



# St. Mary's Hall, Brighton, News Letter

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No. 54.

DECEMBER.

1952.

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## ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.

President and Chairman .....	Miss Conrady
Vice-President and Vice-Chairman .....	M. Riddelsdell
Vice-Presidents .....	Miss Ghey, Miss Stopford, Miss Robinson Miss Galton and Miss H. R. Potter
Old Girl Governors of the School .....	Mrs. Broadley and L. Gunnery (representing S.M.H.A.) Mrs. Davidson and L. Hutchinson
Hon. Secretary .....	E. Moore
Hon. Treasurer .....	Miss E. M. Smith
Hon. Editor .....	A. Baron
Hon. Secretary Home Counties Branch .....	Ph. Poyser
Hon. Secretary Sussex Branch .....	M. Wanstall

Also T. Appleyard, Mrs. Bell, L. Coe and Mrs. Hopkins.

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## EDITORIAL.

All good wishes for a happy Christmas and New Year! The pages that follow give a picture of our new old School through another busy year of endeavour and achievement, and glimpses of the larger world outside. We find there joy and hope and sadness. Joy that the School prospers, and is justifying the faith of those who believed in her; hope that gradually more places will be found for Foundationers; sadness at losses sustained—our beloved King, an example of noble duty and true faith, a loving and loved family man. Also Col. A. C. Elliott, Chairman of the Governors for many years, and others, all with the same marks of good training. May we humbly hope to follow in their footsteps with our lovely young Queen at our head, and live to rejoice at evidence of true progress.

H.A.B.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

October, 1952.

Dear Friends of the S.M.H.A.,

It seems so short a time since I wrote my letter to you last year, and yet it is a year full of events of many kinds as you will see from the School Diary, the Founder's Day Report and other reports.

In July, Colonel Elliott, grandson of our founder, and a faithful friend of the Hall for many years, being Chairman of Governors from 1929 till 1946, died after having been in poor health for several years. There must be many of you who met Colonel Elliott and who knew him personally.



School news is found in the many reports of this News Letter. The Domestic Science department has begun its career, though temporary furniture is in use until the tables and stools are ready. There are three classes taking Cookery and Housecraft. The VI form are doing a one year's general course: The Lower V.B. are aiming at taking the subject at ordinary level in the G.C.E. in 1954 and the Domestic Science Remove hope to take two domestic subjects in the Examination in 1955. We have been most fortunate in having had the generous services and advice of Miss Marjorie Lloyd, of the South Eastern Gas Board, in planning the department and in carrying out the work. This is another step forward in the post-war development of the School.

More recent old girls will be very sorry to hear that Mr. Crane, Vicar of St. Mark's Church, is leaving the parish this month, having accepted the living of St. Emmanuel in Southport. He has been a good friend to the Hall since its re-opening and many past and present girls will always remember gratefully the help he gave in preparation for Confirmation. We wish him happiness in his new work.

Once again I have to thank so many old girls for their continued active interest in their old School. It is a very real pleasure for me to welcome you back. I should like to see many more at the Annual Meeting in April and at the special Summer Meeting here following Founder's Day, for which all members receive an invitation. Though the faithful few who turn up so regularly enjoy seeing each other and having a good gossip, yet I know they would love to see some fresh faces in addition. All who come will be sure of a welcome.

Yours sincerely,

DORIS CONRADY.

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### LETTER FROM MISS GHEY.

Blunt House,  
Eastbourne.

October 22nd, 1952.

Dear Members of the S.M.H.A.,

I wrote in the last News Letter that it seemed homelike to be back in Sussex; and now that so many of you have cheered Miss Galton and myself by coming to see the new Blunt House, it seems more homelike still. We enjoyed our July "Week-end" from the first moment till the last, and we had only one regret—that not more of you could come. Thank you for all the welcome letters that the year has brought: as I grow older I take even more delight in being allowed to share in your doings.

The year has brought sadness to friends of the Hall—the deaths of Colonel Elliott and of Miss Austin. Miss Helen Potter's bereavement by the death of her sister, the serious illness of Theodora Davis and of Joan Blackledge. The latter has made a happy recovery (after six weeks in Guy's Hospital); but we have no very recent news of Theodora. Margaret O'Hara's loving kindness in visiting her, and in sending news, has been wonderful.

You can imagine with what pleasure I hear from time to time that another of my "grandchildren" (by adoption and grace) has joined the School, and whenever I visit it I look out for faces that remind me of other faces seen in those long-ago days that were so very happy for me, and I love to think of your children, moving about in those familiar rooms, and thinking the long thoughts of youth in the old Hall garden.

Miss Galton and I are not quite certain about our future plans. We should like to hand over our University Coaching School within the next year or so to the exactly right successors, but we have no one in our minds as yet.

We both send our best Christmas and New Year wishes to you all.

Yours affectionately,

F. L. GHEY.

## LETTER FROM MISS ROBINSON.

Pietermaritzburg.

October, 1952.

My Dear Friends,

It was a very dull and cheerless afternoon, just over a year ago, when Miss Willis and I set sail from London Docks on our voyage to South Africa. At last I was off on the holiday to which I had so long looked forward. How tired I was too, so tired that after dinner and the unpacking of necessities, I retired to my comfortable bed, and there I stayed, soundly asleep most of the time, for two days.

The weather continued to be windy and chilly for several days, but the Bay was fairly calm, and I was hardly conscious that we were through it.

Our ship was the Llangibby Castle, and we were fortunate that she was scheduled to visit the Islands which I had always longed to see, the Canaries, Ascension, St. Helena.

After a few days at sea, one had the joyous feeling that one was going Southwards with the swallows. The sun's rays had real penetrating warmth, these were "blue days at sea," and the winds had lost their northern nip. We arrived at Las Palmas, the chief port of the Canary Islands, on a Sunday afternoon. The ship was moored alongside a very extensive quay, and we seemed to be about a quarter of a mile away from the town. It was a beautiful afternoon, and the island, with its mountains, palms and trees, and the bay ringed with white houses, looked most inviting. It has a good climate and is becoming a popular holiday resort. All along the quay were little stalls laden with the craft-work of the islanders. Many merchants came on board to sell their wares to passengers who had not gone ashore. A great deal of the work is very similar to that one meets on the island of Madeira. I was very struck with the number of Spanish dolls that were on sale, big dolls, larger than I have ever seen. I didn't think children would like them much, but there seemed to be a very ready sale for them. In my childhood I much preferred little dolls!

After leaving the Canaries, we occasionally had a glimpse of the coast of Africa, Cape Blanco, Cape Verde, Dakar. We had quite a cool passage through the Tropics, and soon after we had crossed the Equator, we ran into the Trade Winds, which our Captain said would continue to blow till we reached the Cape. This was unfortunately true, and some days it was too cold to sit on deck.

Our next excitement was when the island of Ascension appeared on the horizon, a solitary island in the South Atlantic, about mid-way between Africa and Brazil. It is of volcanic origin, rocky and awe-inspiring in its lonely desolateness. The colouring is magnificent; there are the browns and purples of the mountains, the blues of the sky and sea, the white waves breaking on the pale gold sands—a gem, as yet untouched by man, lonely and majestic. We anchored on the leeward side of the island, and a boat came out to fetch a passenger. No one else went ashore. We had expected to take on fresh water, but owing to drought on the island, this was not possible. The island's chief importance is its wireless station. It also exports turtle and birds' eggs. It is entirely barren and without vegetation, except for one fertile spot in the mountains, where vegetables are grown for the few inhabitants. I remarked: "What lovely beaches for bathing!" and was told that bathing was impossible as the water was swarming with small black poisonous fish.

We left this beautiful island in the evening, and had now about 760 miles to go before reaching our next port of call, Jamestown, on the island of St. Helena. This too is of very ancient volcanic origin, and is possibly one of the oldest parts of the earth's crust. It has been described as "An emerald set in a ring of bronze," an apt title, with its encircling cliffs of brown volcanic rock, and the beautiful interior with its tree-clad hills, green valleys, winding lanes and its flowers.



We anchored off Jamestown, and those who wished were taken ashore in small fishing boats. My boat was full and seemed to be only a few inches out of the water. Imagine a sea, blue and clear as crystal, with its blueness matched by beautiful pale blue fish! Landing on the steps of the jetty was quite a gymnastic exercise. Standing up in the boat, you wait till a big wave carries it near to steps. Then, helped by sailors, you take a flying leap, and you land safely on the steps with the receding wave swirling round your feet. Once ashore, the first thing was to engage a driver to take us up to the top of one of the mountains to see **Longwood**, Napoleon's house.

The town, I thought, was rather a mournful little place, with many signs of poverty. The inhabitants, coloured people, speaking English, are very prolific, and the population is increasing beyond safety limits. Our driver spoke of them as very contented, honest and a well-behaved community. The prison, he said, was never in use, and there was no need to lock doors or windows. They are very proud of being British.

The town is built on the shore at the bottom of an immense chasm, washed out through countless ages by a river flowing down from the mountains to the sea. There are now good motor roads on the sides of the mountains, and for miles our car climbed up and up, and the further we went inland, the more beautiful did the vegetation become. Some were reminded of the Highlands of Scotland; to me it was reminiscent of Switzerland. I thought of Napoleon, and wondered how he made the journey up what must have been then just a steep mountain path.

Before we reached the summit, we got out of the car and walked along a grassy path like a green carpet, to a beautiful little sheltered dell on the mountain side, where is Napoleon's first tomb. Beautiful trees shelter it, and wild arum lilies and begonias are growing there in abundance. Bare white stone slabs from gun emplacements mark the spot. There is no inscription, because the British Governor of the island and the French disagreed about the matter. The peaceful atmosphere that envelops this quiet place is quite unforgettable and it is treated with very great reverence. It is like being in a beautiful cathedral. Though there were many visitors at the tomb when I was there, the only sounds were those of the birds, the trickle of running water, the rustle of wind in the trees.

This dell was a favourite haunt of the Emperor, and he used to rest here at the end of his daily walk. There is still the same spring of water, and the visitor is invited to "Drink and contemplate." Silently we retraced our steps along the grassy path, got back into the car, and were soon on the plateau, 1,700 feet above sea level, where Longwood is situated. It is a wind-swept exposed place, and looks rather like a low white-washed old farm-house. There are a few old gum-trees, blighted by the Trade Winds, gnarled and twisted and leaning away from the prevailing winds. As we approached the drive gate, the coloured inhabitants came towards us with their craft-work, anxious to do as much trade as possible. Their embroidery is beautiful, and they make pretty necklaces with painted seeds. They have plenty of patience, and bargained with us again on our return. The house is T shaped, white with shuttered windows painted green, all badly in need of repair. There are some attic windows and sky-lights in the roof. In the garden, on the edge of the mountain side, there is a little look-out where Napoleon spent much of his time. I was shown a window through which an escape had been planned, but the rescuers' ships never reached the island. I wandered alone in the garden as in a dream. It was very quiet, and though now the garden is very neglected, one could see that it had been beautiful. There are still traces of lawns, flower-beds and lily-ponds which had once been connected by running water. I looked in through some of the windows. The ceilings are falling in, and it seemed more derelict than the outside. Nevertheless, there is an atmosphere enveloping the place, almost as if the spirit of the Emperor still haunts the garden. It is very lonely and very inaccessible. After the tropical heat below, the mountain air was beginning to get very chilly. Reluctantly I returned to the waiting car. We went down the mountain by a different route, passing through the beautiful grounds of "Plantation," the residence of the Governor. As time was getting short, I saw very little of the town itself.

but hastened to the jetty to take my chance again that an incoming wave would bring a boat to my feet. I was glad to get back to the comforting warmth of the Llangibby Castle, fully determined to meet Napoleon again some day in the garden he made at Longwood. We sailed in the evening, and I watched the tiny lights of the little jetty at St. Helena disappear in the mist.

Owing to a faulty engine, and to the ceaseless Trade Winds, our boat was behind time, which was very awkward for our friends at Cape Town, who had arranged a very full time-table for us. However, Miss Willis and I were entertained right royally. There were friends to meet us, to motor us wherever we wanted to go. There was a Reception at Herschel on the first afternoon; there were Governors, Parents, Staff, Old Girls and Present Girls to greet us. It was wonderful to be back there again. There was another Reception in the evening given by the South African Society of Music Teachers, of which Miss Willis was at one time President. At this Reception we met **Peggy Mills**, an old S.M.H. pupil (1947 to 1949), who came as a visitor. She told us of her engagement, and that after Christmas she would be living in the copper-mine district of Namaqualand. She was most anxious to have news of the Hall.

We had a very stormy passage round the coast, and after nearly five weeks at sea, we were glad to arrive in Durban, where friends met us and took us to a champagne lunch party.

We reached Pietermaritzburg the same evening, and were glad to get settled in a small but very comfortable Hotel. A fortnight later I was back in Durban for a gathering of Old Girls and Friends of the Durban Girls' College. Miss Willis, most unfortunately, was not well enough to go. I was invited to stay the night, and the following morning I attended School Prayers, after which the pupils who are daughters of my Old Girls remained behind to meet me. Then I was whisked off to see one of the two Bantu Schools, which have been established by the Old Girls' Association. On a later visit to Durban I hoped to see **Gladys Collis**, who was nursing at the Durban Sanatorium, but she was not able to arrange to be free.

A good deal has happened this year, of which I will make a brief summary. Before I left England, my sister decided that she would like to come to South Africa, if I could find a suitable little house. I am writing in my bedroom of that house now. At the end of March I flew back home to help my sister with the sale of our Bewdley house, with the packing of the furniture and all the business connected with such an upheaval. It was all done much more quickly than we had anticipated and instead of sailing in September, we left England on 3rd July, with all our possessions in three huge pantechmicon cases on the same boat. Here we are now settled in our little home. I am head gardener, and I have a little Zulu boy, Zebulon, as my assistant. Miss Willis is with us, and she and my sister run the house, with Zebulon's much older brother, Joseph, to do the chores. These two boys are the sons of Miriam, the washer-woman. I wish I could tell you some stories about them.

I doubt very much whether the Editor will find space for this long epistle. Two things I must add: first, my lasting gratitude to you for help at all times, for your most kind appreciation of my work for the Hall, and for sending me off on such a lovely holiday as this voyage to South Africa.

Secondly, I meant to see you all before I left England, but I could not get away to either Meeting.

Lastly, I should be so happy (1) for my old Staff to know what perfect time the Rolex watch keeps (It is my constant companion and reminder of them). (2) for any of my girls to know how much I enjoy the portable Double Decca, which brings me news of the World at 7 a.m. each morning, and cheers my soul with music many times during the day.

Please think of me sometimes. I love you all very much. Come and see me if ever you are passing my way.

Yours always affectionately,

HARRIET ROBINSON.



## S.M.H.A. 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 26th, 1952, at the Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, W.C.1, and opened with prayers. Among a long list of good wishes and apologies for absence were messages from **Miss Robinson** (Vice-president), who was going to live in South Africa; **M. Riddelsdell** (Vice-Chairman); and **Mrs. Bartrum**, probably the oldest member, having reached the wonderful age of 96; closely followed by **Miss E. M. Burton**, aged 94, and still gardening strenuously.

**Miss Conrady** (President) welcomed all those present, and gave an interesting picture of the School. She said that there were 133 boarders out of a total of 262 girls. The new Elliott House had opened in September and delighted Old Girls who saw it. Extra dining room space at the Hall had been provided in the basement. School Certificate results had not been good, due to the higher standard now required, but better were hoped for. Art and music were outstanding in achievement. There was interest and financial help for Missions at home and abroad; and the School and Staff were trying to send £25 annually to St. Mark's School, which was endeavouring to remain an independent church school. Generous gifts had been received by the School, including £25 from an anonymous donor in memory of happy days and a sound grounding in music. **Miss Ghey** and **Miss Galton** had given a wonderful party at Blunt House which realised £45 for the Bursary Fund, and was greatly appreciated. There were now four flags for the flagstaff, the St. Andrew's flag having been given by **Miss Dyke**, and the Union Jack by a present girl. The Leap Year Fair had raised £24 in aid of an epidiascope. A plaque to Mr. Read Kemp, founder of Kemp Town, was being erected at 22 Sussex Square, where he lived. Old Girls would be welcomed at the **Confirmation on May 9th**, at which service the beautiful white shawls were still worn. **At Founder's Day on June 20th**, Mrs. Fisher, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, would be presenting the prizes. Owing to limitation of space, few Old Girls could be asked, but they would be welcome at the morning service. The past term had been saddened by personal grief at the death of the King, and 60 girls had attended the Lying in State. Sorrow had also been caused by the death of **Clare Simpson** in a car accident; and at the death of Bishop Crotty, who had been a very good friend of the school. The Hall gardener Ham, had been very ill, but was recovering, and prayer had been offered for him and his family. Thanks to his loving care, the gardens were really beautiful, and all would like to wish him well, as he was a wonderful man. Old Girls would be sure of a warm welcome. There were ups and downs, but hard work was being done to get back to the traditional high standard for which the school was renowned. The girls were increasing in love and pride for the school, and becoming the useful citizens so much needed in this present day world.

**Miss Ghey** (Vice-president) spoke of the News Letter, so well edited, and containing the spirit of live hope which made the Hall. It was lovely to feel that all were welcome at the School. The Bursary Fund urgently needed help, as many clergy parents could not afford to take the Bursary. **Miss Galton** had been looking forward to meeting everyone, but it had proved impossible for both her and **Miss Ghey** to be away from Blunt House. They hoped to welcome many Old Girls either for the week-end or the day at a week-end party in July. (This generous and exciting invitation was heartily applauded.) **Miss Ghey** concluded by saying that however dim our stitch in "the tapestry that is S.M.H.", it is at least part of the pattern of our Founder.

