

ground, when we were unfortunately without the services of some of the best members of our team. The return match took place in March, and in both these, Manchester was successful, though in the second we reduced the disparity between the scores to a marked extent. For the third match, we were greatly pleased to welcome Bury on our ground, as this was the first season they had played the game. Under the circumstances it was not surprising that it was a love game, in which we were victorious. The best point in the School team last season was the well-balanced strength of forwards, centres, and backs. We did not play as many Form matches as usual, owing to the weather. Upper III challenged Middle III, which had some difficulty in producing a team, a circumstance which must have prepared them for the inevitable result! The match was played with teams of seven.

The prospects of outside matches during the coming season are brighter than usual, as three High Schools in the district have taken up the game during the past year.

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TENNIS.—The Tennis Club rejoices in a very long list of members, but unfortunately there is in the School grounds only one tennis court; moreover, Oldham is a very windy place, and most of the wind that blows seems to come by way of that court. However, in spite of these drawbacks there are most persistent efforts made to acquire at anyrate the rudiments of the game.

The members are divided into four divisions, and in the first two divisions at least there has been during the past year a most creditable amount of activity. We have played very few outside matches, and those few we have lost; yet the general standard of play in the School is higher than it has ever been before. In fact, the competition for the honour of representing the School in the East Lancashire Schools' Annual Tournament, was so keen that it was a very difficult matter to choose our second champion. B. Martland had already proved herself our first champion. D. Warhurst, E. Lawton, G. Hammersley, and M. Smith had each their strong points. The choice finally fell on D. Warhurst; the quality of steadiness which she possesses being so very important in tournament play.

The Tournament was played at Old Trafford on July 4th. The day was a most enjoyable one, being neither too hot to play nor too cold to watch; and it was delightful having our lunch on the smooth green grass that surrounds the tennis courts. We were beaten in the first round, but can take comfort from the thought that our opponent, Bury, was only with much difficulty defeated by Manchester in the semi-finals. The final match, which was between Withington and Manchester, was much enjoyed on account of the good style of both sides.

At the end of June a match was played with the Old Girls, who were represented by E. Andrew and B. Holt. B. Martland and E. Lawton were our champions. The result was 6-4, 1-6, 6-2, in favour of the Old Girls. They then very kindly consented to play a second match—this time against B. Martland and D. Warhurst, in order to help us to decide who was to be the School's second champion. The result this time was 2-6, 6-4, 6-5, in favour of the Old Girls. These figures show how equal our second and third champions were. E. Lawton places her balls well, and she has several good strokes, but needs practice with balls on the back line. G. Hammersley, as yet, lacks steadiness, but shows promise of being able to send strong, low balls. Steady practice should do a great deal for all four next year; but they will have to look to it that their laurels are not wrested from them by younger players who are slowly but surely winning their way towards the top of the list.

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SENIOR CRICKET.—The cricket season this year was more uneventful than usual, as our one outside fixture, the Old Girls' match, was postponed at the last moment on account of the weather. Of the three Form matches, the most interesting was VI and V

*versus* Lower V, when Nellie Mills, our best bowler, took two wickets with the first two balls of an innings, and a third with the fifth ball. We shall miss Nellie Mills very much as a bowler, and also as Vice-Captain. She and the Captain, Alice Kent, proved most efficient, rarely missing a practice and doing a great deal for the game. We are glad that Alice Kent will be here next summer, and hope to get some promising recruits from the Junior Cricket Club. The bowling is slowly improving, but the pitch of the balls still leaves much to be desired, as was shown by the bowling at the Sports, where nearly all of the balls were short, and not many of them even straight! The fielding is much smarter than two years ago. Most of the batting is weak and "gentle," and some of the strongest bats have a great tendency to send catches, which usually brings their innings to a premature close.

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VIGORO.—There is, unfortunately, not much to record concerning the progress of Vigoro. It is a drawback that none of the schools near us possess the game, so that it is impossible to arrange outside matches, but some of our own girls find the charms of cricket so superior that they leave Vigoro severely alone. It should, however, be quite possible to join in both games, seeing that they are played on different days in the week.

At a meeting early in the Summer Term the following officers were elected: *Captain*, J. Simmonite; *Vice-Captain*, M. Lees; *Secretary*, B. Potter.

J. Simmonite, who had been unable to play games for some time, made an excellent Captain, and was invaluable at the practices, while M. Lees made great efforts to arouse the lukewarm spirits of her own Form.

The only match of the season was played between Forms LVI and IV and resulted in a victory for Form LVI, who made 82 runs, 31 of which were scored by J. Simmonite. D. Neild, the Captain of Form IV, had the next highest score, and gained 12 out of the 30 runs made by her team.

A good deal of enthusiasm was aroused by the prospect of a match between Lancashire and Yorkshire, but after this had been postponed several times for various reasons, it had finally to be abandoned.

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JUNIOR CRICKET.—When the Vigoro, Senior Cricket, and Stoolball grounds have been parcelled out of the playground, it is clear there is not much room left for Junior Cricket. Indeed, the Club is so used to playing on a small rough ground, that at our one Form match last summer (won by Lower III against Middle III, by one run), it was necessary to remind the spectators not to get in the way of the batsmen when running! The disadvantages of the pitch, however, do not damp the ardour of the younger cricketers, who play daily, with unflinching zeal and good temper. The Club ought to spend the winter in making serious resolutions to improve their pitch by rolling, a measure of reform which has never yet received the attention it deserves.

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STOOLBALL.—During the Summer Term, Stoolball has been keenly played by many girls in the Lower School, although cricket has still many staunch supporters. May Wood proved herself a good Captain, and she selected a strong team from Form Upper III to play in a match against Form Middle III. The Upper Third won by 73 runs to 26. Next summer we must try to get matches played between all the Junior Forms. Many girls need to practise hitting out more; they seem content to make up their score by single runs when they should often be able to make threes. The fielders would then have to be a little quicker than they are at present, and the game would be much improved.

