

## Dandenong High School. Speech Day: List of Prize Winners.

### FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Delight was expressed by all who participated in the rejoicings associated with the High School break-up. The occasion took place on Wednesday, 20th December, when there had assembled more than 200, many of whom were parents of scholars. Some of them had been students, who have now settled upon a more serious course, and who still remember the pleasures experienced in school life. On behalf of the Council and staff, Mr. F. A. Singleton, J.P., as president of the former, extended to them a warm welcome to this their Speech Day. He referred to the coming amongst them of Dr. Wood, who with his wife he was sure were warmly welcomed (Applause). The former, he said, would later address them, whilst Mrs. Wood had kindly consented to pass to the many recipients the practical reward of their efficiency as students who had been a credit to the school. It was desired by them, said Mr. Singleton, to speak kindly of Mr. Jeffery and of Mr. Moore—teachers who were profoundly regarded, and who were taking their departure from this town, and going elsewhere on the same service.

There had been through this school, he claimed, many brilliant students, and the hope is renewed that those who have left might continue to prosper in their life's calling, and that the path which each one who is now leaving may be smooth and straight (Applause).

### SPEECH OF DR. WOOD.

"Speech days are always a trial to the speaker, as they are likewise so to the listener," said Dr. Wood, "and a speaker, on an occasion such as

a speaker, on an occasion such as this one, has a wide choice; yet, it may minister to your greater contentment, as it should do to mine, if I get back to my seat as quickly as possible" (Laughter). He spoke to them of the favorite problem which became his, and others, tasks to unravel in discovering those several forces which made for the active agency there was in gunpowder, and he told of that enlightenment which came to them unexpectedly when there was an explosion, which had removed his eyebrows, his lashes, and a considerable portion of his hair (laughter). School life was largely experimental, and possibly there was an element of danger which must also be accounted aright. You now, he said, are emerging into a particularly explosive phase in the history of your young lives, and there may come the need for you all to have a care how you enter upon the duties which will become yours to perform. There is little need to look backward, since the tasks lie ahead, and what you may accomplish within the next 40 years is what will count. Many things which to you now are commonplace, were to us simply unknown 25 years ago. He spoke of the advances made in domestic science, in the home and outside, which had been almost revolutionary, and the changes wrought in engineering, and the varied sciences, were almost beyond belief, and the problem now was to fit the younger generation for that new life which has become clearly opened. When the test is applied in your accomplishment, in 40 years, your success will largely be dependent upon the force you may each use in apply-

the force you may each use in applying the principles so ably imparted by those teachers in this your school of learning, and so, said Dr. Wood, I commend to you a spirit of loyalty which may prove steadfast. (Great applause).

The following extracts are taken from the lengthy annual report, read by Mr. Langford, head-teacher:

"Dr. Wood is associate Professor in Economics at the Melbourne University. He is also well-known to you all as a regular speaker of International affairs from the A Class broadcasting stations. We wish to thank him for the address which he will deliver later, and we extend our sincere thanks also to Mrs. Wood, who has agreed to distribute the prizes and certificates.

"Since our last report the school attendance has been further depleted, the enrolment this year being 212. This is due to two main causes, the economic conditions and the introduction of higher fees. It is to be hoped that this state of affairs may not long continue.

"I presume that this audience comprises mainly friends of the school. These friends are also critics, and rightly so, but occasionally criticism of an unfair nature is levelled at the school. The members of the staff and pupils who know the facts are able, if they so desire, to refute untrue statements, but in order that you, our friends, may be able so to do, I have collected for your benefit certain concrete data which is incontrovertible. Mr. Searby, Principal of the Melbourne High School, in his report on December 14, spoke in no uncertain terms of the unfair and unfounded

terms of the unfair and unfounded criticism of the work of the State High Schools. This criticism is not confined to the metropolitan schools alone, but was evidenced here at the beginning of this year. The opinion has been expressed that if a boy or girl required a thorough education it was necessary to leave our High School and proceed to the public or private schools of the city. This idea may have had its genesis in the fact that not only had all of our A Form pupils been compelled to leave, but also a number of those in the junior section of the school who held positions near the top of our forms had transferred elsewhere. For purposes of economy Honours classes were discontinued here by the Department three years ago, and since then all pupils of outlying Metropolitan High Schools have been required to continue their studies at city schools, choice of which rests with the parents. In addition, all junior scholarship winners may enrol at any type of school approved by the department. We have repeatedly lost our best pupils in this way, but it is ridiculous to assume that because of these losses the school should be accused of inefficiency, to which their departure has been erroneously attributed. The pupils who have left us have invariably held their own in other schools, one of them having finished the year as dux of the Melbourne High School, while two others obtained Senior Government Scholarships. Another has obtained a resident scholarship at Ormond College. Reports of boys and girls in lower forms go to show that our former pupils are holding their own in other schools. These results could not be obtained