**The Report of the Old Girl Governors of the School** was given by **Miss Conrady**, no member being present. She said that **Mr. Graves**, the Secretary to the Governors, had resigned because of ill-health. His heart and soul were in the Hall, and she felt the meeting would like to thank Mr. Graves. His place had been taken by Mr. Goddard, a partner. **Lucy Hutchinson**, an Old Girl, had been appointed a Ministry of Education representative on the Governing body. Elliott, Babington and Snowdon-Smith Scholarships had been awarded for the year. **Jean Edwards** had gone to study medicine at the Royal Free Hospital. **Miss Ghey** added that **Mr. Graves** had wished to give his leaving present to the Bursary Fund, but the Governors had rejected this generous offer.

**The Treasurer, Miss E. M. Smith**, thanked the former Treasurer, **L. Coe**, for her help during the year. She welcomed eight new Life Members and seven annual subscribers and asked that outstanding subscriptions should be paid. The balance sheet was presented. The News Letter cost approximately £40, with postages, and £15 worth was sold to the school. The Post Office savings balance was £30, and bank balance £13.

**L. Coe** read a letter from Mr. Graves asking if the Association wished that money saved from interest on Life Subscriptions should go to the Bursary Fund, which did not directly benefit the Hall, or be otherwise invested. It was agreed that as the Hall finances were being re-arranged, the money should be used to earn more interest.

**L. Coe** then suggested that as the price of the News Letter had gone up to 1s. 6d. plus postage, and many Life Members had received copies for years on their original Life Subscription, perhaps an arrangement could be made. A proposal was carried asking that anyone who could, whether a Life or Annual Member, should send 1s. 6d. per annum extra to the Treasurer.

(Remember always that we reckon to benefit the Bursary Fund out of our Subscriptions.—Ed.)

**The Editor, A. Baron**, asked if members liked the News Letter as it was, and was heartily assured that they did. It was agreed that, if members paid towards the cost it would be unnecessary to cut down because of expense.

**The Secretary of the Home Counties Branch, Ph. Poyser** spoke of the lovely and interesting party at Farnham Castle, given so kindly by **B. and N. Montgomery-Campbell**. The Branch had been voted £2 from funds, but printing and postage amounted to £3.

**The Secretary of the Sussex Branch, M. Wanstall**, said that there had been a lovely party at the Hall, when members were able to explore the new boarding house.

#### **Dates of Future Meetings:**

S.M.H.A. Party at the Hall—June 21st (lunch, tea and entertainment).

Blunt House Party—July 18th—21st (week-end). July 19th (day).

Home Counties Branch—September 27th (Mrs. Tredennick, at Richmond).

Sussex Branch—November 15th.

Annual General Meeting—May 2nd, 1953.

The Meeting ended with a buffet tea, chairs being pushed back to leave a clear centre space to enable friends to meet.

**Those present were:** R. Archer (Poyser), M. Allen, M. Alnutt (Watson), T. Appleyard, P. Atkins, Miss Atkinson, A. Baron, G. Batson, Miss Bolton, K. Chambré, L. Coe, Miss Conrady, K. Dancy, M. Eggington (Baron), H. Francis, L. Franks (Champion), M. Fryer, Miss Ghey, D. Gosnell (Moore), D. Heelas, M. Heelas, Miss Hensley, L. Hipkin (Morton), Miss Kingdon-Ward, I. Laurence, Margaret Lloyd, A. Mason, M. McWalter (Fuller), A. Mead (Law), E. Moore, W. Owen Smith, M. O'Hara, Miss Peebles, Miss Perry, Miss Potter, Ph. Poyser, L. Ravnor, E. Reekie (Vaughan), O. Skene, D. Smith (Lilley), Miss E. M. Smith, G. Street (Whittington-Ince), H. Thompson (Boswell), M. Thorne, R. Unmack, M. Wanstall (46).

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#### **HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT.**

Among the new members enrolled this year there are eighteen who have recently left St. Mary's Hall, and also some older members. We are glad to have so many, and shall look forward to seeing them at our Meetings.

I regret to say that the names of fifteen members whose subscriptions have not been paid since 1949, or earlier, cannot be included in this year's list. We have also lost three members by death.



The Balance in the Bank at the end of September was £24 5s. 7d., and that in the Post Office £36 11s. 4d. We thank those who, at the April Meeting, subscribed so generously towards the greatly increased cost of printing the News Letter.

May I remind members that the minimum annual Subscription is 5s. and the Life Membership £3

E. M. SMITH.

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### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

Thank you everyone for getting the news in earlier. Really, to get a proper picture of the whole, one needs items in by the beginning of October. Apparently, everyone likes the News Letter more or less as it is—newsy! Well, that takes space, and costs more, so may we hope that those who feel able will contribute that little extra so that the Bursary Fund does not suffer.

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### SUSSEX BRANCH, 1951.

The Sussex Branch met on Saturday, December 1st, 1951, at St. Mary's Hall, and there were 36 present: this included 4 staff, 4 Sixth Form and 4 members over 80.

Miss Conrady welcomed us, and invited us to go over the new Boarding House (Elliott House), and many members did so, and were delighted with everything. We had a short business meeting and discussed a change of date to the middle of November, and November 15th in 1952 was suggested. There was a collection for postal expenses, and we finished the year with a balance of 30s.

We then enjoyed the home-made cakes at tea, and Miss Conrady was thanked for a happy afternoon at our old School.

MARGARET WANSTALL.

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### FOUNDER'S DAY — 20th JUNE, 1951.

#### HEAD MISTRESS'S REPORT.

Madam Chairman, Mrs. Fisher, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Staff and girls it gives me great pleasure to welcome parents and friends of St. Mary's Hall, and our guest of honour Mrs. Fisher, whom we are proud to have with us, not only because she is the Wife of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is a Patron of the School, but also as a distinguished visitor in her own right on account of her generous and far reaching public services.

The beginning of the School year was marked by the opening of Elliott House as a boarding house for the youngest boarders by our President the Lord Bishop of Chichester. We now have three Boarding Houses, two well over 100 years old and this modern one in complete contrast. Many of you will know that our Middle School House, St. Hilary, was honoured recently when Lord Bessborough unveiled a tablet commemorating the fact that Thomas Read Kemp, founder of Kemp Town, lived in the house between 1827 and 1837. We now have places for 160 boarders, but are unable to fill these places until we reduce the number of Day Girls, since the classroom space is filled to capacity. We hope ultimately to stabilise our numbers to about 160 boarders and 100 day girls. At present we have 132 boarders and 128 day girls of whom 14 are in the Kindergarten department. Our numbers are still unhappily small in the Sixth Form, though I hope that this coming year will see a considerable increase as we have a larger Upper V this year. The tendency for girls to leave after attempting the General Certificate at Ordinary level, and before having at least one valuable year in the Sixth

Form is still very strong, and I should like, once again, to urge parents to do all in their power to keep their daughters at School as long as possible. In many careers there is a definite request that girls shall have had at least one post-Certificate year.

Next September, unless there is unexpected delay in operations now going on, we shall be able to offer Domestic Science as part of the General Sixth Form course. The new Cookery and Housecraft room is to be one of the most modern in the region, and I hope very much that we shall eventually be able to give each girl some knowledge and experience of elementary cooking and housecraft. I have been asked whether domestic science is to be an *extra* subject, and in answering this question in the negative I am glad of the opportunity of telling you that it is the most earnest hope of the Governors that, in spite of rising costs in every direction, the fees of St. Mary's Hall shall not be further increased. Moreover, the Staff and I intend to do all in our power to implement this hope, not by a lowering of the standards in any way, but rather by effecting economies wherever possible. Many of you must have had reports of my strong appeals to the girls for strict economy in the use of paper and other vital materials and any help you can give us in this drive for economy will be much appreciated.

We are grateful to all those friends who have presented gifts to the Hall during the year. As always old girls have been most generous and thoughtful for their old school. One of the oldest members of the S.M.H.A., Miss E. Hanham, sent four named chairs on behalf of herself and in memory of her three sisters. Another old girl, wishing to remain anonymous, sent a cheque for £25, for a piano. I may say here that, following my plea for another piano—the only point in my last year's report which was stressed by one newspaper!—We were inundated by letters from all over the country. Several old girls have given us most welcome and useful additions to our somewhat limited stock of acting clothes. Miss Audrey Baron presented a prize for gardening. We have had a St. Andrew's Flag from Miss Dyke, a Union Jack from Shirley Samson, a Cup from Patricia Carr for the best individual sports result, a Cup from Wendy Keizer for the winner of the Junior Tennis Tournament. Once again Mr. Keeling Scott has presented prizes for the poetry competition which was this year judged by Miss Ghey. We thank all these friends for their generosity and thought.

There have been a few changes in Staff. Miss E. Meades, Bachelor of Arts in History of Bristol University; Miss B. Wadie, Bachelor of Arts in Geography of London University; Miss K. Hewitt (an Old Girl), Bachelor of Science of London University and Inter-diocesan Certificate of the Church of England; and Mrs. J. Sharpe, Bachelor of Arts in Classics of London University, joined the Staff in September. Mrs. Crews was appointed House Warden of Elliott House and we owe a debt of gratitude to her for the way in which she organised the new House and laid down the first traditions. We have welcomed Miss Ritchie to continue the work which Mrs. Crews relinquished in April to enable her to return to South Africa.

The year has not passed without bringing sadness to the Hall. During the Christmas Holidays one of our Middle School boarders, Clare Simpson, niece of a former pupil, was killed in a motor accident. Not long afterwards came the sudden death of Bishop Crotty, who had been a good friend to the Hall and whom many will remember for the inspiration and help he gave at Confirmation. More recently we have heard of the death of Miss Austin who was for over 20 years Secretary to the Head Mistress and one of the great pillars of the Hall in her time. We remember these friends with gratitude for the part they played in the growth of the School. No words of mine can express the genuine sorrow we felt as a School for the passing of our late beloved King George VI. Very few girls will ever forget that memorable week, so poignant and yet so extraordinarily uplifting in the spirit of unity which it brought to the country. Two parties of our older girls were taken to the Lying in State at Westminster Hall, and they will never forget the experience, for not only was it very impressive but they realised also that this was an historic occasion through which they were living.



The results in the first General Certificate of Education, Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board, were not good. The candidates failed to grasp that the pass standard being raised to that of the old credit standard meant so much, and a correspondingly increased effort on their part. It is obvious that the raised standard inevitably means that many girls are condemned to failure in some subjects if they are entered indiscriminately. It becomes increasingly clear to some educationists that the new Examination should be regarded as a passport to enter the Universities and certain professions; and that for the less academic girl some thorough internal assessment would be commendable, which would take into account every possible aspect of the girl, not only by her achievement in examinations and her general progress, but her ability to lead, her willingness to co-operate and all those other admirable and useful attributes. It seems probable that many employers will be forced to take this line now that a Certificate with five or more subjects shown on it is so much harder to come by. I feel that this is a much more important aspect of the whole Examination Scheme than the much debated age limit, though we were naturally very pleased to know that the discretion of Heads and their Staffs was now to be allowed in this matter! The new Examination is still in an experimental stage and I feel that its future depends much on the way in which we as teachers apply the underlying principles, so that we do not allow this examination to undermine the fundamental general foundation which too-early specialisation would necessarily bring about.

The results in music and art have again been outstandingly good. The Guild Music Competition was this year judged by Miss Galton, who complimented the girls and the Music Staff on the high standard of musical ability and achievement. I wish, however, that more girls would tackle a stringed instrument, so that we had a nucleus for a School Orchestra. The results in the Children's Royal Academy were even more excellent than last year's. Each of the 332 pieces of work submitted was classed. Although some Schools had some very brilliant results, only one other School achieved the large number of **generally** good results. In addition Delia Bell's Self Portrait was exhibited at Munich in an International Exhibition of Children's Art, which is at present being shown in various European towns.

In games there has been steady progress and real keenness. Match results improve each year as the good training given by Mrs. Eggleton and Miss Sampson and her predecessors continues to take effect.

Outside the normal School curriculum there has been a variety of activities. School parties have visited the House of Commons escorted by our local Member of Parliament, Mr. Howard Johnson; the Festival of Britain; the Regency Exhibition, the National Gallery, Westminster Abbey, French plays organised by the Education Committee, Tennis at Wimbledon, and county Lacrosse matches at Roodean. One form which is studying local history spent an afternoon in Lewes supplementing class teaching. We have had lectures or talks by Mr. Donald Grant on New Zealand, Mr. John Fursdon on Life in Skokholm and Grassholm, Miss Rowell, an exchange teacher, on American Schools, Councillor Mrs. Watson-Miller on Local Government, Speakers from the C.M.S., S.P.G., Colonial and Continental Missionary Society, S.P.C.K. and the C.E.Z.M.S.

We have had a recital by two of our own Music Staff, Miss Wyn and Miss Salmon on two pianos, a recital by Miss Mercy Collisson, an old girl, this time in the company of two friends who played old music on old time instruments.

We have also had a Marionette performance by our old friends Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Heap.

Dramatic work has taken a more prominent place this year. The competition held in March for the Guild Drama Cup produced a much higher standard of acting and of general stagecraft than last year. The performance of "Eager Heart" produced by Miss Dimishky at Christmas gave evidence of some really first class dramatic talent in the School, and should have given inspiration to both cast and producer and all concerned to launch out on further productions.



The boarders have again been given the opportunity of taking classes in First Aid through the courtesy of the British Red Cross Society. In the examination held following the classes all the girls passed, one of them, Susan Sainsbury, gaining 100%, making it quite evident that she has chosen her career wisely. since she is to be a Nurse! One old girl, Daphne Browne, who has also chosen Nursing as a career, is acting as Student Nurse in the Sanatorium and gaining valuable experience under Sister Brown's direction.

The School has continued to support Missionary work, having sent subscriptions to a number of Societies. Our annual target of £25 towards St. Mark's School, our voluntary share of the sum necessary to preserve its independence as a Church School, was reached last year with very generous help from the Staff, though we have not yet done very well towards this year's quota. The Remove Form made over £24 in a Leap Year Fair which they organised in order to raise money to buy an epidiascope for the School.

Eighteen girls were confirmed on May 9th in St. Mark's Church by the Bishop of Lewes, and a number of others have been confirmed during the year. It is most encouraging to see so many of our Senior boarders using their privilege as full communicant members of the Church by their regular attendance at the 8 o'clock Communion Service on Sundays. So often Confirmation comes to mean little after the actual ceremony, but the fact that many girls turn out each Sunday, whether it is wet or fine or winter or summer, must mean that in this service they find the power and help it offers them.

Though the interests of many of the girls are wide I wish very much that there were a greater desire for good reading. It is very characteristic of the present time for young people to read something which will give them some sort of momentary pleasure and which will require no effort but will enable them to listen to the wireless at the same time and even to join in a conversation! The need for making more profitable use of leisure time is very great and surely one of the most profitable and pleasant ways, and one which will be of lasting value, is the reading of worthwhile books? Here at St. Mary's Hall we have both a Fiction Library and a Reference Library which have been built up with care and thought by specialist Staff whose knowledge of books is wide and eclectic and who are eager to advise. It was no easy task to create order out of the chaos which faced those who shared the burden of re-starting the School in 1946. Books and bookshelves in particular sustained heavy loss and damage. I mentioned the work done by Miss McLean on Founder's Day last year, and this year I heartily reiterate the thanks of us all for the magnificent work she has again done for the Reference Library. Those of you who take the opportunity to visit the Library to-day will, I am sure, agree that the money allotted by the Governors annually has been well spent, and that the Reference Library is assuming more and more the dignity and atmosphere one seeks there. I hope very much that Miss McLean's untiring efforts and also those of Miss Dimishky, who has reorganised the Fiction Library, will be increasingly rewarded by a greater desire for good reading.

While thanking Miss McLean for her work for the Reference Library I take this opportunity of thanking both her and Mrs. Hora for their loyal support in undertaking much of the work which falls to the lot of a Senior Mistress. I do not need to tell you how much the happy and easy running of a School depends upon a team of people all working to achieve the same purpose. I am sincerely grateful to the Staff, under the wise leadership of Miss McLean and Mrs. Hora, for all the loyal service so generously given. I know that the girls appreciate all that is done for them, though the appreciation may be a little reluctantly expressed at times! We thank, too, the Domestic Staff for their faithful service. It was a sad blow to us when our excellent Gardener, Ham, was taken suddenly ill. He has done so much for the gardens and grounds since the Hall re-opened, refusing all offers of help. We all hope that he will soon be well again. It is hard to think of such an active man being in hospital for so long. It was not easy to find a temporary gardener to fill his place, but we were fortunate in obtaining a substitute in Mr. C.



Hobson who, though he took over after a fortnight in which sun and rain had made everything grow, including weeds, quickly tackled the job; he has done a splendid piece of work helped by our faithful Caretaker, Stepney, who, like our maintenance man, Yelland, is always ready to come to the rescue in an emergency. I should like to give a special expression of thanks to our prefects for I feel that, led by Pat Eggleton as Head Girl, they have done much to build up sound tradition by their loyal and courageous backing up of the teaching and House Staff.