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BOATING.—The boating on the Park Lake was started again at the beginning of the season. As usual, most of the people who were developing into fair rowers had left the

previous summer, and the members were chiefly novices who had to go through many severe struggles with recalcitrant sculls, before acquiring the ease and grace of the practised oarsman. We were, however, fortunate in having two efficient boat captains, B. Martland and D. Warhurst, and with their help the beginners made good progress. Several, also, who had been on the lake the previous summer, now row quite well, and next year we hope to start with more captains. The lake is comparatively deserted at the times when we go, so that except for the launch, which is a little terrifying, there is not much traffic to alarm the inexperienced cox; and though the surroundings are not ideally rustic, we have found it cool and pleasant on the water on summer afternoons.

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SWIMMING.—The swimming this year was arranged differently from last season; a club was formed for the advanced swimmers, so that they might be able to continue learning various kinds of swimming and diving, and also, if sufficient members joined, to form a Life Saving Class, under the Royal Life Saving Society, thus preventing the girls from spending their time in aimless swimming and encouraging them to get beyond the stage of being merely able to swim a length, or remaining only in the early stages of diving. The aim of teaching the various kinds of swimming is to give more staying power and to make the swimmer competent to render practical assistance to anyone in difficulty in the water, or if the danger occurred to herself, to show her the best way to leave herself passive instead of struggling in the hands of the rescuer. It is well known that good swimmers have lost their lives through the struggles of those unable to swim.

This year the membership of the Club was very small, only five members joined, and the only test needed was that each girl should be able to swim one length of the baths at Hollinwood. The subscription also was very small, 5s. for the season. Next year it is hoped the numbers will greatly increase, when it is realised that swimming is important not only for enjoyment and health, but for the help that may be rendered to others.

E. S.

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The competition at the end of the Summer Term was most interesting, and made the spectators long to emulate the swimmers. Not only did they dive into the water in a manner which seemed to resemble flying more than anything else, but they also brought up two candlesticks from the bottom of the bath with apparently as little trouble as if they were picking them up from the floor. More wonderful still it seemed when, diving from the side, they swam across the bath, keeping under the water the whole time. The race which aroused most amusement was that in which the competitors had to swim a length, carrying a lighted candle. Desperate efforts were made to keep these alight at all costs. One swimmer, who swam the whole distance on her back, proceeded with such extreme caution, that the danger seemed to be rather that the candle would be burnt out than that it would be blown out before she reached the winning post.

Miss King-May was again so good as to come and judge the competition. The Challenge Cup, competed for by members of the Club, was won for Form Lower V by Elsie Lawton.

### THE SPORTS.

Seldom have we had a more doubtful morning; most of us had given up all idea of sports for that day, and had almost resolved to turn our attention to lessons in consequence, when things began to look a little brighter, and at half-past twelve we were told that if there were not another shower before two o'clock the sports would be held. There was no more rain that day, so we did not have to endure the postponement of this, the most exciting event of the Summer Term.

The obstacle races offer most variety from year to year, and aroused more interest than usual this time, as the problems submitted to the competitors were of a kind that

could be well seen by the spectators. The small and innocent-looking skein of wool which had to be wound behaved most maliciously, and the tangles in which some unfortunates were involved awoke the deepest sympathy. The perseverance of one little competitor in the potato race (open only to Forms I. and II.) was much applauded by the spectators. Bowling is an event which would perhaps oftener find a place in our sports if more girls were interested in practising for it.

We are very pleased to have this opportunity of again expressing our thanks to Mrs. Charles Lees for the beautiful Form prize she once more presented, also to Mrs. Martland and Mrs. Wilde, who so kindly gave prizes.

Mrs. Needham very kindly consented to give away the prizes. She pointed out to us the value of energy, the presence of which in a girl's character implied the absence of many of the faults which might be found in her less energetic companion. The great event of the day was the presentation by Mrs. Needham of a most beautiful Hockey Shield to be competed for annually by the Forms, and the afternoon closed with three hearty cheers to her for her generous gift.

The events and winners were as follows : High Jump : (Junior) Elsie Shaw ; (Middle) D. Neild ; (Senior) G. Hammersley. Obstacle Race : (Junior) G. Rodgers, A. Makin ; (Senior) E. Robinson, M. Mathews. 100 Yards : (Junior) C. Hammersley ; (Middle) D. Pickford ; (Senior) G. Hammersley. Flat Race : (Junior) L. Braddock. Potato Race : (Forms I and II) N. Spencer. Bowling : (Senior) D. Neild. Tandem Race : (Junior) D. Kempsey, E. Lomas, D. Whitehead ; (Senior) G. Cooper, D. Wilde, G. Wilkinson. Balance Race : (Junior) C. Wilde ; (Middle) M. Bodden ; (Senior) E. Millington. Thread-the-Needle Race : (Senior) M. Higgs, A. Kent, B. Martland, E. Millington, N. Mills. Egg and Spoon Race : (Junior) G. Broadbent ; (Lower Middle) L. Ashton ; (Middle) H. Bows ; (Senior) G. Hammersley. Flag Race : (Junior) L. Ashton, D. Eatough, D. Hall, D. Pickford, Elsie Shaw, J. Varley ; (Senior) C. Ashton, G. Cooper, G. Hammersley, E. Lawton, D. Wilde, G. Wilkinson. Consolation Race : (Junior) F. Whitehead ; (Senior) M. Kempsey, M. Wood.

Form IV won the largest number of marks, and are consequently the happy possessors of a new and more artistic mantelpiece. Form Lower III also deserve special commendation for the patriotic way in which they tried to win the coveted Form prize. Every girl in the Form, except one who was not allowed to run, entered for at least one event, being more concerned to win the Fireplace for their Form than to obtain any small prize for themselves

#### THE DRILL DISPLAY.

It was not until the beginning of the Summer Term that the Drill Display to which we had all been looking forward most eagerly, actually took place. As the gymnasium was not nearly large enough to accommodate the visitors we wished to invite, it was decided to hold the display in the Hall, even though this involved the sacrifice of nearly every exercise needing apparatus which could not be moved upstairs. For some time beforehand Miss Sharman and Miss Field were busily engaged in choosing the best and most promising gymnasts from the different classes, and each Form strove hard for the honour of being represented in goodly numbers. The day arrived, and punctually at two o'clock the chosen band of between forty and fifty girls marched into the Hall three abreast, the smallest among them bearing all the responsibility of leadership. They marched round the Hall singing a Swedish marching song which had been specially learnt for the occasion, then "numbered off," and took up their positions for the exercises in Free Standing. We all greatly admired the smart, workmanlike way in which the orders were obeyed, and felt that the final order to sit down came all too soon. For there was so much fascination about the long, trim lines of girls who performed their work so gracefully and in such perfect agreement with one another, that although we had seen a great variety of movements we were very far from being tired.

