

Education's Task: Combat Dangerous Tendency

INCREASING LOSS OF VITALITY

St. Elphin's Head Mistress's Warning

"The greatest menace to the health and sanity of the human race is the love of extremes and a loss of proportion and balance.

"Men have handed themselves over with religious fervour to the devouring idols of state, race and class with their ruthless methods of intimidation and violence, their control of a free Press and the degradation of education into an instrument of propaganda.

"All this is in essence idolatry—a false worship—for it is the erecting into a position of absolute primacy, activities of man which are secondary and relative."

These stirring remarks were made by Miss M. E. Hudson (head mistress) at the annual speech day of St. Elphin's School, Darley Dale, Matlock, held at Darley Dale on Tuesday.

Established for the education of the daughters of the clergy, the school still has a close relationship with Warrington, which was its birthplace, and for 62 years its home.

The scope of the school has been increased considerably, but despite this it is still under the management of the Bishops of Chester, Manchester, Liverpool and Blackburn.

Bishop N. H. Tubbs (Dean of Chester) presided on Tuesday and the Lord Bishop of Derby presented the prizes. Members of the governing body and others supporting included: Mrs. Rawlinson (wife of

the Bishop of Derby), Canon and Mrs. G. R. Sandars (Chester), Canon J. F. L. Southam (chaplain), Rev. W. H. Jordan (Grappenhall), Mrs. K. M. Fletcher, Rev. J. H. M. Barrow, Mr. J. S. Speakman, Mr. N. Milnes, Mr. T. A. Whittam, and Mr. J. Ackers (Manchester Diocese), Rev. A. E. Bass, Mr. J. H. Smethurst, and Mr. J. Muir Wilson (Liverpool Diocese), and Councillor G. H. Smith (secretary).

Bishop Tubbs said he was speaking for the Board of Governors when he said how pleased he was with the progress of the school. He had watched its progress with especial interest, as he had once been a head master himself.

Miss Hudson referred to the school's examination successes, and then said:—

"While I am speaking about public examinations I should like to explain to parents the significance of the change which the Joint Matriculation Board is this July effecting in their examinations.

EXAMINATION CHANGE

"This July, the examination authori-

ties of the Joint Matriculation Board are making an important alteration in the general scheme by the dissociation of school certificate from matriculation. Up to the present year, the system has confused the idea of the school certificate examination as a test of a completed course of secondary education, with the idea of an examination as a preparation for a further course of education at a university. Since the requirements of the universities have governed the requirements of all secondary schools there has been inevitably an academic emphasis: that is an emphasis on those subjects such as languages, Latin, mathematics, and science, to which the universities generally attach importance as being their own favourite fields of education. For many children this has tended to upset the balance of their general education, and most of us are glad that this academic emphasis is to be removed by the dissociation of matriculation requirements from the school certificate examination. Hitherto, a girl who has passed at a sufficiently high standard in certain subjects and in certain groups has been awarded a matriculation certificate, which has qualified her to enter a university. This is now to cease; no matriculation certificates will be awarded in future of school certificate, and if a girl wishes to qualify for entrance to a university she must stay at least one more year at school and show a certain performance in the subjects chosen for her higher school certificate.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

"In a school which is a residential community and which is situated in the countryside, there is inevitably a certain amount of isolation. One of our chief difficulties is to bridge the gap between school life and adult life outside, and to provide opportunities for meeting and hearing competent authorities on some of our present-day problems. During the past two years we have had the privilege of visits from several distinguished visitors, and many of the most urgent contemporary problems have been represented in our lecture list."

She dealt with the activities of the School's Musical and Dramatic Society, and speaking of athletics said priority of place belonged to hockey; for the second season in succession the only match the school lost was to the Burton High School. At the County Trials in Derby, in November, no goal was scored against the school team, which won all three matches. At the eliminating trials five girls were selected to go forward for the final trials, and Annette Harris was given a place in the Junior County Team, and two other members of the sixth form were chosen as reserves.

VISITS FROM CLERGY

"In the octave of Whitsuntide, the Bishop of Derby confirmed twenty-three girls in the school chapel, and during the year we have had the opportunity of visits at the week-end from many of

our governors, and a few outside clergy. The Bishop of Derby, the Bishop of Warrington, the Archdeacons of Liverpool, Manchester, Chester and Chesterfield, have all been to the school and preached in our school chapel. May I, while I am speaking of this aspect of our work here, say a few words both of appeal and of thanks to parents? To-day, "home" often means a hotel, or a service-flat, or even sometimes a motor-car, and it is not easy to practise the domestic or religious duties in such an environment. The result is that many parents have abdicated their position of responsibility and increasingly look to the school for the control and guidance of their child's life. The responsibility of the head mistress is indeed heavy, but it can never be an undivided responsibility, and you as parents, must share with me both our successes and our failures. The particular matter I have in mind is the careful observance of Sunday as a day for corporate Christian worship. The sense of Sunday obligation is increasingly rare among us, and I should like to thank all parents who do co-operate with the school in this matter, and who make it possible for their daughters to practise at home what they are taught in school. This question of the place and importance of religion is a national concern.

ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL BUILDINGS

"In the autumn we made considerable additions to the school buildings; the demolition of the old glass conservatory, long used as a class-room, and the building of the two new stone class-rooms and a spacious common room have added greatly to the amenities of the school. The new buildings were completed in December, and they were opened and blessed by the Archdeacon of Liverpool in the last week of the December term.

"It has been decided that the common room shall be known as the "Fletcher Common Room"—a tribute to the late Major Ernest Fletcher, a most generous benefactor to the school."

Miss Hudson expressed thanks to those who had given gifts to the school during the year, and then continued:—"The staff has been strengthened during the year by the appointment of three new members. It is due to the enterprise and initiative of Miss Buckley that the important and long-delayed change over from botany to biology as our main science has been made. I am entirely happy that the Junior School is in the able hands of Miss Robinson, and that Miss Morton is responsible for the organisation of the work in domestic subjects. It is sad that we have to say "good-bye" this term to four members of the staff. Miss Dunkerley, Miss Johnson, Miss Clark and Miss Just are leaving to take up others posts. I am fortunate in having secured what I believe will prove to be excellent appointments in their place. Miss Swift, who has a first-class degree and the Cambridge teachers' diploma in classics. Miss Cox and Miss Rees, who come to us by the personal

recommendation of Professor Desseignet, of Reading University, will prove, I believe, real assets to the school. In September it will be possible to offer a small number of girls the opportunity of learning a third modern language in the shape of Spanish. Miss Knott, who comes as our second modern language mistress, is qualified to teach Spanish, as well as German and French, and, as many of you knew, it is a most useful language for girls who are thinking of any kind of secretarial or commercial work as a career."

THANKS

She thanked all those who had worked in any way for the school during the year, especially the staff and the governors.

"I wonder," she continued, "if, in conclusion, I may turn your thoughts from the narrow world of school activities and interests to the wider horizon of contemporary affairs? I would call this age an age of crisis, for civilised man is clearly pulling up his stakes, and the world is on the move again after 1,500 years of gradual development—the 1,500 years that lie between the collapse of the civilisation of the Roman Empire and our own epoch. The present crisis is essentially a crisis of civilisation and culture, and not economic or political only, though its obvious manifestations may be political and economic. The challenge of our own time requires something more than pious pulpit platitudes or social and political programmes. It is not enough for us to sit still and to lament that the times are out of joint, and to wait for an apocalyptic solution to our problems. The prevailing temper of the world is one of widespread disillusion and despondency. It is shared by orthodox and heterodox, by Christian and pagan alike.

INFERIORITY COMPLEX

"How significant it is that of all the phrases dear to modern psychology the one that has come into our daily speech is the phrase 'an inferiority complex'—how rarely do we hear of 'a superiority complex.' We live in an age of great emotional disturbances. The Nazi and Fascist regime alike derive the greater part of their strength from the fact that they are great emotional mass movements.

"The dynamic of both the Fascist and Nazi creed is idealistic and religious, albeit a perversion of both those impulses. The young generation is ruled by the heart and not the head, and it is noteworthy that all the authoritarian movements are youth movements. This is psychologically the atmosphere in which we are living, and it is in such an atmosphere that extremes always flourish."

Here Miss Hudson made the remarks quoted in the introduction.

"Economic, social and political activities," she continued, "are entirely good, but only in their relative place in an

order in which man's spiritual destiny is the ultimate energy. What we are now experiencing is the spiritual logic of the universe, asserting itself in social pain and dislocation which always appears when men evade their spiritual destiny by erecting temporal and relative activities into universal and absolute ends.

"Perhaps in England we have been spared the worst manifestations of this, but even here there are not wanting signs that there is among us an increasing loss of vitality.

"This loss of vitality is seen in the general disintegration of morality, in the distortion of values which govern the way in which money is desired, acquired, and spent, and is only too clearly reflected in much popular literature, philosophy and art. All the ubiquitous and insinuating agencies of modern life minister to this; the temptation to think by proxy is increasingly strong. There are so many labour-saving devices for the mind as well as for the body, and they are likely to multiply. The Press, the film, the poster and the radio, all minister to this same tendency. We can come by so much popular knowledge just sitting in an armchair and switching on our wireless, while we forget that no great subject can be appreciated much less mastered, with a relaxed mind. It is harder to be thorough, it is harder to be independent and to be vigorous-minded than it used to be. We live in an age of headlines, of capitals, and avoidance of effort. It is no good merely lamenting this, but it is the task of education to combat what is a dangerous tendency. Never was the need for people who can think honestly and logically and independently more clamant than it is to-day.

"I hope and venture to believe that we in this school are contributing something to that task. I am proud to think that this school stands for an educational tradition that is liberal and religious.

SECRET OF A GOOD SCHOOL

Congratulating the school on the record it had achieved and upon the manifest prosperity which it enjoyed, the Bishop of Derby said that one secret of a good school was a good head mistress, and he assured them that in Miss Hudson they had one.