The all round improvement in work and general attitude continues, though there is still far too great a tendency to give in when any difficulty presents itself. Far more important than high academic success and excellent games records is the reaction of a School to conditions in the world of to-day. Many of us, parents and teachers alike, must be concerned about the casual attitude, the lack of responsibility especially for property, the superficial skimming of the surface, the failure to grapple with difficulties, and the unwillingness to contribute anything and yet to get all. I read a short letter in a paper recently which rather typifies the prevailing attitude. It ran thus: "Efficiency breeds contempt among most of one's fellow-workers in Britain to-day. If a person just knuckles down to easy-come-easy-go methods he gets along much better." This seems to me to be a rather disturbing state of affairs and it is evident that it contributes to the current instability in so many ways in this country, since the attitude we adopt towards our work has a profound effect upon our character as a whole. The writer of that letter makes it clear that he considers the important thing in one's work is to please one's fellow workers, and so he has the wrong idea of work. Perhaps some of you heard a talk on the wireless some months ago, in which a boy who had learnt in an approved School that he should always give good value in his work, and who was carrying out this advice faithfully in a factory, was approached by his fellow workers, and told to stop that way of doing things or they would have to work as hard!

It is not my task to give a sermon to-day, but I should wish to end my report on the same note as I did last year — With the hope that St. Mary's Hall will more and more become a place where the Keynote is Service. Where body, mind and spirit are used freely for the benefit of our fellows and, therefore, in the service of God our Creator. To use George Herbert's words:—

Teach me, my God and King,  
In all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything  
To do it as for Thee.

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### FOUNDER'S DAY, 1952.

Founder's Day, 1952, was the fourth celebration since the War of the most important annual occasion at St. Mary's Hall.

An early Communion Service which provided a reverent opening for the day, was attended by some of the Senior members of the School. This was followed at eleven o'clock by a Commemoration Service. The address was given by Bishop Gwyer, formerly of Cape Province, and the Senior Choir sang an anthem.

The Prizegiving Ceremony took place at 3 p.m. and the School was honoured by the presence of Mrs. Fisher, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who came to present the prizes which were awarded for work, achievement, music, art and speechwork; there were also Guild awards. After the prizegiving Mrs. Fisher gave a most interesting and enlightening address in which she asked parents to allow their daughters to remain at least one year in the sixth form, and included the point that she believed that large families were more beneficial than small ones.

At the conclusion of this ceremony the parents and Governors assembled in the dining room for tea whilst the pupils prepared for the mass gymnastic demonstration which was to follow.

The display began at four o'clock and each form demonstrated various types of hurdling and jumping and, to end the performance, there was a display of vaulting. Despite the rain, which persisted at frequent intervals, the spectators were very keen to watch and the display was a success.

After the presentation of beautiful bouquets to Miss Sampson and Mrs. Eggleton, the Games Mistresses, who had done so much towards the gymnastic demonstration, the parents and Governors were conducted round the school to view the exhibits of art and needlework, of which there were many fine examples.

At seven-thirty in the evening the last visitor had departed from the Hall, and there was a proud and happy atmosphere about the School when the sun set on Founder's Day, 1952, a day which was worthy of the efforts made by Staff, girls and parents.

CHARMIAN ORTON — Age 15

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### AN OLD GIRL'S IMPRESSION OF FOUNDERS DAY, 1952.

Founders Day was on Friday, June 20th, this year, and at the Commemoration Service at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's many parents and friends joined the School. It was a joyful congregation with an Anthem sweetly sung by the girls in the choir, and a kindly sermon from **Bishop Gwyer**.

Afterwards, much greeting of friends outside, while the girls filed quickly and quietly up the passage way, filled no doubt with the same suppressed excitement as their predecessors of old.

Lunch with **Miss Bolton** and **Miss Elsa Smith** (we first met in 1907!) then to the Hall, past the new Elliott House, up the steps with the terrace borders lovely as ever, and through the open and welcoming doors for the Prizegiving.

After a welcome from **Lady Barrett-Lennard**, the Vice-Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, **Mr. C. E. M. Elliott**, **Miss Conrady**, now a familiar figure and a friend to many of us, rose to make her report as Head Mistress.

I am sure that all of us, whether we hear them on the day, or read them later, are extremely interested in these Reports, not only because of their immediate news, but for the light they throw on the ways and difficulties of modern education and the character of the modern child.

After giving the prizes, **Mrs. Fisher**, looking very comely and young to be the mother of so many grown-up sons, spoke to us, and we enjoyed her. Although never away to school, she was well used to them, as her father was a school-master, and she later married one. She spoke of the advantages of being one of a large family (more "beneficial" as **Charmian** says!), and how clever the Archbishop was at "putting down his ear-flaps," and thus being able to concentrate with bustle around him! She backed **Miss Conrady's** plea for that extra year at School, and she, also, begged for the encouragement of reading—any reading, she said, so long as the habit was formed.

**Canon Hanks**, the Senior Trustee, in an amusing vote of thanks, obviously bearing in mind that this gracious lady was the wife of his "chief," begged her to drop a word into the ear of his Grace, who is a Patron of the School, that here was a place worthy of a visit. As the father of several daughters, and not sons, he himself realised what a boon such a School must be to the poorer clergy and others.

**Miss Ghey**, in seconding, said she had watched the face of each prize-winner light up with pleasure as she was greeted, so felt sure that **Mrs.**



Fisher's face must have been full of kindness, and her remarks as inspiring as her speech.

Tea in the Dining Hall as the weather was uncertain.—A mental note to return later to the Studio with its art exhibition and the display of needlework in the big Schoolroom—(And very interesting, too, to note the different idea of art, and to see many attractive garments).

Then came the Demonstration of Gymnastics in the far Field; not a Display we were repeatedly told, presumably because the different events were performed by Forms, and not by hand-picked teams. It was delightful to watch the easy swing of the girls as they marched and counter-marched and sprang to their places with no fuss and the minimum of directions, and I particularly enjoyed the vaulting where I was often reminded of the old song when "they flew through the air with the greatest of ease!"

H.A.B.

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### THE SCHOOL AT HOME DAY.

Saturday, the day after Founder's Day, was Old Girls' Day, when the Head, the Staff and the Girls were at home to us from 3—6 p.m.

A good number took the opportunity given of having lunch at School at 12.30, and it was a happy party that filled two long tables in the extension of the Dining Hall. Everyone was out to make us feel we mattered, and to glean information about past days. Privately, no doubt, the present girls thought anyone over twenty or so very ancient. (I know at ten years old the Sixth seemed very grown-up to me!), but they were all very charming and ready to show us all they could. The question of the Latin grace, sung before and after dinner, came up, and later on there were private demonstrations!

By 3 p.m., when the main body of guests arrived, we had had a good "explore," and were competent guides ourselves to the art exhibition and our special "likes," and the most creditable examples of needlework, and the prize poems.

Among the guests was "Alice," so clever at remembering us all, and not looking a day older herself, and of course, Miss Hensley and Miss Wisdom, and Miss Bolton and Miss E. M. Smith, but no Miss Ghey or Miss Galton—Then there was our oldest member present, Miss Ethel Hanham, unbelievably in her nineties, and many another.

After tea—it is funny how our old awe of the top table persists—we made our way to the far Field for the Demonstration (not Display!) of Gymnastics by the different Forms of the Upper School. Marching, work on forms, introduction to Athletics (Western Roll High Jump, and Throwing the Discus, and Hurdling), movements in couples, movements in formation, and vaulting. As before, it was very pleasing to watch; the girls, all sizes—short and tall, slim and sturdy (nicer words than fat and thin!)—but all at ease, and so nice and young and fresh!

I had a good look at the gardens—I loved my different little patches (we were promoted from below the summer house to above it, then to the top) all my six years at School, and there was much competition in those days.

Then there was the new Elliott House on the old Hervey Terrace site to see with its long corridors and the fine staircase at its western end, with great expanses of window, giving a grand view of any events in "the Field," or in Eastern Road. Certainly the high windows at the Hall avoided outside distraction, but I must say I loved a view, and used to glory in the sight of the sea, or the sunlit Downs from the Head's sitting-room, or the top dormitories.

Soon it was time to go, with many thank-yous, leaving the School, with a sigh of relief, to settle down to routine after some extra strenuous days.

H.A.B.

Extracts from  
**HEAD MISTRESS'S REPORT**

**Junior Prize Giving**  
**Saturday, July 5th, 1952.**

Madam Chairman, Miss Towne, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to welcome so many parents and friends this afternoon on this our second prize-giving since the Hall re-opened. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome as our guest of honour Miss Towne, under whom I had the privilege to serve for nearly seven years before I came to Brighton.

The numbers in the Junior School are lower than they were a year ago, though the total number in the School is greater. We have 127 juniors, of whom 38 are boarders. 22 of the boarders are in Elliott House, which was opened by our President, the Lord Bishop of Chichester, on September 24th. We were fortunate in having Mrs. Crews as the first House Warden of Elliott, to lay down the first traditions and to get the organisation going. It was a happy beginning for the house named after our Founder, and we were very sorry indeed that Mrs. Crews could remain only two terms, as she felt the urge to return to South Africa. We welcomed Miss Ritchie at the beginning of this term. Miss Ritchie is a Warden of great experience and she is consolidating the excellent work begun by Mrs. Crews. We now have room for more boarders, but cannot fill all the places, as the classroom space is already filled to capacity. The numbers in the Kindergarten have dropped considerably since last year and it is with regret that the Governors decided to close this department of the School next September, though keeping the Transition Form for another year. As some of you already know, Miss Squier is to spend a year in the United States, and we are to have an American teacher in exchange. Our memories of Miss Moody, who came to us three years ago, are still quite fresh, and many of you will recall the happy friendship which grew up between her and the children. I am quite sure that Miss Richmond, who is coming from Illinois, sponsored by the same Exchange Committee, will win the same love and confidence as did Miss Moody.

.... Amongst other activities, Juniors have formed a Brownie Pack, been keen gardeners and attended many lectures and concerts. I feel that the present Junior Day Girls will overcome the tendency of older Day Girls who take such a limited interest in the School, and will accept opportunities given them out of school hours. Thus they will largely close the gap between day girls and boarders. The Juniors have contributed towards successes in Art and Music. Catherine Scatlift had a painting exhibited in the Guildhall. Games in the Junior School are improving steadily. ....

St. Hilary House was honoured recently when Lord Bessborough, as President of the Regency Society, unveiled a tablet to the memory of Thomas Read Kemp, founder of Kemp Town, who lived in the house between 1827 and 1837. .... Mrs. Clothier, who has been House Mistress of this house since its opening, is leaving this term to take up a lighter post at her own request. She has given inestimable time and boundless energy into developing this house. We all wish her happiness in her new work and the opportunity to enjoy more leisure than she has allowed herself here—for she has never spared herself in any way. ....

I take this opportunity of thanking all the Staff, and especially those who work for the Junior School, in whatever capacity, for their loyal service to the Hall during the year. I regard the work in the Junior School in some ways as of greater importance than that in the Senior School. The problems are similar in nature, but much of the character building of the children depends upon our help at this early age, to give them a sense of values, and the right attitude towards work and life in general. Those who teach the older girls know what a difference it makes to have a really sound training in the Junior School.



Perhaps one of the advantages of being a Preparatory School as well as a Public School is the opportunity it affords us of seeing two branches of the educational system, primary and secondary, at first hand, and the needs of the one in respect of the other.

I wish that the girls, as a whole, had a greater desire for good reading . . . . W. H. Davies, the poet, said: "A poor life this if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare." I am sure that it is a very good thing to make time just to "stand and stare" and a habit some of us grown-ups might well try to cultivate! But it can no doubt be taken too far! There is much to be said for the old adage, "Work while you work, and play while you play." There are too many juniors who are prepared to carry out the latter part and to ignore the other. Their work is not what it could be. There is too much careless thinking, careless reading and careless writing. Maybe I am old fashioned to expect accuracy, but, nevertheless, until there is greater heed for exactness in the work done it will only be second rate at best . . . .

Much of the future of St. Mary's Hall depends on the Juniors of to-day. The School has behind it a long history of loving service. Those of us who have the privilege of meeting old girls—some of them between 80 and 90 years old—never fail to be touched with the genuine enthusiasm they show for the School and their real concern for its welfare. They certainly contributed their share towards its progress in their time and they still continue to help—I am sure that to-day's pupils will do the same, and on their behalf and our own I end by quoting some words taken from the prayer book of Queen Elizabeth I:

"Teach us that we stand daily and wholly in need of one another.  
And give us grace by hand and mind to add our proper share to  
the common stock."

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### EAGER HEART.

Last Christmas Term the Nativity Play "Eager Heart" was acted by members of the Lower and Upper Fifths. The story is that of a single young girl who is visited by the Holy Family on Christmas night. Her two sisters, Eager Fame and Eager Sense, scorn the frugal meal and humble couch she has prepared for her guests. Shepherds and the three Wise Kings come to worship and present gifts to the Christ-child, and the play ends with the moral:

"Say, gentle listener, at this Christmas tide,  
Is **your** hearth ready? Are your doors flung wide?"

The choir sang music from Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" which provided a fitting background to the action of the play. Elisabeth Flint, who was Eager Heart, sang a charming solo. Thanks are due to Miss Wyn for her work in providing the music.

The acting was excellent. People deserving special mention were Elisabeth Flint as Eager Heart, the Shepherds and Kings and the two sisters, Eager Sense and Eager Fame; they were supported admirably by the rest of the cast.

The costumes, made and lent by members and friends of the school, were a great success. There were two performances of the play, one in the afternoon for the school, and the other in the evening for parents.

We are grateful to all those who contributed to the success of the play, especially to Miss Dimishky who put in so much time and energy producing it. It was the first Nativity Play since the School re-opened, and we hope for many more as good.

EVELYN WARING.

## THE DEATH OF KING GEORGE VI.

It was 6th February, 1952, when the news came through on the wireless that His Majesty King George VI had passed peacefully away in his sleep on the estate where he was born, Sandringham.

When this terrible news came through, our form, then the Upper IV, was in the middle of a French lesson. At about half-past eleven a prefect entered the room and told us that we were to assemble in the hall at once. We all went down to the hall in trepidation, for everyone of us was wondering what was the matter and whether any of us had been naughty.

When Miss Conrady told us the news a great gasp went round the school, for we had certainly not expected news of that sort. Then there was an awed silence which was broken by Miss Conrady, who spoke to us of the life of devotion of the King, and suggested that we prayed for those members of the Royal Family who knew and loved our Sovereign most.

Afterwards we continued our lessons, but a gloomy, dejected mood prevailed over the whole school. We just could not bring ourselves to do much work, for it had been such a shock, for the King had retired to bed the previous evening in his usual health.

This memory will be fresh in our minds for a long time, for although Court mourning has now ended, King George VI will long be remembered by us

M. A. COATE.—Aged 12.

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## A VISIT TO THE LYING-IN-STATE.

On Thursday, February 14th, the Upper and Lower Fifth Forms travelled to London to see the Lying-in-State of His late Majesty, King George the Sixth. They were accompanied by Sister Brown, Miss Foster, Miss Dimishky and Mademoiselle Jeanmaire.

A quiet atmosphere of waiting hung over the scene at Lambeth Bridge when we arrived. The Thames was deserted, save for one or two derelict barges moored along its banks. It was low tide, and stretches of shining mud scattered with debris were visible. The day was mild, damp and misty. In the distance, down river, Westminster Bridge was fairly visible, a dark shadow across the water. On the north bank stood the square, bulky shape of the Houses of Parliament, its reflection etched on the smooth surface of the river. On the opposite bank stood Lambeth Palace, with its rose-coloured brick and grey stone blending in the hazy atmosphere. All London seemed to be draped in a soft, grey gauze of sorrow. The only creatures not in mourning were the seagulls, who with snowy wings and raucous cries, glided about their business.

The queue shuffled slowly forward. It contained people from all walks of life; university students, charwomen, housewives, office workers and many others. There was a soft murmur of conversation, a quiet rustling of paper bags, and the incessant shuffle of patient feet. In the early afternoon, the shades of mist turned to violet, and Victoria tower, enclosed in its scaffolding stood black against the sky. As the queue turned one of the many bends, Westminster Abbey came into view, so quiet and stately amidst the busy traffic. It seems fitting that two such great monuments of Church and State should stand closely together. By this time there was a steady stream of people coming away from Westminster Hall and it was obvious that the long wait was nearly over. Around another corner, and there at last was the flight of worn steps leading up into the Hall of history.

Once inside, the first outstanding objects were a pair of great, golden, branched candlesticks standing at the head of the stairs. Their groups of glittering candles shed a bright, glowing light over the stone tracery and quietly moving people. The queue moved past these to the top of the staircase. There below them lay the King, surrounded by his faithful guards. The tableau, dwarfed by the great hall, formed a



small, compact island of light and colour in the dim expanse of shadows. There was a vague impression of great stone walls and a high raftered roof, but everyone's attention was centred on the catafalque. Down the steps, across the carpet, and there it was, the splendour of the Yeomen of the Guard, the breath-taking stillness of the Household Guards, the gleaming Crown Jewels, the simple coffin, and the faded wreath. Then a kindly negro policeman who had flown from the other side of the world to help his London equivalent, was motioning us on and out into the grey, windy afternoon; the final farewell was over.

Few girls felt tired or cold during the time they were in London, but, once on the train, waves of tiredness swept over them. It was a very exhausted party which returned to school that evening, but in their hearts was a glow of satisfaction. They had taken part in a rare and memorable occasion, and had paid their simple homage to a great man.