Then the apparatus for balance-walking was brought forward, and it was discovered that contact with the well-waxed floor of the Hall had made the soles of the india-rubber shoes so smooth and shiny that it was by no means an easy task to walk along that narrow ledge. However, matters were quickly improved by the appearance of a large mat, on which each girl stood and rubbed her shoes solemnly and vigorously before attempting the perilous crossing.

Next came the ever-popular vaulting horse, and we beheld wonderful things indeed. The very names had a mysterious flavour—Wolf, Squat, Scissors, Fishtail, and the like—but the mystery of the name was nothing to the mystery of “how they did it.” Some of the smaller ones were specially agile, and it seemed as though very little more would be needed to turn them into accomplished athletes.

Then the jumping rope was brought out. Here, the bigger girls were most successful, and when all but one had fallen out, everyone formed into line again. At the word of command they began to run, joined hands, and suddenly wound themselves into the most complicated-looking maze imaginable, out of which there seemed no possible escape. But at the critical moment the intrepid leader emerged from no one knew where and successfully unwound the tangle which resolved itself into a neat line of girls walking quietly round the Hall as though nothing whatever had happened.

Miss Sharman then explained that they would play a Swedish form of the game of “Cat and Mouse.” Cat and Mouse were chosen, and the rest formed a series of lines one behind the other, the girls in each line joining hands. The Cat and Mouse ran in between the lines, but just when capture seemed certain, the whistle blew, and the girls turned and joined hands in such a way that the direction of the new lines was at right angles to that of the old ones. This happened several times, and again and again the Cat found herself baulked of her prey, but at last a lucky move put an end to the chase.

The last thing on the programme was a new ball game. Two equal lines were formed down the Hall, and the leader of each was given a large ball. This was passed quickly over each girl's head to the end of the line, and the last one to receive it ran to the front and passed it up again as before. This went on until the last in the line was the leader herself, and she had to bring the ball to Miss Sharman; the winning team, of course, being the one whose ball Miss Sharman received first.

After this, everyone went down to tea in the Recreation Room, and on all sides one heard nothing but praise for the people who had helped to make the afternoon so great a success. Everyone felt how much the School owes to Miss Sharman, who has done so much for the physical part of our training, and aroused such keenness and enthusiasm amongst us all.

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Great was the excitement this year when Miss Sharman announced that there was to be a competition between the various Forms in the School, in which every girl would take part. For weeks everybody worked as hard as possible; each girl felt that the success of her Form was entrusted to her, that the slackness or carelessness of one member of the team would spoil the whole.

In the Free Standing exercises the whole Form took part, the order in which they worked being decided by lot. For the Apparatus work, teams were chosen according to their special proficiency in climbing ropes, travelling along the bar, jumping, or vaulting.

Miss King-May was so very good as to come from Manchester to judge the competition, and we are glad to have this opportunity of once more expressing our thanks to her for her kindness in giving up to us so much of her time.

As the afternoon wore on the excitement became intense, and it was difficult to wait patiently for the announcement of the result. The winners, Forms VI and V, were

heartily cheered, for their Free Standing exercises, in which they gained full marks, had aroused general admiration.

The marks given below show how keen the competition was :—

1st.	Forms VI and V .. .. .	with 221 marks.
2nd.	Form LV .. .. .	202½ "
	Forms LIII, II, and I .. .. .	202½ "
4th.	Form MIII .. .. .	198 "
5th.	Form IV .. .. .	197½ "
6th.	Form III .. .. .	193½ "

Forms VI and V have the honour of being the first to hold the beautiful copper Challenge Cup which is to be competed for annually. To wrest it from them is the ambition of every other Form, or, if this is not possible, at least to take a higher place in the next competition.

#### THE OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The last meeting of the Association was held on July 2nd, about forty members being present. At a previous Committee meeting it had been decided after some debate, that there should not be a picnic this year, so the members met at School and watched with much amusement an impromptu Vigoro match between teams captained by Mary Varley and Gertrude Browne. As many of the members seemed to wish for some outward sign of their membership, it was proposed to adopt a badge in the shape of a brooch or brooch-pendant. We shall be glad to receive designs, which will be submitted to the next General Meeting, on December 3rd. The designs should embody one or both of the School emblems, and should be sent to Miss Evington not later than November 26th.

A vote of congratulation to Miss Bott on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. E. B. Smith was proposed by Mrs. Mallalieu (Effie Shaw), seconded by Olive Garfitt, and warmly carried. Not content with this, one member suggested that their good wishes should take the more tangible form of a present, and the proposal was received with marked approval. Mrs. Orme (Minnie Fletcher) kindly undertook to receive subscriptions, and we happen to know that Mrs. Smith was genuinely surprised and really touched to find a handsome silver lamp awaiting her on her arrival at her new home.

We extend a hearty invitation to all Old Girls to join the Association. We hear from many how they value these opportunities of meeting old friends whom they otherwise rarely see. Last December we were glad to see Mrs. Hamer (Elsie Mallalieu), and in July, Mrs. Mallalieu (Effie Shaw), Mrs. Airey (Sara Fletcher), and Mrs. T. Orme (Minnie Fletcher), who forgot for a time their new responsibilities to be girls again for the space of one evening. Now that these have so bravely broken the ice, we hope to welcome back other married members.

We hope that all will bear in mind the needs of the Hulme Charity. Toys and garments of all sorts, whether new or carefully mended, bring joy to many in a wretchedly poor parish in Hulme, a district to which we owe a debt of gratitude. The least we can do is to give back something for what we have received. Contributions of garments and toys should be sent to the School each year by November 30th.

We should like to take this opportunity of reminding Old Girls that Miss Sharman holds a Ladies' Gymnasium Class on Friday afternoons, from four to five o'clock, during the Winter and Spring Terms. The classes begin in October and January. If any Old Girl has not had a notice and would like to join, she will be warmly welcomed.

