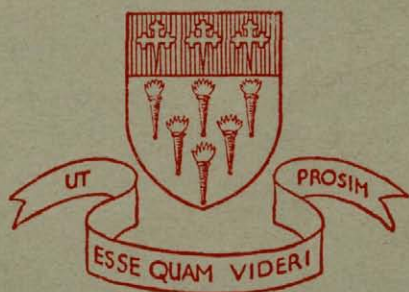


THE SCHOOL TIE



Ashford School
Kent

SUMMER TERM
1955

VOL. XLII
No. 3



[By courtesy of the "Kent Messenger"]

LORD BRABOURNE PRESENTING A THANKS BADGE TO MISS BRAKE ON BEHALF OF THE ASHFORD BOY SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION

MISS BRAKE SHAKING HANDS WITH MEMBERS OF THE A.U.D.C. AFTER THEIR PRESENTATION TO HER

[By courtesy of the "Kent Messenger"]



THE SCHOOL TIE

Vol. XLII. No. 3.

SUMMER TERM, 1955

Esse quam videri. Ut prosim.

Build it well, whate'er you do,
Build it strong, and straight and true ;
Build it high, and clear and broad,
Build it for the eye of God.

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A LETTER FROM MISS BRAKE

Ashford School,
Kent.
July, 1955.

MY DEAR STAFF AND GIRLS—PAST AND PRESENT,

"On a toujours le temps qu'on veut"—quite true—except when the letter for the *School Tie* is due.

What can I say? Only to thank you all for the friendships, love and loyalty you have given me since the snowy night in January, 1910, when I landed in Ashford for six weeks, that have gone on until July, 1955, when, if tradition holds, we should end with a real summer day.

We have gone through two wars, evacuation, return home, four inspections and all sorts of things, grave and gay, together. And now I set off to see Mrs. Edwards, who taught me most of what I know about running a school, and who will teach me how to retire gracefully.

So I pass to you all the torch that has guided me through—"Be strong and of a good courage."

Yours affectionately,
LILIAN BRAKE.

FURTHER DETAILS OF MISS BRAKE'S TOUR

Aboard "Orion"

August 9th—Tilbury.

August 12th—Gibraltar.

August 15th—Naples.

August 18th—Port Said.

August 22nd—Aden.

August 28th—Colombo.

September 5th—Freemantle.

September 9th—Adelaide.

September 11th—Melbourne.

September 14th—Sydney.

Aboard "Wanganella"

Leave Sydney, October 27th.
 Arrive Auckland, October 31st.

Leave Auckland, November 17th.
 Arrive Sydney, November 21st.

ADDRESSES FOR LETTERS

September 17th to October 22nd.
 c/o Mrs. Edwards,
 18 Ernest Street,
 Green Slopes,
 Brisbane, S.E.4,
 Australia.

November 1st to November 16th
 c/o Mrs. Peter Reade,
 49 Ngapuli Road,
 Remuera,
 Auckland,
 New Zealand.

December 16th—end of January
 c/o Dr. and Mrs. Cameron,
 18, Eng Neo Avenue,
 Singapore 11.

THROUGH ASHFORD EYES

1910-1955

At first she helped to sow the tiny seed;
 Her growing nursling lovingly she reared,
 With gentle care she tended every need,
 Until the plant above the ground appeared.
 Transplanted then to vaster, gracious ground,
 The slender shoot untiring would she nourish,
 While in new luxuries it could abound.
 Quite soon the forming buds began to flourish.
 But danger came and drove it from its soil,
 Yet, hindered, still it lived; once more it grew;
 And then, with great endeavour and much toil,
 She brought it back. The flower bloomed anew.
 And now her task complete, safe in its bower,
 Our "Cherub" sees her school smile in full flower.

S. SMITH (Upper VI Arts, Chaucer Pilgrims.)

As we come to the end of the Summer Term 1955 at Ashford School, we feel the page of history turn. Inevitably our thoughts turn back, over the past 45 years, tracing the growth of the school from its High Street "Pavement" days, with 20 girls, to to-day with its sundry buildings and 601 pupils. It seems a good moment to collect reminiscences of these years.

We offer these first to Miss Brake. Her own memories must be so rich and so numerous that she needs no written words of ours to give them shape; but we hope, nevertheless, that these may give her some pleasure. To Mrs. Edwards, too, away in Australia, awaiting Miss Brake's visit this September, we send our special greetings and our thanks for the photographs and encouragement she has sent us.

As Editors, we are very conscious that these recollections recall only some of the occasions and qualities of Ashford life. Much must be left unrecorded, and we apologise for any omissions. We hope, however, that Old Girls will, as they read, be once more caught up in the atmosphere of School; that they may see that its essential qualities have been much the same at other times as in their own.

The school to-day is a tribute to Miss Brake's vision and energy, and to the values encouraged by herself and Mrs. Edwards. The constant presence through the years has been Miss Brake herself. She has been the "presiding genius" of the years; and so it is with loving greetings and good wishes to her that we turn the pages of the past and read, in the words of Old Girls and others, something of the first 45 years in the history of Ashford School:

1910-1920

A good school has its own tradition of character-building, with certain good habits encouraged and certain bad habits discouraged. Therefore reminiscences from old scholars would tend to be grateful in the same sort of way, and this gratitude will be set down by better pens than mine. My reminiscence is peculiar to me, but none the less sincere.

I am most grateful to Miss Brake for teaching me Mental Arithmetic, and I am glad to have this chance of saying same. It must have been a woeful task. I had no natural aptitude and not a scrap of desire thereto; all I ever wanted was to have my nose in a book. But she persevered, in her spare time, and the finished product, though I say it, was second to none.

Pray do not imagine me as astounding radio audiences with my calculations, but I can work out, more quickly than the shop-assistant, seven eggs at 4½d. each, and so I am very rarely diddled by the tradespeople. My greatest triumph was when I went to book seats for *Much Ado About Nothing*. The reservations had to be made at a very superior music store, staffed by ex-High School young ladies. If you are the type of middle-aged person whom everyone calls "dear", because you are small and inoffensive-looking, it is very uplifting to the ego to feel that you know the answer to 3 seats at 8s. 9½d. each, when the lass behind the counter who only took Senior three months ago, has had to retire to a corner with a ready-reckoner!

May I not be caught counting on my fingers, when Miss Brake visits me in October!

ANNIE MADELINE EDEN (*née* Edwards),
Foundation Scholar, 1910-1918.

In bidding farewell to Miss Brake as Headmistress, though, happily not as loved friend and counsellor, we share many recollections, and each of us can add to them some personal store of cherished memories, some special cause for gratitude.

My thoughts go back to a time when the Head Girl, enveloped in blue serge to the ankles, her hair in a birds'-nest erection upon the top of her head, and a silver watch-chain falling in a graceful curve from high collar to stiff waistband, resembled her modern counterpart only in her valiant efforts to keep the rest of us in order! To me, she seemed no younger than the enthusiastic teacher who used to burst into the classroom, firing a fusillade of Mental Arithmetic questions as she came, or discoursing, to her own obvious delight and ours, upon the joys of foreign travel. We are happy to think that for her the dream is to come true, and that Miss Brake will soon be embarking on a World Tour.

A highlight indeed was the expansion of the School from the High Street premises to Alfred House, with its masses of forget-me-nots and the beauty of the cherry tree in bloom. The six occupants of "The Nest" revelled in their new quarters, the only disadvantage being the situation of the Staff Room immediately below—an arrangement not always pleasing to the Staff!

Gratefully I recall that "The Nest" once became an operating theatre where, with the aid of Miss Brake, Dr. Coke and a kitchen table, one of the "chicks" of her collection was most successfully parted from her adenoids!

There is a special flow of satisfaction as one contemplates the fine wistaria surrounding the drawing-room window, and recalls a Saturday afternoon long ago, when Miss Brake and a willing, though unskilled,

assistant planted it. The assistant's part in the proceedings came when the much-occupied planter said: "Oh, I've no hand to spare; please blow my nose for me, chick!"

And so the School and the wistaria have grown together, and, as the plant has developed in strength and beauty from the day of a small beginning, so the School, rooted in the soil of unstinted, devoted service, has spread its influence far and wide. We of an older generation rejoice that it is so, and join the great number of those who assure Miss Brake of their affection and gratitude, and their heartfelt desire that much joy may await her in her new home.

D.M.D.

My mind takes me back as far as the time when school was in the High Street, where there is now a cycle shop and hairdressing saloon. At that time the numbers were very small, between twenty and thirty, and I was in the kindergarten. The system of punishment was that of reports—two earned an orderly mark, the equivalent of the stripe of to-day.

We wore special uniform for drill, it being a navy blue kilt and sailor blouse, with a yellow collar and bow. Our winter caps were of thick, scarlet, fluffy wool on which each girl embroidered the letters "M.H.S." (for Modern High School) in black. These were later changed for the grey and red with a back that could be let down and fastened under the chin in order to cover the ears. The summer hat was not a panama, but a straw board which kept its shape in any weather!

Before the numbers of the school increased to hundreds there was no house system—just boarders and day pupils, who were ruled by the School Captain and Prefects, the latter wearing silver brooches with *Prefect* engraved on them.

The annual Barnardo Sale was held in the little back garden, and low forms were used for stalls—bars of marzipan only 1d. each. Games were not compulsory for the day girls, but some joined the boarders on their long trek to the local swimming baths by the station, and to the hockey pitch in Magazine Road. Tennis was played in the school grounds (having moved to East Hill), and, during the first world war, when no men were available, the girls were responsible for the mowing, rolling and marking of courts. Also at this time we used to go round to the local military hospitals to help with teas and washing up and to entertain the troops.

Prize-giving was held in the old Drill Hall in Norwood Street; the first extra gym classes were in the Institute, Bank Street, and some in the Wellesley Hall (now Lee & Sons' Furniture Store), and later in what is now Alfred Cloakroom.

During the summer months the dancing was held on the lawn on the Alfred House terrace. There was a grand party in the Corn Exchange when numbers reached 300.

After eight years as a pupil, and two as a music student, I left for the R.A.M. Having qualified, I returned on the staff and have watched the school grow to what it is now, and seen all the buildings added.

All through these years, which are many, Miss Brake was always there as our beloved Head, first in partnership with Mrs. Edwards and afterwards alone, with her sympathetic understanding and words of encouragement, taking a personal interest in every single girl and boy who passed through her hands. May God bless her and give her health, long life and happiness, to enjoy the leisure she so richly deserves.

D.S.

We slept in the "Nest", which is now Miss Brake's bedroom; it had the disadvantage of being above the Staff Room—so we had to plan our activities accordingly; this meant doing most things on our beds.

Miss Brake taught us English amongst other things. I remember her great enthusiasm over some of the poems in the *Oxford Book of Verse*; we were infected by this enthusiasm, and in the dormitory enacted the

poems that suggested drama—"Freedom" was one—"Of old sat Freedom on the heights"—N.C., suitably draped, sitting on all the pillows—"The thunder rolling at her feet—Above her shook the starry lights—She heard the torrents meet." The rest of us were thunder, stars and torrents, all rolling, shaking and meeting on a platform of beds. What a scene!

M.E. was the most talented in our dormitory, and amongst her gifts were those of author and storyteller. After lights on Saturdays (talking nights) she kept us enthralled with a serial. There were topical illusions, such as: "and a man climbed up the jasmine outside the window"; an eerie silence, we held our breath, our bodies were taut with fearful anticipation. . . . Is the jasmine still outside the window?

There was only one house of boarders—Alfred, with 40 girls. Miss Babington, the matron, sat at the top of the back stairs commanding the entry to the washroom. Discipline was rigid—the scene in the washroom was of 6 or 7 peculiar and fascinating shapes, whilst washing "under their nighties". I don't remember pyjamas at school, though I imagine there must have been, but modesty forbade more than head, neck and arms being exposed!

We owe a great deal to Miss Babington for our grounding in housewifery—method, routine, laundry, mending; this latter was returned if it was not of the highest standard.

Our stockings were long, black and woollen, the same for summer and winter. One garment had a great advantage—the bloomer—for it had the dual purpose of garment and locker. The amount that we kept up the legs was only limited by weight and bulk. When we reached the rarefied atmosphere of the VIth, we bought $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards of wide, black ribbon to tie our hair in a large, butterfly bow, wore white blouses (one girl, who must have been very wealthy wore a silver chain with watch attached and kept in a pocket in the top of her skirt) and long navy skirts—alas, now dignity permitted bloomers to be used only as undergarments!

M. WRIGHT (*née* Chèng).

At the end of my first term, when the school was in the High Street, chickenpox broke out, and Mary Chèng and I spent most of the Christmas holidays sharing Mrs. Edwards's bedroom. Everybody was so sorry for us that our Christmas cards and presents were legion. I remember Miss Brake in those days going the rounds of the dormitories at night, attending to the sick and ailing before putting lights out. The usual potions were quinine, or cascara sagrada. Once I had my chest rubbed amid wriggles, squirms, squeals and spasms—to the amusement of "The Warren". It is quite certain that Miss Brake had never dealt with anybody so difficult and ticklish.

Walks were much enjoyed in those days, for we were quickly out of the town and could soon break rank, and, in perfect safety, we used to walk several abreast along the roads.

My one and only pet aversion was the occasional playing of a hymn during the Sunday afternoon meeting in the sitting room. It entailed literally hours of practice, for I was no musician, and even then I was nearly sick with nerves when the time came to sit down on the piano stool.

MARGARET CAMPBELL (*née* Maclean).

I would like to say what happy memories I have of my $2\frac{1}{4}$ years at A.H.S. 1917-1919. It is difficult to know which to choose of all the many episodes that crowd through my mind.

Some of my happiest recollections are the picnics to Willesborough, and the special picnics to Hothfield at half term, or Wye for some extra special occasion.

I also remember with glee the wonderful end-of-term midnight feasts we had! Especially the November 11th, 1918 one, to celebrate the signing of the Armistice.

Miss Brake was allowing us to pay visits to the other dormitories that particular evening, before she came round to kiss us all good-night. A

group of us from the "Pen" or "Kraal" met her outside the "Warren" and asked her to partake of some of our M.N.F. fare. Miss Brake looked surprised and said, "My dear chicks, you surely don't have midnight feasts, do you? I think you had better go and ask Mrs. Edwards's permission." So, tremblingly the members of our dormitory lined up behind Rhiney (Katherine Stevens) our "dormy" Captain and descended by the front staircase to the Library. Standing outside the door, we tried to compose our faces and see that our appearance was as tidy as might be in night attire, before Katherine knocked at the door. We followed her into the room and found Mrs. Edwards seated in front of the fire, reading the paper. The request was made, but did not seem to be received with favour! Fidgeting with our dressing gown girdles and with our eyes turned carpetwards, we listened to a short lecture; then, with less stern tone, Mrs. Edwards said, "Well, girls, I think you had better go back and ask Miss Brake what *she* feels about it!"—"Oh! thank you," we replied in chorus, and how difficult we found it to leave the room sedately! Once outside the Library door, we hurried past the Dining Room and up the front staircase in search of Miss Brake. Katherine gave her the message, and her reply was most cheering, "All right, Chicks, you may eat as much as you like, and make yourselves as sick as you like!"

The School motto and verse have had a great influence in my life, and, although I have not been able to send any of my daughters to the dear old School, I have sought to bring them up according to the principles contained in the School mottoes, "Ut prosim"; "Esse quam videri", and that by God's Grace they should,

"Build it well, whate'er 'they' do,
Build it strong and straight and true;
Build it high and clear and broad,
Build it for the eye of God."

BEATRICE RAYNER (Trissie Roberts).

Here are a few vague and fleeting memories of a very long time ago:

The War News being read out after Prayers by Miss Brake (1914-18 war). Cocoa served at night during air raids, and Mlle. Toll (?) saying "apaisez-vous" without effect as we dashed out to look—another raid, almost gratefully remembered, when we evaded maize pudding!

The amazing thrill of Armistice Day and Peace Celebrations, all our trunk cords being utilized to bear the decorations (did we ever get them back?). Celebrations in the park with tea served in watercans—or was I mistaken? Climbing on to the roof (with permission) to see the celebration bonfires far and near.

And "Timothy Pudding"—is it still served and so popular, and "Cannibal Food" as unpopular? What about quinces? Can anyone who had so many, face them now?

Miss Brake washing heads on a Saturday afternoon; the rush to get passed as dry, to watch the Hockey Match which always seemed to coincide.

Miss Brake's first car, and the excitement of trips in it, especially the one to Lympe.

Miss Brake's observant eye as we emerged from the Dining Room, suggesting Malt, Virol or "Parrish's" for the pale and poorly!