D. GRIMSTON.—Aged 15

### SCHOOL EVENTS 1951—52

#### September 1951

- 19 Autumn Term begins.
- 24 Formal opening of Elliott House by the Bishop of Chichester.
- 28 Recital by Miss Wyn and Miss Salmon on two pianos.

#### October

- 1 Talk by W.R.A.C. Officer to Seniors.
- 4 School photograph taken.
- 8 Marionette performance by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Heap.
- 26 Recital by Mercy Collisson and friends on old instruments.
- 28 Speaker from Colonial and Continental Missions.
- 29 Enrolment of Brownies.

#### November

- 2-5 Half-term holiday.
- 26 Visit by the Rev. Llewellyn George, of the Children's Society.

#### December

- 1 S.M.H.A. Sussex Branch Meeting at the Hall.
- 2 Talk by Councillor Mrs. Watson-Miller on Local Government.
- 3 Stamp film at Brighton College.
- 7 French Play: "Le Malade Imaginaire."
- 9 Confirmation at St. Anne's by Bishop of Chichester.
- 11 Brownie Concert.
- 12-13 Christmas parties.
- 14 Junior Carol Service.
- 17 Performance of "Eager Heart"
- 18 Carol Service and break up.

#### January, 1952

- 16 Spring Term begins.

#### February

- 2 Lecture by Mr. J. Fursden on Skokholm and Grassholm
- 29 Leap Year Fair by Remove.

#### March

- 27 Confirmation at Ovingdean by the Bishop of Chichester.

#### April

- 2 Break up.
- 30 Summer Term begins

- May**  
 9 Confirmation at St. Mark's Church by the Bishop of Lewes  
 23 Guides picnic.  
 24 Unveiling of plaque on St. Hilary on behalf of the Regency Society by Lord Bessborough in memory of Thomas Reade Kemp.  
 30 Guide Music Competition.  
 31 School Sports.

- June**  
 13-16 Half-term holiday.  
 14 Fête in School grounds in aid of Sussex Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls' Clubs.  
 20 Founder's Day—Mrs. Fisher, guest of honour.  
 21 S.M.H.A. Meeting at the Hall.  
 25 Visit to Wimbledon.

- July**  
 5 Junior Speech Day. Miss M. M. Towne, guest of honour  
 7 G.C.E. begins.  
 13 Brighton Girl Guides' Service.  
 24 Break up.

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### CONFIRMATIONS

**In St. Anne's Church,** by the Bishop of Chichester, on December 9th, 1951, Pat Eggleton.

**In Ovingdean Church,** by the Bishop of Chichester, on March 27th, 1952, Valerie Gregg.

**In St. Mark's Church,** by the Bishop of Lewes, on May 9th, 1952, Dawn Adams, Jill Adams, Barbara Bashford, Delia Bell, Jennifer Booth, Jane Evans, Sally Garland, Valerie Hickton, Leonore Langley, Betty Lea, Brenda Martin, Gillian Metcalf, Ruth Smalley, Elizabeth Smith, Susan Snelling, Evelyn Waring, Josephine Watson-Miller.

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### CONFIRMATION.

**FRIDAY, MAY 9th, 1952.**

Last term, on Friday, May 9th, at 7.30 p.m., many of us had a wonderful experience. It was the day of our Confirmation, and a memorable one for me.

At 4 o'clock all the confirmation candidates were allowed to have tea with their parents, and at 7 p.m. we all went to Miss Conrady's study where we were helped with our shawls and veils. It was impressive to think that so many girls had worn them before us for the same purpose.

When we were all ready, we proceeded to St. Mark's Church. As we reached the entrance a silence fell on us and we went to our respective seats.

I do not remember the exact proceedings of the service, but I do remember the Bishop of Lewes' address which is impossible to forget. His text was: "Eschew all evil."

After the service the Bishop of Lewes had a few words with our parents in private; we had to go out!

Having said goodbye to our parents we all went to the drawing-room and had cocoa and biscuits and friendly talks about the whole day.

That night we all went to bed with happy hearts, and I am sure we all feel grateful to Mr. Crane for having prepared us for such a wonderful occasion.

SUSAN SNELLING — Age 14.



## TO YOUTH.

Young flame, with eagerness and zeal  
Thou tread'st life's stony way;  
Think on those feet nail'd to the Cross,  
Believe in Him and pray.

Young flame, when wounded thou dost fall,  
When sick and weary too,  
Think on those Hands so strong to heal,  
And know He loves thee true.

Young flame, in hours of doubt and fear,  
When all thy trust is fled,  
Think on His side pierc'd for thy sake,  
Take strength from this Life's Bread.

Young flame, by faith thou must fight on,  
E'en when the end seems near  
And serve and love Him ris'n again  
To banish death and fear.

ELISABETH FLINT--Age 16.

(First Prize in Keeling-Scott Competition).

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## EXAMINATION RESULTS

### GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

#### Oxford and Cambridge--December, 1951.

The following girls added 2 "O" passes: Paula Atkins; Daphne Browne; Sally Cary; Lynn Whitlock.

The following girls added 1 "O" pass: Patricia Carr; Patricia Eggleton; Jean Thomson; Toni Webber; Ruth Young.

#### Cambridge--July, 1952.

7 passes at "O" level: Manuela Supino; Evelyn Waring.

6 passes at "O" level: Elisabeth Flint.

5 passes at "O" level: Penelope Burgis.

4 passes at "O" level: Julia Franckeiss; Belinda Lindeck; Robina Methven; Jean Scatliff; Jean Strike.

3 passes at "O" level: Adele Freedman; May Ning; Judith Pilcher; Susan Sainsbury; Jeannette Saunders.

2 passes at "O" level: Denise Brooks; Elizabeth Cooper; Shirley Fulford; Celia Minns; Chandra Seegobin.

1 pass at "O" level: Mary Boswell; Shirley Botting; Sylvia Cale; Jane Ellis; Betty Lea; Maureen Outram; Margaret Robinson, Shirley Samson.

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## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, OCTOBER, 1952.

Elliott Scholarships

Patricia Eggleton

Evelyn Waring

Babington Scholarship

Helen Cope

Snowden-Smith Scholarship

Mary Boswell

## SCHOOL OFFICIALS 1951—52

**Prefects.**—Pat Eggleton, Head of School since December, 1951. Toni Webber, Day Girl Head from December, 1951, to April, 1952. Mary Boswell, Deputy Head Girl since September, 1952. Shirley Botting, Mary Patten, Susan Sainsbury, Jean Scatliff, Vimla Seegobin, Jean Strike.

**Sub-Prefects.**—Jeanette Saunders, Judy Pilcher, Evelyn Waring, Adele Freedman, Julia Franckeiss, Belinda Lindeck, Sofi Efstratiyadis, Daphne Grimston, Charmian Orton, Leueen Wolfenden, Ann Griffiths.

**Games Captains**—LACROSSE: Pat Eggleton to December, 1952. NETBALL: Shirley Botting to May, 1952. TENNIS: Pat Eggleton, May to July, 1952.

**Guild Captains**—ST. ANDREW: Elisabeth Flint. ST. DAVID: Shirley Botting. ST. GEORGE: Pat Eggleton. ST. PATRICK: Toni Webber, Judy Pilcher.

**House Captains**—BABINGTON: Pat Eggleton. ST. HILARY: Joan King, Wendy Clapperton, Nicolette Tredennick. ELLIOTT: Rosamund Willoughby (First Head), Anne Jones.

## GAMES

The standard of games continues to show a marked improvement. With more Lacrosse fixtures arranged for the Seniors, enthusiasm for the game has grown, and, although the teams did not win as many matches as they had hoped to, they gave a very good account of themselves.

The Junior Netball Teams were as keen as ever, the shooters being particularly good.

The weather this summer allowed a regular weekly attendance at the baths and with one or two exceptions the whole of the senior school can swim reasonably well.

The 1st Tennis Team, being rather young, suffered from nerves, but soon improved with match experience. The outstanding match of the season was the success of the junior tennis team, in beating Roedean's corresponding team by 7 matches to 2. Sports day, Tennis Tournaments and Guild Matches again provided internal competition.

## SUMMARY OF SCHOOL MATCHES.

	Netball	Lacrosse	Tennis	Rounders
Number of Fixtures .. .. .	33	15	7	6
Number played .. .. .	26	8	7	5
Won .. .. .	10	1	3	1
Drawn .. .. .	1	2	0	0
Lost .. .. .	15	5	4	4

## RESULTS OF GUILD MATCHES.

Netball Cup won by St. George.

Lacrosse Cup won by St. George.

Tennis Cup won by St. Patrick.

Rounders Matches won by St. Patrick.

## TENNIS TOURNAMENTS.

Senior Singles—Patricia Eggleton beat Evelyn Waring 4—6, 7—5 6—1.

Junior Singles—Jean Kenilworth beat Rosemary Scot 6—2.

## SPORTS DAY.

This was held on Saturday, May 31st. The Cup was won by St. Patrick's Guild.

## TEAM COLOURS.

Colours were awarded during the year to the following :—

Netball — Patricia Carr, Jean Thomson.

Lacrosse — Patricia Eggleton, Patricia Creaton



## SWIMMING SUCCESS.

**Anthea Perry**, aged 13, was first in the under 16 open free style Swimming Contest of the Worthing Swimming Club. The previous winner of this was Angela Barnwell who took part in the Olympic Games.

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## BALLET.

Gliding softly from the shadows, slow, without a sound  
Their white skirts billowing, they sink down to the ground,  
And rise again. Drawn on by music's golden melody,  
Through movements intricate, in most exquisite harmony  
They dance; their supple bodies gently swaying to and fro,  
Each shadows each; demure, with upraised arms and pointed toe  
Gracefully they pose, freeze into immobility,  
And stand like ghostly statues. Then with swift agility  
Rapidly they quicken into life, like snowflakes whirling,  
Weaving their patterns in and out then softly twirling  
In unison. Each, followed by a moving arc of light,  
Flits across the darkened stage, like some unearthly sprite,  
Her garments weirdly gleaming. Bewitched with cunning art,  
They leap and bound in wild abandonment; contract the heart  
With longing, and bestir the hungering mind to ecstasy.  
They then are stilled; and for a while an end to fantasy.

J. C. LUYKEN—Age 15.

(Second Prize in Keeling-Scott Competition).

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## PRESENTS TO THE HALL.

Shirley Botting	Tennis Singles Cup.
Mary Patten	Book for Reference Library.
Joan Edwards	" " " "
Susan Sainsbury	" " " "
Mrs. Langdale-Smith	Roll top desk, bookcases, chairs and tables.
Miss R. Elwin	Gifts for the Museum.
Miss Dimishky	Picture for Form most proficient in dining hall orderly work.
Anonymous	£25 towards another piano.
Mrs. Mary Bell and many others.	Classical Books.
Jane Ellis	Clock for Domestic Science Room.

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## RELATIONS OF FORMER GIRLS AT THE HALL.

Margaret, Elizabeth and Catherine Scatliff—daughters of Alma Gordon and sisters of Jean Scatliff.

Fiona McWalter—daughter of Marjorie Fuller.

Ann Thompson—daughter of Dorothy Lake and niece of Gwendoline Lake.

Jean Reekie—daughter of Eileen Vaughan.

Helen Blair—daughter of Doreen MacDonald.

Jill Elliott—daughter of Marjorie Duke.

Angela Phillips—daughter of Bessie Neale.

Joanna Rooth—daughter of Hannah Symons.

Gillian Robinson—daughter of Barbara St. George.  
Aduke Bucknor—cousin of Bisi Alakija and niece of Ayo Oluwole.  
Marylou Saunders—cousin of Phyllis, Rosemary and Pat Poyser.  
Wendy and Nicolette Tredennick—nieces of Margaret Phair.  
Phillipa Durnford—second cousin of Viva Simpson.  
Helen Cope—grand-daughter of the late Winifred Vaughan.  
Joan Dixon—niece of Betty Dixon.  
Rosamund Willoughby—daughter of the late Vivian Philips.

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### NEWS OF RECENT OLD GIRLS.

**Joan Edwards** (Elliott Scholar 1950-51). -1st M.B. Certificate of Proficiency in Inorganic Chemistry; County Major Award.

**Ia Thorold** (Elliott Scholar 1950-51). Advanced Level in G.C.E. at Bath High School in Latin, Greek, English.

**Susan Sainsbury**. British Red Cross Junior Medal—Susan gained 100% in the last Home Nursing Examination, having gained 100% for First Aid the previous year.

**Janine Sammons** passed out top of her Unit of the W.R.A.C. with 91%.

**Paula Atkins** is working in the Intelligence Branch of the War Office.

**Daphne Brown** is student-assistant in the School Sanatorium. She has been accepted as a Student Nurse in King's College Hospital for March 1953.

**Betty Lea** won first prize at a recent dressmaking contest for teenagers organised by Singer's.

**Patricia Eggleton** (Babington Scholar) has obtained entrance to Dartford Physical Training College.

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### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST.

In the course of her various talks to us, **Miss Conrady** mentioned the replacement of the old trundling dining-hall lift by an electric one, a Hobart mixer and meat-slicing machine, and heat taken down to the basement. That the Italian girl (**Manuelo?**), who came only three years ago, had passed her G.C.E. in all her subjects, and that **Elizabeth Flint** and **Evelyn Waring** had done well.

In September, 1952, the number of pupils was 143 Boarders, 112 Day Girls, and 8 in the Kindergarten—The aim is to have 160 Boarders and 100 Day Girls eventually.

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### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE FOR THE UNINFORMED!

(Some answers from recent General Knowledge tests).

Benjamin Britten is a kind of baby food.

W.V.S. — Women's Vocal Service.

Lotus did not look back.

Sir Elliott Wing was the founder of St. Mary's Hall.

Mr. R. A. Butler is the budget keeper.

Edgar Wallis wrote the Enigma Variations.

Picasso was an Italian painter born 500 years ago.

Paul Beard is the leader of the B.B.C. Sympathy Orchestra.

Revolution is the last book of the Bible.

Pharoah is the Prime Minister of Egypt.



## A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE BASEVI.

George Basevi, a cousin of Benjamin Disraeli, was the honorary architect of St. Mary's Hall. He was born in Savile Row, London, in 1795.

He was educated by de Burney at Greenwich, after which he became a pupil of Sir John Soane, an architect. When Basevi was only twenty-seven years of age he was appointed surveyor to the Guardian Insurance Company. During the time that he held this office he designed two small churches, St. Thomas', Stockport, and St. Mary's, Greenwich.

George Basevi's next work was the designing of the main portion of Belgrave Square. His most important work was undoubtedly the Fitz-William Museum at Cambridge, which, however, he did not complete. It was finished by E. M. Barry.

Basevi's last important work was the Conservative Club in 1837, in the design of which he was associated with Sydney Smith, A.R.A. Basevi also designed the Carlton Club, but died before it was finished. His death occurred whilst inspecting the bell tower of Ely Cathedral, from which he fell and was killed instantaneously. He was closely connected with Ely, for, amongst other works, he enlarged the gaol there, and built a house of correction at Wisbech.

George Basevi, who is buried at the east end of the chapel in Ely Cathedral, was a tasteful architect in the classic style, and it is interesting to note that St. Mary's Hall appears to be Basevi's only example of pseudo-Gothic architecture.

To-day, design and function are allied, and schools should possess amenities which will help to forward their work of educating the young. In 1836 the urge to improve the minds of the young was the same, and thought was given to the planning of schools, but it seems the aim was negative rather than positive. For example, most of the windows of St. Mary's Hall were constructed high above eye level, and Basevi's design of some of the form rooms shuts out the view in order, presumably, to enable wayward pupils to give their undivided attention to the lesson. Some may condemn such a limitation, but in this age of multiple distraction which is provided no less by "pictures" than by jet aeroplanes, Basevi's plan is advantageous to both the pupils and teachers of St. Mary's Hall!

CHARMIAN ORTON (Aged 15).

**Note.**—Readers will be interested to know that Charmian Orton had the following extract published in the "Evening Standard" on Wednesday, August 13th:—

I find great pleasure in looking at the plaques on the walls of many London buildings, and I was particularly interested when you wrote (Memorials in Blue, August 11th) that the name of George Basevi, the architect, must be comparatively unknown to the general public. It is very well known to me, as he was the architect of my School, St. Mary's Hall, in Brighton, one of the oldest girls' Public Schools in England.

Only a couple of days ago I was walking through Savile Row and saw the very plaque you mention. I remarked to my mother: "I wonder how many people have heard of George Basevi besides the girls who go to my school?"—Charmian Orton, Cornwall Gardens, South Kensington.

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## A LECTURE ON SEA BIRDS IN SKOKHOLM AND GRASSHOLM.

On Saturday, February 2nd, the Boarders who had not gone out with their parents, assembled at 5 o'clock in the Lecture Room for a talk illustrated by films on "Sea Birds at Skokholm and Grassholm."

The speaker was Mr. Fursdon, who had spent some time on the islands at the Bird Observatory, spotting birds, and taking films of them with his cine-camera.

By means of an excellent map, which had been chalked on the blackboard by Mr. Fursdon himself, he explained to us exactly where the islands of Skokholm and Grassholm lie, telling us they were two islands off the coast of Pembrokeshire. Skokholm is the larger of the two islands; it has an old farmhouse which is used as a boarding house by any number of observers up to twelve; it sometimes houses keen bird-watchers from schools and training-colleges. Mr. Fursdon explained how lucky Skokholm was in having a lighthouse which flashed a red light, as then the birds were not nearly so likely to be attracted by it as they would be by a white flash, because red is not so dazzling and so the birds do not crash into the glass. Some lighthouses have special bird perches round them, for the birds to rest on, so they do not get as far as the glass.