## THE LEAGUE OF PITY.

On Wednesday, May 15th, 1907, a Bazaar was held in order to raise the sum of money which we try to send up every two years to the League, in addition to the subscriptions of the members in the School. Miss Ellis and several members of the Literary Society undertook again to contribute a Dramatic Entertainment, as they did for the Bazaar in 1905. Scenes from "The Critic," by Sheridan, were acted, and the whole performance was thoroughly appreciated by a large audience.

After the acting the tea-room waitresses were very busy, and then the stallholders. As a result, £35. 12s. 8d. was sent to the Society, this sum being 6s. 8d. more than was obtained by the last Bazaar in 1905.

Two small Sales of Work have, within the last year, been held in Oldham by a few Grammar School members of the League, entirely on their own responsibility. Owing to their enthusiasm and hard work the Society has benefited to the extent of £34.

On Wednesday, March 11th, 1908, a meeting of the League was held, Mrs Martland, the Hon. Treasurer of the Oldham Branch of the N.S.P.C.C., kindly taking the Chair. Mrs. Schooling came from London to tell us of the work done by the Society; her address was much appreciated, and 14 new members were enrolled.

It will soon be time for us to be making another effort to help the League. All members and their friends are asked to bear this in mind so that when the occasion actually arrives there may be many new suggestions and plans ready to be worked out. P.M.B.

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The annual entertainment in aid of the Oldham Branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was held in December, 1907. The programme included a cantata, "The Pied Piper," given by the Junior Singing Classes, pianoforte solos (Margery Jennings and Ethel Whittaker), violin solo (Mary Lees), violin trio (A. and M. Wood and M. Lees), songs by Phyllis Lansdell and Gladys Hammersley, part-songs by the Senior Singing Classes, and a scene from the "Taming of the Shrew," rendered by members of the Literary Society. The entertainment was much enjoyed by a large audience, and we were able to send £8 to the Society.

On the same afternoon the Christmas collection of toys and useful garments, contributed by past and present girls, was shown in the Hall. We were able to send a large box of things to be distributed among the poor people of Hulme, and these were greatly appreciated. There is, unfortunately, every indication that his winter will be one of great suffering among the poor, and we would therefore ask each girl to make a special effort to do what she can to help those who are less fortunate than herself. If every girl in the School brought at least one garment or one toy, how many people would be made happier this Christmas.

## A VISIT TO OWENS COLLEGE MUSEUM.

On Tuesday, May 19th, 1908, a party consisting of two mistresses and about thirty girls from Forms V and Upper III spent a most interesting afternoon in visiting the Museum at Owens College.

On our arrival, we followed the advice of the catalogue, and "proceeded at once to the apartment at the end of the large room on the ground floor." This contains a collection of mineral and rock specimens, amongst the most interesting of which are part of a basalt column from the Giant's Causeway, stalactites and stalagmites from the limestone caves of Derbyshire, and samples of the sand amongst which diamonds are found at Kimberley. The last named are accompanied by pictures and sections of the famous De Beer mines.

The photographs, models, and pictures, interspersed with the specimens, make this room full of that living interest which is not always associated with geological collections. The model of the Snowdon district was carefully examined by the Fifth Form, and that of a glacier was particularly appreciated by all.

In the large room on the ground floor we must single out as specially worthy of mention the magnificent fossilised tree trunk (or rather stump) which was found near Bradford, and the Ichthyosaurus, formerly of Whitby. The stump measures over four feet in diameter and its longest roots are 17 feet. Those of us who had been troubled by Latin names for the various coal fossils were pleased to find them transformed in this room into English varieties. The proportions of the Ichthyosaurus were much admired, and we only wished that the Iguanodon, who appears in picture over the door, had likewise been present in person.

Upstairs we found the first floor filled with stuffed specimens of many representative animals; the monkeys were thought particularly charming by one group of visitors who could hardly tear themselves away from them.

Amongst the birds, a particularly awkward-looking web-footed baby petrel, in the act of being fed by a not much more graceful parent, called forth our affection by reason of his fluffiness. The large and fierce-looking crocodile suspended over the staircase leading to the second floor came in for a due share of attention.

We then made our way to the Botanical Collection. The dried plants, as well as the specimens preserved in spirit, were much admired, and the bean and pea seeds in their different stages of growth were compared with those which we had seen growing in our classrooms at school. We also saw many beautifully made enlarged models of flowers, which showed their structure very clearly.

Owing to the kindness of the Director, Dr. Hoyle, and his Secretary, we were then allowed to go upstairs into a room which is not yet open to the public, where all the Egyptian antiquities are kept. The contents of a Twelfth Dynasty Tomb, which had recently been acquired by the Museum, were carefully studied, and Miss Crompton, who was working in the Museum, kindly gave us an interesting account of the Mummies of Khnumu-Nekht, a priest, and his brother, who were buried in this tomb about 2500 B.C. She explained the meaning of all the paintings and the models which were buried with these mummies, and also showed us many other Egyptian relics of rather later date. A piece of the linen cloth which had recently been unwrapped from the mummy of Khnumu-Nekht, was afterwards given to us for our School Museum, and we felt very proud to think that we possessed something for which all the Museums in the country had been asking. These Egyptian remains were exceedingly fascinating to most of us, and we left them reluctantly with wonder and awe to think that 5,000 years have altered the world so little.

After leaving the mummies our attention was occupied by butterflies, spiders, and other animals, until we remembered that it was tea-time, and we were obliged to leave all the other interesting things for another time.

As on our homeward journey we talked over all that we had done, it seemed the general opinion that no one had seen nearly all the things she could have seen, and that soon again all would have to revisit the Museum.

#### A VISIT TO THE MISSIONARY EXHIBITION.

At the Missionary Exhibition, held in St. James' Hall, Manchester, to which Miss Evington took a large party of us last November, almost every portion of the world into which the missionary has penetrated was represented, and represented in such a way as not only to arouse curiosity by means of the singularity



or strangeness of the exhibits, but also to present a vivid picture of the life of the countries in which the missionary works, and of the conditions under which he labours.

