speak of its usefulness, and of the value of a boarding-school education he was sure there was no doubt.

Head Master's Report.

The Head Master, in the course of his report, alluded to the decision of the Government to raise the school-leaving age, which he said had involved the administrators and organisers of the primary schools in feverish preparations to accommodate the increased population of these schools. The question of finding extra class rooms perhaps appeared to be the most difficult problem at first sight, but to those of experience, the problem of finding more good teachers was of vastly greater importance. As far as their methods of testing their abilities enabled them to judge, the most intelligent pupils would pass on to the secondary schools at the age of eleven or thereabouts. This would leave the less capable ones to be dealt with in the post primary schools, and no attempt to work out a curriculum for them would be successful unless this fact was recognised. It would seem that some kind of vocational training might well be given in a portion of the time available. It was very easy to over estimate the usefulness of vocational training, which tended to produce a narrow, ill-balanced mind, likely to be led away by unimportant details in the face of the serious problems of life. It produced, he said, a mind like that of the lady who, when her house was on fire, insisted on the firemen removing their boots before she allowed them to go upstairs and put the fire out.

One of the advantages of a boarding school education was that a boy was placed in a community with others who were passing through the same stages of development as himself. He could learn the difficult art of living with other people better at a boarding school than anywhere else. In addition, here many of the boys knew the countryside well. They were keen naturalists in a delightful stretch of country and made expeditions, with or without masters, to familiarise themselves with nature.

One of the outstanding events of the year at the School from the purely academic point of view had been the inspection of the School by the Board of Education. In early June some six or eight highly qualified specialists carried out a searching investigation of the school and its occupants. As might be expected by those with a full knowledge of the school and its workings they came out of the ordeal with colours flying. The report of the Inspectors to the Board of Education was better than the school had ever obtained before. During the past year they had been able to provide a junior day room which is reserved for the use of the younger boys—a large, well-lighted room with a pleasant outlook, which had been tastefully decorated and suitably furnished, and was greatly appreciated. It was intended to make some further additions, notably a supply of books, and it would then greatly add to the amenities of the school life of the juniors.

Owing to the generosity of various donors, the School Chapel had received important additions in the last five years. Recently, one of the Old Boys, Mr W. A. H. Hulton, O.B.E., had presented a valuable picture by Ary Scheffer, called "Christ the Consoler," which had been placed over the altar. Admirers of the Chapel, who felt that it was time something was done to introduce some warmth and colour to the East end of the Chapel had found their champion in Mr Hulton. The picture would be dedicated on November 24th by another Old Boy, Canon A. Baines, Vicar of Huddersfield.

There were not so many Higher Certificate winners this year as in some recent years, but both of those who passed did so well that they gained County Scholarships of £70 or £80 a year for three years, which would help them in their University careers. F. E. Pounder also gained an Open Scholarship in Chemistry at Durham University. Brereton was the second boy in the last three years whom they had sent to Cambridge with a scholarship of some £80 a year, and obtained largely in Biology, and so the school could claim to be doing its share towards the solution of an Imperial problem. In the School Certificate Examination 25 boys were successful in passing the examination in July, which added to the 15 certificates obtained last December, made 35 certificates in all for the year.

The Preparatory School after passing through a rather difficult period was now resuming its old time usefulness and prosperity. The number of boys in the school had doubled during the past year. The kindly control and assiduous care of Mr and Mrs Boardman, and the able tuition of Miss Howe, would, he was sure, unite to make this department a very valuable feeder to the Main School again. It had long been noteworthy that many of the boys who did best at this school and afterwards received their early training in the Preparatory School.

The Officers Training Corps under the able guidance of Captain Phillips continued to receive laudatory reports from the Inspecting Officers.

They had not so many distinguished athletes visiting them this year as last, but in the summer term they were glad to welcome Rhodes, who came with Macaulay's Cricket Team. The boy who let Rhodes off by failing to ask for the Empire's decision when he was leg before wicket before he had made many runs was perhaps a benefactor. After that incident Rhodes played a first class innings which would long be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to see it. In the second season of Rugby the team showed a much better standard of play than previously, especially outside the scrum. They had attained as high a standard in swimming as in any other sport. Nearly every boy in the school could swim, and last year the school swimming team again lowered the record.