Princess Mary's Wedding Day, a wonderful holiday spent at Canterbury; the most definite memory a very large balloon bought at Woolworth's.

Some of us crowding round the main staircase—ever so quietly—to surprise Miss Brake on her return when she was elected to the Council—the burst of cheers when she appeared.

"Aunt Flo" in charge at "Northside", playing her violin after lights. Helping Miss Brake at the Baby Clinic—the mother who had rubbed the camphorated oil in the baby's eyes "as that was where the cold was"!

The terrifying numbers of mothers and babies invited to "Barnardo" Rehearsal (was it originally on Miss Brake's birthday? I think so). How did we ever sort them out in the end?

Lastly, Miss Brake taking Mental Arithmetic, starting with 50 nothings

almost before she was in the door, and going on to the cost of the journeys our parents made to various parts of the world (how lucky were the day girls!) and then on to who is the Postmaster-General etc.!

MARJORIE A. BOWSKILL, 1916-1924.

1920-1930

When I went to Ashford in January, 1919, the boarders' numbers rose to the grand total of ninety-eight. My first memory of Miss Brake is a misty one of a warm and comforting presence entering the "Pen", and bestowing a goodnight kiss which brought with it a great sense of "mattering" in what was at first a cold, strange, new world. I repeat "at first", for the coldness was merely due to the weather, and the strangeness very quickly wore off; but the warmth and comfort of that presence are a continuing heritage for many generations of us.

Of the next six and a half years my memories are a little blurred, for, since Miss Brake is so much a part of every picture, it is difficult to know at what particular "shots" to halt the moving reel—but I wonder how many would-be swimmers proudly achieved their "25", and, with that, the freedom of the deep end, thanks to Miss Brake's kind but firm support in the early stages? A clear picture this, of her waist-deep, launching one "rat" after another on her splashing, but ultimately successful, course! "Prendre son essor" comes the echo here, transporting me to the Lower Fifth (why is it always Summer in one's memory?), and the French lessons, with so many phrases remembered just from hearing them uttered with such appreciation, sometimes more to herself than to us—and oh, the joy of "Tartarin de Tarascon", with Miss Brake laughing until she cried, and so inspiring the dimmest of us with the feeling that there must be some point in struggling with such an intractable language, if the reward in sheer enjoyment could be so great!

Other pictures follow—one of an early *Conversazione*. "What is it?" was our question then, but now I ask, "What did it mark?" and memory refuses to supply the answer. "N'importe"—the recollection remains of Miss Brake's stirring declamation of the Somersetshire saga of the Ducks and the —was it Cherry Brandy?

So the pictures unfold—trivial some, others more personal and deeply-engraved, not to be shared—but the underlying pattern is unchanging, and those of us who have been privileged to know her will never forget the intolerance of the shoddy and the sham, the insistence on the highest standard obtainable by each girl according to her capabilities—and how often more capabilities have been thus expanded and uplifted—the zest, the cheerfulness, the human understanding and the loving wisdom, of our beloved "Cherub."

ANGELA MUMFORD.

1930-1940

One of the most vivid and pleasant memories of some of the Old Girls of the early nineteen-thirties must surely be of the lovely "Wye picnics" on "Cherub's" birthday.

After prayers out-of-doors, the whole school—teaching staff, matrons, girls—all made gleefully for the fleet of coaches awaiting us. Then came a gloriously free day in the open air—we were let loose on Wye Downs, until it was time to foregather in order to eat. What a gargantuan job the cooks and domestic staff must have had to prepare a picnic meal for so many hungry schoolgirls!

Before our return home we were taken to the cherry orchard of some kindly benefactor, where we were allowed to gather cherries to our heart's content. Never have I attended such happy and care-free birthday parties!

Thank you, Miss Brake, for them all. And thank you also for your wisdom in being so insistent that good manners and consideration for others are such important factors in life. I recollect that we were scolded far, far more for

neglecting to write a "Thank-you letter", or for leaving the bath dirty for whoever followed us, than we were for mischievous naughtiness, and quite rightly so. It was a lesson so well worth learning, and well worth trying to pass on to other generations.

AN OLD GIRL OF 1929-34.

When we were asked for reminiscences for the magazine, I had a sudden vision of one of our early war efforts—hop-picking at Wye. I can recall the great excitement of the adventure, and the rivalry that existed between teams to reach the end of the row first. Who knows how many leaves were dropped in among the hops in the race to have another vine pulled down before one's neighbour?

Another attraction, of course, was the picnic meal, and it wasn't until I had my lunch handed to me from a large laundry basket that I really liked hard-boiled eggs!

AUDREY SCOTT (*née* Griffiths), September, 1938 to December, 1941.

Evacuation Days, 1940-1945

To those of us who evacuated with the school during the last war, May 28th is always a memorable date. It is, therefore, a happy chance that, having planned my contribution to these recollections to be built around our evacuated years, I find myself writing them down on May 28th, 1955.

What memories the date recalls! May 28th, 1940, and the departure of some forty or more "abroads" and girls from East Kent with Miss Melhuish and myself. Lunch on liver and bacon, and rhubarb and custard, at the strange hour of 11 a.m.; sheltering in the sub-way at Ashford Station for an air-raid warning before being waved off by Miss Brake; and then the journey via Waterloo to Yeovil, Mrs. Young's kind welcome there, with supper laid in three rooms, or, for the Junior School, Mrs. Cox's kind welcome at Ilchester.

The rest of that summer term in the lovely weather at East Chinnock; lessons at "Barrows", sitting on trunks at tables made from skittle alleys; Miss Brake's whirlwind visits, keeping us in touch with the rest of the school then established at Countess Wear, and with the "skeleton" day-school at Ashford; sudden 'phone calls asking me to have so-and-so ready at such-and-such a time to set off half across the world to join her parents in Shanghai or Vancouver; celebrating Miss Brake's birthday with shopping jaunts to Yeovil; helping Mrs. Young with her hay-crop, and Mr. Templeman with his potatoes; a picnic on Ham Hill, the cuckoo's song, and the long summer evenings in those green and lovely lanes, as we did a "matron's round" to the girls in billets.

Then the five years at Countess Wear: Clock House and Mount Wear; the "Rats" at Grove Hill, Topsham. More pictures crowd the mind: Assembly in the Barn—by torchlight in the dark January days of winter's "Summer Time"; Mill House for lessons; Mrs. Herad's, Mrs. Godden's and Mrs. Bragg's rooms for the VI and Lower IV; Withymead and the Art Room above the stables; gym. classes and entertainments in the Village Hall.

School functions, carrying on the school's traditions despite their altered setting: Barnardo Day merged with Operatic performances, pleasantly staged in the lovely garden at Clock House; the Drill Competition on the lawn there; Prizegivings, rather windy on the side lawn, or cheerfully crowded in the Barn. Billeter's Parties indoors and out, with the Somerset Reel danced on the lawn; "Women of the Bible" in Countess Wear and Topsham Churches; the Staff's performance of *Lilies of the Field* in the Village Hall, on so hot a day that our grease paint nearly ran; the "Post War Society" meetings (now re-born in the "Sixth Form Society") and Dances with Dover College.

Other occasions too, come to mind, grave and gay: the Exeter "blitz" when, to the noise of bombs and guns, we gathered the girls downstairs, and

wondered what might be happening outside; the charred litter blown about the lawn next day; the buses in the lane a night or two later, bringing nurses from a blitzed hospital to sleep out of the city; their gratitude for the hospitality we gladly offered them at school; water and gas supplies cut off, resulting in bucket-chains to fetch up water from the river. And then in 1945, victory in Europe; hoisting the Union Jack that May evening with Miss Brake and pyjama-clad children singing "God Save the King" round it; the celebration holiday, with endless ringing of the long-prohibited Clock House bell; the Bonfire and the Fancy Dress Party.

Throughout all, too, runs the kindness of the inhabitants of Countess Wear and Topsham, making so many of the billets homes from home, and forming friendships which still hold Ashford and Devon happily together.

None of this would have been possible without Miss Brake. Clear pictures of her there remain with us: cycling—at times, despite our protests, in her lovely fur coat—between Clock House and Mill House; standing of an evening in the lane outside Mount Wear front door, kissing the two billet ranks "good-night", before they went in opposite directions round the village, dropping off in twos and threes en route; taking her customary Bible Class, but in the morning and in the Church; standing in the doorway between her study and Clock House Dining Room to read prayers or make some request; insisting on sharing our fire-watching duties, but so wisely loath to disturb the children unnecessarily; gardening in Clock House (why do I think of leeks and onions particularly?). We recall too the sight of her driving her car—the old open 16 h.p. Morris, which indeed did duty almost as a school bus—crowded to the gunwales with the "rats" on their way to and from Grove Hill, or piled with bedsteads and bedding to equip a hospitable, but unfurnished, billet. Indeed, so many and various were the uses to which Miss Brake put her car that a taxi-driver once said to me, when we were temporarily held up by Miss Brake and her car in the lane, "Who is that lady, Miss? Does she run a taxi-service?"

But what most stands out as we look back on this time is Miss Brake's refusal to be defeated by difficulties, small or great. Who but herself would have seen the possibilities in that apparently derelict barn—transformed to an Assembly Hall by thorough cleaning and the addition of a tarmac floor? When the last pantechicon of Ashford furniture reached us in 1941, as even the skeleton school had to make room for the Army, I found, alas, that the book-case we had planned to use for our Library was too big for our new quarters. When I told Miss Brake, who was directing operations in the front hall, that I could find no place for it, her reply was, "Nonsense, my dear! If I can move a school, you can find a place for a bookcase!" And, of course, we did! But it was in that spirit that she faced all the complex problems of those days, and so made it possible for the school to survive. Courage and drive then, as now, marked all her evacuation plans. No one could share that ultimate responsibility which was hers, whether it was over the risk to the school's prosperity which the move from Ashford might incur, or the day to day, and night to night, responsibility for the children in her care during the war years. That our buildings in Ashford were so well cared for by their occupants was, no doubt, largely due to the personal contact she established and preserved by her visits, regardless of the personal risks and strain involved. That our numbers rose steadily all the time, that parents readily sent girls to us despite our evacuated state was, we know, due above all to Miss Brake herself—that she was what she was, and is. She must be rewarded after ten years back at Ashford to look back now and see what might have been a serious break in the school's life appearing as a happy part of the whole pattern.

A. J. C.

I Remember Topsham

When the school evacuated to Devon, my parents decided to send me down to Topsham, where it would be safer than Ashford; and so, at the tender age of five, I made my first of many similar journeys to Devon.

I can remember being quite excited at the idea of becoming a boarder,

and to encourage me, Nanny dressed one of my dolls in the school uniform, complete with tiny tunic and girdle. And so, clutching The Doll in one hand and a week-end case in the other, a small figure in an enormous panama, I kissed Mummy goodbye and calmly followed Miss Salmon on to the train at Ashford.

Grove Hill House at Topsham was large and grey, with a wonderful magnolia tree growing by the front porch. On one side of the drive was a shrubbery and on the other, an enormous lawn, which, in summer, always produced a marvellous display of knee-high buttercups, and day after day we used to tramp through them, covering our black lace-up shoes with the golden pollen. Near the bottom of this lawn stood The Fairy Tree, a tall fir with branches coming right down to the ground. If you crept between these branches, you found yourself on the edge of our fairyland; for behind the deceptive outer show of dense foliage, lay a kingdom of pale light and sweet musky smells where fairies lived and dreams were made, and the strong old branches formed our palace, a wonderful place for hide-and-seek or storytelling. Completely safe, we were left to our own devices; even our beloved Denny and Pothy (Miss Densham and Miss Potheary) visited only by invitation.

At the back of the house was the sunken lawn, an ideal spot for rounders (especially as, if you were clever, you could hit the ball into the rhododendron bush and ensure two points for the team.) Everyday in Summer, when it was fine, we would have tea there, and occasionally there was real Devonshire cream and strawberry jam to spread on our bread. But the sunken lawn really came into its own on Open Day.

We would wake very early in the morning and creeping to the window would watch the piano being brought out; it was always a source of great delight to us to watch the staff negotiate the steps with it; each year we were convinced it could not be done, and each year the Staff triumphed and the piano stood in position. After weeks of rehearsal, how proud we all were to act for our mothers; even if we did not even have a line of our own we all felt personally responsible for the day's success, and most important at taking part in the Percussion Band as well!

I remember: Guy Fawkes' nights there, when, armed with a large potato each, we would rush down to the bonfire, placing the "Guy" on top, and watch the flames as they leaped up round him; then, when only the glowing embers remained, we would thrust our precious potatoes in, only taking them out when the skins failed to get any blacker, but we swore they tasted wonderful all the same!

I remember: Harvest Festival at Topsham Church, and how we all had something to offer, flowers, fruit or vegetables, which afterwards two of us would take to the old people of the village.

I remember: on one side of the house there was an oak tree, which in Spring was surrounded by snowdrops and mauve, yellow and white crocuses, while the flower beds were full of daffodils and narcissi—how gay the garden always looked in Spring.

In summertime I can clearly remember robbing every plant of its flowers and putting them in a jam jar full of water, which we kept behind the chest-of-drawers in the dormitory, to make perfume!

But best of all I remember Miss Brake's old black car, bursting full of children, as it rolled up the drive each morning before the opening of school; it was never too full to take another passenger!

I remember: after the 1945 General Election firmly telling Miss Brake, that it didn't matter what Mr. Attlee might be, Mr. Churchill was the King of England!

I remember: the Red Letter Day each summer that we spent with the big girls at Countess Wear to watch the Operatic Production. But, alas, for both acting and singing, all I can remember is getting lost among a crowd of girls in crinolines; whichever way I turned there seemed to be no escape from these wretched creations—so much for *Merrie England!*

At nights during the raids, we used to sit in the large Morrison shelters,

little figures, wrapped in dressing gowns and rugs, cuddled up against Mrs. Green or Yo-Yo (Mrs. Yeo), Pothy or Denny, while they read us stories until all sleepy eyes closed: and so, because of their calmness and affection, we dreamed away the nights and never knew what the war meant or what terror and tragedy the raids brought; to us, getting up in the dark and sleeping in a shelter was all part of a great adventure.

CAROLYN SHAW.

When talking to people who know Miss Brake I have noticed how often their reminiscences illustrate her great capacity for enjoying life. Perhaps this is because it is an infectious quality and we are grateful to those who possess it.

I like to remember an event which occurred when the school was at Countess Wear. Miss Brake would often bicycle from Clock House to the Mill where we had prayers and did lessons. It was a particularly warm summer and Miss Brake, on her way down to the Mill, was so overjoyed by its beauty that, for three consecutive days the astonished school heard her announce the same hymn at prayers. It was the one which begins:

“Glad that I live am I,
That the sky is blue.
Glad for the country lanes,
And the fall of dew”

I sometimes wonder how many of the girls who were there at the time find themselves humming the tune of this hymn whenever they think of Miss Brake.

E.W.

Post-War Years to Present Day

Our recollections cover the years in Devon and the first years back at Ashford. We recall:

The summary of the news at prayers in the barn . . . V.E. Day spent boating on the Exe, and a bonfire near the river in the evening. . . Picnics at the end of Exeter Canal with Miss Brake arriving by motor boat with the food.

. . . Hearing the story of evacuation and being told about Ashford . . . the pool instead of the Exe with its many inhabitants; Coronation building, which made us dream of having classrooms near to where we would sleep and eat.

Last performance of *Merric England*—then the great “pack up”; innumerable iron bedsteads to be collected from billets in Miss Brake’s car (did we really ride on top?); how well the car also coped with the gym. apparatus—the horse and several forms across the back seat. The large amount of inky water which resulted from scrubbing the *Senior* Common Room.

ASHFORD—everyone feeling a little lost; the unusual quiet of a school without Juniors who could not get back until later, because many rooms were piled to the ceiling with furniture; going to Church—not a straggly rank through the village, but well ordered, marching twenty abreast across Ashford High Street, marshalled by Miss Brake. The gym. cleared of furniture at last—we find we have screens for magic lantern and a cinema projector. Putting up the screen on one occasion and focusing the lantern, only to find when the lecturer comes in to the Gym. that he has a cinematograph. So we dismantle everything, erect silver screen and off to tell Miss Brake all is ready, to find her entertaining second lecturer complete with slides! She is, of course, equal to the situation, tactfully disposes of first lecturer (who has confused dates) and we change screens again. Another occasion and a lecturer who showed no signs of stopping, so Miss Brake quietly dispatched the nearest girl to ring the bell; unexplained ringing of bells throughout Coronation rapidly had the desired effect!