India, the islands of the South Seas, Madagascar, and Ceylon, Japan, and China, Canada and Australasia, had all some part in the representation of life as seen in many parts of the world. Perhaps the most deeply interesting of the exhibits were those from India. The Indian village, seemed as real as if it was indeed in the thick luxuriant jungle, in which was a small clearing where a few rough, thatched huts alone marked the habitation of human beings. The primitive life of these inhabitants of the jungle is clearly revealed by their village. The centre of the clearing is occupied by the chief's hut, a little larger than those surrounding it, but otherwise differing from them but little. The chief characteristic of the missionary's hut, which was erected near that of the chief, seemed to be the remarkable way in which the furniture accommodated itself to the limited space provided in the missionary's single battered trunk.

An entirely different side, and a more tragic aspect of the teeming, diverse life of India was that represented in the Zenana. The dreary life of the high-caste Indian women, practically prisoners within their own homes, without interests, deprived of almost every means of enlightenment, guarded from all contact with the outer world, is a dark and pathetic picture. The widow, whose existence is dreariest and most hopeless of all, is regarded as having no rights whatsoever, and all that is most menial in the household work of the Zenana is apportioned to her.

The character of Japan, a country which is now rapidly opening its gates to Western influences, and eagerly receiving the civilisation of Europe, was described and illustrated by a scene which represented a Japanese house, and a conversation between two Japanese ladies on the subject of the changing customs of their country, of which they were very reluctant to approve. They expressed much wonder at the desire of their husbands for chairs, after the Western manner, in preference to the old fashion of sitting on mats, considering such a strange mode of sitting extremely chilly for the feet. The extreme simplicity of the old-time one-storeyed house, entirely devoid of cumbersome furniture, seemed to them much preferable to the heavier furnishings of the houses furnished in the new style. The manners and ways of their daughters, who go to the new University in Tokio, and play hockey, raised grave doubts in their minds as to the wisdom of all these strange, new ideas, so different from their own quiet training. What use "squabbling about a ball," will be to their daughters is a problem, the solution of which they cannot quite determine. The politeness of these two ladies throughout the talk, sounds, in translation, most ceremonious, and strikes the hearer as fatiguing in no small degree to those of whom etiquette demands such elaborate courtesy. Such a conversation as: "And how is your honourable mother?"

"My most ugly and stupid mother is very well, thank you," sounds extravagant, however, only in the English into which it is literally translated.

The strange mixture of East and West, of old and new, was even more strikingly brought home by the lady missionary from Japan. Telegraphs, railways, and a postal service mingle incongruously with the not altogether superseded customs of centuries in this wakening country, and the new order forces its way on the inhabitants with apparently bewildering swiftness.

In the section devoted to China the surgical instruments and the medicines of the Chinese leech had a gruesome appearance which boded ill for his patient's chances of recovery. Apparently the correct thing to do with a broken or injured limb in the opinion of this Chinese doctor is to bandage the limb up in bandages as tightly as possible between two thick pieces of wood, and if he is able to do so, to insert a wedge between the pieces of wood for the sake of greater security—a mode of treatment which does not always have the most beneficial effect on the patient. The drugs used by some of these doctors appeared to resemble a witch's potions more than anything else, both in their composition and their appearance when ready for consumption by the patient.

The contrast between such methods as these and those of the missionaries was sharply drawn by the exhibition of the ideal hospital apparatus for every mission station which stood in close proximity to the Chinese doctor's stock in trade. Here, the cleanliness so conspicuously absent in the methods of the Chinese leech forms a first principle of the true art of healing.

The brief space of time which was allotted to our visit to the Exhibition admitted of only a cursory inspection of the many objects of interest from other portions of the Mission Field—the poisoned arrows from Madagascar, the weapons of the Red Indian chiefs, the dress of the Turkish women, and the quaint and grotesque Chinese idols would have required a much longer visit to be thoroughly reviewed.

VERA CALVERLEY (Form VI).

### GRINDELWALD.

I cannot express what it felt like to be at Grindelwald, everything was so wonderful, so interesting, so beautiful, and so foreign. Our first sight of the village in the district known as the Bernese Oberland, was one which filled us with admiration, awe, and surprise. In front of our hotel, from left to right, were mountains such as the Jungfrau, the Wetterhorn, and the Eiger, covered with snow and ice which glistened in the sunlight, and between these mountains were glaciers on which was reflected the vivid blue of the almost cloudless sky. Below these glaciers were waterfalls formed from the melted snow and ice. Below these again were the villages which were really quite a long way from the glaciers, but because of the clearness of the atmosphere looked very near to each other. The villages consisted of churches, a few small shops, and many wooden chalets, which were very artistic, having white or dark brown walls and dark roofs. These chalets were two or three storeys high, the lowest part of the house being used as a barn or cowshed, and divided from the upper storey, which was used for living rooms, by a beautifully carved balcony. The roofs sloped very much and reached very low down, overhanging the walls so much that they could be used as shelters. They were prevented from being carried away by the wind by having large stones arranged in parallel rows on them. These villages, with their chalets, lying at the foot of forest-clothed mountains, whose summits were snow-covered, were very picturesque. The people, who spoke either German or French, were very polite. The men are compelled to work by law, and are also compelled to serve for a short period of their lives in the army. We saw whole families at work in the fields, and we were surprised to find that the women and older children were as used to handling scythes as the men were.

In Grindelwald when a man wishes to leave his house as useless and remove to another he must first have the old house pulled down. The result is that no ruins were to be found. The animals used for farm labour were oxen, and not horses, as in England. We saw some men smoking and eating their lunch, waiting patiently for their obstinate oxen to decide to move. We were told that the men dare not hit their oxen, so that if the animal became stupid, much time was wasted.

Nearly all the animals wore bells, so as to be easily traced by their owners, and the sound of hundreds of these bells jingling together was a very beautiful and wonderful one. We saw many of the beautiful St. Bernard dogs which are born and bred near that district. Dogs are used in Grindelwald to draw milk carts.

We saw two avalanches which made a loud rumbling noise; ice grottoes about a hundred feet long, cut out of the glaciers; wonderful waterfalls falling over high precipices; a live wolf and a chamois which had been captured; and we also enjoyed that thrilling and never-to-be-forgotten sensation, sleigh riding over the Eiger glacier. We visited many other places of interest, including the St. Gothard Pass, which we crossed by carriage. We had a delightful holiday, and though England is home, Grindelwald is really the most

beautiful place I know. My advice is that if you wish to have a holiday on the Continent, go and spend it at Grindelwald.