Mr. Fursdon went on to explain what a tricky job it was to steer or sail a boat from Skokholm to Grassholm, as the tide races just between the two, and the current flows to one spot from several directions; so boats have to sail north and then west in order to avoid that spot. After Mr. Fursdon had talked for some time, and explained the aim of the British Field Society, which was to make colonies for the birds where they could nest without being disturbed; also to ring birds so that they could be watched to see what parts of Europe and other countries, including England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, they went to, he told us he was going to show us some films he had taken of birds at Skokholm and Grassholm.

The first film was in black and white and took us on a journey starting at Skokholm and taking us to Grassholm and then back again to Skokholm. The first picture showed us a landing stage, set amongst the rocks at the base of a cliff, and a yacht drawing into it with food and supplies for the observers on the island. The film went on to show us the nests of birds on the island and some very good close-ups of different birds. At one point we were shown men climbing down the cliff face, in what seemed to us the most dangerous manner, and, once arrived at the nest, they showed us a baby bird only a few hours old. The observer then ringed one of the parent birds and climbed back up the cliff again.

The second film was in Kodachrome and started off with the same scene as the first one had, showing the yacht towing a rowing boat going towards Grassholm. The colours were beautiful and brought to us much more clearly the rugged beauty of the island. Grassholm had a great colony of gannets, which took up nearly half the island.

Looking down on them from above, they showed as a large white mass, which was always changing, for the birds would suddenly fly up into the air and go wheeling round with the other birds, all in the same direction, but they never had a collision because of their swift but controlled flying; then if the wind changed all the birds would change direction and go round the other way. Each gannet had its own little piece of ground on which no other bird could trespass. It is very difficult for the birds to fly straight up off the ground. The baby gannets were black and fluffy, before gradually turning to white fluff, and finally after five years they were considered adult birds, and had their proper white feathers. The film then took us back to Skokholm and showed us many different birds and their nests. Some nests such as the oyster catcher's were on a ledge, sometimes only a foot wide, and often low down the cliff, but always just out of reach of the spray which flew up from the waves pounding ceaselessly against the cliff-face. Other birds, such as puffins, made their nests down rabbit holes, and the film showed the funny way in which they looked at you first out of one eye, and then out of the other, and also the top-heavy way in which they waddled about.

The third film showed the farmhouse and the dilapidated farmyard; also the wild sheep which ran away from the camera, except one which had got left behind, and so was brought up on milk by the observers. Pink thrift of various shades adorned the cliff-top. We saw the young



students ringing the birds in traps. The last view was of the yacht leaving the island.

Afterwards Mr. Fursdon very kindly answered our questions.

We all enjoyed the lecture very much, and I am sure many of us will want to go to Pembrokeshire, Skokholm and Grassholm for our summer holiday, and watch the many interesting birds there.

ANN THOMPSON.—Aged 14.

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### THE SEA.

Rolling, Tumbling,  
Coiling, Rumbling.  
What can it be?  
Why of course it's the Sea.

Breaking, Emerging,  
Shuffling, surging,  
I love it so,  
Some hate it I know.

I'll sing all day,  
Of surf and spray,  
And then to bed,  
With the sea in my head.

PENELOPE THRIFT—Age 11.

(Junior Prize in Keeling-Scott Competition).

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### IN HOSPITAL.

Always in a hurry, yet never seeming so,  
Always spick and span, with apron, cap and bow,  
Never in a temper, but firm with twinkling eye  
Dispensing pills and potions — no earthly good to cry,  
The wards, so brightly shining, the beds so neatly made,  
The nurses kind I know you'll find, because in there I've stayed.

JENNIFER BELL—Age 12.

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### TREES.

They sway and swish the whole day through  
Making a rustling sound,  
They sway beneath the sky so blue,  
Above the dusty ground.

Birds often make their nests in them,  
Some high, and some down low;  
The tree stands high against the sky,  
The traveller sits below.

The trees are whispering all the day,  
To one, and then another,  
They whisper in the sunlight's ray,  
Secrets to their brother.

JUDY COATE—Age 10

## THE BLACK BIRDS.

Two little Black Birds  
Sitting on a tree,  
One for Susie, one for me;  
Down hopped Susie's and went to her door  
And started pecking at her kitchen floor.

JENNIFER PIGG—Age 9.

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## JANET'S QUESTION.

1. "What is a star, and what is a planet?"  
This, of her mother, asked fair-haired Janet.
2. "Some planets wander round suns of their own,  
But some have set courses; each star is alone—"
3. Said mother to Janet, who smiled and said:
4. "Poor planets! Poor Stars! They never see bed."

ELONA THOMAS—Age 12.

(Junior Prize in Keeling-Scott Competition).

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## FAIRYLAND.

There are lots of things in Fairyland,  
That children long to see,  
From the silver wings of Fairies  
To the golden apple tree.

Fairyland's a happy place  
Where no one scolds or cries;  
And no one kicks or makes a noise  
And hardly ever sighs.

JANET WILSON—Age 9.

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## THE LAZY MAN.

I'll tell you a tale of the laziest man,  
Who was always so tired that he never ran.  
He would rather sit in the garden sun,  
Than go outside and have a run.

His wife, named Bessy, worked and worked,,  
But he in his laziness, always shirked.  
He never took the dog for a walk  
He would rather sit, and talk and talk.

He would never get up until ten o'clock,  
Which gave his wife such an awful shock  
When he came downstairs with such a frown,  
Because he'd mislaid his dressing gown.

I think you'd agree, if this man you should meet  
He's really the laziest man in his street.

CAROLYN PASCOE—Age 10½.



## BLUNT HOUSE WEEK-END.

On Friday, July 18th, began a most delightful week-end with Miss Ghey and Miss Galton at their new Blunt House at Eastbourne. We were a very small party over the week-end, only eight of us, but it was quite a representative one, ranging from the early 1900's to the newest old girls from the Hall. The weather was perfect, and we were able to wander down to the beach to bathe during the day, or to see the fascinating lights in the evening. On Saturday morning Miss Ghey and Miss Galton took us all into Fuller's for coffee and cakes. As ten or eleven of us all insisted on sitting together at one table rather an upheaval was caused, but we managed to arrange ourselves and do full justice to the cakes. After this we had to hurry back to Blunt House for the afternoon party. A large crowd of "Old Girls" began to arrive just after mid-day and we were soon sitting down to a wonderful lunch, after which we all wandered out into the garden and foregathered with all our friends. Miss Conrady brought a party over from the Hall, which included the present Head Girl. After an equally large and good tea, the party gradually broke up. We then passed on to the more peaceful occupation of helping Miss Ghey feed the chickens and collect the eggs.

Sunday was another glorious day and we spent the morning either bathing or sitting on the beach and getting scorched. In the afternoon Miss Galton took us for a ride on an open-topped 'bus, so much more pleasant than the usual closed in ones. We were very sorry indeed when after a wildly hilarious tea it was time to bring this lovely week-end to a close. One or two lucky ones were able to stay over to the Monday morning. We were very very grateful to Miss Ghey and Miss Galton for having given us such a happy time.

PAT POYSER.

## HOME COUNTIES MEETING, 1952.

**Mrs. Tredennick (Margaret Phair)** was our kind hostess this year on Saturday, September 27th, at her pleasant house facing Kew Gardens. (There was a fine view of the famous Pagoda).

We were glad to have our President, **Miss Conrady**, and our Vice-President, **Mildred Riddelsdell**, with us, but were disappointed that neither **Miss Ghey** or **Miss Galton** could come. The greetings telegrams from Miss Galton and Miss Stopford were much appreciated.

Mrs. Tredennick provided an excellent tea—sandwiches, scones with real butter on them and home-made cakes. The laden table would have fed double our number.

After tea Miss Conrady gave us an informal account of the School's activities and future plans, and mentioned that the number of boarders, 143, was the largest since the School re-opened.

She then asked if Mrs. Tredennick would be willing to sell some of the surplus food. New paper bags were miraculously produced, and at the end of ten minutes the S.M.H.A. found itself 12s. 6d. the richer!

The Hon. Treasurer, Miss Smith, then told us of the death during the summer of Col. A. C. Elliott, so long interested in the School, and that she had sent a wreath from the Old Girls' Association—this met with approval.

The Hon. Secretary then expressed regrets that Miss Potter had been unable to come, and told us of her sad loss on the death of her sister. The meeting asked that a letter of sympathy should be sent.

Those present at this happy gathering were:— Miss Conrady, Miss E. M. Smith, Miss Bolton, Miss Irons, M. Elliott (Duke), M. Hopkins (Hope Gill), K. Ogden (Powell), M. Tredennick (Phair), P. Atkins, A. Baron, E. Cooper, I. Lawrence, E. Moore, N. Paterson, P. Poyser, Ph. Poyser, M. Riddelsdell, S. Sainsbury and O. Skene.

P.R.P.

## SUSSEX BRANCH MEETING, 1952.

The yearly meeting of the Sussex Branch was held at St. Mary's Hall on Saturday, November 15th. Thirty-six Old Girls were there, and four Prefects helped us in every way. A nice number of recent leavers came, also several devoted old members who love the Hall, and came in spite of inclement weather.

The new ruling as to membership of the main Association was discussed. Then Miss Conrady gave us the latest news of the Hall, and invited us to visit the Domestic Science Room (how well we remember it as a Box Room). Then we had tea, and conversation flourished among old school friends.

We do appreciate Miss Conrady's kindness in inviting us to meet at the Hall — and giving us tea at such a nominal price.

M. WANSTALL.

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## OUR TRIP ACROSS THE U.S.A.

In the summer of 1950, at the end of a year that my husband had spent with the United States Army, we were granted a month's leave to make a trip to which we much looked forward. We had decided to motor across the States from East to West, and from Seattle go North into Canada, taking in on our way as many places of interest as possible.

Between New York and Detroit we visited West Point and Niagara. West Point is the U.S. Military Academy, equivalent to our Sandhurst but about four times as large. It is built in a perfect setting on the edge of the River Hudson, and one can still see links of the chain which was put across the river to stop the British warships during the War of Independence. Niagara was lovely, and we had two days there. We did all the right things, such as going down in the caves behind the falls, and travelling close under both the American and Horseshoe Falls in the little steamer "Maid of the Mist." For both these ventures we were dressed up in enormous black mackintoshes, gum boots and sou'westers as the spray was terrific and could soak one to the skin in a matter of moments.

Detroit was our next stop—dull and very noisy; after which we motored for miles through what is known as the Corn Belt. A huge amount of sweet corn is grown in the States and this little batch of it went on for about 500 miles! The children were very happy in the back of the car reading hundreds of comics and quite oblivious of scenery, however beautiful or dull, but my husband and I became very bored and were glad to reach the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. A few hundred miles further we climbed through a pass nearly 8,500 feet high and entered the Yellowstone National Park. This is an entralling place and we spent a whole day driving slowly through. There are many different geysers all erupting quite independently. "Old Faithful" performs every 65 minutes, "Daisy" every four hours, "Beehive" every three and a half days, and so on. They are lovely to watch and "Beehive" goes very high, but my favourites were the hot springs. They are very still on top, as the water is just at simmering point, and some are sapphire blue and some emerald green. I think the illusion of colour comes from the incredible depth of water, in many cases unplumbed.

Leaving Yellowstone behind, we began to cross the Rockies. It was a dull and dry climb up the East side to the Continental Divide, but descending on the West we went through well-watered and beautiful forest land. We enjoyed this bit very much but were sorry to see the damage caused by the forest fires which sometimes occur. Seattle was virtually the end of our trip; from there we went to British Columbia and stayed with relations. We had run out of cash, so sold our Ford V8 and travelled back to the East Coast on a most beautiful streamlined train called "The Empire Builder." On reaching New York we boarded the Queen Elizabeth and returned to England.

M. E. ELLIOTT (M. Duke).



## A MISSIONARY MEMBER'S LETTER.

**Marion Lloyd** wrote to Miss Ghey in January from the C.M.S. Mission at Matana in the Belgian Congo :—

"Many thanks indeed for your most kind gifts for the Hospital here, which we received recently. We are indeed grateful for all your help both by prayer and gifts. Without them we should be in a sad state.

"You will be glad to hear that at last the end is in sight of the re-roofing of the Hospital. In fact all the roof has been off and put on again, and we are only finishing floors etc. now. You would like to see all the improvements, and we are all most thankful for them. It makes the working of things so much easier. This afternoon we had a lovely re-dedication service held in the big men's ward, and a great many people came, including the masons and carpenters and all their many helpers. We all praised God together as we remembered how we have been led down the years since the first missionaries came here. Literally thousands of people have been healed in the Hospital, and it has been a real way of preaching the Good News to them. I personally feel it a great honour to have been permitted to see it all growing up as I came here in 1947, and was present at the first official opening of the building in that year. So we thank God and look forward in faith to the future. As yet there is no Doctor appointed to succeed Dr. Church when he leaves next week. Please pray about this."

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## NEWS FROM SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

**Mrs. Games (Dorothea Sturdee)** wrote in April from Bulawayo, and spoke of an abnormally rainy season, badly needed, but it meant a great deal of isolation and separation owing to the swollen state of the large rivers, which had to be forded, so the safe arrival of a baby son to her young married son was a great relief.

She felt that we were exceptionally lucky in our School, as we were wisely kept busy, and were given something to live for over and above our School work. She loved **Miss Forrest**, and has pleasant memories of many others on the Staff. She always connects **Winnie Owen Smith** with pigs! Nothing personal, but she was in the same small dormitory when Winnie came back weeks later after a bicycle accident through colliding with one!

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## A BUSY VICARAGE HOUSEHOLD

**Mrs. O'Hara (Margaret Banks)** wrote to Miss Ghey in July to tell her of **Mrs. Davis' (Theodora Bellhouse)** progress, and was glad to be able to say that she seemed stronger. (We do sympathise with **Theodora** in her illness). She and her husband are now at Brimscombe Vicarage, Stroud, Glos., the home of the Rev. E. Panter, he being a cousin of **Dora's**, and brother to **Mrs. Kidd (Daisy Panter)**. (Don't you remember how **Daisy** loved to talk of her little brothers!) As an example of kindness I must quote from **Margaret's** letter: "My husband drove me down from home last Sunday after Early Service, and we had a lovely day through magnificent country. **Dora** was so delighted to see us, and we greatly enjoyed meeting the whole Panter family and household. They are so jolly, and it is amazing all that Mr. and Mrs. Panter do to help and care for people in need. They had three extra children besides their own, one a missionary's son, complete with his large brown dog; the district nurse, who had not been able to find accommodation; a bedridden lady, a parishioner, who five years ago had been left stranded, and now **Dora** and her husband!

It is a very large Vicarage with twelve bedrooms, and is right at the top of a hill, with the parish at the bottom! It was a real tonic to spend even that short time with them, and to know that **Dora** was being cared for so well. The district nurse attends to her before she sets off in the morning."

## MORE NEWS OF YOUR VICE-PRESIDENTS.

**Miss Robinson**, when sending her letter, spoke of her flight home from Durban to London in a B.O.A.C. Hermes Speed Boat, over the Continent of Africa.

**Miss Stopford** speaks of her wonderful three months in South Africa. She loved the climate and the scenery, but feels that the political situation is most distressing. They stayed with the Mirfield and Kelham Missions, who are doing grand work out there with schools, clinics and training colleges, but all against the stream of government policy.

In answer to news of the September Meeting she says: "How lovely to have two of **Miss Conrady's** Old Girls with you!"

Our sympathy goes out to **Miss Helen Potter** in the loss of her sister and home-sharer.

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## THE YEAR'S NEWS.

**Mrs. Atkins (Kathleen Kennelly)** writes to give change of address after a very eventful three months; the glad arrival of a grandson on July 27th, the sad loss of her mother on August 3rd, the marriage of her younger son on September 19th, and now the move to Worthing.

**Gillian Bardsley** was honoured by having the C.B.E. conferred on her in the first Birthday Honours of the new reign, "for political and public service in Reigate." She writes: "It was a great thrill to receive the award at Buckingham Palace from Her Majesty."

Gillian is on the Parochial Church Council, and the Bible Society's Committee, and is C.M.S. secretary for the Parish of Buckhurst Hill, where **Joan** teaches a class of forty at the Church School.

**Mrs. Barlow (Gretel Hunt)** and her husband were planning another trip abroad by car with **Audrey Baron's** cousin when she saw them in Norfolk this summer. This time it was to Haute Savoie, in September. One has heard that the weather was not good, and they were unable to enjoy wearing the pretty flimsies one saw in the making.

**Mrs. Brodle (Joy Emery)** has recently returned to England after 4½ years in South Africa. (See addresses.)

**Kathleen Chambré** is Assistant Domestic Bursar and Sister-in-Charge of the Infirmary at Borough Road College, Isleworth, Middlesex.

**Joan Collard** is working for the Friends of the Poor, 42, Ebury Street, S.W.1.

**Mercy Collisson** could not get to the Blunt House party because, as one of the Lay Commissioners for the Seven Churches Campaign in the Diocese of St. Albans, she had to be present that day to see the Queen lay the foundation stone of a new church, then meet her at a tea party, and attend evensong in the Abbey.