Back to normal—Miss Brake’s love of France and all things French; her birthday, when one of the Prefects taught us all to say “Bon Anniver-

saire"—did she hear? Old Girls' letters read in Prayers—sometimes rather muddled, and followed by reminiscences which made one resolve always to write only in the holidays after leaving!

The planting of the Peace Tree by the pool in anything but peaceful weather.

Finally Miss Brake's genuine affection for us all, however difficult we might be, so that our schooldays ended peacefully in spite of storms en route.

R.G., D.M. and M.C.D. (1938-1947).

I had my first glimpse of Ashford in 1946, soon after the School had returned from Devon. The Gym. was still piled high with furniture, the fruit trees were not pruned, and it was pouring with rain. But my parents admired the lady sketched on Miss Brake's drawing room wall by an army officer, and my name was duly entered for the Ashford School for Girls.

In September, 1947, I became a Nightingale, and started in the Lower IVth. The first few weeks were strange indeed! There were five of us new girls in one dormitory—and how we objected to getting up at 7 a.m. each morning! Towards the end of our first term we began to settle in. Looking back it seems that we found our feet as soon as we each discovered one particular thing which we could do really well: be it French, Maths., Singing, Dramatics or Games. This last was my forte, and throughout my school life I experienced some of my happiest moments on the netball court or the hockey field—even to getting up to play in the fog before breakfast. At the end of my first year I got a deportment badge, of which I have been proud ever since. Miss Brake personified good carriage and deportment, and made it seem a very worthwhile attainment indeed.

A great many events which I recall are peculiar to Ashford, and illustrate time and again the way in which Miss Brake tried to make each one of us that little bit happier. Her Sunday afternoon tea parties, the homeliness of kissing us "good-night", as well as the more collective happenings. The many occasions when we were taken to the cinema, or to see one of the Folkestone and Hythe Operatic Society's excellent productions are a perfect example. How we looked forward to the Saturdays when Dr. Don came to show us films—and to the other Saturdays when we piled into coaches and went to St. Mary's Bay for a few glorious hours. "Free Shopping" was another treat which we all enjoyed—until we became Libs. and had to do the escorting!

Another vivid memory I have is of standing dripping on East Hill (why did it always rain on these occasions?) waiting to cheer the Queen or the Princesses on their way to Brabourne. They never failed to come through slowly, graciously acknowledging our greetings as they passed.

Miss Brake's birthday was the happiest event of the year. The simplest and the most beautiful ceremony I can ever hope to witness—yet it brought a lump to our throats each year, as we stood on the lawn watching the "little chicks" present their gifts of fruit and flowers.

I was in the Lower Vth when I got on the Lib. In the Easter term one of our House Prefects went home ill, and I had my first taste of a IIIrd Form dormitory. It was only to be for a few days, but it stretched into half a term. Shall I ever forget how terrified I was?—and the sinking feeling I had the night I realized that they had made me an "apple-pie bed". I remember rushing downstairs to my old dormitory and begging for help!

The Christmas parties were a landmark each year. The kitchen ladies made a splendid job of the food—and Miss Brake turned it into a special occasion by always looking particularly charming and greeting all of us individually. Besides we got such a kick out of doing the Conga down the staff stairs and round the library!

This chronicle would not be complete without some mention of the everyday events. Things like a quiet stroll by the river and the excitement and enthusiasm witnessed at House matches. The sound of happy laughter and splashing from the pool; the scent of new mown grass, and the ping

of a tennis ball, wafted on the breeze on a summer afternoon. And Ashford, serene and silent under its mantle of snow, as we passed on our way to Communion on a winter morning.

Did we leave our mark on the School? Perhaps not—academically. But one day during our last term I and three others wrote our names and the date on a cracked saucer, and—with the assistance of the builders—had it placed in the foundations of the new Festival building. Who knows who may find it centuries hence?

I enjoyed my stay at Ashford; we were taught a great deal, learned a lot more, and made some lifelong friendships. A very worthwhile experience, made possible by a great lady, to whom we send our love, respect, and best wishes for the future.

BRENDA MUSKETT (*née* Hodgson), 1947-1951.

Then there are recollections from those who have had some special connections with the School and with Miss Brake:

From Miss Wilson-Haffenden:

“GLAD THAT I LIVE AM I!”
(or 100 terms not out)

I seem to remember that there was an appeal at the Old Girls' Meeting to “Write something for the Magazine, please”. What follows will, I fear, be much in the form of “jottings”, but looking back on a hundred terms—and more—so many memories rush in that it is exceedingly difficult to know which “bits” to choose.

To begin with, this seems a fitting moment to say a heartfelt thank you to Miss Brake for the very many happy hours I have spent at “her” School. From the first moment I arrived as a new Staff at Ashford Station on September 21st, 1921, I was made to feel “at home”. The then senior mistress (Billy Williams) came to meet my train, explaining that she felt sure her sister had stayed with my mother just before I was born and that I was “one of the twins”—and so it proved to be. I have always remembered that act of kindness—it meant a lot to me. Then the first night on “run-round duty” (for music practice) I found Mrs. Avery was teaching (in what is now the vegetable kitchen) and she said, “It’s Miss Wilson-Haffenden, isn’t it?” and added, “I’ve been looking forward to meeting you, because I used to play duets with your grandfather at ‘Homewood’.” As I never knew my mother or grandfather, it was grand to find people who had. Then, just to complete the circle, two of the girls at the School (Esmé and Audrey Cornwall) were very friendly with my cousin in the Indian Army, and saw to it that I was well looked after on my first rank walk. The links I have now are quite fantastic. I rarely go to London without meeting someone from Ashford School; and often I meet more than one in the course of a day.

Even in those far off days the town and the School worked in close partnership—I didn’t seem to have been in residence for many years before I found myself running the town Ranger Company. I wasn’t at all experienced at the task, as I hadn’t been either a Guide or a Brownie, but I had such a grand lot of Rangers that the task was a possibility and a very pleasant one at that. Miss Brake wasn’t at the Company Meetings—which is perhaps just as well—but she always supported our Social Effort, and so did the then Vicar of Ashford (The Reverend Harry Blackburne), and what fun it all was! It was owing to my lack of musical ability that we got our School Liberty Hymn. Miss Salmon very kindly volunteered to teach my Rangers “Glad Hearts” which had to be sung by them at a Ranger Rally at Linton Park, and it wasn’t long before we were singing it as a Liberty hymn at School—“Glad that I Live am I” (Miss Brake’s favourite hymn according to Form III) I first learnt on one of my visits to Foxlease.

I must also mention the trip to America and my holiday in Norway, Denmark and Sweden to which Miss Brake generously contributed.

What next? Years pass (incredibly quickly), and in no time at all I seem to be teaching the daughters of the girls I was teaching in 1921; and of course by now I have said goodbye to many of the daughters.

But what will be hardest of all will be to say goodbye to Miss Brake. How thankful I was when I heard she was going to make her home within walking distance of Ashford. On a fine summer evening I expect we shall almost be able to see her sitting in the garden from the top windows of "Holmleigh!"

From Miss Webb:

I have the proud distinction of being the first member of staff whom Miss Brake engaged after she became the sole Headmistress.

Those were the days of too many teachers and too few jobs, and my depression when I reached Crewe, and found that my connection had left, was profound; but I asked the advice of the booking-clerk and he offered to send a message over the railway private 'phone, warning Miss Brake of my late arrival. At the time when my train was due, a porter was walking round the platform calling, "Name of Brake! Name of Brake!" and my message was duly delivered.

When I arrived some time later, it was to find Miss Brake awaiting me, smiling and happy, saying that she had been able to enjoy the time as she knew when to expect me, and had spent my fare on some very special silk stockings which had taken her fancy, and she hoped that I would not mind if she sent it. Mind!

Never had I expected such kindly treatment or such a human headmistress, and having found such a treasure I have remained here ever since.

From Dorothy Shackleton:

As an Old Girl, and as Miss Brake's secretary for twelve joyful, albeit strenuous years, I should like to place on record my gratitude for all that she taught me. One of the most important things surely is her kindly consideration for every individual under her care, whatever age, stage, or status they are. It might be the "rat" in the Sanatorium, or old Cook who helped there; or the caller at the door who came to ask the Chairman of the Urban District Council for help with the other species of rat; or the member of staff anxious about illness at home; or the member of the School Council who was given hospitality in Alfred House, no matter what time of term it might be; or the Old Girl returned to England from the far ends of the earth.

If we Old Girls, who are now living all over the world, do put this into practice, at a time when it is sorely needed, may it not help to interpret the message which the Greatest Teacher came to demonstrate nearly two thousand years ago?

From Joan Harland:

I wonder how many conversations in different parts of the world have taken a turn as Ashford School in its many names—Ashford School, Ashford School for Girls, Ashford High School, the Modern High School—is mentioned. Then it is "Why, that's Miss Brake's School", and then, so often, "Isn't she a marvellous person!" And so Miss Brake's School it is for her chicks and rats, her Old Girls, her Staff, and their parents, grandparents, fiancés, husbands, children and friends—all of whom are always welcome if they call in—announced or unannounced.

It was in 1928 that I joined Miss Brake's School—just in time to share in the farewells to Mrs. Edwards. I expect my mother is one of many who looks back and says, "You know, after I had seen Miss Brake in her Drawing Room I really did not need to see more of the school." No doubt on the first morning after she had left me and wondered what was happening, she had two postcards at breakfast—one a bit smudgy, giving no real news but a list of wants and things forgotten, and another from Miss Brake to say that she had said goodnight to me and that I was settling in well. After that,

even though often separated from their children for long periods, I think all parents have felt the same complete confidence in Miss Brake.

For four and a half years school life went quickly—we were rats, chicks and messy little horrors. Miss Brake taught us English, Scripture and French. Ten short questions were a usual start for a lesson, and, when in Upper V, now "Wigwam", these used to start being given well before Miss Brake was in the room: Question 1, probably at the Common Room door and Question 2 at the Form Room door. After this there were often various relaxations, for by this time Miss Brake was an active member of the A.U.D.C., and tit-bits about town affairs, of books she had read, of the day's news, would come tumbling into the lesson. She shared in many things with us—she swam with us, striding across the town baths with one non-swimmer firmly pinioned under each arm, and, at the same time, making sure that none of the rest of us was wasting time in the water. She played tennis with us—always holding three balls to serve, and, if she judged that ball No. 1 was "out" while still on its flight, then ball No. 2 started immediately, so that the bouncing balls and scurrying ballboys made for some bewilderment. She skated on the flooded Town Baths and on Hothfield Lake. We picked up toffee papers and gardened—no aloof organization there, for most of us tired long before she did. There were picnics—Wye Downs for her birthday, Hythe at Whitsun, and a day at Canterbury for the examination girls. Yes, we shared in so many things, even in the thrill of her holiday to Canada, when we were allowed to line the Hill, clad in our pyjamas, to give rousing cheers as she set forth.

Then for six years after I left School I was one of many Old Girls who kept in touch with Miss Brake, visiting her at Ashford, meeting her at Reunions, writing to her, and realizing perhaps more than at school what a good friend she was to us and how interested she was in each one of us.

It was in 1938 that I became part of Miss Brake's School in another way, for, in that year, I became a Member of Staff and, since 1939, have been her Secretary. During the ten years since 1928 she had seen many plans for expansion through—Cranmer, Coronation, Sanatorium, Swimming Pool, had all been built, and Brooke Place, the Refuge and Mace Field bought—and so in 1938 she was feeling that she could make personal plans, and we all spent one Staff Supper with Mr. and Mrs. Park, discussing and planning a world tour with no stays at hotels, but friends at every port of call. Then war came and personal plans had to be put aside; instead, Miss Brake found herself having to leave her own home, and I can remember writing to her, when she was in Devon house-hunting, to say that I was sure she could not find as happy a home for us all as Ashford. However, those of us who worked through Evacuation, Ashford School in Devon, and the return home, and who know more than most that Miss Brake's School is no undeserved title, found much happiness in Devon. So, in 1955, the pattern repeats—the world tour is planned, and again, but for happier reasons this time, Miss Brake is making herself a new home. As before, it must be a wrench to leave her old one, but this time it is not to strangers, and the new Army of Occupation is the next generation of the school which she has built.

From the Secretary of the Old Girls' Association (Gladys Gausden):

The O.G.A. has been in existence for well over thirty years, and is a very "live" organization. Through it, Ashford's well-known *esprit de corps* is carried on long after schooldays have been left behind (witness the "antediluvians" who appear regularly at Reunions!) *The School Tie* has a special Old Girls' section; this, with or without attendance at meetings, enables former Ashford pupils to keep track of old friends—proverbially the best.

For some fourteen years, Mrs. Kneen (H. G. Churcher) coped most efficiently with the Association's affairs, seeing it through the initial stages—always a difficult task—and eventually handing over to her successor a clear-cut and well-organized system. The present Secretary has every reason to be grateful for her predecessor's good work.

From small beginnings, the O.G.A.'s membership has increased steadily over the years, and is now near the 700 mark. Old Girls are scattered all over the world, and, to those in desolate places, *The School Tie* provides a link with civilization as well as news of Ashford past and present. We know of one hill-station where the magazine is devoured eagerly by every English-speaking person in the district! Again, it has happened more than once that an Old Girl arriving at the "back of beyond" has found her nearest neighbour to be another member.

Reunions in London follow much the same pattern year by year; during the war they continued regularly somewhere, somehow. On one occasion, a few of us met in an Old Girl's "bed-sitter" for tea and buns ("Please bring your own cups or mugs"). Another time, a larger official gathering had to be content with lemonade and rather woolly biscuits. Soon after VE day, our normal rendezvous, a club that shall be nameless, became "difficult". There was a hectic Reunion when a hall was provided but no refreshments; the only catering facilities consisted of one diminutive 6d. kettle! Certain members rose to the occasion nobly; not only did they produce tea, cakes and crockery, but also filled eighty cups from that Woolworth kettle, in reasonable time, too! The following year things went from bad to worse; candlelight and lack of heating were added to our discomforts. However, eleventh-hour arrangements were possible, and, after a brief session in the chilly gloom, special coaches transported us to a bright, cheerful restaurant where an excellent tea revived our drooping spirits.

Not surprisingly, these experiences resulted in a quest for another meeting place. After one or two dubious experiments, we made the Y.W.C.A. Central Club our London headquarters; long may it remain so! Plenty of breathing space, all amenities—and good catering.

In addition to the London reunions and Barnardo Day at Ashford, Dr. Wright (Mary Chêng) has held autumn meetings at her Wiltshire home during the last few years. This "Western Reunion" shows signs of becoming an institution, and is much appreciated by Old Girls in that part of the country.

Naturally, the O.G.A. has had its ups and downs occasionally. The recent financial crisis was definitely a "down"; but, thanks to members' generous response to donation appeals, also to the raised subscription rates, this problem has been solved—for the time being, at any rate.

Through all the vicissitudes of war and peace, the Association's spirit remains undaunted and its enthusiasm undiminished. As with so many of the School's activities, its success is chiefly due to Miss Brake. Her unflagging interest in former pupils, and her never-failing attendance at Reunions, these coupled with her vitality and generosity are a wonderful incentive. Old Girls everywhere wish her good fortune in the years to come, and trust that she will continue to grace their meetings with her presence whenever possible.

From the present School Captain (Barbara Horrell):

At the end of this term it is only natural that we are feeling sad, for anyone as dear to us, and as much part of the school as Miss Brake is, cannot leave us without being sorely missed.

Yet, as long as the school remains, how can Miss Brake's spirit be completely lost? There are so many reminders, everywhere one goes, of the undaunted courage and love with which she has helped to build up the school. A view of the pool, before breakfast on a warm summer's day, instinctively makes us think of Miss Brake's early morning swim, and so of the energy she puts into life as a whole and the immense joy she always gains from it.

As for those of us who will be leaving school, I think some of Miss Brake's spirit must live on in us. She has always done so much to cultivate, in each and every one of us, those qualities which she feels are essential for living happy and worthwhile lives. Thought for others, hard work mixed with

plenty of fun, courage and initiative—all these, and many more, have been impressed upon us throughout our school life, and not merely by word, but also by her own example.

It is, therefore, with deep affection that we thank Miss Brake for all her care and enthusiasm, not only for the school as a whole, but for each one of us individually. May we always live up to the high standard she has set for us.

From Miss Nightingale:

On Monday the Senior School Staff and the Cooks, on Tuesday the Matrons, on Thursday the Prep. School Staff—so Miss Brake sees her staff at the weekly meetings. Each department discusses its own problems, and Miss Brake reviews entertainingly and rapidly the programmes for the near future—a little too rapidly perhaps for new members, who inevitably take some time to follow Miss Brake's lightning train of thought, to comprehend the intricate details of the organization of our community and to see its connection with the life of the town.