In conclusion Major Coombs said the school had always been conspicuous for the patience and devotion of the staff, and those who served to-day not only carried on the traditions of the past in a praiseworthy fashion, but surpassed them in at least one important particular. It was certain that His Majesty's Inspectors were very favourably impressed with the school as a whole. Such a result could not have been attained but for the good influence of the masters, and through them the senior boys. He was being constantly reminded that their efforts were gratefully appreciated by parents and boys. On nearly every occasion when a boy left the school, he got a letter from his parents thanking the staff for their great help both in school and out of it. No one knew better than he did how much the school owed to the ability, devotion, and goodwill of the staff.

Sir William's Address.

Sir William Marris, in the course of his address to the boys, emphasized the importance of thoroughness in all things, not only in sport, but in all the things that concern us. The saying that life was ours to make or mar was never truer. They must never be content with slipshod or half-perfected work. Schoolboys of to-day had a weightier business before them than any generation of schoolboys in the past. The world was shrinking. Scientific discoveries and the development of commerce had made it more compact. What happened in America, Japan, China, India, and South America was going to matter much more to them than it did to their grandfathers. The world was frightfully uneven and incoherent. There were conflicts of ideals and aims. The day had gone by when Britain alone could handle these world problems. We had our own great difficulties. We could no longer act alone. We must act in concert with those to whom we were, in spite of differences, most closely allied by tradition and sympathy. We had a heavy load upon our shoulders. Our old industrial supremacy, which we came by rather easily, was challenged. We were far poorer than we used to be, and were in some ways living beyond our income. We had led the world, so far, in the things that matter most. He hoped we might be able to hold that position. He would not care to be a Englishman if we did not hold it. We could hold it, but only on certain conditions, and the fulfilling of those conditions was in the hands of the generation now growing up to manhood. To a faint heart those conditions might seem somewhat austere, but to the brave heart they ought to be inspiring to adventure. We must all be trained and efficient members of the body politic—thorough, resolute, and accurate, if we were to stand on our own feet instead of being a burden on the rest of the generation. There were better things than cinemas, jazz bands, and Edgar Wallace stories. These were all right in their way, but because they appealed to the sensational, lazy and pleasure-loving side of life their proportion ought to be a very small proportion. We should be propelled by a spirit much above class and county. We should aim at laying up stores of goods and knowledge, but resolve to devote them to the common cause. The real treasure would be the memory of some occasion when they had stood by a friend in difficulty. Let them be chary in censuring the shortcomings of others, for all came short at times. Let them stand by their friends, and if a man did well not hesitate to tell him so. (Applause.)

Prize Winners.

Flounders leaving exhibitions of £40 a year for three years—C. D. L. Brereton (Little Massingham, Norfolk) and F. E. Pounder (Barnard Castle).

Durham University, Hatfield College: Entrance scholarship in science—F. E. Pounder.

Durham County Council Junior Exhibition, £80 a year for three years—F. E. Pounder. Norfolk County Council Scholarship of £70 a year for three years—C. D. L. Brereton.

Higher Certificate, Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, Group IV. (Physics and Chemistry)—F. E. Pounder (Physics prize, mathematics prize, and Prest Memorial prize (Scripture), Upper School).

Higher Certificate, Cambridge Local Syndicate: Group IV. (Physics and Zoology)—C. D. L. Brereton, biology prize.

School Certificate: Special prizes for obtaining pass with credit in five subjects.—W. P. Chope (Gainford), G. B. G. Hart (Gayles, Yorks), F. H. Colley (Barnard Castle), F. W. Hodgson (Lartington), A. H. M. Edney (Berwick), John Shields (Latin prize); A. Milburn (Startforth), French prize and Geography prize; K. Milburn (Startforth), J. Stewardson (Carlisle), R. Reed (Sunderland), F. C. Thompson (Barnard Castle), W. T. Shield (Darlington), J. Walton (Barnard Castle).

Pass certificates were received by C. A. Armbrister, T. C. Boardman, R. W. Brockbank, E. Dale, W. M. Down (Commercial Form Prize), T. H. Marquiss, T. Neave, F. L. Race, J. Rice (English Prize), T. D. Scorer, L. Tarn (Drawing Prize), R. Watson, W. A. Wild.

Thompson, Richardson prize—L. R. Jefferson (Whitby).

Prest Memorial prize (Scripture)—Middle School, D. D. Doukin (Sunderland); Lower School, T. A. Brown (Barnborough).

Rowlandson Memorial prize (agriculture)—W. H. Maddison (Brampton).