These results could not be obtained if the early training were inefficient. Allowing that we have lost quite a number of our best pupils, it might be assumed that with the remainder we should have greater difficulty in obtaining satisfactory results at the University examinations. Be that as it may, these are the results compiled from the records of our school since its inception. These are the percentages of passes since 1920, the first year in which pupils sat for the University examinations:—Intermediate: English, 86 per cent.; history, 59 per cent.; French, 84 per cent.; arithmetic, 75 per cent.; algebra, 71 per cent.; geometry, 76 per cent.; geography, 79 per cent.; drawing, 73 per cent.; physics, 68 per cent.; chemistry, 62 per cent.; and commercial principles and practice, 78 per cent. And in the Leaving Certificate examinations: English, 89 per cent.; history, 76 per cent.; French, 87 per cent.; algebra, 65 per cent.; geometry, 81 per cent.; trigonometry, 81 per cent.; physics, 68 per cent.; drawing, 71 per cent.; commercial practice, 68 per cent.; commercial principles, 65 per cent.; and chemistry, 100 per cent. In this period we have obtained 273 intermediate certificates, and 101 leaving certificates. In the 13 years under review altogether there have been 86 teachers on the staff of our High School. Continuity of teaching is advantageous both to teacher and pupil, but in spite of these frequent changes our pupils have achieved a record of which any school might well be proud, and we do not subscribe to the idea that our pupils are inferior or our teaching second-rate.

"There is another matter which I should like to mention at this stage.

should like to mention at this stage. There seems to be some confusion of ideas regarding the new course at the school. It is merely an extension of the work of the school, and will not interfere in any way with the existing courses.

"Up to the present two courses only have been followed by our pupils, namely, professional and commercial. Although we have been very successful with these branches, we have long felt that a certain section of pupils wishing to do post-primary work, and who were not suited by either of these courses had been unable to obtain tuition in the work best suited to them. Accordingly with the valued support of the district inspector, Mr. Harry Gill, B.A., the hearty co-operation of the head masters of district primary schools, the goodwill of the parents, and the sanction of the officers of the Education Department, we are about to establish special classes for girls next year. The course will include the following subjects: English, history, geography, arithmetic, science, drawing and design, needlework, millinery, cookery, housewifery, household management, and arts and crafts, and possibly at a later date, if facilities for same are made available, laundry work will be included. For this course there will be no fee for tuition, and the cost of books and materials will be kept at a minimum. Girls who have completed the course for the sixth and seventh grades in the primary school may enrol, and after a further period of one or two years, can obtain the merit certificate in the ordinary way. Those girls who have already completed the eight grade of the primary school may enrol for a course of one year, in

enrol for a course of one year, in which the time allotted to literary subjects will be reduced, while that allotted to practical subjects, as cookery, arts and crafts, etc., will be increased. It is hoped that parents will take advantage of this opportunity to keep their girls at school, and enable them to equip themselves for home management, or for other positions for which this course will prepare them.

"At the last Public Examinations our pupils secured 24 intermediate certificates. Of these, 8 passed in eight subjects, 5 in seven subjects, 11 in six subjects, and 12 others passed in sufficient subjects to complete at a later date. In the leaving certificate examination, 19 passed, and 14 qualified for matriculation. Of these, 2 passed in seven subjects, 7 in six subjects, 10 in five subjects, while 17 others may complete subsequently. Thirty-eight obtained the merit certificate, and 17 passed the I.O.R. examination, 8 of whom obtained certificates. In the commercial section, 6 out of 10 passed with credit, and 2 passed in advanced typewriting. In advanced shorthand theory 12 out of 19 passed with credit, and the other 7 passed. Nine obtained a credit certificate for a speed of 80 w.p.m., and 7 a pass certificate; one a credit certificate for 100 w.p.m., and 8 pass certificates for the same speed. For 120 w.p.m. 1 obtained a credit certificate, and 2 a pass certificate. For 140 w.p.m. 2 out of two passed, and for 150 w.p.m. 1 presented, and one passed.

"The "House" competitions were again productive of keen contests. Our own House swimming sports, won by Orchid, preceded those against Mordialloc and Frankston, where we

Mordialloc and Frankston, where we finished in second place, Frankston being first. In tennis we finished first in our section, and defeated Coburg High School in the final match, thus holding the cup for the second time. The basketball team also won in this section, but was defeated by University High School in the final. In the local basketball competition our girls were defeated by Dandenong West, who won the shield for 1933. Our hockey team, after a close contest with Frankston, was defeated in the semi-final. The boys' cricket team was unsuccessful in its section of the Metropolitan Association, as were also the football and tennis teams. The matches were in most cases fairly even, and although we lost, we put up a very creditable performance. The junior football team won the final of the local competition. Our own sports results are detailed elsewhere. In the Metropolitan Association, athletics was divided into A. and B. sections. In the B. section our girls obtained third place, with 24 points; and the boys, third, with 48 points. The division of the schools into two sections made the contests much more even, and consequently more exciting. In our annual contest with Warragul, as we had lost the football and basketball, it was necessary to win all the summer games. Our teams rose to the occasion, and won cricket and girls' and boys' tennis, and so succeeded in retaining the A.N.A. shield for another year. A record of House competitions is compiled each year. This includes every kind of sport, service and scholarship. Up to the final examinations it was possible for three of the four houses to win the coveted honor

four houses to win the coveted honor of being on top. Orchid House, with 46 5-6 points, won, and the others finished in this order: Bluegum, 33 5-6; Wattle, 29; and Clematis, 25 1-3. Orchid House deserved the congratulations of the school.