These are the formal occasions on which we meet Miss Brake, but all of us have happy memories of outings in the car, and theatre and cinema parties: often new staff have first seen something of the beauty of Kent, in a car expedition with Miss Brake to the cherry blossom, or to the woods in Autumn. Others have appreciated the use of her tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show and Wimbledon, or have enjoyed an annual dinner of one of the town's societies. But what we value most is to know that Miss Brake is always readily accessible to her staff, and we can be sure of her help and understanding, not only in school matters, but in our own personal problems.

To us all Miss Brake is a source of encouragement and inspiration, and perhaps some have brought into practice her words of wisdom (intended for the School at end of term prayers) rather later in life than they should do—"When you arrive home remember to hang up your hat and coat." "Does Father like it when you leave the door open?" "Try to make this Christmas happier for some lonely person." And so one could continue.

We, the members of Miss Brake's Staff, this memorable Summer Term, 1955, feel privileged to work with a very great headmistress.

From Professor Winifred Cullis, C.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., Chairman of the School Council:

The inevitable outcome of working with Miss Brake seems to be affection and admiration. The Council members, taking part as they do in her great work for Ashford School, most certainly share these sentiments, but are impressed by her abilities as a great builder of traditions, and as a wise and far-seeing administrator. Some of us, too, have had lessons in the gentle art of "getting one's own way" when the Council, wishing to safeguard Miss Brake's own interests, usually gave way to her plea of something more for the School—an extension, another house, an improvement and, in past days, a swimming pool or hard tennis court.

We enjoy our meetings, fortified by coffee, delicious lunches and teas, and go away more than ever convinced of the success and well-being of Ashford School—Long may it flourish!

Outside Connections:

No picture of Ashford School would be complete without some more formal reference to the way in which its life has always been enriched by Miss Brake's out of school activities. Not only is the School, geographically speaking, a real part of the town, but by her many interests and activities Miss Brake has also brought the school into touch with, and made girls realize their future responsibilities to, the larger world outside school.

Girls at Ashford School hear talk of the Ashford Urban District Council, and mention is made elsewhere of the presentation to Miss Brake on her retirement from that body; Old Girls tell us of rejoicing when Miss Brake

was the first woman elected to the Council, and later its first, and so far its only, woman Chairman. Liberties in the past washed up at the Babies' Clinic, which largely owed its existence to Miss Brake's concern for Child Welfare.

Girls also hear of cases being brought before the Bench, on which Miss Brake has served as a J.P. since 1936, and so learn something of the procedure of British justice. They hear of meetings at Canterbury of the Diocesan Conference, of local Parochial Church Council problems, and so learn how the laity have their part to play in Church affairs.

They see how, as a citizen of Ashford, Miss Brake has served the community by the interest she takes in bodies like the Girl Guides' Association and the Townswomen's Guild (of both of which she has been President), the Boy Scouts' Association, the Society of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men, the Women's Institutes, for which she has so often lectured, the United Nations' Association, the Save the Children Fund, the Ashford Orchestral Society and many more. In former days Ashford Hospital, then dependent on voluntary service, owed much to her lively support; the work she has done for education has never been confined to her own school, as is recognized by her being on the governing body of several others in the town. Always willing to lend school premises, and the facilities which they can provide, Miss Brake has given an example of hospitality and generosity and a sense of civic duty to those in her care.

With services such as these in mind then, we welcomed with delight the announcement in the 1952 New Year's Honours list that His Majesty had bestowed upon Miss Brake the decoration of O.B.E. We include in this issue a reprint of the photograph taken after the Investiture. With her to the Palace, Miss Brake took the School Captain—a gesture which, if you think about it, may be said to symbolise the happy way in which the School has always been enriched by having so vigorous a public servant for its Head.

DIARY OF THE YEARS

You have read the personal recollections of Old Girls, members of Staff and others. Looking back over landmarks in the school's history serves to strengthen the impression which these give of how much of the school's growth has been due to Miss Brake's energy and vision. We therefore give below a summary of the school's history, similar to that which now hangs in "Coronation" corridor—augmented here by excerpts from past numbers of *The School Tie*, and including some reference to particular occasions in Miss Brake's own life. (We have tried to be as accurate as we can; we apologise for any mistakes and omissions we may have made.)

1910

Three boarders and seventeen day scholars were the total number at 12 High Street when, in Miss Brake's words later, "Mrs. Edwards bought a small school, desks, Mrs. Avery and myself."

Photographs in Coronation corridor recall these pre-*School Tie* days for us.

1911

A Gymnasium was built at the bottom of the garden.

1912

14 High Street was added.

1913

Miss Brake became Mrs. Edwards' partner. The school moved to Alfred House, East Hill; the name was changed from The Modern School to the High School; total of pupils, 100.

1914

Our first Board of Education Inspection took place.

In February, the first number of *The School Tie* was cyclostyled. In it Mrs. Edwards wrote: "Long live *The School Tie*. May it ever be the symbol of a hidden tie of loyal service for others wherever we are found."

1916

"Northside" was added.

1917

Old Girls' Association formed. Mrs. Edwards in her letter that term writes, "For some time we have hoped that the bond between School and Old Girls which *The School Tie* has endeavoured to strengthen might be made still stronger by the formation of an Old Girls' Association, and it was with great interest and pleasure that we heard of the launching of the Association."

1918

Nightingale House was taken.

The School was recognized by the Board of Education as an Efficient Secondary School.

Prizegiving:

"This year, since our numbers have so greatly increased . . . it was decided to hold our annual concert in the Tufon Street Cinema . . . and at 3 p.m. a good company were assembled there for the Certificate Distribution and ensuing programme."

1919

Miss Brake became the first woman elected to the Ashford Urban District Council.

The School Tie records: "*A Red Letter Day*. On April 7th, we were proud and delighted to congratulate Miss Brake on being returned by the Central Ward as the first elected woman member of the Town Council. By a fortunate chance the date was that of Mrs. Edwards's birthday and thus a double festival was an occasion of wild excitement. On the fateful day the impartial sun shone on all Ashford but we claimed the good omen for ourselves, and waited with momentary flashes of panic.

Miss Brake went to the Council Chambers to watch the counting of the votes, and we proceeded with the routine of test criticism and corrections. Then at 11.30 the school bell clanged, and the Staff, leaving the younger forms in the charge of senior girls, donned hats and coats and rushed up the High Street, to wait for the announcement of the results. At last the names appeared, and Miss Brake was top of the poll with 410 votes. A triumphant band escorted the new councillor back to School and chaired her up the drive to cheers which must have startled half Ashford.

After an interval of clamour and confusion we congregated in the School Hall, and cheered with unflagging enthusiasm the points of a little homily (on some of the issues arising out of this new departure in politics) and the subsequent announcement that in celebration of the victory there would be no stripes! no test corrections!! and no more work that morning!!!

Perhaps the loudest cheer was that which hailed the appearance of Miss Davey of the County School, who put the crowning touch to her warm and generous support of Miss Brake's candidature, by hurrying over to congratulate her on the result."

1920

A Science Laboratory was built in the grounds.

The numbers rise to 200: *The School Tie* records:

"The 25th of November, 1920, was not only the date of the Annual Prize Giving but also marked the entry of the 200th name on the School register, and the 400th anniversary of the School House.

"Owing to the large number of pupils and Staff . . . the Prize Distribution could not be held . . . at the School House. A large number of guests assembled at the Corn Exchange. . . . The Staff and girls had previously been invited by Mrs. Edwards and Miss Brake to a social to be held in the Corn Exchange."

In this year, too, *The School Tie* appears in PRINT for the first time.

1923

1923 Somerville House was built, and in *The School Tie* we read:

"At present we are all watching with interest the building of the new wing, which in time we hope will serve to carry still further many of the old Ashford High School traditions.

A few days ago the foundations were laid by Mrs. Edwards and Miss Brake. They carefully patted the mortar into place and we are sure that it was the geometrical precision of the former which made the bricks lie so straight! As one watched, one could not help being struck by the fact that these were by no means the first foundation stones to be laid by Mrs. Edwards and Miss Brake. Many others have they laid, not visible perhaps, but of much more importance! Not inscribed with letters A.D.É. 1923, L.B. 1923, yet they are inscribed in many hearts and, although hidden from sight, still, speaking for themselves, they bear an everlasting testimony to those who so truly carry out the School verse: "Build it well . . ."

A later comment adds "Our School owes much of its spirit and tradition to the pioneer work of the Oxford Women's Colleges and one of the Houses into which we are now divided will perpetuate our appreciation of this by its name 'Somerville'. Somerville is housed in the top floors of the new wing."

Miss Brake went as a delegate to Edinburgh to attend the meeting of the National Council of Women. "The myriad things she had to tell us on her return inbred in each of us an ardent desire to join that council and interest ourselves more keenly in the public work of our country."

1924

Miss Brake was present at the great Empire Thanksgiving Service in Wembley Stadium, and "on her return helped us all to realize something of its wonder".

The House system was established at School: Nightingale House was proud to be called after Florence Nightingale.

The School Tie, recording Baby Day, July 3rd, that year says, "Miss Brake addressed the mothers and said that if they wanted a dental clinic and would meet to talk about the expenses etc., she would do her utmost to help. . . . What the town would do without Miss Brake I do not know, for despite the many things she does for it, and, however busy she may be, she always makes time to keep a day for the Babies."

Bridge House was bought this year.

1928

Mrs. Edwards retired. In *The School Tie* she wrote, "I go forth from what has been a labour of love for the last seventeen years to my enforced leisure with the happy consciousness that the Master Builder has blessed our work.

"I know that all of you—past and present alike—will support Miss Brake and the School with the same loyalty and affection which have been such a joy to us during the years of our partnership."

The School greeted Miss Brake as Principal: "Life is always an adventure if only we have the courage to embark on its quest. So it is in joyful anticipation that we greet Miss Brake as our Principal. To us as a generation, Miss Brake has been so much a part of our School, that we rally round her with a firm conviction that our goodly heritage shall not be lost. Poor as the words may sound, and totally inadequate, we can but say with all sincerity,

'thank you' to Miss Brake for all she has done in her unbounded generosity and vigorous and animated enthusiasm. We love and trust her that she may lead our School to greater triumphs and yet more glorious victories."

In this year, too, the Sanatorium was built. Again *The School Tie* records: "Our new Sanatorium . . . is a pretty building and very attractive to the eye. We only hope it will not prove too attractive. On Saturday, July 6th, it was dedicated by the Rev. H. W. Blackburne in memory of 'a beloved Father and Mother, S.Y. and L. Brake', as the single tablet just inside the front door states."

1929-30

Somerville Dining Room, the Craft Room, and Nightingale Hut were added here. The Hard Court, was put down by the same man as laid Mr. Noel Coward's court.

1930

Cranmer House was opened by the Bishop of Dover on January 28th.

Miss Brake was elected Vice-Chairman of the Ashford Urban District Council.

Autumn 1930. Our School's twenty-first birthday, and the formation of the School Council caused Miss Brake to write: "So now there only remains to start on what Sir James Barrie would call another act, and for it I would suggest that we take his idea of an entrancing life, a life filled with an infinite love of taking pains."

1931

On March 6th, 1931, Miss Brake's "Amiable Advisers" had their first meeting as the new School Council.

In Spring, 1931, also, we saw the new gymnasium take shape. "Its greatest improvement was electric light, so we are able to have our lessons in the evening; new wall bars, new ropes and the bar—a dream, for instead of laboriously lifting heavy bars, we pull a few ropes (though we are still not sure which ones to pull) and the bar descends from the roof."

1932

The School was now 350 strong, with 250 boarders; Brooke Place was bought, becoming the fifth boarding house.

1933

Miss Brake became chairman of the Ashford Urban District Council—the first woman ever to gain that distinction.

Another memory of 1933 is her birthday picnic. "On the morning of July 7th a picnic to Wye was suddenly suggested. Events followed each other in quick succession—the telephone officials at the Ashford Post Office were kept busy while buses were chartered to be at the gates by two o'clock, 900 cakes were ordered, together with a huge supply of Kentish cherries, and all arrangements for a picnic for 300 people were completed in ten minutes!"

1934

June 5th, 1934. The swimming pool was opened by Miss Fountain. According to *The School Tie* reporter: "Tuesday, June 5th, 1934, will undoubtedly be an outstanding date in the history of the School; for it was on this day at three o'clock in the afternoon, that the new swimming pool was first introduced to us all in its complete glory. . . .

"The Rev. W. A. Weeks (the Baptist Minister) and the Rev. R. S. B. Sinclair (Vicar of Ashford) opened the ceremony with prayers, and then Miss Brake presented Miss Fountain, who had very kindly come down from Chelsea College of Physical Education (of which she is Principal).

"During Miss Fountain's speech, seven shivering girls, arrayed in bathing costumes and caps of varied hue, crept into position on the diving and spring boards. They were representatives of the six houses and the junior school. As the last words were spoken they dived in together and the School thus took possession of the baths.

"Later after a diving demonstration by Mrs. Burns, an Olympic champion, the visitors went to tea, and each of the houses spent a profitable ten minutes having their first 'dip' in the new baths."

In this year Mace Field was bought.

July 7th. On Barnardo Day this year the first School Service was held. It was conducted by the Rev. W. A. Weeks (the Baptist Minister) and the Rev. R. S. B. Sinclair (Vicar of Ashford). The preacher was the Bishop of Dover.

1935

"Miss Brake's Silver Jubilee, January 29th, was a day of rejoicing for all. Staff and girls joined in celebrating Miss Brake's Jubilee. At 6.15 the dancing came to an end, and then it was that we tried to show our gratitude to Miss Brake, not only for the joys of the evening and the prep. that we had been let off, but also for all the work that she has done for the school during twenty-five years. The Staff presented Miss Brake with a silver cruet set, while the School gave her a pair of silver vases, but the lusty cheers from the throats of 300 schoolgirls were still more expressive of our gratitude."

1936

"At the end of July Miss Brake, who, during her chairmanship of the A.U.D.C. served *ex officio* on the Bench, was appointed J.P. for Kent. Her many friends were delighted at this recognition of her years of public service and we respectfully congratulate her on her magistracy."

1937

October 9th. Prize Day and Opening of Coronation Building. In her School Report Miss Brake said: "We have spent the year planning the building and watching it grow, and it is, in all ways, a real product of the School. It did not seem likely, when Mrs. Edwards opened School in September, 1910, that we should ever have 383 pupils—a result only made possible by the foundations she laid." "After the speeches, the whole school moved out to form a guard of honour while Miss Brake and 'the platform' walked across 'B' tennis court to the main door of the new building. The Dean offered a short prayer and Lord Brabourne unlocked the door with a golden key, which was a gift presented by Mr. E. A. Jackson, F.R.I.B.A., the architect. Lord Brabourne said, 'I hope this building will play its part in enabling this School to go on from strength in the years to come.' Loud cheers then rang out, and the building being 'well and truly' open, the visitors went streaming along the beautifully polished corridors and in and out of the sunny form-rooms destined, we hope, to house many future generations of Ashford High School."

1938

Autumn. Extract from the School Diary: "We had time to admire our new roller skating rink, which has since proved how hard Mother Earth can be on occasion."

In this year too the "Refuge" was added.

1939

We became Ashford School for Girls, Kent.

The School was strengthened and blacked out, but remained in Ashford, which was then declared a safe reception area.

1940

Evacuation to Somerset and Devon.

1945

Return to Ashford.

Prize-Giving in the Odeon Theatre for the first time. After our five years in Devon, it was a very great delight to hold Prize-Giving in Ashford again this year and the ceremony at the Odeon Theatre on October 23rd was a very happy one. Miss Brake in her report spoke of her pleasure "in being in this spacious theatre, with seats for all who come and no anxiety for other people's children from overhead." She concluded: "We left our West Country home with many regrets, but the warmth of our welcome in Ashford from so many people has filled us with joy and thanksgiving that we can once more be safely in our own buildings, amongst old friends and in well-known surroundings—trying to send out girls who are ready to play their part courageously in the post-war world."

1945-1946

Further Staff houses were bought.

1947

October 5th. "The Domestic Science department was opened by Mrs. Kneen and "Cook" (Mrs. Mead). So things change—from Science Laboratory to bicycle sheds and now with beauty restored to Domestic Science department."

1948

The School Diary records with pride that Miss Brake attended the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

1950

Congratulations were offered to Miss Brake on the fortieth anniversary of her coming to School.