Her long awaited house was started in May, and she was meanwhile living in the village pub at Gravenhurst to be on the spot. She has a quarter acre with a lovely view, including the church where she was baptised.

**Mrs. Clarke (Sybil Barff)** is now in the Isle of Wight, where her husband has found a house. (See addresses.)

**Una Clifford** left England at the end of July for Australia. Her family mean to settle there, but she hopes to return after two years' teaching experience.

**Mrs. Elliott (Marjorie Duke)** is back in England and has just sent her little daughter Jill, aged 9½, to St. Mary's Hall.



**Mrs. Eggington (Margaret Baron)** has had **Mrs. Needham (Miss Vincent)** staying with her again.

**Dorothy Emmett** is to give the Stanton Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion in the University of Cambridge.

**Mrs. Footitt (Mildred Norris)** has won one of three silver teapots offered by the Tea Bureau in a nation-wide Women's Institute competition for a tea cosy. This caused much local pride, and your Editor was intrigued to see this lovely piece of work. The detachable cover was of fine linen, exquisitely worked in a small Jacobean design, over a cosy of quilted shot silk, and it was well worth the fine inscribed teapot.

**Mrs. C. Grant (Carol Ailden)** writes from 115 Muritai Road, Eastbourne, New Zealand, that she and her husband are very happy there. They have two children, Clinton, aged four, and Suzanne, aged two. Carol was very happy to meet **Priscilla Stoner (Mrs. Kennedy)**, who was touring with her husband and giving concerts all over the country after a long tour in Australia.

**Margaret Gray** has been appointed Head Mistress of the Skinners' Company Girls' School, Stamford Hill, a State-aided school with a governing body made up of 10 of the Skinners' Company and five of the L.C.C.

**Mrs. Hart (Dorothy Moore)** has at last found a suitable house in Woking, not far from her old home.

**Dorothy and Muriel Heelas**, that indomitable pair, wrote last from New Zealand, where they had been working for farmers and having all manner of adventures, and were contemplating a visit to Japan next. We await further news!

**Mrs. Herdon (E. Ryan)** has been spending the summer in England with her husband, on leave from India.

**Mrs. Hubert (Kathleen Pocock)**, writing from 7 Sixieme Avenue, Kapellenbos, Antwerp, asks if anyone can supply her with the address of Helen Shackleton?

**Monica Hopkins**, daughter of **Muriel (Hope-Gill)**, is at Wickham Abbey as a day boarder, and plays her 'cello in the orchestra. She passed Grade V with credit (at the age of 13) in 1951.

**Lucy Hutchinson** is doing full time editorial work for the Clarendon Press.

**Mrs. Laseby (Miss Phyllis Rowe)** is living in Kensington with her child.

**Mrs. Longsdon (Elaine Fotheringham)**, writing from a new address in Weybridge, regretted she could not attend Miss Ghey's party owing to her husband's recent operation for cataract—a successful one, happily.

**Mrs. Macdonald, M.B.E. (Amy Cavalier)**, sends cuttings about her son, Lt.-Col. J. F. M. Macdonald, K.O.S.B., who won the D.S.O. in October, 1951, for outstanding gallantry in Korea. She may well be proud.

**Mrs. McCall (Margaret Jones)** wrote in April from Risalpur to say she and her husband and two small boys were flying home in May on three months' leave—breakfast in Karachi, and dinner at night in London. Her life is very happy, though at Christmas they had great anxiety over John, who had tuberculosis diagnosed. However, prompt and thorough treatment in the Military Hospital saved him, and his last X-ray showed him all but clear. Micky was then 3½ and full of life. We hope they enjoyed their leave.

**Mrs. Mead (Amy Law)** in sending news of her father's death, said what pleasure it had given him to marry her third grown-up son only a month before.

**Mrs. Meadows (Margaret Ives)** writing to regret she could not get to the summer meetings, spoke of the joy of having her eldest son Richard safely home on leave from 2½ years as a R.M. Commando in Malaya.

**Dorothy Menzies** sent a Christmas message to Blunt House from The Nurses' Home, Kew Hospital, Invercargill, New Zealand.

**Joyce Newton** (Sister Michael of God) has for three years held the office of Prioress of her Carmelite Community at Kirk Edge, near Sheffield.

**Beth Lawrence's** mother is the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Bewdley (the first time a woman has held the office) and **Beth** is Lady Mayoress. **Miss Robinson** was present at the Mayor-making, when the chain of Lady Mayoress was placed round our **Beth's** neck by a former Mayor.

**Miss Peebles**, after retiring from her teaching post at James Allen's School, Dulwich, was asked to fill a gap at Northfield School, Watford; the natural consequence of this is, that the Headmistress has persuaded her to stay on for the next School year!

**Mrs. Robins (Charity Girdlestone)** in an attempt to meet the growing expense of educating the children was in May preparing to take paying guests for holidays in the summer, and maybe at other times. Her charge is 5½ guineas a week per head, and she prefers those who cannot afford the usual hotel charge. South Milton is 1½ miles from the sea, the local 'bus passes the door, and Kingsbridge is 2½ miles in the other direction. Salcombe and boating are 5 miles away, and golf and tennis can be obtained near by. Her cakes, jams, wholemeal bread, etc., are all home-made.

**Mrs. Rossi (Marjorie Segall)** moved into a flat of her own in December, 1951 (see addresses) and has entertained **Audrey Baron** there. She has been for some time at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Whitehall, and is now a permanent Civil Servant.

**Mrs. Priestnall (Nora Burden)** is matron-in-charge of a home for elderly people in Tiverton.

**Miss Florence P. Shepherd** became Headmistress of Dunotton School for Girls, Reigate, in September, 1951.

**Miss Amy Syree**, who was at St. Mary's Hall with her sister in Miss Newport's day, lives in one room at 9, Greenfield Road, Eastbourne. She seemed very lonely when **Miss Ghey** (at **Margaret Wanstall's** request) visited her. Could anyone who remembers her perhaps write to her? She would so love to have letters and news of old friends.

**Mrs. Shroff (Lilian Seeley)** mentions that although nearing seventy she has taken over **Muriel's** Nursery (24 babies) as she just could not bear to close it.

**Penelope Southam** is now working in Paris, on the Economic side of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

**Mrs. Sturdy (Jessie Cribb)** is, we are sorry to hear, crippled with arthritis, and is now living at the House of Prayer Rest House, at Eastbourne. (See address.)

**Mrs. Thomson (Katherine Seth)** writes that she was selling tickets for a Poppy Fund in Hong Kong last October when **Frances Seebers (Smith)**, who had only 2 hours in Hong Kong, came into the Hotel by chance! **Katherine** and her husband hope to visit England again in



April, 1953. **E. Moore** says she is in England now for six months, when her address is c/o E. S. Moore, Crowds, Weybridge.

**Mrs. Tredennick (Margaret Phair)** was the kind hostess of the Home Counties Branch meeting in October. Her elder daughter Mary has just gone to Newnham, to read classics.

**Mrs. Vezey (Monica Latham)** visited Miss Ghey and Miss Galton at Blunt House, Eastbourne, early in the Autumn Term 1952. Their address is 11, Hough Green, Chester.

**Mrs. Wells (Ann Norris)** has a third grand-daughter, born in California.

**Miss Wright**, for many years Senior Music Mistress at the Hall, and a keen cricketer, writes giving several items of news. First of **Muriel Seeley's** death—"she was one of my good music pupils both with piano and violin"—also that of **Emma Gertrude Merk**. She had seen several Old Girls—**Mrs. Bedford (Mary Chippindall)**, Winchester, Maggie and **Connie Church**, Exeter, **Mrs. Baylay (M. Bicknell)**, Budleigh Salterton, and **Alice and Maud Sweet**. **Mrs. Chapman (Audrey Sedgrove)** spent a week-end with her last year, and seems to lead a busy life and does a good deal of parish work. She says she has seen **Mrs. Kilner (Olive Thwaites)** lately—**Miss Wright** often saw **Col. Elliott**, who was always delighted to have news of the Hall, and "read every word" of last year's News Letter.

## IN MEMORIAM

### COLONEL ELLIOTT.

On that sorrowful day in a far-off summer when the friends of the Reverend Henry Venn Elliott, grandson of our Founder, were gathered at his funeral, Colonel Elliott, till then unknown to me, came to me and said, "As far as I can, I mean to fill my brother's place at St. Mary's Hall." That intention he most faithfully carried out, through all his years as Trustee and later as Chairman of the Governors, taking the keenest interest in all that concerned the School, enjoying our great days, and sharing in all our anxieties. Many will remember him as he was on the day of our Centenary Pageant, delightedly playing a threefold part—his grandfather first, his father (Sir Charles Elliott) next, and then his own part, as Chairman. He had a singular gift of sympathy, which endeared him to many generations of schoolgirls; they knew that he really cared about their concerns, and they looked upon him as a friend.

Miss Stopford has written of him in the years of her Head Mistressship, when the threat of war turned at last into reality. In later years, when the School came to life again; he rejoiced in its revival; and throughout his long discipline of weakness, when he had been obliged to accept the life of an invalid, his love for St. Mary's Hall burned with the same bright flame and he welcomed eagerly all reminders of the School and its doings. One great solace for him was the fact that Miss Wright was his near neighbour and constantly visited him; so it came about that the School which owes its existence to his family was never far from his thoughts or from his lips, until the end.

F.L.G.

Miss Stopford writes:—

"I am very glad to be given an opportunity of writing a short appreciation of **Colonel Elliott**, who was, during my four years at the Hall, not only my Chairman but my friend. Soon after my appointment in 1936, I was invited to stay with the Elliotts at their attractive house in Surrey. The relationship of Chairman and Head Mistress was then new to me, and I went in some trepidation, feeling that I should be "under inspection" during the week-end. This feeling did not last out the first evening. In Colonel and Mrs. Elliott I found such warm sympathy and ready humour that any thought of the visit being an official one quickly melted away. Their house was a real home and a home

which largely centred round the dogs, generally referred to by Colonel Elliott as Keith and Prowse:—"You want the best seats: we have them." His other great interest was his beautiful garden. As soon as we talked about the Hall, I realised how much the school was bound up with his family affections and that to him the position of Chairman was a family trust. He found great satisfaction in having a grand-daughter at School there, but in a sense he looked on all the girls at the Hall as part of his family. He loved the Hall garden as much as his own and spent many happy hours with Charlie Miles planning impartially the welfare of both gardens.

I have talked of his love of dogs. He was one of those rare people who genuinely loved both dogs and cats. He and Michael, my Siamese cat, speedily made friends and he was delighted one Christmas to receive a sketch of Michael as a card on which Mike had made his mark with an inky paw!

Colonel Elliott loved Founder's Day and many of us remember with what dignity and feeling he read the Lesson—"Let us now praise famous men." One had to be careful to avoid his pet aversion (and one of my favourites) among hymns—"Ye watchers and ye Holy Ones." "Far too many Alleluias," he would say—"why not sing Alleluia once and have done with it!" I remember this when I read of George's V's dislike of oratorios because there were "either too many words for the music or too much music for the words." Indeed, that great King and Colonel Elliott had much in common: simplicity, family affection and a strong sense of religion. They were both great Englishmen, and such people cannot easily be spared.

I fear that Colonel Elliott's last years must have been lonely and difficult, weakened by illness and saddened by the loss of his beloved wife and companion. I like to think of them together now, and I picture them setting out once again, with a keen sense of enjoyment, on a country walk under conditions which she always described as ideal—it became a joke with us—"with the wind at our backs and the sun on our faces."

**Mrs. Heffer says:**—"I am writing to thank you and the St. Mary's Hall Association for your very kind thought in sending such beautiful flowers for my Father, **Col. A. C. Elliott**. It was most kind and comforting. He died of a sudden heart attack, and although we all miss him and his companionship so very much, we cannot but be thankful for his sake."

#### **MURIEL BEATRICE SEELEY (1886-1952).**

Her sister, **Mrs. Shroff (Lilian Seeley)** writes:—

**Muriel's** life throughout has been one of deep unselfishness and self-effacement. It is impossible to recall a failure to help or an occasion when she chose her own advantage.

Life offered her no prizes or rewards; no great personal love, happy home life or restful holidays, but with both hands she gave or shared everything she possessed. It seems probable that when she realised she could no longer carry on her beloved Nursery School, her prayers found someone who would come as she left.

At St. Mary's Hall (1897-1907) she was a diligent and faithful little girl, then a senior and prefect, and finally a music mistress. After taking her A.R.C.M. she studied for a short time at the Royal College of Music, and then went as music mistress to Copthorne Preparatory School. Later she had a war-time Girls' Club in London (1916), worked at Islington Medical Mission (hoping to be sent to China), and then became secretary of the C. & C.C.S. Ladies Association. After that she went back to teaching, and on the death of her father, the Rev. H. Seeley, at Clacton-on-Sea, she and her mother joined **Lilian (Mrs. Shroff)** in her Schools at Dovercourt, and carried on as Head there from 1934-35, when those schools were closed and the family moved to Hillcrest School, Wallington.



At the outbreak of war, Muriel was in charge of the Nursery, and she laid down her task in what she described as "the best year in every way." But—

"God saw when the footsteps faltered,  
When the pathway had grown too steep;  
So He touched the drooping eyelids,  
And gave His dear one sleep."

**Miss Wright and Mrs. Cunnew** also speak appreciatively of Muriel.

### MISS AUSTIN.

My memories of Miss Austin go back to the month of September, 1911, when she and I were newcomers to the Hall together. The Rev. Charles Griffiths was then the Honorary Secretary, and he told me that the Committee had decided to give the new Headmistress an "Assistant," whose duties would define themselves as time went on. They certainly did. Correspondence, accounts, and stationery, with the ordering of books and supplies, helped to fill Miss Austin's days, but she was never too busy to help in extra things, and she took unflinching interest in all School concerns. The visits of Old Girls were a delight to her, and it was always a pleasure to her to conduct visitors round the School. She shared in all the anxieties and excitements of the expansion of St. Mary's Hall into the small Hervey Terrace Houses and later in the large Houses.

As I look back on her years of service, I see with great clearness the qualities that distinguished her work: they were patience, accuracy, and absolute integrity. The neatness of her personal belongings betrayed the love of order that was invariably hers. These qualities, accompanied by a kindness at which I marvel as I recall it, were her unostentatious and faithful contribution to the life of the School.

Miss Galton has told me how, in 1933, when she herself was very busy with all the extra work that fell on her during my long illness, she would settle down to the day's correspondence when everyone else (as she thought) had gone to bed; and night after night the door would open and Miss Austin would appear, ready with unruffled serenity to carry on the work until any hour of the night. She was one of those of whom it may truly be said: "She thought of the thing to be done before she thought of herself"; and her faithful contribution, like that of so many others, has been built into the living fabric of the School she served to the utmost of her powers.

F. L. G.

**Mrs. Jenkins (Gertrude Hanham).** Miss Ethel, in lovingly telling the Editor about her nonagenarian sister, a pupil 1872-75, said that her school life was uneventful, except that she was very pretty and very popular, and "she was very good at tying bows." What a pretty picture this conjures up! One can imagine that in those far-off days a good-natured tyer of bows could be very useful to her fellows! Mrs. Jenkins belonged to the Association for some years, and attended the Centenary Celebrations, and afterwards gave four chairs, inscribed with the names of the four sisters, for the Elliott Hall.

### MARY ASHWIN.

**Mary Ashwin**, who died on Oct. 6th in her 95th year, was one of a family that has been connected with S.M.H. for three generations, for her mother **Mary Anne (Stammers)** was one of the earliest pupils there; two of her sisters, **Anne and Emily**, were contemporary with her; and in more modern times her two nieces, **Irene and Monica**, and cousin, **Ciceley**, have been educated there.

**Mary** was born in Australia, where her father then held a curacy; she entered the school in 1870, and on leaving she became a governess in a large clerical family in Devonshire, for 18 years.

In 1897 she went to live with her parents, then at Quadring Vicarage, Lincolnshire, to help them; and when her father retired in 1900, she went with them to Bury St. Edmunds. After the death of them both she

continued to live in that town with a sister, playing a prominent part in all church activities and providing a headquarters for the numerous members of her family, till growing infirmities (hastened by a broken hip in 1931) and war time difficulties compelled her in 1943 to take refuge with a younger brother in Yorkshire. She was always most loyal to her old school, ready and eager to help it in every way within her power.

At her funeral at Bury St. Edmunds, the Rev. Canon Pelly spoke most warmly of the good influence she had exerted in that town.

P.S.: The above, written rather hurriedly to be in time for the press, has left the writer no time to verify all the dates mentioned.

R. F. ASHWIN.

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### MEMORIES OF EDITH HOLLAND.

Easter term, 1891, I suppose I first saw **Edith Holland**—a new girl as was I. She took her place in an upper form while I gazed with admiration from Form I at her progress in School and the hockey field. I left in 1898. She left later, to study in Germany, I believe.

Many years after, she with her people spent a summer holiday in our village—where my sister met them at a jumble sale, and learned she had been at the Hall in my time. Later I came home and we all did expeditions together. War broke out that August, and I went to stay at Hoddesdon where Mr. Holland was Vicar, and **Edith** threw herself into war service activities, keen always to find opportunity of serving others, her King and Country. She also had a Guide Company when "Scouting" for girls was just beginning.

Keen always to be a friend to all, seizing all opportunities to lend a hand to those in need, sympathy, I think, was her great characteristic. Eventually at Eton College came the great opportunity, and there she served as Dame till about six years ago.