ANNIE WOOD (Form L V).

### ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S LOVE OF CHILDREN.

Among all the writers of modern times there is to be found no character more lovable than that of Robert Louis Stevenson. One of the most charming sides of his nature was shown in his attitude towards children. As they grow up, most men cast away the fancies and delights of their childhood as nonsense, to be forgotten in the sterner business of life. They regard children as immature specimens of themselves, as beings who have yet everything to learn. With Stevenson it was not so. He regarded childhood as a hallowed period, to be looked upon with reverence and respect, and of childlife he gives us a wonderfully vivid and true picture, for he never lost sympathy with childhood's fancies and delights, and was himself intensely childlike throughout his life.

With the thoughts and sensations of his own childhood clear before him, he gives us a most charming and fascinating description of the life of an imaginative child. To Stevenson, children inhabited a little world of their own, quite apart from that of old people. In this little world by far the most predominant element was imagination. "In a child's world of dim sensation," he says, "play is all in all, 'making believe' is the gist of his whole life, and he cannot so much as take a walk except in character. I had to act a business man in an office before I could sit down to write."

Even such commonplace actions as eating and sleeping were made exciting by all kinds of games and fancies. Stevenson describes to us how he and one of his cousins liked to take their breakfast together. "When my cousin and I took our porridge of a morning," he says, "we had a device to enliven the course of the meal. He ate his with sugar, and explained it to be a country continually buried under snow. I took mine with milk, and explained it to be a country suffering gradual inundation. You can imagine us exchanging bulletins; how here was an island still unsubmerged, here a valley not yet covered with snow; how his population lived in cabins on perches, and travelled on stilts, and how mine was always in boats. The food was of altogether secondary importance, seasoned with our dreams."

Of the games and pastimes dearest to the heart of a child, Stevenson gives us a charming picture. One of his favourite ways of passing a summer morning, he tells us, was to go with his cousins to the fields where the hay was standing in cocks. There they would scoop out a little hollow, into which they could climb, and would play at being baby birds in a nest. Another delight of theirs was to explore the meadows until they found a little nook that pleased them. Having found some particularly fascinating dell, they would take possession of it, and pretend that it was their kingdom, and that they were lords of all they found there. Stevenson describes one of these in a very beautiful little poem:—

"Down by a shining water-well,  
I found a very little dell  
No higher than my head;  
The heather and the gorse about  
In summer bloom were coming out,  
Some yellow and some red.

"I called the little pool a sea;  
The little hills were big to me;  
For I am very small.  
I made a boat, I made a town,  
I searched the caverns up and down,  
And named them one and all.

"And all about was mine, I said,  
The little sparrows over head,  
The little minnows, too.  
This was the world, and I was King;  
For me the bees came by to sing,  
For me the swallows flew."

In this delightful world of fancies that Stevenson describes, the night was one of the most fascinating of times. "When the lamp was brought in and shaded," he tells us, "and my aunt sat down to read in the rocking chair, there was a great open space behind the sofa left entirely in the shadow. This was my especial domain; once round the corner of the sofa I had left the lightsome merry indoors, and was out in the cool dark night. I could almost see the stars. I looked out of the back window at the bushes outside. I lay in the darkest corners, rifle in hand, like a lonely hunter in a bivouac. I crawled about stealthily watching the people in the circle of the lamplight." The idea of being a hunter in far distant lands seems to have struck Stevenson as being fascinating to most children. It was a game in which he himself took the very keenest delight. "Once, as I lay hid in a thick laurel at the corner of the lawn," he says, "with a toy rifle upon my arm, I worked myself so hotly into the spirit of the play that I think I can still see the herd of antelope come sweeping down the lawn, and round the deodar; it was almost a vision."

Not only had Stevenson so keen an insight into the character of young children, he understood and appreciated thoroughly all the joys of boyhood too. "I remember," he declares, "as though it were yesterday, the expansion of spirit, the dignity and self-reliance that comes with a pair of mustachios of burnt cork."

Another game that Stevenson remembered with delight was one in which bulls-eye lanterns played the most important part. "Towards the end of September," he says, "when school time was drawing near, and the nights were already black, we would begin to sally forth from our respective villas, each equipped with a tin bulls-eye. We wore them buckled to the waist upon a cricket belt, and over them, such was the rigour of the game, a top-coat buttoned tight. They smelled noisomely of blistered tin; they never burned aright, though they would always burn our fingers; their use was nought, the pleasure of them was merely fanciful, and yet a boy with a bulls-eye under his coat asked for nothing more." Even when he was grown up, Stevenson remembered that "rich steam of toasted tinware," as he describes it, with a feeling of joy.

In one of his essays, Stevenson describes that love of the horrible, of blood-curdling adventure that is so typical of a boy. There was a certain shop in Edinburgh at which were sold little books of plays of an intensely exciting nature. Highwaymen, pirates, bushrangers—any desperate character with a slouch hat on his head and a pistol at his belt, dashed across their pages out of one thrilling situation into another. To Stevenson, this shop was magnetic. He loved to stare in at its windows, and whenever he was given a penny, off he would go to this home of glorious adventure. "To go within, to announce oneself as an intended purchaser," he says, ". . . it was a giddy joy."

To these enchanted days of childhood, Stevenson always looked back with longing, and he never ceased to regard children with deep love and admiration. "Spare them yet a while, O conscientious parent," he pleads, "let them doze among their playthings yet a little, for who knows what a rough wayfaring existence lies before them in the future!"

BERTHA MARTLAND (FORM VI).

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Old Hall, Newnham College,  
Cambridge, November 2nd, 1908.

My Dear Girls,—When I was asked to write a description of life here at Newnham for the magazine, I cheerfully told myself that the task would be an extremely easy one, seeing that there are such a very great many delightful things to tell you about. Now that I make the actual attempt, however, I find that it is just this abundance of subject-matter which constitutes a very real difficulty. Each term of the year has its own peculiar joys, which mark it off distinctly from all other terms and make it, as it were, a little

epoch in itself; and if I were to try to describe them all to you, I fear that a hopeless medley of disjointed facts would result. So, although I wish I had time enough to tell you about the river picnics, the cricket matches, and the almost entirely open-air life we lead in the May Term, I will leave that altogether, and just try to make you understand how we are enjoying this Michaelmas Term.