To quote the School Captains in *The School Tie*, "With apologies to Mr. Churchill, may we say, 'Never in the history of any school has so much been owed by so many to one lady.'"

"The Crows' Nest" above the garages made new form rooms for the Kindergarten and Transition.

1951

The Outdoor Stage was built, largely thanks to Miss Brake's generosity.

1952

Miss Brake was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. At the Investiture on March 5th she was accompanied by her sister and the School Captain who, writing in *The School Tie* said, "I felt so proud that I was a member of her School as she walked up." On her return to school, Miss Brake was welcomed with a special ceremony and a joyful party.

Mrs. Kneen, writing on behalf of the School Council says, "We all feel there is something peculiarly right and fitting in Miss Brake being made an 'Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire,' for the School has always accepted a special responsibility for children whose parents were serving in one capacity or another in the Empire and beyond. But it has been Miss Brake's genius to translate this official responsibility into a warm personal concern."

The Festival Wing of the Preparatory School was opened on May 28th by Sir Hugh Knatchbull-Hugessen, and dedicated by Dean Harry Blackburne, assisted by the Vicar of Ashford (Canon H. D. S. Bowen).

1953

The dedication of the Lectern and the Quiet Room took place on Friday, July 10th. Each morning at Prayers, a School Prefect reads the lesson from the Bible which stands on the carved dedicated Lectern, and the Quiet Room is a truly tranquil restful place where there is already a feeling of peace. These two things will remain a lasting memorial to Miss Agnew and Miss Lewin.

1954

News of Miss Brake's impending retirement saddened us in October, but in December it was a comfort to know that Miss Nightingale had been appointed as her successor.

1955

The General Inspection by the Ministry of Education passed off happily.

This brings us to this Summer Term of 1955, and the ceremonies which mark it apart. Some, as we go to Press, still lie ahead, and will be reported next term. Some we can record here.

On Thursday, May 5th a presentation was made to Miss Brake at a meeting of the Ashford Urban District Council. The following account is reprinted from the *Kent Messenger* with our acknowledgements to the Editor and to Mr. H. L. Gibbs, the Chairman of the Council.

"Members and senior officials of Ashford Urban District Council said 'Thank you' and farewell to Miss L. Brake, the first woman councillor and first woman chairman, at their May meeting last week.

"On behalf of these officials and her fellow councillors, the chairman, Mr. H. L. Gibbs, presented Miss Brake, who has been a councillor for 30 years, with a triple mirror.

"It was unanimous that we should make this small presentation to you as a mark of esteem and high regard for you and some appreciation of your untiring work over a great number of years as a member of this Council," said Mr. Gibbs.

"He recalled how Miss Brake was first elected to the Council in 1919 and served until 1943 when her school moved to Exeter, and that she rejoined the Council in 1949.

Miss Brake, he said, was at first very interested in child welfare, and from 1923 to 1929 was the chairman of the Child Welfare Committee and had played a very prominent part in its work. She was chairman of the Council from 1929 for two years and was one of the Council's most distinguished chairmen. For several years since the war she had served as Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee.

He added that in addition to her Council duties, Miss Brake had been interested in many other activities in the town, all of which she had undertaken with tremendous enthusiasm.

"Concluding, Mr. Gibbs said: 'We shall miss your help in our deliberations and the work of the Council, but your record of service is an inspiration to the younger generation.'

Saying she was quite overwhelmed, Miss Brake recalled how the child clinic had been started in the town by four ladies.

"At first," she said, 'it was not at all popular until we got the support of the husbands. When we first started, the death rate was 129 out of every thousand births, now it is 25.'

She thanked the chairman, councillors, and officials for all the help given her and for their kindness and friendship.

Leader of the Labour Group on the Council, Mr. C. A. Thomas, expressed their congratulations to Miss Brake on her lengthy record of service to the town."

On Friday, May 6th, at a meeting of the Ashford and District Boy Scouts' Association, Lord Brabourne, their President, presented Miss Brake with a "Thanks" badge. We include a photograph of the occasion.

After the School Council's meeting on May 12th, Miss Brake brought those Governors who were present, to the Gymnasium where the school was assembled, saying that she felt the girls should have an opportunity of seeing them. Miss Brake also showed the school the gift she had just received from the School Council, a charming little travelling alarm clock, barometer and thermometer in a leather case, suitably inscribed.

Four of the Governors spoke to the school. Professor Winifred Cullis, Chairman, in her usual friendly and delightful way, congratulated the School on what the Inspectors had said about its friendly and happy atmosphere, and then passed on to refer briefly to Miss Brake's retirement. She said we should look forward to her return from her visits to the long list of Old Girls with whom she was planning to stay on her travels. When Miss Brake returned she hoped she would find Miss Nightingale looking after things happily, and the school would be glad to have them both again.

The Archdeacon of Canterbury (the Ven. A. Sargent) had feared that he would have to speak, knowing no excuse would be accepted by Miss Brake. When he first saw the Council's gift he saw three words on it, which he thought might refer to Miss Brake; then he saw the words were "Stormy", "Change" and "Very Dry" and he realized that they were not applicable in any way to her—but referred to the weather! He sat down amid laughter and applause.

Mrs. Kneen—an Old Girl—recalled the happy year she spent—at the time of the first inspection in 1914—in Wigwam Dormitory. She could not remember ever having laughed so much; and she hoped that when present girls grew up they would look back upon their years at Ashford School as those when they too had laughed much.

Mr. Lewis Headley—an Old Boy of the Preparatory School—said he thought that so often those who were taking part in an historic event did not realize at the time that they were doing so. He therefore asked the school to bear the thought in mind during the next few months; in future years they would be able to lift their heads in pride, and say they were at Ashford School during the Summer Term of 1955—a historic time in the school's life. He recalled the words of a small preparatory school scholar, who coming home to lunch one day, said wistfully, "Everything Miss Brake does is right: everything I do is right—sometimes!"

MISS BRAKE: IN SCHOOL TO-DAY

Old Girls' Recollections, Diary of the Years, Official Recognitions—there remains the most difficult, and most delightful, task of all: some attempt to put on paper a picture of Miss Brake in school, as she is seen by those at Ashford now.

Miss Brake's Delights

There are so very many things
Our "Cherub" holds most dear;
Her heart so big it knows no bounds,
And always brings good cheer.
She loves the flowers and little plants
That on the wayside grow,
Or in the garden, sweet and small,
But none too small to know.

She loves each bird that chirps and sings
 And twitters in a bunch;
 They flutter round her when she brings
 The plate of scraps from lunch.
 She loves the air so fresh and clean,
 Also the rustling trees
 That sway in winds that blow aloft,
 Or tremble in the breeze.
 She loves to travel, and to see
 New worlds and sights so rare,
 But France is one old Friend she loves
 To visit every year;
 She loves the people and the tongue,
 And wants us all to be
 Able to speak with them, and so
 Know them as well as she.
 Sport is a thing she always loves,
 And swimming more than most,
 And every morning has a dip
 Which makes her warm as toast.
 But of all her loves we proudly feel
 That ours has the greater part;
 That Ashford holds the highest place
 In "Cherub's" loving heart.

PENNY LEACH (Upper IV¹, Chaucer Pilgrims.)

Where shall we begin to try to describe what Miss Brake means to us at School? In Calcutta, Cairo, and Kuala Lumpur, Ashford is spoken of as Miss Brake's School, as it is in Ashford itself. If people outside school think of it like that, how much more do we who are part of it—the living body of which she is the heart?

What do we think of when we think of her? Her smile; her never-failing cheerfulness; her generosity; her determination that we make the best of ourselves; her kindness to us in trouble, and indeed at all times; her deep and wide knowledge, freely imparted, of life outside school; her love of travel, of France, of people, of swimming, fresh air, flowers and birds; her stories, her well-loved phrases; her powers of association; her memory; her pet names—hers for us, and ours for her; her humour; her unexpectedness; her sense of adventure; her common sense; and her loving wisdom—we thank her for all these, and have tried in this collection of memories to show her our love and to picture her for ourselves.

Here they are then, as far as possible in the words of girls at school to-day, the things that many of us remember, day by day, week by week, and year by year:

"I remember looking out of the dormitory window, when I was just getting up, to see Miss Brake picking roses on her way back from her before-breakfast swim" . . . "going before breakfast to collect the House post and, on my admiring some new stamps, I was given a whole envelope full" . . . "after breakfast as her orderly, I am presented with newspapers to be taken to the various common rooms, letters to be taken to the post, her breakfast tray to be taken down. Her morning has started well before breakfast, yet when I arrive she is always cheerful and grateful for the least little thing anyone does for her."

Miss Brake's first port of call is the San. "How very well I remember lying in bed in the San, feeling not so much ill as depressed, looking forward to Miss Brake's morning visit before prayers. She was always so cheerfully determined that we were better, really, and that we would be getting up that afternoon. Perhaps her 'Well, chick, you'll be getting up to-day, won't you?' was more of a command than a question, and made us feel it was our duty to get well, but it had the right effect, and left us feeling determined, too." "One always looks forward to that morning visit which never fails

THE YEARS IN PICTURES



MISS BRAKE AND HER FORM, 1912

STAFF GROUP, 1924





MISS BRAKE AND
MRS. EDWARDS
AT RIVERSIDE

IN THE GARDEN
1921



AT BRIDGE HOUSE
REUNION
1930



MISS BRAKE:
BY THE CEDAR
TREE

ON HYTHE
BEACH, 1924



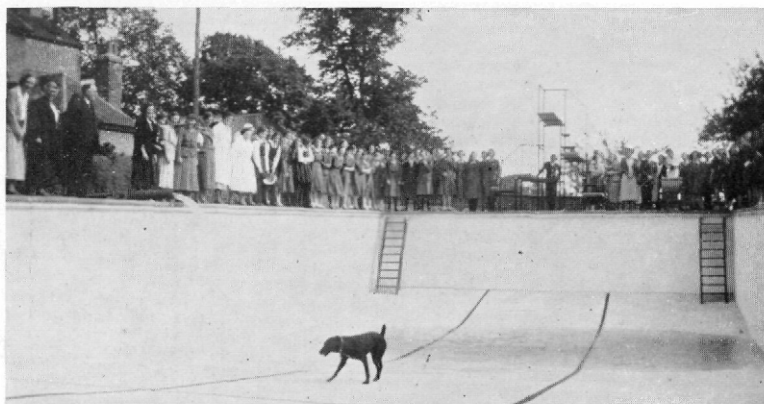
A REMINDER OF TOPSHAM: *THE CAR* AND PASSENGERS



BY THE FRONT DOOR, 1924



HER BIRTHDAY



THE FIRST WATER RUNS INTO
THE POOL: SAM INVESTIGATES

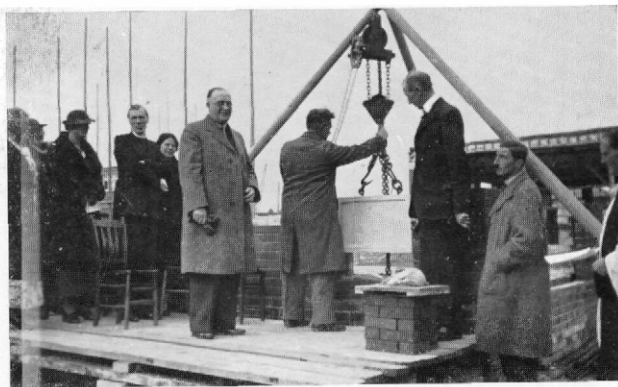
DEDICATION OF
SCHOOL SANATORIUM
1928



OPENING OF SWIMMING POOL
BY MISS FOUNTAIN, 1934



CORONATION BUILDING:
LAYING THE STONE,
MAY 1, 1937



OPENING OF FESTIVAL WING, 1952



CORONATION BUILDING:
THE OPENING
CEREMONY,
OCTOBER 9, 1937





MISS BRAKE WITH THE FIRST SCHOOL "GRANDCHILDREN" TO REACH UPPER V



MISS BRAKE AND SENIOR PREFECTS AT COUNTESS WEAR



[*Photograph by H. B. News Features, Wimbledon*

MISS BRAKE IN HER DRAWING ROOM, 1950



[By courtesy of the Universal Pictorial Press and Agency

AFTER THE INVESTITURE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MISS BRAKE, O.B.E., 1952

and is always a comfort and cheerful interlude in the day." "My picture is of Miss Brake presenting me with *The Times* and asking how this 'rat' was." "When I had mumps I was rather naughty, and I picked the paint off the wall, as I was lonely. Miss Brake came in with her cheery, bright face, and she sat on my bed and spoke to me firmly, but very kindly. She then talked about my home, and after that I was not lonely and always looked forward to her visits." "When I was in the San. I was a new girl and everything was rather strange, but I felt happier and more at home when Miss Brake had been round to see how everyone was." "She came in to see me when I was feeling depressed but trying to read a book. She spoke to me about the author of my book, for she knew him. It made me feel that I had a link with the author I admired, and made me wonder how she knows so many people."

By this time she has always obtained some flowers for her dress. "One Easter term we thought we would like to give Miss Brake some small flowers from our garden each day, for her to wear in her buttonhole. She was delighted. One evening she presented us with some cherries when we brought the flowers."

Nine o'clock comes and we are assembled for prayers. A bell lets us know that Miss Brake is coming and we stand to greet her. With her "Good Morning, everybody" the day has really begun. "Once we had a week of saying 'Good Morning' in all the languages we could muster in turn—French, Spanish, Latin and English." Our hymn is sung, and prayers are said, and we sit down to listen. "After prayers," says a junior, "Miss Brake tells us the news of the world." "She often begins 'If we had been in London yesterday,' and 'The Queen took Prince Charles . . . a delicious story . . . it reminds me of the time when we were up in the mountains . . . and we are launched into a delightful reminiscence.'" "Then, 'Now we come to our own affairs . . . that'll be the best way, won't it! . . . see that you do it without fail.' Is there a match on the following day? 'See that you begin to play the moment the game begins . . . don't wait for the ball to come to you—you go to the ball!'" "A comment on how nice we look when we sit up straight and keep our fingers still acts like magic: everyone grows at least two inches taller, and our hands go tidily into our laps." Stories are told to remind us of what is expected of us. "Miss Brake said that one 'small rat', when her mother spoke to her on the way up the hill, said in shocked tones, 'Mummy, you must never talk on the hill!'" "There is the story of Sam, the school dog, who always looked right and left before he crossed over." "Often we shall be reminded that verbs and their subjects must agree. Miss Brake is very eager for our Cinderella, French, to become a beautiful princess, and is always ready, in prayers, at table, in mending, to teach us, and impress on us the pleasures of knowing French." "She reminds us not to leave litter, and we know that she will always pick up toffee papers when she sees them, and put them in a litter basket, and she encourages us to do the same. 'If you see someone drop a toffee-paper, take her by the scruff of the neck and make her pick it up!' is what we are told."

Notices are read out. Weekly marks are interspersed with encouragement to do that much better. "I don't think you need be in 'D', do you?" "A notice about Lost Property brings 'hop and look now, while no one is there, and let me know when you find it.'"

Then comes an important ceremony. "Any stars? Any stripes?" or, hopefully, "There can't be any stripes, to-day, can there?" "If you take up a star you can see that she is pleased, but if you take a stripe she makes you feel ashamed. She is not at all pleased if someone has a stripe for something which need not have happened, but she does not like to get cross with us." "I had been very naughty and had to go after prayers to see Miss Brake. She looked so upset and unhappy that even before she spoke I wished that I had never been naughty. After she had told me how silly I had been, she then asked after my relations. I came away feeling much better than I had felt before."

"After Senior School Prayers Miss Brake always comes to the Junior School for Prayers, whatever the weather's like." "She provides us with

everything we need." "She is very forgiving, and always gives you another chance." "Miss Brake never looks unhappy, and I expect that she never is, as so many people love her. She makes everybody happy, especially people who are new or upset." "I think that it is very nice of Miss Brake to give a child sixpence for a tooth that has been pulled out." "At Prayers, she always says, 'The little birds are telling you to work hard.'" "She frequently asks whether anyone has heard a cuckoo or a nightingale. If someone in Miss Miller's form, the youngest ones there, puts her hand up, Miss Brake says, 'Yes, Chick?'"

"Miss Brake comes round to every form, when she comes to the Junior School." "During lessons, if Miss Pryor is showing a visitor round, sometimes Miss Brake comes in to stay with us for a few minutes. We get on with the work that Miss Pryor has set us, when suddenly Miss Brake says, 'Four times four? Ounces in a pound? Square inches in a square yard?' etc. We put down our pens and start answering the questions. We are secretly sorry when Miss Pryor comes back for we like Miss Brake to do this."