Her sense of fun and enjoyment of the good things of life was infectious, and she was ever the good companion. Humour and sympathy, with always the sense of the unseen world the true destiny, and worthwhileness of service here. Now she has been summoned to that fuller life where the good and faithful servants hear the great 'well done' and enter into the joy of their Lord—that sudden call just before the feast of All Saints.

"O, blest Communion, Fellowship divine,  
We feebly struggle, They in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, For all are Thine."

Alleluia!

W. H. HOPLEY.

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### BIRTHS.

**Clements.**—On December 31st, 1951, at 3, Lloyd Road, Hove, to Mary (Reeson), wife of Peter Clements—a daughter.

**Hunter.**—On August 7th, 1952, at Mombasa, to Monica (Wells) and Bob Hunter—a son, Peter Wells.

**Kelly.**—On July 15th, 1952, at Maidenhead Nursing Home, to Portia (Rashleigh), wife of George Milton Kelly—a daughter.

**Trenchard.**—On Easter Day, 1952, at 28, Nursery Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, to Anthea (Henderson), wife of John Edward Trenchard—a daughter.

**Wetherill.**—On July 16th, 1952, at Surbiton Hospital, to Valerie (Cooper) and Peter Wetherill—a son.

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### MARRIAGES.

**Anderson—Luffman.**—On December 22, 1951, in London, Howard R. Anderson, of Washington D.C., U.S.A., to Monica, daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. E. P. V. Luffman, of Ramsgate.



**Baxter—Stuart.**—On March 29th, 1952, at Cuckfield Parish Church, by the Rev. H. C. Kempe, father of Mrs. Hughes (Dorothea Kempe), John Edgell, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Edgell Baxter, of Brill, Bucks., to Rosemary Jean, daughter of the late Dr. Stuart and of Mrs. Stuart, of Brighton.

**Gaunt—Birks.**—On August 6th, 1952, at St. Paul's Church, York, David Martin Gaunt to Eleanor Mary Birks.

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### DEATHS.

**Ashwin.**—On Oct. 6th, 1952, at Chevington, Bungay, Mary Eliza, eldest daughter of the late Rev. Forster Ashwin, of Quadring and Bury St. Edmunds, in her 96th year.

**Austin.**—On May 17th, 1952, Jessie Austin, for many years a devoted servant of the Hall, being Head Mistress's Secretary from 1911-33.

**Crotty.**—On January 16th, 1952, Bishop Horace Crotty, Vicar of Hove and a good friend of the Hall, having confirmed many St. Mary's Hall girls.

**Davidson.**—On Maundy Thursday, the baby son of Mrs. Davidson (J. Wilberforce).

**Elliott.**—On July 29th. Colonel A. C. Elliott, C.B.E., I.C.S., grandson of the founder. Elected a Trustee in 1925, and for the second time in 1928. Chairman of Governors in 1931-46. Remained a Trustee till 1951.

**Holland.**—On October 29th, 1952, suddenly, in a motor accident, Edith Florence Holland, of Beech Cottage, Wetheringsett, Suffolk, daughter of the late Rev. E. S. Holland and Mrs. Holland, of Hoddesdon, Herts. R.I.P.

**Jenkins.**—On March 2nd, 1952, at her daughter's home in London, Mrs. Jenkins (Gertrude Hanham), sister of Ethel. Aged 92. At S.M.H. 1872-75.

**Johnson.**—On Sept. 15th, 1952, in Ireland, Margaret Trelawney Johnson, daughter of Major H. H. D. Seaton, and mother of the Earl of Harrington.

**Kennelly.**—On 3rd August, 1952, at Welborne Rectory, Dereham, Maude, of 29, The Ridge Coulsdon, and formerly of Hillgarth, Salvington Hill, Worthing, widow of Rev. W. J. McK. Kennelly, late Canon of Bombay, India; and beloved mother of Kathleen and Joyce.

**Kent.**—On March 11th, 1952, at Canterbury Hospital, Agnes Lillian, wife of the Rev. R. A. Kent, Sappington Court, Petham, Canterbury. Mother of Invicta.

**Langdale-Smith.**—On July 4th, 1952, after a long illness, the Rev. Edward Langdale-Smith, of Formby, Liverpool, eldest son of the late Rev. Arthur Langdale-Smith and beloved husband of Evelyn (Snowden Smith).

**Law.**—On October 19th, 1952, Rev. W. L. M. Law, in Leeds in his 80th year, Rector of Lyons, Hetton-le-Hole, Durham, for 34 years. Father of Louise Sumner and Amy Mead.

**Merk.**—On January 17th, 1952, Emma Gertrude Merk, aged 84; a pupil at the Hall.

**Potter.**—On June 24th, 1952, Frances, sister and last remaining relation of Miss H. R. Potter.

**Pooley.**—On February 18th, 1952, Winifred (Vaughan), a pupil at the Hall 1882-89, and grandmother of Helen Cope.

**Seeley.**—On January 22nd, 1952, Muriel Beatrice, younger daughter of the late Rev. H. Seeley (Clacton-on-Sea) and sister of Lilian (Mrs. Shroff).

**Simpson.**—On January 5th, 1952, as the result of a motor accident, Clare, a pupil at the Hall and niece of Marjorie Newbery.

# MEMBERS.

† Life Member.

\* Mistress

†Adkins, D., M.B., B.S., c/o U.M.C.A., 35, Great Peter St., S.W.1.

†\*Allen, Miss, 101, Constable Road, Ipswich.

Allen, M., 26 East Drive, Brighton 7.

†Allden, C. (Mrs. Grant), 114, Murital Road, Eastbourne, New Zealand.

†Appleyard, T., 48, Cromwell Road, Hove 3, Sussex.

Ash, E. (Mrs. Quirk), 62, Tinwell Road, Stamford, Lincs.

†\*Ashwin, I., Res Augusta, Mayo Lane, Sidley, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

†Ashwin, C., 27, Devonshire Road, Hornchurch, Essex.

†Atkins, P., 70, Aldwick Road, Bognor Regis.

†\*Atkinson, Miss, 7B, Carlton Drive, Putney, S.W.15.

†Baker, Sister Dorothea, St. Michael's School, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Bain, M., 4, Davidson Avenue, Cremorne, Sydney, N.S.W.

†Ballachey, W., 45, Campden Street, W.8.

Bannister, M. Cungunford Rectory (Flat), Craven Arms, Salop.

†Bardsley, E., Greystoke, Garstang, nr. Preston, Lancs.

†Bardsley, G., C.B.E., 192, High Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

†Bardsley, J. (Mrs. Irving), c/o Charnwood, High Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

†Barff, S. (Mrs. R. T. V. Clarke), Corner Brook, Kite Hill, Wootton, I. of Wight.

†Baron, A., 25, Pen Street, Boston, Lincs.

Baron, M. (Mrs. Eggington), St. Mark's Parsonage, 21, Bearton Avenue, Hitchin Herts.

†Barker, J., 11, Wilbury Villas, Hove 4, Sussex.

†Banks, W. (Mrs. Caswell), 81, Houghton Drive, Johannesburg, South Africa.

†Banks, M. (Mrs. O'Hara), Woodlands, Boughton, Northampton.

†Barton, J. (Mrs. Bowesman), Grenfell, Billericay, Essex.

†Batson, J., 31, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

†Batson, W., Dneir-felt-til, The Spa, Melksham, Wilts.

†Baton, G., c/o Queen Mary's School, Duncombe Park, Helmsley, Yorks.

\*Batterbury, Miss, Little Codford, Windmill Lane, East Grinstead, Sussex.

†Bealhouse, T. (Mrs. J. R. Davis), Brimscombe Vicarage, Nr. Stroud, Glos.

†Berwick, J., H.M.I., 72, Deangate, Northampton.

Bicknell, M. (Mrs. Baylay), St. Vincent, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton.

†Binns, B. (Mrs. Coad), 20, Grand Avenue, West Worthing, Sussex.

†Birks, E. (Mrs. Gaunt), 310a, Tadcaster Road, York.

†Blackledge, J., M.B., B.S., 22A, Granville Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.

Blencowe, E., The Sisters' Mess, P.O. Box 138, The European Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya.

†\*Bolton, Miss, 21, Portland Place, Brighton, 7.

†Booth, E., (Mrs. Fuller), Merlins, Uckfield Road, near Lewes, Sussex.

†Bond, M. (Mrs. Child), St. Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

†Boswell, H. (Mrs. Thompson), 31, Highcroft Gardens, Golder's Green, N.W.11.

†Botting, S. Hamsey Place, Lewes, Sussex.

†Bowser, M. (Mrs. Barnes), Walnut Trees, Southwall Road, Deal, Kent.

Brocklehurst, E. (Mrs. Lloyd Price), Garden Court, Green Rd., Birchington, Kent.

†Brown, C., 52, Highweek Village, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Browne, D. Flat 3, 20, King's Avenue, Clapham, S.W.4.

\*Browne, Miss K. I., Grange Cottage, Cartledge, Holmesfield, Nr. Sheffield.

†\*Browne, Miss, Little Marcle Rectory, Ledbury, Herefordshire.

Burden, N. (Mrs. Priestnall), Mount View, Tiverton, Devon.

Burner, B., Woodfield, Brighton Road, Ditchling, Sussex.

†Burroughs, M. (Mrs. Bass), 43, Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent.

Burgis, P., 78, Hillside, Brighton 7, Sussex.



- Burton, M. (Mrs. Bartrum), Stott Park, Lakeside, N. Ulverston, Lancs.  
 Burton, J., (Mrs. Herbert), The Vicarage, Nuneaton.  
 †Bucke, M. (Mrs. Deschamps), Caserne de la Garde, Malakoff, Seine, France.  
 Bushell, M. (Mrs. Ford), 46, Buckingham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.  
 †Butler, S. (Mrs. Waller), 24, Ravensbourne Road, Twickenham.  
 †Capern, E. (Mrs. Hakim), Applegarth, Green Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex.  
 †Carnes, E. (Mde. d'Ambrumenil), White House, Amberley, Sussex.  
 Cavalier, A. (Mrs. Macdonald, M.B.E.), Truleigh, Goring Rd., Steyning.  
 Chambré, K., Oakfield, South Ealing Road, Ealing, W.5.  
 †Champion, L. (Mrs. Franks), 52, Holywell, Oxford.  
 †Chapman, E. (Mrs. Mahon), The Rectory, Eyke, Woodbridge, Suffolk.  
 Chevallier, R. (Mrs. Lindars), Hatton Rectory, Wragby, Lincs.  
 †Chilcott, C. (Mrs. Fordyce), 3, The College, Glasgow, W.2.  
 †Chippendall, M. (Mrs. Bedford), 15, Park Road, Winchester.  
 Church, C. and M., 69, St. Leonard's Road, Exeter.  
 †Clarke, L., Clownholme, Rocester, Uttoxeter, Staffs.  
 †Claudet, V. (Mrs. Harris), 8, Elmdon Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.  
 Clements, K. (Mrs. Davey), 16, Thurlow Place, London, W.  
 Clifford, U., 20, Vancouver Road, Forest Hill, S.E.23.  
 †Clutton, J., Laureldene, 1, Arnold Road, Clacton-on-Sea.  
 Cobbett, V., Evershot, Clayford Avenue, Ferndown, Dorset.  
 ††Coe, G. and L., Wilford, Chichele Road, Oxted, Surrey.  
 Collard, J., Hillfield, Farningham, Kent.  
 †Colks, G., The Monastery Nursing Home, High Level Rd., Sea Point, Capetown, S. Africa.  
 †Collisson, M., The Green Dragon, Gravenhurst, Bedford.  
 \*Conrady, Miss, St. Mary's Hall, Brighton, 7.  
 †Coombes, L., Underhill, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset.  
 †Cooper, C. (Mrs. Leaphard), 87, Carlisle Road, Hove, 3.  
 Cooke, H. (Mrs. Leverington), Broadham Cottage, Broadham Green, Oxted, Surrey.  
 Cockell, J. (Mrs. Neligan), Broadwater Manor, Worthing, Sussex.  
 †Colman, J. (Mrs. Tinto), c/o P.O. Box 5, Entebbe, Uganda.  
 Crate, A. (Mrs. Chandler), Maryland, Staplehurst, Kent.  
 †Cribb, J. (Mrs. Sturdy), 1-8, Queen's Gardens, Eastbourne.  
 †Crowley, P., 303, Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.  
 †Darby, K., The Outlook, Heathfield, Sussex.  
 Davis, J. (Mrs. Anderson), c/o 149, Cheam Road, Cheam, Surrey.  
 †Day, B. (Mrs. Holdstock), 136, Pampisford Road, Purley, Surrey.  
 †Dick, M., South Place, Copthorne, Sussex.  
 †Disney, I. (Mrs. Sheaves), Kingsthorn, Puddletown, Dorchester.  
 †Donaldson, Miss, c/o Miss Price, Hyde House, Steeple, near Wareham, Dorset.  
 Dorman, P., 19, Stockbridge Road, Chichester, Sussex.  
 Downing, M. (Mrs. MacEwan), c/o Wintersell, Edenbridge, Kent.  
 †Duke, M. (Mrs. Elliott), Gateshaw, Walden's Park Road, Horsell, Woking, Surrey.  
 Drury, J. (Mrs. Noida), c/o Benefield Rectory, Peterborough.  
 †Eacott, A., 59, Cambridge Road, Middlesbrough, Yorks.  
 Eacott, C., 59, Cambridge Road, Middlesbrough, Yorks.  
 Edwards, J., 69, Carlisle Road, Hove, 3, Sussex.  
 ††Elliott, P., West Heath, Sevenoaks, Kent.  
 †Elliott, R. V. (Mrs. Broadley), 13, Museum Rd., Oxford.  
 Ellis, J., 10, Norman Crescent, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.  
 Ehrmann, A. (Mrs. Moody), The Vicarage, Abbot's Leigh, Bristol.  
 †Elwin, R., Dorchester House, 43, New Church Road, Hove.  
 †Emery, J. (Mrs. Brodie), c/o Messrs. Coutts and Co., 440, Strand, London, W.C.2.

- †Emmet, Professor D., 21, Yew Tree Lane, Northenden, Manchester.
- †Farrow, R. (Mrs. Forrer), The Little House, 18, Chisholm Road, Richmond, Surrey.
- †Felton, J. (Mrs. Parker), Laitham Cottage, Repton, Derbyshire.
- Finiefs, R., 44, Connaught Square, Marble Arch, London, W.2.
- †Flint, E., The Vicarage, Leigh, near Reigate, Surrey.
- Fryer, M., 24, Claverley Grove, Finchley, London N.3.
- †Fotheringham, E. (Mrs. Longsdon), Redwood, 3, North Common, Weybridge, Surrey.
- Fosh, M., Greyfriars, Woodland Way, Woodford Green, Essex.
- Francis, H., 7, Ingram House, Hampton Wick, Middlesex.
- Fulford, S., Otten Belchamp Hall, Sudbury, Suffolk.
- †Fuller, M. (Mrs. McWalter), 27, The Avenue, Lewes, Sussex.
- †Galbraith, S. (Mrs. Coath), 11, Selborne Road, Sidcup, Kent.
- †\*Galton, Miss A. C. E., Blunt House, Meads, Eastbourne.
- Gasston, S., c/o 2, Queen's Park Rise, Brighton, 7.
- †\*Gayer, D. (Mrs. Edyvean), c/o Overseas League, Overseas House, St. James, S.W.1.
- †Geary, G., Warleigh, 20b, Crescent Road, Beckenham, Kent.
- †\*Ghey, Miss F. L., Blunt House, Meads, Eastbourne.
- Gibbons, M., 33, Bridgefield, Farnham, Surrey.
- \*Gillett, Miss, Widley, Faversham, Kent.
- Gillett, E., Wayside Cottage, Norris Green, Woodley, Berks.
- †Girdlestone, C. (Mrs. Robins), South Milton, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.
- Gosney, J., Brambles, Stanway, Colchester.
- Graham, H., Flat 2, 14, Augusta Gardens, Folkestone.
- †Gray, M., 17, Warrington Crescent, W.9.
- †Green, D., Laylands, Arundel Crescent, Saltdean, Sussex.
- †Gunnery, L., The High School, Eastbourne, Sussex.
- †Hall, M. (Mrs. Harwood), 32, Brondesbury Park, N.W.6.
- †Hall, M., Ashleigh, Balmoral Road, Parkstone, Dorset.
- †Hanham, E., 62, Brunswick Place, Hove 2.
- †Harries, J. (Mrs. Raven), c/o Telscombe Rectory, Lewes, Sussex.
- Harris, A., West Winds, Newlands Road, Rottingdean, Sussex.
- †Harris, D. (Mrs. Bruton), Warnes, Upton St. Leonards, Gloucester.
- †Harris, R. (Mrs. Hart), 18, Woodfield Lane, Ashted, Surrey.
- †Hare-Duke, J. (Mrs. Crispe), Twyten House, Wilmington, near Eastbourne, Sussex.
- Harvey, R., Ridgeways, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham.
- Head, V. (Mrs. Hazedine), The Rectory, Lydiard Millicent, Wilts.
- †Heelas, D., 102, Cambridge Road, Teddington, Middlesex.
- Henfrey, D. (Mrs. Thorold), St. John Baptist Vicarage, Bathwick, Bath.
- †Hensley, G. (Mrs. Spurrell), Greenhayes, Doods Park Road, Reigate.
- \*Hensley, Miss, 2, Chesham Street, Brighton, 7.
- Hobbins, A., Ovingdean, 24, Butleigh Wootton, Glastonbury.
- †Hoernle, E. (Mrs. Clements), 30, Chatsworth Road, Brighton.
- \*Hodgson, Miss, 9, Wedderburn Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.
- †Holland, E. F., Beech Cottage, Wetheringsett, Stowmarket, Suffolk.
- †Hopley, M. (Mrs. Owen), The Horns, Hankham, Sussex.
- †Hopley, E., The Horns, Hankham, Sussex.
- †Hopley, W., Shearfold, Brede, near Rye, Sussex.
- †\*Howard, Miss, 37, St. James Road, Tunbridge Wells.
- †Howard, M., Layston, Hamilton Road, St. Albans, Herts.
- †Howard, M. (Mrs. Hardy), 23, Knole Way, Sevenoaks, Kent.
- †Hope-Gill, M. (Mrs. Hopkins), The Vicarage, High Wycombe, Bucks.
- †Howe, N. (Mrs. Christian), Glendower, Fordingbridge, Hants.
- Howlett, W., 13 Meadvale Road, Ealing, W.5.