"The Junior Red Cross circle has continued to work quietly but effectively throughout the year. Members of the circle conducted the refreshment stall at the carnival, on April 29, for the Dandenong District Hospital Fund. All goods were supplied by the pupils of the school, and the whole of the work was carried out by the Junior Red Cross members; as there were no expenses the gross takings were handed over to the carnival committee. The egg collection from the school, in October, reached a total of 80 dozen; and in March over 3,000 bottles were collected for the A.N.A. appeal. In addition, garments have been made and forwarded to the Dandenong Baby Health Centre, and Junior Red Cross cupboard, and donations of money have been sent to the fund for maintaining an almoner at the Children's Hospital, to the Children's and Alfred Hospitals, to the Institutes for Deaf, Dumb and Blind children. Donations were made towards the special appeal during the year for the Melbourne District Nursing Society.

"During the year, owing to the generosity of parents and friends, and with the help of the pupils and staff, we were successful in raising a sum of £34/9/8. Our school funds thereby enabled us to carry out the purchase of books, which were added to the library shelves, to complete the purchase of the piano, and to fit

the purchase of the piano, and to fit up a class room as a reading room for the use of the pupils.

"Last year Hemingway and Robertson awarded this school a scholarship, and this year the award has again been made. Aubrey Bowen has been selected as the successful student, and we hope that he fully avails himself of this opportunity of completing the accountancy course.

"The Colonial Gas Association Ltd. has made a generous offer to supply the school with a new gas stove, which, if accepted by the Department, should materially increase the effective working of the centre. Although this matter has not been finalised, we thank the Gas Company for their generosity.

"Owing to the decreased attendance, it was possible to spread the religious instruction between Revs. Meers, Morton and Semmens, Father Little, Mr. Atkin and Captain Grey. Messrs. Robinson and Chambers, who had for some years rendered valuable help in this branch of school activity, agreed to fill the breach in the event of any unavoidable absence on the part of the clergy. To all these helpers we extend our sincerest thanks.

"The Old Pupils' still have as their leader Mr. James Sharkie, who has rendered them yeoman service. The show day reunion is still a special feature and old pupils and their friends spent a most enjoyable time at both the afternoon and evening functions. The prizes given by the Old Pupils' Association were this year awarded to Molly Colvin and Eric O'Shea.

"The Penny Savings Bank has fewer depositors, but those that can do so still contribute regularly to this

do so still contribute regularly to this very valuable institution.

"During the year we lost the services of our gardener, Mr. Weedon, whose sudden death deprived the school of a highly esteemed and thoroughly efficient officer. The care of the school garden was not only a labor of love to him, but a delight to pupils, staff and visitors. Mr. C. Wines was chosen as his successor, and has carried on the good work of his predecessor.

"For the past three years very few promotions have been made, and staff changes have been mainly due to decreased attendances. Now that some promotions have been allowed staff changes have occurred. Mr. Jeffery leaves us for Wangaratta High School. This is the second occasion on which we have bidden him farewell. When conditions improve, and our attendances increase sufficiently, we shall gladly welcome him a third time to our staff. Mr. Moore has received promotion to Rochester Higher Elementary School. We are very sorry to lose him, but we congratulate him on receiving well earned promotion. Miss Sweetman also has been promoted to Mildura High School, and we are very sorry to lose her valued services. To fill these vacancies Miss Crane, and Messrs. Mellow, Hill and Solomon have been appointed to the staff, to commence in the New Year.

"Before finishing my report, I wish to thank all those parents and friends who have in any way assisted us throughout the year. On several occasions we have appealed for help, and we have invariably met with a ready and generous response. The most recent instance of your generosity has enabled us to fit up a read-

ing room and library, which will be a great boon to future students, and we thank you for your assistance, which made this possible.

"The High School Council, with Mr. Singleton as president, continues to do effective work. Their efforts, and particularly those of the president, resulted in several pupils who would otherwise have been compelled to leave this school being granted free tuition. Actions such as these are indicative of the desire of the Council to do all it can to assist the school, and through it, its pupils.

"Before concluding, I desire to thank the staff for its co-operation throughout the year. Our work is made easier when we pull together, and this has invariably been my experience during my tenure of office as head-master. Our labors for the year being virtually ended, I desire, on behalf of the staff and school to wish you all the compliments of the season; and we trust that before our next meeting conditons will be materially improved."