During the day Miss Brake is often to be seen showing visitors round or coming round by herself. "She is a great believer in fresh air no matter what the weather, and, although we sometimes grumble, open windows are very good for us, the fresh air clears our brains." "The door opens, up we stand, and are asked 'How many are from abroad? Ah, you're from Malaya, and you're from Singapore,' and she links the visitors, often from abroad themselves, with the girls in the classroom." "French is her great love and 'Travaillez bien, mes enfants!' is her cry as she leaves a lesson, but advice and encouragement in all that we undertake is always forthcoming." "She is a very good headmistress, for she makes us work hard for our own benefit." "If she is told something cannot be done she says, 'Why not?'" "I was crossing the asphalt when a voice behind me said, 'Chick, must your tunic hang down so much farther at the back than at the front?'" "Once to me, 'Do put your hair out of your eyes, Chick, I'm so afraid you'll squint!' was Miss Brake's advice." "She told us about a bird that was making its nest. It kept on working and working, and a little later on a cat got hold of the nest, and damaged it, and the bird could not use it at all. So, we were told, we ought to work, and work, even if we are not rewarded." She, however, is always rewarding us. "After we had weeded her garden one day, she gave us the whole of the bottom layer of a lovely box of chocolates that she had given her as a present." "When we had been naughty and were sent to Miss Brake she talked to us showing us how silly we had been, but then it was all over and she sent us away with an apple each, and a determination not to behave like that again."

Her ways of dealing with us when we have done wrong are very wise. "Bang went a desk and crash went a chair. I sat in the midst of the wreckage, kicking and screaming. Miss Brake came and I was sent to bed to recover from my tantrum. The next Saturday I was told my parents were coming down, and, before I knew where I was, I was being taken home a week early. Mother and Father had been summoned. Miss Brake's answer, when they explained their mission, was: 'Of course you can't take her away completely. We must have some problem children in the school!' Who knows what I might have been by now, if she hadn't said that."

"As I had hurt my knee I was excused from Gym. Four other girls and I sat in chairs to watch others working hard at physical exercises, while we proposed to enjoy ourselves being lazy. Miss Brake appeared and, before we knew where we were, we were weeding the San. garden. Our hopes of a lazy lesson were shattered."

It is not only in lessons that we are spurred on by Miss Brake. "She is always fussy about tying up shoelaces, and she taught me to tie up mine." "When I was first trying to rollerskate, Miss Brake told me that it was better to lean slightly forward." "I went to ask her if, at some time in the future, I could teach at Sunday School. She at once picked up the telephone, rang the minister, and arranged the whole proceeding in a moment, leaving me quite flabbergasted." "She always believes in doing things straightaway,

from replying to letters, and saying thank you for things done for her, to bigger undertakings, like working to earn money to pay for the new tennis courts."

Miss Brake comes to lunch on different days in all the dining rooms, sometimes to first and sometimes to second lunch . . . "when she sits at a Chaucer table we introduce each other to her, and we talk about all sorts of interesting things" . . . "second lunch in Alfred, on Thursdays, the day the magistrates' court sits, Miss Brake may make a late entrance, but we are rewarded by anecdotes from the sitting of the morning" . . . "Conversation at lunch ranges from the building of the by-pass, to the Duke of Edinburgh flying in a helicopter." . . . "As she leaves lunch, she always takes a plate of scraps. She puts these scraps on her bird table, so where Miss Brake is, the birds are never hungry."

When in the afternoon Miss Brake goes out in her car, she never goes with empty seats if she can help it. Our memories of riding in her car with her are especially vivid. "Miss Brake often used to come along the Topsham road in her old Morris car and if she saw any schoolgirl or friend, she would offer her a lift. Quite often there must have been almost twenty girls in her car. She knew everybody in Exeter and in her car she raced along tooting and waving to anyone she saw" . . . "I remember one afternoon I had just come out of the San. and Miss Brake took us for a lovely ride in her car to Great Chart, and whilst she was at a meeting there, she gave us some sweets and some apples and said we could do what we liked." . . . "One day, Miss Brake took the form captains of the III and Lower IV to a branch of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. It was a day when two new children came in. We were taken to see them, and then we were shown round. Miss Brake then took us to Bodiam Castle, which we all enjoyed. Then we went and had tea in Tenterden before returning to school. It was a most enjoyable and unforgettable day." "I always think of Miss Brake when she took me by car to Somerset after I had had chicken-pox, and remember the way she waves and thanks lorry and bus drivers when they call her past in the car. . . ." "When I had my leg in plaster, Miss Brake took me around a great deal in her car and she always took me to church because I could not walk" . . . "when she had her new car she said she could never remember its registration until someone told her that G.F.N. stood for 'Good for Nothing' " . . . "One day when I missed my 'bus, Miss Brake took me home in her car, and all the village boys exclaimed, 'What a smashing car!' That was her big blue car, with a roof that folded back" . . . "I remember one lovely day when Miss Brake suddenly asked us to 'hop in' to the car with her and go to see her new house. We had a lovely conversation in the car. She asked us for suggestions about her house, and nearly always agreed with what we said. We were talking about the alterations to her house when she suddenly got out a bar of chocolate each and sent us back to our lessons with apologies to the staff." . . . "On my first day at school Miss Brake took me home in her car because I lost my way." . . . "I remember one exciting car ride, when my school cap blew off twice, as the car had an open roof. We went at a tremendous speed and overtook everything that came into view."

"We live in a tiny hamlet which is on the top of a very steep hill. One day in the early summer I was startled by four faces peering over the hedge. I went to investigate and found they belonged to four girls from School whom Miss Brake was taking for a ride in the country. The car had broken down at the bottom of the hill, and the girls had come to ask to ring a garage for the breakdown lorry. This was soon accomplished and they were fortified with orange squash and shown over the farm. Meanwhile Daddy took the tractor and some strong, thick rope and set off down the hill where he found Miss Brake and managed to tow her car up to the top. I was only eleven then, and was in bed, or meant to be, for I remember creeping to the top of the stairs to watch Miss Brake come into the house. Then Mummy appeared and took her into the sitting room for a cup of tea, and I crept reluctantly back to bed."

"One day when I fell on my nose in the Gym. I was taken to the San. and

Miss Brake came to see me and she was very kind. She stayed in the San. all the time the doctor was there and then she got her car out and drove me home." "When I was in the San. Miss Brake took me out in the car to some beautiful woods where you could not walk without stepping on a bluebell." "When I went for my interview for the County School, Miss Brake took me in her car, and I remember so well that she wished me, with special care, very good luck, and was careful to make some joke about herself which was a great help in what was an extremely nerve-racking occasion."

"On Sunday mornings Miss Brake would catch two of us juniors, usually Alfreds, and tell us to go and open the garage, and go to Aldington with her to take the four seniors who took Sunday School there. On the way there the juniors were squashed on the seniors' knees, but coming back we had the whole back seat to ourselves and, if it was a warm day, the hood would be pushed back and we would get the wind in our faces as we raced along the country lanes back to school. We soon learnt to leave our hats behind in the summer because we would have had to hold them on all the way. We used to arrive back with Miss Brake just in time for Church."

"I remember, at one end of term, when we had to catch an early train, and our escort had not arrived. Miss Brake was in the pool. She put on a coat and drove down to Ashford station with us, so that we caught the train."

"Miss Brake came to see me every day while I was in Hospital"—this is a memory shared by very many of us. "When I was in hospital, when I was seven, Miss Brake came to see me. She brought me some postcards to cut up, and never forgot to send me picture postcards frequently afterwards." "One Easter holiday I had chicken-pox, and had to stay at school. Miss Brake was very kind to us and gave us hankies and painting books for Easter as well as lots of lovely flowers." "When the rest of the school went home early, the people left at school with 'flu naturally felt a little down in the dumps. However, Miss Brake had us to tea with her three days running, and let us toast muffins over the fire, listen to her wireless and lent us books."

This capacity of Miss Brake's to cheer us and help us over difficulties is one we all value. There are innumerable occasions to be recalled. "When I was hoping to come to this school I was given some exam. papers to do. I did them in Miss Brake's study and she placed before me a plate and a bowl of luscious cherries, and told me to help myself. Well, I did, I took about four cherries. Miss Brake came back and said, 'That's no good, you'll never be able to do an exam. paper, if you don't have something to help you!' Saying this, she took a handful of cherries and put them on my plate!"

"Mummy was coming to see my sister and me as my daddy had died. Miss Brake was sweet to Mummy." . . . "Once I was called into Miss Brake's study for she had to break the news to me about my grandfather dying. She was very kind to me and lent me her hanky and comforted me, for she is very sympathetic. She saw all my troubles, and was most understanding. When I came out of her study I felt more happy than I would have done if she had not been so kind and gentle with me." . . . "When Mummy died Miss Brake took me in her study with my friends and let me use her toaster and gave me sweets and chocolates and we even did prep. in her study with the wireless on." . . . "I remember when Miss Brake suddenly came into the form-room and asked for me. She held my hand as we went to her study. She said to me in a very gentle voice and with a smile on her face, 'Your mother has come to see you.' I was absolutely thrilled, and Miss Brake said, 'Don't be too excited, because something very sad has happened.' When Mummy told me Daddy was dead, Miss Brake took me in her arms and tried to make me feel better." "One day in prayers when I was feeling homesick, I started to cry, and I was at the front of our line. As we were going out, Miss Brake said, 'Come and help me with my weeding,' so I went and started to weed with her, and I soon forgot about feeling homesick." . . . "Miss Brake told me that when I felt unhappy I could go to her study for a cry." . . . "While my parents were abroad Miss Brake was like a second mother to me, and at one time when I was rather more homesick than usual she let me go into her study and

listen to the wireless for a little while." . . . "When I first arrived at school I was frightened and lonely but Miss Brake soon made me feel at home. The way she welcomed us all at the gate, and later came up to our houses to kiss us all good-night made me feel that I would love school. Instead of dreading the next day, I quite looked forward to it." "When I was new, at Bridge, I saw Miss Brake coming down the garden path and all the boarders ran up to Miss Brake and kissed her good-night, and I did too, and from that day to this I have not felt homesick. It did seem so comfy after Miss Brake had kissed me good-night."

In the evenings before bedtime, when we so value Miss Brake coming to kiss us good-night, we often enjoy helping her. "I remember when I asked Miss Brake if I could help her weed her front garden and we got several baskets full of weeds. She was pleased and gave me and my friends chocolates and we discussed the flowers." . . . "Every sunny evening after prep. she can be seen gardening. We take it in turns to offer to help. She is delighted and starts forth with, 'Now you start weeding that row, my chick, and I'll start this one, then you two can do the next two.' After a pause she says, 'Mind you get all the roots up. Oh, doesn't it look better!'"

At any time we can go to her for help. "My mother wished me to send a telegram to some friends in Belgium, so we went to Miss Brake and with her help we wrote the telegram in French and she then arranged for it to be sent post haste so that it would not be late."

While we are going to bed Miss Brake often comes to say goodnight. Her voice calls along the corridor, "Any more chicks there?" and we tumble down the stairs, in dressing gowns . . . "Goodnight, Miss Brake." . . . "Miss Brake always talks to me in French when she says good-night to me" . . . "She asks about my aunt who has gone to live in Cyprus." . . . "She sometimes calls me Barbara, my mother's name, when she kisses me" . . . "once when we came to say good-night to her, she took us to show us the lovely three-sided mirror the local District Council had given her. Then she showed us pictures of the places she had been to, and sent us off to bed with a sweet each" . . . "once when we were going to bed Miss Brake called to us to help her sort out some books. She gave us pictures and little books, and then told us to have a butterscotch before we went to bed" . . . "during the Autumn term when I was in Kraal dormitory, one evening Miss Brake was in her study below, working. We all had bad colds and coughs. She listened to us for a while, then went and got some camphorated oil and came up and rubbed each one of us in turn and tucked us up."

Then there are the week-ends. After breakfast on Saturday Miss Brake comes into mending. "One day she asked how many people were wearing thimbles. Having counted she went away, and soon was back with a bag. All the girls who had been wearing thimbles had a lucky dip. There was a bar of chocolate for each one!" . . . "Saturday afternoon may bring anything—bus walks to bluebell woods, a picnic at Hythe, sports on bottom Nightingale field." . . . "One afternoon, as she couldn't go to a sale of work at the Parish Rooms, Miss Brake gave three of us ten shillings and told us to go there and spend it. We were not to come back with anything left."

On Sundays we all go to church. . . . "Miss Brake is very particular that the ranks should cross the High Street well" . . . "in church when some people were coughing she passed 'Black Horrors' along the line" . . . "once when I went to church with dirty shoes, Miss Brake saw that they were dirty and told me to clean them after church and show them to her. I cleaned them after lunch and took them to her, and she gave me a banana."

Every Sunday, Miss Brake has half of one of the boarding houses to tea, and she always asks some of the junior school too. . . . "We all trooped in and the prefects sat in the chairs, while we sat on the carpet (anyone sitting on the cold parquet flooring was brought on to the carpet in front of the fire). People were sent to bring in the tea things, and then we passed the sandwiches and cakes round while Miss Brake poured out the tea . . . soon there was general chatter. It was time then for the books. We shared an old *School Tie* and laughed at the pictures. In no time it was time to go. We

packed up, trying carefully to pick up all the crumbs. We said thank you and then trooped out again, taking a last look at the wooden dolls that packed inside each other (the smallest one had years ago been eaten in a sandwich) and the pictures: those lovely yellow primroses and the picture drawn on the wall by a soldier. And so we go to Bible Class, storing up what we remembered until our next turn to go to tea with Cherub." . . . "When I went to tea on Sunday she was pouring out the tea and throughout the time we were there, she was always thinking of us and talking, but never worrying a lot about herself. She told us about the legend of the Blue Lady who haunts Alfred" . . . "milk upset? Quick, my chick, get a cloth, no, here's a duster"—"the visitors' book is headed by a comment on the weather and duly signed by us all . . . in winter we all enjoy sitting by the fire, and watching the logs flame and glow."

"Bible Class brings a variety of subjects from Moses to Mrs. Pankhurst and Suffragettes . . . sometimes visitors come to talk to us, but more often she herself takes the class, and then we hear all sorts of things that she has experienced, and learnt from her own experiences, and then passes on to us" . . . "sometimes she reads one verse and the school reads another" . . . "she chooses lesser known pieces of the Bible and really shows us its true meaning." She sometimes takes a prominent Christian, a person whose life is a wonderful example. Douglas Bader, Elizabeth Fry, Florence Nightingale, Albert Schweitzer are only four with whose example she inspires us . . . "she always gives a little story to illustrate the reading and brings in something about everyday life. She shows that she never forgets other people although she is often very busy, and I think that this is typical of her."

So week follows week, in the pattern of the year. There are weekly meetings with staff and prefects, and informal and friendly survey of the week that's past and the week that's to come. Prefects' meeting begins. "Fourteen across is a bird which contradicts the traffic lights—we try to look intelligent and supply the necessary answer for the crossword puzzle, and then turn to school matters."

"Current Events in the drawing room on Tuesday evenings brings discussions of the news from home and abroad, and stories of the Town Council and Magistrates' Court. One of the developments she is especially interested in is Ashford by-pass. She also tells us of the arguments connected with the choosing of the site for a canning factory, which has been one of the subjects dealt with recently by the Council" . . . "Last summer a number of us were taken to the Council Chamber in Ashford where Miss Brake gave us a most interesting and detailed description of the procedure of a Council meeting." "She also told us of how she herself became a member. 'Miss Brake doesn't mind what happens to her', they said, 'and I was duly nominated and elected' . . . "preparing the subject to be discussed at the next Sixth Form Conference brings much animated discussion. Miss Brake has always shown very great interest in these conferences, which give great pleasure to all of us who participate in them. Many of the subjects, which vary widely, from 'The Right Use of Money' to 'Juvenile Delinquency' and 'The Press' have been suggested by Miss Brake, and have greatly increased our knowledge and understanding."

Every year comes Prize-Giving; Christmas, with its carols and the wonderful parties given by Miss Brake, "when she dances every dance, and enjoys it all with us"; her birthday when the Junior School children all bring her flowers, and the whole school joins in wishing her many happy returns, and singing the hymn we think of as especially hers "Glad That I live am I"; Certificate Examinations over which she presides, always opening the forbidding-looking envelopes with her own special paper knife, and wishing us good luck, reminding us to read the questions and think before we write; Barnardo's Day when almost always in her own radiant weather she welcomes back Old Girls; Swimming Sports, an especially enjoyable occasion for her; and the rest of the Summer Term festivities.