Natural History prize—H. R. Hetherington (Hexham).

Gardening prizes—W. A. Todd (Whitley Bay) and T. E. Ramsday (Catterick Bridge).

Form prizes—Lower Fifth, H. W. H. Watson (Barnard Castle); Upper Fourth, F. J. Tyrrell (Barnard Castle); Lower Fourth, C. E. Bell (Barnard Castle); Remove, R. H. Brown (Corhill-on-Tweed); Third, R. Thompson (Cockfield); Second, C. Cameron (Newcastle); Preparatory School, H. Grundy (Gateshead).

Mr E. Lingford, in proposing a vote of thanks to Sir William Marris, alluded to some of the eminent men who had been as boys at the School, including Dr. John Mellanby, who had been elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society; and Sir Walter Raine, who was a member of the Royal Commission on Banks and Banking. There was also another old scholar in the Indian Civil Service.

Mr J. G. Hall seconded and referred to the excellent provision made at the school for the education of farmers' sons.

The vote having been passed and Sir William Marris having replied, the boys' choir, under the direction of Mr Norman Frost, sang a couple of dainty carols which were loudly applauded.

Scenes from Oliver Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" were then given, characters being taken as follows:—Squire Hardcastle, F. L. Race; Kate, his daughter, G. W. Harker; Tony Lumpkin, A. W. Perry; Charles Marlow, C. A. Armbrister; George Hastings, B. E. C. Armstrong; landlord of the inn, W. T. Shield.

TEESDALE GUARDIANS.

Mr R. W. Raine, J.P., presided at a meeting of the Teesdale Guardians on Wednesday, the Chairman (Mr H. L. Fife, J.P.) and the Vice-chairman (Mr James Peacock, J.P.) being detained elsewhere.

The collection during the month of £5 16s. in repayment of relief granted on loan to miners' families was reported by Mr J. S. Watson. Mr Peirse reported the collection of 8s.

The Board continued its donation of two guineas to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and also decided to give a similar sum to the National Children's Home and Orphanage.

Superannuation.

From a report of the Finance Committee it appeared that Mr Nixon's superannuation on retiring from the service of the Board as relieving officer, etc., would amount to £149 18s. 4d. per annum.

Mortuary.

A letter was read from Mr H. Jevons, Clerk to the Durham County Council, in reply to a letter from the Board on the question of providing a mortuary, stating that the County Council had no power to provide mortuaries, but he would bring the letter before an appropriate committee.

The Clerk (Mr T. W. Bainbridge) said it was no good doing that if the County Council had no power to provide mortuaries.

The Chairman: We shall have to go on as usual, and if any are unfortunate enough to be killed they will have to be brought to our mortuary.

Relief to Ex-Service Men.

In reply to the Board's resolution in favour of ex-servicemen being relieved from national sources instead of the rates, Captain T. L. Dugdale, M.P. for the Richmond Division, wrote that he would give the matter attention when it came up in Parliament; and Mr W. Lawther, M.P. for the Barnard Castle Division, wrote that it was a matter that he was entirely in agreement with and he would support the measure.

House Committee.

The report of the House Committee showed that the profit on the Master's farm account for the half-year had amounted to £38 1s. 10d. as compared with £15 1s. 11d. last year, while the profit on the firewood account for the same period was £31 7s. 10d. against £36 5s. 2d. The daily average number of inmates had been 72 against 59, and the number of vagrants relieved during the month was 116 against 119. It was reported that Mr A. H. Taylor had very kindly supplied and helped to display fireworks at the Children's Home on Guy Fawkes Day. The following letter signed by 13 children had been received: "Dear Sir,—How can we thank you enough for your kindness to us so many times in the past? How we all look forward to November 5th, Guy Fawkes Day, and to be able to assist in letting off the fireworks so kindly given by you. We with our little tongues give you and Mrs Taylor three hearty cheers and wish you very good health."

NEWS OF THE UPPER DALE.

[BY OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Poppy Day at Middleton.