- †Hunt, G. (Mrs. Barlow), The Old Rectory, Hickling, Norwich.
- Hutchinson, L., 3, Church Walk, Oxford.
- Hyams, P., 73, Pembroke Crescent, Hove 3.
- †Ives, M. (Mrs. Meadows), Copper Beeches, 59 Langley Hill, King's Langley, Herts.
- Jacob, P., c/o Royal Alexandra Hospital, Dyke Road, Brighton.
- †Jennings, K., St. Nicolas, Ferring Lane, near Worthing, Sussex.
- †John, K. (Mrs. Watts), Gravatts, Rudgwick, Horsham, Sussex.
- †Johnston, Miss P. I., 51, Enys Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
- Johnston, C., Aorongi, 28, Southway, Lewes, Sussex.
- †Jones, M. (Mrs. McCall), R.P.A.F. College, Risalpur, N.W.F.P. Pakistan.
- Jones, M., 31, Selbourne Road, Hove 3, Sussex.
- Kay, E., Aroona, Freshford, Bath.
- †Kennelly, K. (Mrs. Atkins), Hillgarth, Salvington Hill, Worthing, Sussex.
- Kenward, M., "Milldown," Kingston Road, Lewes, Sussex.
- †Kettlewell, B., Wind's End, Ellingham Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
- †Kettlewell, R., 24, Nevern Square, S.W.5.
- \*King, Miss, 45, Camborne Road, Sutton, Surrey.
- †Kingdon-Ward, Miss, 2, Brooklands, Westcott, Nr. Dorking.
- †Kitchin, W., Combe Vale, Sudbury, Suffolk.
- †Laurence, I., 4, Edmonscote, Argyle Road, Ealing, W.13.
- †Lawrence, J., C.M.S., Salisbury Square, E.C.4.
- †Law, L. (Mrs. W. H. Sumner), R.R.I., Campbell River, B.C., Canada.
- †Law, A. (Mrs. Mead), Shovelstrode, East Grinstead, Sussex.
- Lawson, W. (Mrs. Girvan), The Old Rectory, Ashstead, Surrey.
- †Lea, E., Trees, 13, Dyke Road Avenue, Hove 4.
- †Lea-Wilson, N. (Mrs. Torrey), c/o 8, Broad Road, Braintree, Essex.
- Lenton, A., Corner House, Sutton Courtenay, Berks.
- Lilley, D. (Mrs. Smith), 33, Longcroft Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.
- †Lilley, Miss, 182, Lynn Road, Wisbech, Cambs.
- †Lloyd, Mgt., 105, Addington Road, West Wickham, Kent.
- †Lloyd, Marion, C.M.S., Matana, Usumbura, R. Urundi, Congo Belge, C.A.
- Loasby, R. (Mrs. Oranmer, Jnr.), c/o Dunster Lodge, Banbury Road, Oxford.
- Lockhart, A. (Mrs. Creed), 10, Berkeley Gardens, Kensington, W.8.
- †Mace, Miss, 12, Appleton Gate, Newark.
- †McCormack, Miss, Stonebridge Cottage, Worplesdon, near Guildford.
- †Mackay, S. (Mrs. Rawson), 29, King's Road, Berkhamstead, Herts.
- †March, E. (Mrs. Sharp), 10, Kenya Avenue, Hove 3, Sussex.
- †Mason, A., La Fantasie, Belvedere, St. Saviour's, Jersey.
- †Matson, E. (Mrs. Schofield), 135, Grieve Street, Dunfermline, Scotland.
- †Meakin, M. (Mrs. Nicklin), Duneaves, Longden Road, Shrewsbury.
- †Menzies, D., Nurses' Home, Kew Hospital, Invercargill, New Zealand.
- Methven, M. R., 12, Park Lane, Southwick, Sussex.
- Meyer, C. (Hon. Mrs. Ponsonby), Long Hope, Hertford.
- Milburn, N. (Mrs. Milns), 30, Hilltop Avenue, Cheshire Hulme, Cheshire.
- †Miller, E. (Mrs. Fullarton), c/o Chadwick, Weir & Cia Ltd., Cerrito 302, Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Minns, C., Anne of Cleves House, Ditchling, Sussex.
- †Montgomery-Campbell, Dr. M. (Mrs. Lees), c/o Bishop's House, Farnham Castle.
- †Montgomery-Campbell, N. (Mrs. Knowles), c/o Bishop's House, Farnham Castle.
- †Moore, D. (Mrs. Gosnell), Thames Court, Shepperton, Middlesex.
- Moore, E., Crowds, Weybridge, Surrey.
- \*Morley, Miss, Elm Cottage, Albourne, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.
- Morton, L. (Mrs. Hipkin), Hawkesley Cottage Shamley Green, near Guildford.
- †Newton, J., Mother Superior, Carmel, Kirk Edge, Sheffield.

- Nightingale, A., Bank House, 216, Church Road, Hove, 3.
- Norman, S. (Mrs. Springer), 1, North View, Wimbledon, S.W.19.
- Norris, A. (Mrs. Wells), The Old Vicarage, Heckington, near Sleaford, Lincs.
- †Norris, M. (Mrs. Footitt), Scredington Vicarage, Sleaford, Lincs.
- †Obadiah, N., 196, Parr's Wood Road South, E. Didsbury, Manchester.
- †Odel, E., c/o Lloyds Bank, 164, Finchley Road, N.W.3.
- \*O'Donovan, Miss, Tudor Hall, near Banbury, Oxon.
- †Oliphant, A. (Mrs. Cunnew), Luctons, 55, Woodcote Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.
- †Outram, O. M., The Old Forge, Ide Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent.
- Panter, D. (Mrs. Kidd), Strangford Rectory, Co. Down, N. Ireland.
- †Parker, R. (Mrs. Robinson), c/o Weathervanes, Dyke Road Avenue, Brighton.
- †\*Parkinson, Miss, 46, Sackville Road, Bexhill.
- Paterson, J., 23, Palmeira Square, Hove.
- Paterson, M., 41, Lynton Avenue, Ealing, W.13.
- Patten, M., Laybrook Farm, Thakeham, Pulborough, Sussex.
- Peacock, V. (Mrs. Simpson), Berry Down, Cliff Avenue, Margate.
- †\*Peebles, Miss, 37, Beckwith Road, Herne Hill, S.E. 24.
- †Pelton, R. (Mrs. Biven), Pitts Farmstead, Fulbrook, Burford, Oxon.
- †\*Perry, Miss, 7B, Carlton Drive, Putney, S.W.15.
- \*Pope, Miss, 63, Furze Croft, Hove 2, Sussex.
- †Portas, E. (Mrs. Howard), 32, Central Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs, Newhaven, Sussex
- †Phair, M. (Mrs. Tredennick), 178, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.
- \*Potter, Miss, Broseley, Elstree, Herts.
- †Powell, K. (Mrs. Ogden), 18, Lauderdale Road, Hunton Bridge, King's Langley Herts.
- †Poyser, R. (Mrs. Archer), 21, Hay's Walk, Cheam, Surrey.
- †Poyser, P. L., South Cottage, Ham Common, Surrey.
- †Poyser, Ph., The Old Cottage, Arnall's Road, Streatham, S.W.16.
- Raven, R., Highfields, Kelveden, Essex.
- †Rawson, A. (Mrs. Macfarlane, M.B.E.), Parkwater, Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey.
- ††Raynor, G. and L., Holly Lodge, 64, Holly Lane, Northdown, Margate.
- †Reeson, M. (Mrs. Clements), 3, Lloyd Road, Hove, 4.
- †Riddelsdel., M., 25, Chepstow Crescent, London W.11.
- †Robertson, G. (Mrs. Scott), c/o Incorporated Society of Planters, P.O. Box 262, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.
- †Robertson, J., The Hermitage Government Hostel, 42, Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.
- \*Robinson, Miss, Blackwood, 60, Howick Road, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, S. Africa.
- †Ryan, E. (Mrs. Herdon), c/o Carew & Co., Ltd., Rona, U.P., India.
- †Ryan, P. (Mrs. Storey), Bray Cottage, White Rose Lane, Woking, Surrey.
- †Sadgrove, A. (Mrs. Chapman), 75, Straight Road, Lexden, Colchester.
- †Sarel, E. (Mrs. Clarke), 103, Home Park Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.
- †Schurr, M., Deer's Leap, Warmingld, Sussex.
- †Segall, M. (Mrs. Rossi), 100, Queen Alexandra Mansions, Judd St., W.C.1.
- Se.h, K. (Mrs. Thompson), 14, The Peak, Hong Kong.
- †Shallard, C., 54, Freehold Road, Ipswich.
- Sheard, P., The Vicarage Cottage, Tintagel, Cornwall.
- ††Short, D. and M., 52, Hopwood Gardens, Tunbridge Wells.
- †Sibthorp, E., 3, Hill Mansions, 23, Bramley Hill, Croydon.
- †Skene, O., The Vicarage, Banstead, Surrey.
- Smalpiece, A. (Mrs. Fosbery), South Glen, Westway, Bognor Regis.
- †Smea, M., 20, Furze Croft, Hove, 2.
- †Smith, W. Owen, St. Margaret's, Shortheath, Farnham.
- †\*Smith, Miss E. M., 21, Portland Place, Brighton, 7.
- †\*Smith, Miss G. M., Frensham Heights School, Rowledge, near Farnham.
- †Smith, R. Wetheroak, Nacton, Ipswich.



- †Smith, P. (Mrs. Knight), c/o Dodwell & Co., Ltd., Hong Kong.
- Snell, N. (Mrs. Beckett), Green Thwaite, Middle Furlong, Seaford, Sussex.
- †Snowdon Smith, E. (Mrs. Langdale-Smith), West Lea, Freshfield Road, Formby, Liverpool, Lancs.
- ††Snowdon Smith, E. & W. Riversdale, Freshfield Road, Formby, Lancs.
- †Southam, J., c/o G. Bennett, Esq., 12, Lord's Court, N.W.8.
- Spafford, E. (Mrs. Chester), Woodlands, Ingham Road, Selsdon, Surrey.
- †Spurrell, J., Applegarth, Uplyme, Lyme Regis, Dorset.
- Stalman, L. (Mrs. Gilchrist), Mowbray, Marshbrook, Church Stretton, Salop.
- Standage, M. (Mrs. Roberts), 144, Cooden Drive, Bexhill, Sussex.
- †Stanley, K., 84, Huron Road, Balham, S.W.17.
- †\*Stopford, Miss, St. Elphin's School, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire.
- †Stott, R., The Firs, Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset.
- †Stuart, J. (Mrs. Baxter), Borders Farm, Etchingham, Sussex.
- †Sturdee, D. (Mrs. Games), P.O. Box 1074, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia, Africa.
- Strong, V. (Mrs. Oakeley), Biddlestone, Glewstone, Ross-on-Wye, Hereford.
- †Supinc, M., Viale A'dini 28, Bologna, Italy.
- †Sutthery, J. (Mrs. Livock), St. Peter's Court, Burgess Hill, Sussex.
- Syree, A., 9, Greenfield Road, Eastbourne.
- \*Taylor, E. M., 10, Bayswater Avenue, Bristol, 6.
- Taylor, K. M., 10, Bayswater Avenue, Bristol, 6.
- †Thwaites, H. (Mrs. Scott Malden), Windlesham House School, Findon, Worthing.
- Thompson, C. (Mrs. Capern), 24, Sussex Square, Brighton, 7.
- †Thomson, N., c/o "Kornerkot," Walford, Wimborne, Dorset.
- Thorne, M., c/o Service Women's Club, 52, Lower Sloane St., S.W.
- †\*Thouless, Miss, Fairways, Salterton Road, Exmouth.
- Trower, P., 85, Stanford Avenue, Brighton 6.
- Unmack, Dr. R., Grove House, 9, Eldon Grove, N.W.3.
- Vaughan, E. (Mrs. Reekie), Little Buntings, Balcombe Road, Haywards Heath, Sx.
- †Wade, M. (Mrs. Bell), Mayfair, Broomfield Road, Henfield, Sx.
- Wall, M., 5, Church Road, London N.6.
- †Waller, E., 10, Lewes Crescent, Brighton 7.
- Wallis-Beer, J., Rose Cottage, Old Oxted, Surrey.
- †Walton, K. (Mrs. Fletcher), Hazelwood, Tubtenden Lane, Farnborough, Kent.
- †Wanstall, M., 155, Ditchling Rise, Brighton 7.
- †Wanstall, A., 9, Crescent Mansions, Ditchling Road, Brighton 7.
- †Warne, D., Churston Lodge, Churston Ferrers, Brixham, S. Devon.
- †Ward, E., 52, The Drive, Hove, Sussex.
- †Watson, E. M. (Mrs. Almutt), 30, Fernside Road, Balham, S.W.12.
- †Watson, M. (Mrs. Alleyn), 1284, Beach Drive, Victoria, Vancouver.
- †Watson, E. (Mrs. Meredith), Meadcroft, Croyde Bay, Branton, N. Devon.
- †Whittington-Ince, M. (Mrs. Jennings), 2, Avondale Court, Seaford, Sussex.
- Whittington-Ince, G. (Mrs. Street), 8, Carlton Road, Sidcup, Kent.
- †\*Webster, Miss, 23, Sunnyside Road, Weston super Mare, Somerset.
- †Webster, J., 14, Shirley Drive, Hove, 4.
- †Whitlock, L., The Croft, Park View Road, Woldingham, Surrey.
- Whorlow, M., 31, Palmeira Avenue, Hove, Sussex.
- †Wilberforce, J. (Mrs. Davidson), Hickstead Place, Bolney, Sussex.
- †Wilberforce, B., 32, Ventnor Villas, Hove, Sussex.
- Wiley, D., Cyrene, 12, Silverdale Road, Hove 5.
- Wilkin, N., Buttercups, Hurst, near Twyford, Berks.
- †Williams, D., "Sandylands," Waxham, Sea Palling, Norfolk.
- †Wilmott, A., 12, Buckstone Crescent, Alwoodley, Leeds.
- Wingfield, S., Knockdrin Castle, Mullingar, Eire.

- †\*Wisdom, Miss, 45, Sussex Square, Brighton, 7.  
 †Witcomb, J. (Mrs. McMinn), 47, Eaton Place, Brighton, 7.  
 †Woodgate, E. O.B.E., Elmet, Brimpton, near Reading.  
 †Wodhams, Miss, 18, Fairdene, Southwick, Sussex.  
 †Woolgar, F. (Mrs. Paine), Scots Pine, 514, Banbury Road, Oxford.  
 †Wonnacott, M., 30, Queen Anne's Place, Enfield, Middlesex.  
 †Wright, Miss, Clyst Hayes House, Budleigh Salterton, Devon.  
 †Young, M., Babur Hill Cottage, Bawburgh, Norfolk.  
 †Young, U., The Oaks, Manor Park, Chislehurst, Kent.  
 †Young, P., 27, East Drive, Brighton, 7.

## **STOP PRESS**

### **COL. A. C. ELLIOTT.**

**Mr. S. E. Graves**, who recently gave up his Secretaryship of the Hall, says, in a letter to **Miss Ghey** :—

"His love for St. Mary's Hall and his desire to serve it to the best of his ability was profound. In all my dealings with him I found him one of the kindest and most courteous men I have met.

"After the meeting in 1940 when the decision was taken to close the Hall (because of War dangers) he expressed his grief that this step had to be taken. I am sure he felt that he had let his grandfather down.

"Knowing this it was a source of great happiness to me to be able to accompany him to St. Mary's Hall when it had been re-started, and to stand with him at the foot of the staircase and watch the girls go by after lunch. This was in October, 1947, and even then it was possible to be hopeful as to the future. We stood out on the terrace. It was a beautiful afternoon, and I know his soul was full of gratitude. It was the last occasion that he visited the Hall and the last time I saw him. He wrote to me later, and here are extracts :—

"... it was a most lovely day for me too. I have seldom had such a cheering visit since the war broke out.

"Do you know W. E. Henley's lines "Sorori Margaritae"? The last verse was running in my head all the way back to London. The 'late lark' is still singing in my heart. My love to you all and to the Hall . . . ."

The lines that he was recalling are as follows :—

"So be my passing !  
 My task accomplished and the long day done,  
 My wages taken and in my heart  
 Some late lark singing.  
 Let me be gathered to the quiet West,  
 The sundown splendid and serene  
 Death. 1876."

What could be a more perfect rounding off of his service to his beloved St. Mary's Hall.