These are the important occasions, and in these we all remember her, our great headmistress, but our most precious memories are often of the smaller

things, the day to day happiness she has brought us, the kind and constant encouragement that is always there. After the holidays she has always been in the front drive to welcome us back, with a smile and a kiss. We thank her for all that she has done for us, has given us, for the way she has taught us, guided us, and strengthened us, and we shall always count it a great privilege to have been members of Miss Brake's school.

EDITORS' THANKS

More than ever are we, as Editors, conscious this term of how much we are indebted to many people for making it possible for *The School Tie* to appear. Our warm thanks to all: to Miss Harland, Miss Lepper and Miss Mighell at school; to Mavis Haigh (Mrs. Russell), Joan Kilford, Diana Davis and Jill Knight of the Old Girls' Association; and to *The Invicta Press* for its unfailing help. We are, too, most grateful to all those Old Girls and other friends who in so many ways have helped us to compile our recollections, "Through Ashford Eyes".

GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL

Our warm thanks to several friends of the School for their kind gifts:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Hobbs: an Umpire's Stand for the new Tennis Courts.

Elizabeth, Caroline and Janet Lipscomb: a garden seat for the Preparatory School.

Miss Laurie, on behalf of the Kent Festival Committee: money for the Library; *Mr. Frost*: "Across the Seven Seas." (Other kind gifts to the Library are mentioned in the Library Notes.)

SCHOOL DIARY

Spring Term.

- Feb. 26.—Miss Babington gave us a delightful lecture on Canterbury Cathedral.
- March 5.—The East Kent Hockey Tournament was held at Folkestone. Lower V upwards went to see *Caesar and Cleopatra* at the North County Modern School for Boys. Dr. Don brought, among other films, *Hue and Cry*; as usual his whole programme was thoroughly enjoyed.
- „ 6.—The Reverend R. Lee took Bible Class.
- „ 9.—Upper V started "mock" General School Certificate.
- „ 11.—Sutton Valence dance was enjoyed by all who went.
- „ 12.—Captain Noel brought his eagerly awaited films on Kashmir, which lived up to everyone's expectations.
- „ 17.—The Sixth Form Conference was held at Benenden. The subject was "The Right Use of Money" and Mr. Paul Bareau was an excellent speaker.
- „ 19.—The Skating Competition was held on the rink and Mrs. Wigney again kindly came to judge it for us. The Craft Competition was won by Somerville with 54 per cent. Our thanks are due to Adrienne Flashman and Jean Bradley for judging it for us.
- „ 25.—The Elocution Examinations were held, Mrs. Greta Colson being the Examiner.
- „ 26.—The whole school had an enjoyable evening country dancing in the gymnasium.

- March 29.—The Staff Hockey Match was won by the girls.
The Lower Vth gave a very enjoyable performance of *I Have Five Daughters* adapted from Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*.
Some of us went to "The St. Matthew Passion" at Ashford Parish Church.
- „ 30.—Close of school.

Summer Term.

- April 26.—Boarders returned.
- „ 27.—Day girls returned.
- „ 30.—The Folkestone and Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society gave a very successful performance of *The Arcadians*, conducted by Miss Rowe.
- May 2-6.—The School inspection went off smoothly. We found the ten inspectors very helpful and not nearly as terrifying as we had imagined.
- „ 7.—Upper Sixth Arts went up to London to see *Henry IV*, Part II. They also visited the London Museum, and altogether had a very pleasant day.
- „ 12.—Some of the Governors came and spoke to us after their meeting with Miss Brake.
- „ 15.—The Reverend R. Lee took Bible Class.
- „ 20.—French and German Oral Examinations were held.
- „ 21.—The Kent Musical Competitive Festival began at Ashford. There were many successful entries from the school. The school visited Saltwood Gardens by the kind invitation of Mr. Harland.
- „ 24.—Mr. Deedes and Mr. Sandelson, Conservative and Labour candidates for Ashford, came and gave us a short talk which enhanced our interest in the General Election.
- „ 27.—Half-term holiday. We were all interested to note that Mr. Deedes was elected Conservative member for Ashford. Almost everyone managed to get back to school, in spite of the railway strike.
- June 2.—150 of us went to the Institution and Induction of Canon N. M. G. Sharp as Vicar of Ashford by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Archdeacon of Maidstone. It was a most impressive service.
- „ 4.—We celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of the building of the pool. Sam Rockett and Victor Burkett, former Channel swimmers, and an Old Girls' Swimming Team, helped to make the afternoon the success it was.
- „ 17-18.—Junior School Open Days.
- July 2.—Barnardo Day.
- „ 19.—Swimming Sports.
- „ 22-23.—*Pirates of Penzance*.
- „ 22.—Close of School.
- Sept. 15.—Boarders return for Autumn Term.

JUNIOR SCHOOL DIARY

- March 1.—Grammar School Examination.
- „ 30.—We were all very sorry that Miss Brake was unable to come to our "breaking-up".
- April 27.—Summer Term began—we welcomed several new pupils.
- May 2-6.—Inspectors! We soon regarded them as friends. They were not the ogres we expected!
- June 4-5.—Crusaders' second Anniversary. The games and tea, complete with birthday cakes, were much enjoyed on Saturday, and there was a large attendance at the Service on Sunday afternoon.

June 11.—The "Under 10 choir" won the "Lilian Brake" bowl at the Kent Festival.

ADVANCE DATES

Nov. 4.—Prize Giving.
 Dec. 19.—End of Autumn Term.
 1956
 Jan. 17.—Boarders return for Spring Term.
 March 27.—End of Spring Term.
 April 26.—Boarders return for Summer Term.
 July 27.—End of Summer Term.

CONFIRMATION

The following girls were confirmed on Saturday, March 26th, by the Right Reverend the Bishop of Dover in Ashford Parish Church : L. Anderson, S. Andrews, V. Barnwell, C. Beaumont, J. Beeching, L. Boler, M. Burnell, A. Caldicott, S. Caldicott, I. Carey, R. Carmichael, J. Clark, C. Cook, C. Coombes, P. Edmonds, V. Ellis, E. Fleetwood, A. Gaskell, F. Goldsworthy, P. Hagger, P. Hall, M. Hampton, R. Harvey, P. Jackson, A. Jeanes, P. Jenkins, A. King, S. King, C. Klein, A. Low, J. Mark, G. McAuley, D. McDermott, J. Norris, J. Parry, J. Pearson, L. Perry, J. Pinkerton, P. Pitman, J. Posnette, J. Reid, P. Russell, M. Shutter, J. Sillars, S. M. Smith, J. Skinner, P. Tolhurst, E. Wall, A. Williamson, P. Whittam, M. Taylor.

HOUSE NOTES

ALFRED HOUSE

At the beginning of the Autumn Term, we welcomed Miss Hicks as our new Matron, and a variety of new Thirds who nearly all came up from the Junior School and so were not so new. A highlight of this term was the Dramatic Competition, for which we performed *How the Weather is Made*. We all had fun making costumes which had to be fantastic, and the whole thing was ably produced by Anne Mawson, and enjoyed by all of us, although we were not very successful.

At the end of term, the majority of the school misguidedly developed 'flu, and once again some of the Alfred dormitories were used to house its victims. Nevertheless we all returned for the Spring Term in the best of health, with the addition of June Chettur, from India, and started off on a gay note with a fancy dress party on the first Saturday evening. A great deal of black grease was used, and some of the seniors paraded round as the "ten little nigger boys". Alex Laffan and Anne Palmer were great hits as the Ugly Sisters. Alas for all our good intentions about practising hockey and netball! All we could do was to stare dismally out of the window as the rain teemed down. We were not very successful in our Senior attempts, but the Juniors' practising for the netball, especially Gillian Evans and Susan Sillars, encouraged by Jane Moore (the captain), was duly rewarded when they won the cup, much to our delight.

The Summer Term began with wintry weather, and we were all rather dismayed as we are hoping to keep up our swimming tradition by making sure that we keep all the cups which we won last year; the weather as we go to press has, however, improved, and recently nearly the whole house has enjoyed a hilarious splash.

The garden has been quite well tended this year by seniors as well as juniors, and we have been rewarded for our labours of the winter months, by a lovely, colourful array of tulips and other flowers which are blooming now.

All Hallowe'en provided an excellent excuse for a party which the Alfreds were not slow to use, and the usual party games were hilariously enjoyed.

House Entertainments have flourished exceedingly, and we have been regaled with charades, fairy tales, complete plays, and skits on life and dancing at other times, which have shown us that initiative is not lacking amongst us. The Lower Fourths have been particularly imaginative and have taken an immense amount of trouble over their productions, which have been really excellent.

Our thanks must go to Miss Hicks, who has efficiently kept us out of the San.; to our House Captain, Diana Howard, and the Prefects, who have maintained a semblance of law and order in the house; on account of their constant supervision, our stripes have greatly decreased in number. But we are all aware that this would not have been possible without the help of our House Tutor, Miss Baker. Finally we have always felt that it is a privilege and an honour to have Miss Brake so near to us, and we trust she has not grown too tired of the somewhat "heavy footed" Alfreds!

BROOKE PLACE

We started the year with seven School Prefects, the School Captain, Barbara Horrell, and a parlour boarder, Dinah Evans, and were pleased to welcome several new girls, many of whom were sisters, cousins or daughters of previous Brookes.

The first competition of the year was the Dramatic Competition, in which Marilyn Mizen delighted us as "Toad" in Dinah Clipsham's able production of *Toad of Toad Hall*, which came fourth.

We said goodbye to Miss Nightingale as our House Tutor with very great regret, since she has been part of Brooke for so long, although we were delighted that the change was in order that she may take Miss Brake's place next year.

We greeted Miss Lansdale at the beginning of the Spring Term and soon settled down under her leadership.

We had a very successful winter games season, reaching all the finals and only losing one—the Junior Netball.

Our thanks are due to Marilyn Mizen and Frances Ball for their hard work in organizing our efforts for the Craft Competition, in which we came fourth.

At the beginning of the Summer Term the Art Competition was held, and it was owing to the enthusiasm of Gillian Ford that we came second, gaining four "highly commended".

After the removal of the brambles in the garden the gardeners were kept hard at work by Anna Belcher.

The appearance of our tables in the dining-room was much improved by very attractive blue vases—the generous gift of Miss Nightingale, who also gave us a shower.

During the year we said goodbye to Alison Simpson, Juliet Rogers, Pat Threadgill and Dinah Evans, all of whom were valuable members of the house.

We wish to express our very grateful thanks to both our House Tutors for such a happy year, and also to Miss Winthrop and our House Captain, Diana Brown, for helping the change of House Tutor to be made smoothly.

CHAUCER MERCHANTS

We started the year with 72 girls in the house under the tutorship of Miss Blevins, and with Barbara Cooper as our House Captain. At Prize-giving we gained the Music Cup and the Examination Cup, which we hope to keep this year. We were fourth in the Dramatic Competition, thanks to the efforts of Anne Inkpen, the producer, and the cast, who came to school on Saturdays to rehearse, despite travel difficulties.

In the Easter Term, although we reached the finals, we lost the Netball Shield to Brooke Place. We were very proud that the winners of the Skating Competition, Susan Webb and Elizabeth Rogers, are members of the house. We did not do very well in the Craft Competition, but we had some high individual marks.

At the Kent Festival this term, several musical members of our house gained very high places. Frances Dorey arranged our entries for the Art Competition held at the beginning of the term; we managed to collect sufficient paintings and gained two "commended" and several other "mentions".

We shall be sorry to lose our House Captain and two Prefects at the end of this term, and thank them and Miss Blevins for all they have done for us throughout the year.

STOP PRESS.—We have only just learnt that Miss Blevins is leaving at the end of term. We should like to thank her very much for all the help and encouragement she has given the House as its Tutor; we wish her all good luck in New Zealand.

CHAUCER PILGRIMS

With **C** begins our house's famous name,
Which stands for Chaucer, poet of much fame.
And **H** is for the house, whose tale we tell,
Its triumphs, gains, its shortcomings as well.
With **A** for Art, we painted—everyone;
And though but fifth, we all agree 'twas fun.
But ne'er-the-less, whether we gain or fall,
United, and good Pilgrims are we all.
And **C** stands for the Cup, which through our play
The Stolen Prince, we Pilgrims now display.
Then **E**, the eating of a scrumptious cake,
Which for our feast, Mrs. Douglas said she'd bake.
R for the Rounders Cup last year we won;
But Hockey, Netball, Swimming have we none.

P's Miss Perry, who tends and soothes our cares,
Approves our stars, and with many a stripe forbears.
Much Impetus she gave to knit and sew,
Though Somerville beat us, with their better show.
L are the Liberties, just nine to date,
'Sides Sheila our Captain, and House Prefects eight.
To these, for Wendy's Craft, for Betty's Art,
For Mary's play, we **G**ratITUDE impart.
Then **R**, the Rules which we try not to break,
For well we know a star is now at stake.
I was ill, which we all were with 'flu;
Yet, all the same, our courage waxed anew
Good **M**arks to gain, to school to walk or "bike",
Or ride by 'bus, during the railway strike.
With **S**, our spirit, keeping us in good cheer,
Helping all Pilgrims, happily through the year.

CRANMER HOUSE

We began the year with Miss Churchill and Miss Miles as our efficient House Tutor and Matron. Joyce Scott was our new House Captain and was helped by seven House Prefects. We were sorry to lose Hilary Haxworth and Julia Rutherford at the end of the Christmas Term, but they were replaced by two more House Prefects. During the year we have welcomed five Lower Fifths and nine Thirds.

The first excitement of the year was the Dramatic Competition, when Jill Morris produced *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* for us. The performance went off extraordinarily well with much enthusiasm, after a somewhat depressing dress rehearsal! To our great surprise, we managed to gain second place; added to this, Jennifer Halley, playing the part of the wicked Queen, gave an excellent performance and won the Individual Cup. Many thanks go to Jill for gaining us such a good position.

Carolyn Hinks and Jean Pearce won the cup for bird-watching. Rosemary Knight won the Roller Skating Novices' cup, with Barbara Branson second. Congratulations to them!

Very soon after the beginning of the Spring Term, Cranmer celebrated its Silver Jubilee with a very successful party. We would like to thank Mrs. Goldsworthy for the delicious ice-cream gâteau. We all worked very hard for the Craft Competition, encouraged by Pamela Jackson, who organized our exhibits; although our efforts were not very successful, we enjoyed working for it.

At the beginning of the Summer Term, Cranmer tried its hand at Art; most unfortunately we did not prove to be very artistic. However, we have high hopes for Tennis and Swimming this term.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Anne Pearson for her kind gift of books for Cranmer library.

We should especially like to thank Miss Churchill, Miss Miles and Joyce for helping us to have such a happy year.

NIGHTINGALE HOUSE

Lying in the sun on top Nightingale, it is not easy to cast the unwilling mind back to all the rain and cold of the last two terms. This term we came third in the Art Competition, and we hold high hopes for Rounders, Tennis and Swimming matches to be held later this term.

Thanks to Miss Marriott, our Matron, our health remained unaffected, although our luck seemed as poor as the weather. It is better to pass over the indoor competitions—Dramatic and Craft—but the Netball must be mentioned. We lost the shield by one goal to the winning team.

From here a burst of colour catches the eye; it is Nightingale Gardens. Thanks chiefly to Diana Leaver, who last year won the Individual Gardening Cup, the gardens have looked very attractive throughout this year.

With Miss Webb as our House Tutor and Susan Barr, ably backed up by the House Prefects, as our Captain, we have had a most satisfactory year.

SOMERVILLE HOUSE

Our House Captain at the beginning of the year was Gillian Watson, who also produced our play for the Dramatic Competition. We were all pleased to hear *The Young Princess* had earned third place.

At the end of term all Somerville was evacuated, to make room for those stricken with 'flu. Everyone admired the staff's magnificent effort in dealing with the epidemic. We were sorry to say goodbye to Gillian at the end of term, but glad to welcome Margaret Hampton as our new House Captain.

The Spring Term began with all our efforts concentrated on winning the Craft Competition, and this we succeeded in doing, under Margaret's very able leadership. We were also thrilled to have the Individual Craft Cup won by V. Rush-Smith, S. Caldicott and A. Caldicott, with their model village. This made up for our failures on the games field, although we managed to get into the Senior Hockey finals for the fourth time running. Somerville's luck seemed to change for the better under Margaret, and we were very sorry when she, too, had to leave.

We started the Summer Term with Alison Webber as House Captain. Under Valerie Hogbin's leadership, the house made valiant efforts and

carried off the Art Cup. Unfortunately we were knocked out of the Rounders by Nightingale, but we still cherish hopes of some other games' cups.