The sale of Flanders Poppies for Earl Haig's Fund at Middleton-in-Teesdale, organised by the Women's Institute, resulted in £17 4s. 6d. being realised, as compared with £15 last year. The ladies who undertook the collection in spite of the drenching rain and terrific wind are to be congratulated on their thoroughness. They were Mrs Beadle and Mrs Parkin, the Misses Burney and Baum, Mrs Harrison and Mrs Brown, Mrs Raine and Mrs J. Walton, Mrs J. Dent and Mrs W. Morton, Mrs J. Beadle and Mrs J. Vallentine, Miss T. Thompson, Misses Littlefair and Cameron, Mrs J. Bell and Miss Patten, and Mrs T. Raine (Holwick). The duties of organiser were carried out by Mrs J. Bell, hon. secretary of the Women's Institute. A beautiful wreath of Flanders Poppies was placed on the War Memorial on Sunday morning by Mrs Parkin and Mrs Morton on behalf of the members of the Women's Institute.

The Craze for Speed.

There was a very good company at the November meeting of the Middleton-in-Teesdale Literary and Debating Society on Tuesday evening, when a debate took place on the contention "That the present craze for speed is deplorable." Miss Kendal, B.A., the president, was in the chair. The Rev. A. McDonald led the proposition and gave statistics of the number of road deaths and accidents which took place in the country each year, most of these being due to the craze for speed. Anyone over a certain age is allowed to drive a car, and although there are regulations as to the speed limit, the limit was seldom kept. The average motorist was selfish and tended to ignore other users of the road, his main idea being to get along as fast as possible with comparative safety to himself. Mr Sutton, Middleton, who led the opposition, gave an account of the evolution of speed from the very earliest times. By speeding up in industry, transport, business, medicine, etc., civilisation had progressed, and many more lives had been saved by this progress than had been lost by mere road accidents. The proposition was seconded by Mr W. Hall, and the opposition by Mr A. Beckett. All the papers were of a high standard. The discussion which took place afterwards was joined in by Miss Dobson, Dr. Beadle, Dr. Dawson, Rev. H. C. Perrott, Mr R. Dobson and Mr Nixon. On a vote being taken the opposition won by a majority of six votes.

Deaths at Middleton.

Mrs Margaret Walton, Town Head, Middleton, widow of the late Mr George Walton, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 85 years. Mrs Walton, who had been a widow for about 20 years, had been in wonderful health up to a short time ago. The interment took place at St. Mary's Church on Friday afternoon.

The death took place on Friday of Mr J. W. Jackson, Rose Terrace, Middleton. Deceased, who was 62 years of age, was well-known and very highly respected in Upper Teesdale. He had been in failing health for some time. He leaves a widow with whom much sympathy is felt. The interment took place at St. Mary's Church on Monday afternoon, when a very large number of relatives and friends gathered to pay their tribute of respect.

A Bowlees Effort.

Bowlees Primitive Methodists held a special effort for Society funds during the week-end. On Saturday evening a concert was given by the Colterstone Male Voice Quartette Party, assisted by other friends. An excellent programme was well received by a large audience. Mr W. Hall presided. At the close supper was provided, the repast being well patronised. On Sunday, special sermons were preached by Mr James Lowe, Middleton.

Eggleston Baptists.

Eggleston Baptists have celebrated their Sunday school anniversary. On Saturday evening a concert was given by Mr J. T. Emmerson and family, Barnard Castle, consisting of recitations, violin solos, vocal solos, and action songs. Several children of the Sunday school also gave solos and recitations. The Pastor of the Church, the Rev. F. C. Dobson, presided. Supper was provided at the close. On Sunday, services were conducted by Mr Beadle, Darlington, when good companies gathered. The members of the Church express their gratitude to Mr Emmerson and family for their services and also to Mr Beadle.

Baptist Sisterhood.

The Sisterhood in connection with the Baptist Church, Middleton, also celebrated their anniversary. On Saturday evening Mrs Pettler presided at a meeting at which an able address was given by Miss Williamson, Woodland. There was special singing by members of the Sisterhood. On Sunday, Miss Williamson occupied the pulpit morning and evening, and in the afternoon a service of song entitled "Stony Ground" was given by the Sisterhood. Mrs J. Walton presided, and the connective readings were given by Miss Florrie Lee, Miss V. Grieve was an able accompanist. On Monday evening there was a rally with responses from other societies. An address was given by Miss Williamson and Miss Watson, Lunedale, presided. Supper was provided.

The Mission.

A good company gathered at Middleton Primitive Methodist Church on Thursday evening for the lecture by Mr H. Wragg, one of the Evangelists now holding a Mission in the town, on "50 Miles on Trek." Mr R. Rivett conducted the meeting and rendered a solo. Supper was provided.