It always seems to me a particularly pleasant thing to belong to Newnham at this time of the year. After the rest and change of the long Vacation we all come up so vigorous and so ready to make the very most of our work and our friendships and our games, that we enter into the life with even more zest and enthusiasm than usual. Hockey is, of course, the game par excellence at present, and every afternoon at two o'clock two games are in progress, organised and coached by a member of the College team. The three captains find the cares of office weigh heavily upon them, for there are always gaps in both Hall and College teams to be filled up at the beginning of the season, and after the first fortnight a match is fixed for every Saturday during the rest of the term. Needless to say, these matches arouse very great interest. Several London clubs, and a few of the county teams come up to play us, and we are always sure of having a really hard fight when we meet the London United Colleges. But by far the greatest excitement of all is felt when Newnham plays Girton for the Intercollegiate Cup. This match, which takes place in the Lent Term, is the end which is kept in view by the team throughout the whole season; for weeks before the great event the team eschews late hours and abstains from cocoas, and the forward line goes valiantly forth for a cross-country run at 7-30 a.m. on fine mornings. In spite of these efforts, Newnham unfortunately lost the coveted Cup last year, but we are hoping for better things next term.

In tennis, too, the Girton matches are most keenly contested, and here we have an excellent record to live up to, since for the last three years we have held both the Singles and the Doubles Cup. We are at present very anxious as to the safety of the former of these, which we are to defend against Girton in a few weeks.

I daresay it will strike you as somewhat frivolous of us to begin our games at two o'clock in the afternoon, but you must not condemn us too hastily. Every moment of the morning is usually spent in town at lectures or in laboratories, and after games, most of us settle down again to work in our own rooms or in the Library—which, by the way, is a most beautiful one—till dinner.

In the half-hour after dinner societies of every imaginable kind hold their meetings, and even the most hopeless of bookworms would hardly think of working then, unless compelled to do so by the exigencies of a time paper. So numerous and so diverse in nature are these societies that it would be impossible even to enumerate all of them here. Some of the more popular are the Choral Society, the Literary Societies, of which there is one in each hall, and the Political Club. This last, which is a time-honoured institution, meets once a week in the big College Hall to legislate for the nation. It is carried on as exactly as possible on the lines of the House of Commons. We have our Speaker, our Prime Minister, and our Cabinet, and our methods are most constitutional. This year the Liberal Party is in power, and since the Ministers on the Front Bench hold extremely progressive opinions, the debates are frequently of a somewhat heated character. The main disadvantage under which we labour, as compared with the House at Westminster, is the necessity which compels our House to adjourn after a single hour's debate.

At 10 o'clock at night work is again laid aside, and the whole College is prepared to be sociable. Nearly every night we either give "cocoas" in our rooms, or hold friendly gatherings of a more informal nature.

I had almost forgotten to mention one institution, without which no description of College Life could be complete, namely, the Fire Brigade. It is regarded as a great honour to be asked to join the brigade of one's Hall, and membership is much coveted; nevertheless every new member sacrifices for a time her peace of mind, and becomes a

mere slave to the fire-bell. She must sleep with a coat and skirt beside her bed, ready to be flung on at a second's notice, and, no matter where she is or what she is doing, she must rush at the first sound of the bell to receive the orders of her captain. Moreover, and most important of all, she must keep remarkably clear-headed, for in three minutes at most after the bell begins to ring, a complicated system of hoses must be brought to bear upon the room where the imaginary fire is raging. After a time, thanks to much practice, fire alarms lose their terrors and become part of the common order of things, and life seems almost tame when one's term of service in the brigade comes to an end.

Now I am afraid that I have taken up more than my share of space in the magazine, and I feel suitably guilty. But even at the risk of bringing down the vials of Editorial wrath upon my head, I must just say how very much I hope that many of you will some day know the delights of Newnham for yourselves. I am looking forward to the time when I shall be no longer the only girl to come up to Cambridge from the Hulme Girls' Grammar School, but one of many who will know and love all the joys and interests that make life here such a wonderful and such a unique experience. And may all future Newnham students among you be as happy here as I am!

Believe me,

Affectionately yours,

MARJORIE MARTLAND.

[M. Martland is our first Old Girl to go to Cambridge. Oxford seems hitherto to have been the more popular University.—*Editor.*]

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Sesame House,

St. John's Wood, N.W.,

October 15th, 1908.

Dear Editor,—In trying to describe the work at Sesame House, I shall have to describe each branch separately, and I am rather afraid that you will think the whole is piecemeal; a little bit of many subjects, none of them from lack of time and specialisation studied very thoroughly. At first, I think, most of the students themselves feel this, but sooner or later they begin to see that it is not so, that each subject works into the whole; that the principal subject—the study of childlife—is undertaken very thoroughly; all others are subordinated to it, are only there in fact, because, and in so far as they are necessary to it.

To begin with, Gardening, at which most of the students work one morning a week; we have a large garden and do practically all the work. With strong boots, short skirts, and blue pinafores, we dig, weed, plant, sow, sweep up leaves, and triumphantly produce both flowers and vegetables as a result of our labours.

For Domestic Work we again appear in the inevitable blue pinafores, which keeps off the dirt, and we go wherever we are needed to clean lamps, polish brass, silver, and tin; to clean windows, paint, glass, silver, and blacklead grates; to light fires, polish furniture and floors, in fact, to do every kind of work that is necessary to keep the house clean, tidy, and shining bright. Finally, in the last week of term, each pair of students turns out a whole room, giving it a real "spring cleaning," and has the whole inspected and criticised.

There are no cookery classes or demonstrations, but two at a time, under the superintendence of Miss Parker, the students cook dinner for the smaller household of "39," about twelve persons as a rule. They take possession of the kitchen just as it is left after breakfast, and besides cooking the dinner, make cakes, dishes for supper, and occasionally bread. At the end of term Miss Parker leaves each pair to cook one dinner alone; they may be haunted by visions of burnt puddings, watery potatoes, and similar mishaps, but though severely criticised by all who partake of it the attempt is generally pronounced satisfactory.