He wove his address around comments uttered by the head mistress in her report, asking parents not to 'abdicate' their responsibility. The institution of the home, and particularly the institution of the Christian home, was really threatened in these days, and he heartily endorsed the remarks made by Miss Hudson on the matter.

"The head mistress also said," the Bishop continued, "that the foundations of religion and morality were being challenged. To-day you have to think things out, and know where you stand. The world changes, but there is one thing that does not change, however it may be disguised; that is the perpetual

struggle between good and evil. Good is still good, and evil is still evil, whatever the modern highbrow or the modern militarist may say. Christ and anti-Christ are still locked in mortal combat."

They would need, he added, faith in God if they were going to make anything in life.

Mrs. K. M. Fletcher accorded thanks to the Bishop of Derby, and a general vote of thanks was proposed by Canon Southam.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

SUCCESSSES IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, 1937-1938

Stella Cartwright: Competitive vacancy to Bedford College, University of London. Joan Kiddell: Competitive exhibition to Langdale Hall, University of Manchester. Beryl Renwick: Competitive vacancy to Society of Oxford Home Students.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, JULY, 1937

Full Certificate.—Stella Allen: Distinction in English; good in French, history and Latin. Stella Cartwright: Good in English and history; French and Latin. Joan Kiddell: English, Latin, music, pure and applied mathematics, chemistry. Beryl Renwick: Good in history; English, French, Latin.

Letters of Success.—Frances Adams: English. Patricia Cliffe: History, botany. Robin Fitch: English, history. Mabel Hand: English. Vivienne Hewitt: English, botany. Mary Jones: Pure mathematics, botany.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, JULY, 1937

Matriculation. — Barbara Clapham: Credit in English language, history, New Testament history, mathematics, botany, music. Sheila Davidson: Credit in English language, history, French, Latin, mathematics, music. Helen Gilbert: Credit in English language, and literature, history, New Testament history, French, Latin, botany. Mary Phillips: Distinction in English; credit in history, New Testament history, French, Latin. School Certificate.—Beryl Freeman: Distinction in art; credit in New Testament history, botany. Leslie Hallam: Credit in English language and literature, history, New Testament history, French, botany. Annette Harris: Credit in history, New Testament history, mathematics, botany. Mary Hodgson: Credit in English language, history, New Testament history, botany. Helen Karn: Credit in English literature, history. New Testament history, French, botany. Mary Maurice-Jones: Credit in English

language and literature, New Testament history, French, music. Sheila O'Donnell: Credit in English language, New Testament history.

PRELIMINARY HOUSECRAFT EXAMINATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DOMESTIC STUDIES

Mary Goodman: First-class certificate.

ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

Advanced, Grade VII.—Meryl Chambers, honourable mention.

Intermediate, Grade VI.—Barbara Thorburn; Phoebe Melville-White.

Higher, Grade V.—Olga Mort, Jean Donaldson, Mary Astin, Mary Coveney.

Primary, Grade I.—Marvis Yates honourable mention; Rita Mitchell.

Rudiments of Music, Grade IV.—Phoebe Melville-White.

THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA

Elocution Examinations. — Higher Grade: Margaret Clarke, Janet Chamberlain. Advanced Lower Grade: Margaret Clarke.

HOUSE AWARDS

Work Shield, Wilson House; Order Shield, Kennedy House; Dormitory Order Shield, Kennedy House; Hockey Cup, Powys House; La Crosse Cup, Kennedy House; Gymnastic Cup, not awarded; Music Cup, Wilson House; Tennis Cup, Wilson House; Cricket Cup, Wilson House; Sports Cup, Powys House; Dancing Cup, Powys House; Badminton Cup, Powys House.

SCHOOL PRIZES

For very good general work throughout the Year. — Form VIa.: Stella Allen, Stella Cartwright, Mary Jones, Joan Kiddell, Beryl Renwick. Form VIb.: Barbara Clapham, Sheila Davidson, Helen Gilbert, Helen Karn, Mary Phillips. Form Va.: Joan Brix, Sheila Cooper, Barbara Thorburn, Kathleen Wilson. Form Vb.: Dorothy Edwards, Jean Hughes, Elizabeth Kingdon, Jill Shaw. Form Upper IV.: Mary Coveney, Joan Harris. Form Lower IV.: Margaret Ashe, Flora Bisset-Smith, Barbara James. Form IIIa.: Kathleen Kershaw, Sheila Lambert. Form IIIb.: Margaret Cadge, Mavis Yates. Form II.: Ann Courts, Pamela Roe. Music: Joan Kiddell, Meryl Chambers. Gardening: Sylvia Moser. Magazine Article: Ann Wood.

HEAD MISTRESS'S PRIZES

Mary Goodman, Frances Adams, Marion Robson, Margaret Clarke, Elizabeth Evans, Janet Chamberlain, Olga Mort, Luana Wells, Coralie Archer, Stephanie Jones.