For Laundry work the class is small, about six students, and we learn the right method of washing different articles, each trying to see what mistakes may be

made. In Needlework, children's garments are cut out and made, and household linen mended, notes being taken as to the price, value, and uses of various materials. There is also a class for Handicrafts, such as Sloyd, chip-carving, chair-caning, and the use of a few tools which would enable you to mend small breakages. Notes are made of all the work done, of the right methods, and generally of the reasons for those methods, but there are no lectures on these subjects, everything is learnt by doing, and as much as possible, by doing the work which occurs naturally and is necessary for the good of the household.

The afternoons are usually occupied by lectures on Science, Elementary Botany, Zoology, Geology, or Physics, to fit in with the work of the Kindergarten, "the centre point" (which I will explain later) being studied more fully, and also on Hygiene, Geometry, Froebel Drawing and Occupations, History, Principles, and Methods of Education.

The greater part of each student's time is taken up in Kindergarten work. There are about 30 children, from three to six years of age, who come each day from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m., and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Only the older ones come in the afternoon.

In the morning each student, helped by one or two children, has to do part of the regular morning's work, to feed the canary, doves, rabbits, pigeons, and goldfish, and clean out their cages; to dust the room and give the flowers fresh water, making the room ready for the morning's work. As each piece of work is finished, the children go into a big hall and play ring games until everything is done. They are then called out to form their different divisions and march back into the Kindergarten to have the register called and to sing a short morning hymn. After this, they march round the room, the youngest and newest children are often too shy to walk by themselves, and have to be taken round by an older brother or sister, whose efforts to make them behave as they should, cause much disturbance. After the marching they again form lines, and for a short time drill to music, and it needs a very inventive brain to make the same simple exercises appeal to their imagination every day. You have suddenly to transform yourself into a train, a windmill, or a stepladder, and you have to be satisfied if the children are trying to do the exercises regardless almost of time. Often they sing little action songs instead of drilling to music. When the drill is over the Transition class march away to their own room, and tables are put up for the different divisions.

Each student takes a division of about six children, she may have another student to help her if the children are at all difficult to manage or need much help with the work. For forty minutes they build, draw, sew, thread beads, model in clay, listen to stories, or have some other fixed occupation. For about half the time they work under direction, the rest they play, that is, use the material to make things of their own invention, or play with the things they have made. As a rule, they are very interested in the work, though there are a few of the younger ones who can seldom be got to work with a division, but must have a student to themselves, and do gardening or housework, which they feel is real hard work, as they dig, sweep, scrub, polish, and dust.

The children next have lunch, sitting round their tables, and afterwards play with toys for a short time. Then the tables are taken down and the children and students all play games together. A second or third-term student has to "take" the games, that is, to direct them and to keep order whilst they are being played, keeping all the children, or as many as possible, interested. After games the tables are again put up and a second set of occupations begun, which last until it is time to go home. The morning's work ends with a song, and the children, dressed in their outdoor clothes, march in line to the gate.

In the afternoon more time (sometimes an hour) is allowed for free play, with bricks, dolls, or out in the sand or garden. We then have games and one set of occupations; often one student will tell a story to all the children, or they will look at a picture and then in some way represent from the story or picture by drawing, building, or using other materials. The older children sometimes make one large representation, using sand, clay, bricks, paper, or sticks, each child doing some portion of the whole.

The work for several weeks always centres round one object, the "centrepoint," at present it is the harvest. We have had sheaves of wheat, oats, and barley brought to the Kindergarten. One week the children had tiny flails and threshed the grain out, they drew flails and built barns in which the grain might be threshed, and every day played a game in which they were farmers, sowing, reaping, and threshing the corn. The next week they ground the corn into flour between large stones; they had a model windmill and made mills themselves of bricks or clay, folding paper sails which would really blow round and round.

This week they have turned into bakers and made bread, as about twenty-five small and rather hard cottage loaves on a shelf in the Kindergarten bear witness. They treated the dough at first rather as if it were clay, as most of them had never seen bread made before, but the hardness will not matter to them when they eat the loaves they have made for lunch, and take a little piece home to show mother. The cleanliness of the bread was ensured by a very great washing of hands before they began. This has been a very exciting centrepoint. Last term we had a cow centrepoint. We went to the dairy to visit the cows and churned cream into butter; we also had a horse which came and took them rides round the garden. A potato, too, formed a very useful centrepoint, for we dug up the potatoes, storing some away for future use. Some we boiled and some we baked, eating them for lunch. From others we made starch, and paste from the starch with which to paste scraps into albums. The students were, I think, rather tired of "potato" by the end of the month, but the children listened with never-ending delight to stories of dolls made from potatoes, and found nice knobby ones which they dressed up as dolls.

You will see from this that our time is well filled up, a walk every day is of course a necessity, and rest, or at least freedom from study for half an hour after dinner is, by a new rule, compulsory; this may be to prevent sleepiness at afternoon lectures. A good deal of time is spent in "home service," laying meals and clearing them away, cleaning lamps, looking after linen, and in monitors' work for various lectures. The evenings are free except for Gymnasium once a week, from 5-45 to 6-45. Our notes of lectures and for Kindergarten work take a great deal of time.

Saturday afternoons are free, the mornings being taken up by Singing and Black-board Drawing, or Brushwork, and there is generally an excursion planned, not compulsory, of course, to some part of London or to the country. Last week we went to the Charterhouse and the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, and next week we shall probably go to Epping. In the evening we often have a social, which two or three students arrange for, or else we bring mending, which would otherwise get neglected, and have music or reading.

The athletic people will ask where the games come in, and every new student asks the same question. A year ago we started Badminton, playing in the large hall, but the only evidence now is the court marked out on the floor. Basket ball, too, was tried, and the poles now make very nice maypoles for the children. It may be that our time is so filled up, but I think it is because the work itself is so varied and much of it of such an energetic character, that the enthusiasm for games of the most athletic new student soon vanishes. They all say that you are to be envied if you tell them you play hockey once a week, but do not show much desire to do so themselves.

I have not said anything about the Nursery training, which is quite separate, and is only taken by some students. Two children (one last term was five weeks old when she came) are looked after night and day by the students. My letter, however, is getting very long, and what is more important, if I do not go and cook supper now, the inhabitants of "39" will have to go hungry.

With my best wishes for the prosperity of the coming School year, especially, of course, of the hockey! and with many congratulations on your last year's triumphs,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely

MARGARET HIGGS.