Our thanks are due to Miss Neal and Miss Harvey, who have piloted us through our most successful year for a long time.

WINTER GAMES REPORT, 1955

Hockey was played with varying results; unfortunately several matches arranged for the Spring Term had to be scratched because of the continually bad weather. G. Kay captained the East Kent Schools' Team, and G. Ford, S. Pidsley and T. Hurst were chosen as reserves for the team.

We have found that the new Hard Courts have enabled the standard of netball to be improved throughout the school. This was particularly evident in the Spring Term, when the 1st VII won all their matches and also the East Kent Schools' Tournament.

In spite of the weather all the House Matches were played; Brooke Place won the Senior and Junior Hockey Cups and the Senior Netball Shield; Alfred won the Junior Netball Cup.

HOCKEY TEAMS

| | <i>1st XI</i> | <i>2nd XI</i> | <i>Under 15 XI</i> |
|------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| G. | *S. Pidsley | A. Holliwell | P. Wheaton |
| R.B. | E. Court | I. Gubbin | D. Webb |
| L.B. | *G. Ford | G. Kent | J. Parry |
| R.H. | A. Baxter | S. Barr | J. Short |
| C.H. | *B. Cooper | J. Hills | J. Pratt |
| L.H. | *D. Evans | C. Stainer | J. Sillars |
| R.W. | A. M. Fenchelle | A. Douglas | M. Taylor |
| R.I. | *M. Mizen | D. Brown | M. Burnell |
| C.F. | *G. Kay (<i>Capt.</i>) | B. Low (<i>Capt.</i>) | M. Hamilton |
| L.I. | *T. Hurst | D. McDermott | I. Carey |
| L.W. | *V. Hogbin | S. Blacklocks | I. Smailes (<i>Capt.</i>) |
| | * Colours. | <i>Also</i> | <i>Also</i> |
| | | A. Davidson | L. Perry |
| | | J. Pares | J. Moore |
| | | M. Watt | |
| | | P. Filmer | |

HOCKEY FIXTURES

| | | | |
|-------|------|---|------|
| Sept. | 25th | 1st XI v. Brampton Down 1st XI | Won |
| Oct. | 9th | 1st XI v. Folkestone County Grammar School | Won |
| " | 9th | 2nd XI v. Folkestone County Grammar School | |
| | | 2nd XI | Won |
| " | 9th | Under 15 XI v. Folkestone County Grammar School | |
| | | Under 15 XI | Won |
| " | 23rd | 1st XI v. Ashford County Grammar School 1st XI | Lost |
| " | 23rd | 2nd XI v. Ashford County Grammar School 2nd XI | Won |
| " | 23rd | Under 15 XI v. Ashford County Grammar School | |
| | | Under 15 XI | Lost |
| " | 23rd | Under 14 XI v. Ashford County Grammar School | |
| | | Under 14 XI | Won |
| Nov. | 20th | 1st XI v. William Gibbs 1st XI | Won |
| " | 20th | 2nd XI v. William Gibbs 2nd XI | Won |
| Dec. | 4th | 1st XI v. St. Margaret's 1st XI | Won |
| Jan. | 29th | 1st XI v. Old Girls' XI | Won |
| March | 19th | 2nd XI v. Brampton Down 2nd XI | Won |
| " | 19th | Under 15 XI v. Brampton Down Under 15 XI | Won |

| | | | | |
|-------|------|--|-------------|-------|
| March | 23rd | 1st XI v. Ashford County Grammar School | 1st XI | Lost |
| " | 23rd | 2nd XI v. Ashford County Grammar School | 2nd XI | Drawn |
| " | 23rd | Under 15 XI v. Ashford County Grammar School | Under 15 XI | Lost |
| " | 23rd | Under 14 XI v. Ashford County Grammar School | Under 14 XI | Won |

NETBALL TEAMS

| | 1st VII | 2nd VII | Under 15 VII |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| S. | G. Ford | J. Hills | I. Smailes |
| A. | *A. Davidson | I. Gubbin | R. Pringle |
| C.A. | *G. Kay | B. Low | J. Maddieson |
| C. | *M. Mizen | M. Watt (Capt.) | S. Blacklocks (Capt.) |
| C.D. | B. Cooper | P. Filmer | J. Moore |
| D. | V. Hogbin | D. McDermott | J. Pratt |
| G.D. | *T. Hurst (Capt.) | A. Baxter | S. Caldicott |
| | * Colours. | Also | |
| | | D. Brown | |
| | | E. Court | |

NETBALL FIXTURES

| | | | | |
|-------|------|--|--------------|-------|
| Oct. | 2nd | 1st VII v. Dover County Grammar School | 1st VII | Lost |
| " | 2nd | 2nd VII v. Dover County Grammar School | 2nd VII | Lost |
| " | 2nd | Under 15 VII v. Dover County Grammar School | Under 15 VII | Lost |
| " | 16th | Under VII v. Caldicott Community | Under 15 VII | Won |
| Nov. | 13th | 1st VII v. Simon Langton | 1st VII | Lost |
| " | 13th | 2nd VII v. Simon Langton | 2nd VII | Lost |
| " | 13th | Under 15 VII v. Simon Langton | Under 15 VII | Lost |
| " | 27th | 1st VII v. Folkestone County Grammar School | 1st VII | Won |
| " | 27th | 2nd VII v. Folkestone County Grammar School | 2nd VII | Won |
| " | 27th | Under 15 VII v. Folkestone County Grammar School | Under 15 VII | Drawn |
| Feb. | 5th | 1st VII v. Ashford County Grammar School | 1st VII | Won |
| " | 5th | 2nd VII v. Ashford County Grammar School | 2nd VII | Won |
| " | 5th | Under 15 VII v. Ashford County Grammar School | Under 15 VII | Drawn |
| March | 26th | 1st VII v. Simon Langton | 1st VII | Won |
| " | 26th | 2nd VII v. Simon Langton | 2nd VII | Won |
| " | 26th | Under 15 VII v. Simon Langton | Under 15 VII | Lost |

B.M.H.

SKATING COMPETITION

March 19th proved to be an extremely cold day on which to hold the Skating Competition, but, in spite of this, a high standard of skating was reached.

As last year, Mrs. Wigney very kindly came to judge the competition and to present the cups which she herself gives to us each year.

Susan Webb won the cup for the experienced skaters with Elizabeth Rogers in second place, whilst Rosemary Knight gained the Novices' Cup with Barbara Branson runner-up.

E.M.M.

CRAFT COMPETITION, AND ROTARY EXHIBITION OF CRAFTS

The House Competition for the Craft Cup was held this year on Saturday, March 19th.

We have to thank two old girls, Adrienne Flashman and Jean Bradley, for coming to judge for us. Adrienne is working for one of the top ten dress designers in London (Michael Sherard) and Jean is teaching Dress Design at the Gravesend School of Art. We were so sorry that Anne Newall was unable to come to help judge owing to illness, but perhaps she will be kind enough to come on some future occasion. She, too, is working for one of the "top ten".

The judges were pleased with the Exhibition as a whole, and thought that the standard of work had improved. However, some girls lost marks because they had used a transfer instead of planning out an original design for their embroidery, and some of the dressmaking entries had a low mark because the details required for a good finish were not attended to!

We congratulate Elizabeth Walter on winning the Needlework Prize for her two entries—a stool top in canvas work, and an embroidered tray-cloth. She also won a first prize for these entries in the Rotary Club Exhibition of Arts and Crafts. We entered most of our best work for this Exhibition and received nearly £4 in prize money. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Rotary Club for the generous prizes we received from them. Nearly 200 of us went to see this Exhibition and thought it was very good indeed.

Alison and Susan Caldicott and Valerie Rush-Smith won the Hosking Cup for the best piece of Craft work in the School Exhibition—a model village beautifully made from chalk which they had dug out of the hillside on Wye Downs.

Miss Lansdale and Miss Salmon transported our entries to and from the Corn Exchange; we are most grateful to them.

Order of Houses in the Competition

1. Somerville; 2. Chaucer Pilgrims; 3. Alfred; 4. Brooke Place;
5. Nightingale; 5. Cranmer; 7. Chaucer Merchants.

F.W.H.

THE ART COMPETITION

An Art Competition was set early this year, the theme being "The Spring. This title was interpreted very widely, subjects ranging from gymnastics to goddesses, from attic to orchard, with an occasional "abstract" to mystify us. Each House entered a given number of paintings which were hung in the Art Room on May 21st and judged by Miss Greta Walter, Art Mistress of Sydenham High School for Girls.

Miss Walter enjoyed her visit and left written comments on the House Entries and on the commended pictures. She praised the standard of drawing, the good lettering and attractive display of work. When the marks were totalled, Somerville came top, winning the Cup, Brooke Place, second, and Nightingale, third; Alfred House came fourth, Chaucer Pilgrims fifth, with Chaucer Merchants and Cranmer tied sixth.

The pictures remained on view for a week, arousing much interest. The commended paintings had a second showing later in the term, helping us to appreciate the importance of composition and colour in successful picture-making.

M.H.R.

LIBRARY NOTES

(From our Literary Correspondent)

During the Spring and Summer Terms we have had more gifts for the library; we are most grateful to the donors. Miss Brake has kindly given us a number of books, ranging from fiction and travel to essays and biographies.

The inspectors who visited us this term gave some money to be spent on the library, as did the Whitfeld Brethren; Mrs. Hampton and Margaret have given us a number of books: *English Costume*, by D. Yarwood, *Bouquet de France*, by S. Chamberlain and *The World of Albert Schweitzer* by E. Anderson.

This term we have had metal card holders attached to the shelves, which enable the contents of each shelf to be labelled. A simple card index has been established and has greatly improved the facilities of the library.

MUSIC DIARY

(From our Music Correspondent)

At the end of last term we were entertained at an informal evening concert by the Ashford Orchestra augmented by the School Extra Singers, both under the supervision of Miss Rowe.

At the beginning of the Summer Term many people could be heard from a considerable distance, practising for various classes in the Kent Festival, and their results were rewarding.

Every morning after prayers, one of the music staff plays us music from other countries, to improve our musical knowledge.

Miss Main's Orchestra grows bigger and better every week, and entertains us every Thursday morning.

GUIDE NOTES

2nd and 5th Ashford Companies

Throughout the year the Guides have again spent a happy and fruitful time together, the 2nd Company under Miss Stafford as their Captain, with Hilary Lyndon Jones as Company Leader, and the 5th Company under Miss Abbott as Captain until Easter, and now under Miss Haigh, with Jill Sillars as Company Leader.

We are pleased to announce that Hilary Lyndon Jones has passed her First Class, and both she and Jill Sillars are working hard for their Queen's Guide Tests. The fact that they have been chosen is in itself a great honour and we wish them both the best of luck.

At the beginning of the Summer Term we went for an all-day hike and cooked our lunch in Miss Brake's wood. Several Guides passed two of their First-Class tests. Between the Companies we have won thirty proficiency badges—the subjects being: Cook, Needlewoman, Laundress, Homemaker, Hostess, Knitter, Life-saver, Swimmer, Thrift, Map Reader, Music Lover, Minstrel, Athlete and Gymnast.

We are hoping to camp again this year, this time at Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells. We hope the weather will be kinder than it was last year!

The Division Thinking Day Ceremony was held again at School, in the Gymnasium, and a good proportion of School Guides were able to be there.

This report would be most incomplete without a word of thanks to Miss Abbott. We were sorry that she had to give up the 5th Company at Easter owing to the pressure of her work, but we are glad to have Miss Haigh as Acting Captain in her place.

We have tried to fly the Colours on all Festival Days throughout the year, and we thank those Guides who have been responsible on every occasion. We look forward to recruiting a great many new Guides next term, and wish all the "old ones" a happy holiday.

Our thanks go to Miss Brake, who always shows an unfailing interest in our activities and gives us such encouragement at all times.

LIBERTY BADGES

End of Spring Term.

J. Bennett, I. Carey, J. Craven, P. Edmonds, M. Hamilton, P. Hicks, P. Jenkins, H. Lewis, J. Parry, P. Peskett, J. Reid, J. Stowell, R. Williams.

Middle of Summer Term.

S. Blacklocks, R. Carmichael, J. Dundas, V. Ellis, A. Fortescue-Thomas, R. Harvey, A. Holliwell, S. Johnson, G. Kent, C. Lawson, A. Low, J. Pinkerton, J. Sisson, C. Stoop.

DEPARTMENT BADGES

End of Spring Term.

A. M. Fenchelle, J. Finn-Kelcey, J. Fletcher, J. Harrington, D. Howard, C. Lougher.

VALETE

At the end of the Spring Term we said goodbye to:

Senior School: Miss Rhodes.

Boarders: D. Evans (School Prefect), M. Hampton (Somerville House Captain).

Day Pupil: Patsy Smith.

Preparatory School, Day Pupils: D. Amos, R. Carter, A. Davis, P. Davis, G. Hayward, M. Hayward, W. Lendrum, S. Symons, M. Watts.

SALVETE

At the beginning of the Summer Term we welcomed:

Senior School: Miss Martin.

Boarders: S. Copland, T. Quentin Evans, C. Rennie, S. Rotter (re-entry), K. Trapaud (Norway), J. Watts (India), S. Wheeler (Tanganyika), M. Vincent (France).

Day Pupil: J. Hinde (N. Rhodesia).

Preparatory School, Boarders: R. Cecil, H. Goodchild, G. Wheeler (Tanganyika).

Day Pupils: H. Alexander, J. Baggally, K. Brodrick, S. Clark, J. Cochrane, J. Erle Drax, S. Erle Drax, R. Fletcher, W. Fowler (re-entry), C. Holtum, S. Ashley Smith, L. Trott, C. and D. Williams (N. Rhodesia), C. Wilson, R. Wilson.

At Half-Term we welcomed M.-A. and S. Laughton (re-entry).

OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Miss F. M. G. GAUSDEN, Athelstan, Saxon Wood Road, Battle, Sussex.

Hon. Auditor: G. ALLARD, 414 Kensington Close, W.8.

Correspondents:

1939. L. YOUNG (Mrs. Booth), 27 East Way, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey.

1946. M. SCOWCROFT, Roslyn, Bridgefield Road, Whitstable, Kent.

1947. M. C. DANIELS, Everton Vicarage, Sandy, Beds.

1948. M. VALLINTINE (Mrs. Carr), 43 Circuit Lane, Reading, Berks.

1950. R. HOWARD, The Warren, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent.

R. RICHMOND, 8 Lewes Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

1951. S. ALDERSON (Mrs. Gair), One Pear Tree, Itchenor, near Chichester, Sussex.

D. DAVIS, 8 St. Hilda's Road, Hythe, Kent.

1953. K. CHADBURN, 8 Holland Villas Road, W.14.

1952. D. MIGHELL, 21 Forest Ridge, Beckenham, Kent.

1954. J. CALLENDER, 59 Northwood Road, Tankerton, near Whitstable, Kent.

Hon. Games Secretary: R. HOWARD, The Warren, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent.

Please contact the Hon. Games Secretary if you wish to take part in future Hockey or Tennis matches.

Annual Subscriptions, 7s. 6d.; 10-year Subscription, £3 3s. (*to be sent to the Secretary and NOT to School*).

NOTICE

THE OLD GIRLS' HOCKEY MATCH will take place at School on *Saturday, January 21st, 1956.*

ASHFORD SCHOOL, KENT, OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1954.

| EXPENDITURE | £ | s. | d. | RECEIPTS | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------|------|----|----|-------------------------|------|----|----|
| Headley Brothers Ltd. | 20 | 7 | 10 | 31.12.53. Balance of | | | |
| <i>Reunion, March 6, 1954:</i> | | | | Post Office Bank | | | |
| Hall .. | 8 | 8 | 0 | Account | 46 | 4 | 0 |
| Teas .. | 6 | 0 | 0 | Subscriptions | 80 | 7 | 6 |
| Gratuities | 10 | 0 | | Donations to O.G.A. | | | |
| Deposit | | | | Funds | 172 | 4 | 0 |
| for 1955 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Tea money received at | | | |
| | | | | Reunion | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | Refund of Overpay- | | | |
| £17 0 0 | | | | ment for Magazines | | | |
| <i>Less</i> £2 2s. Deposit | | | | 1952-3 | 13 | 16 | 6 |
| paid 12.12.53 .. | 14 | 18 | 0 | Interest on 3% Savings | | | |
| Magazines, 1953-4 .. | 134 | 3 | 6 | Bonds | 4 | 16 | 0 |
| Postage and Stationery, | | | | Interest on Post Office | | | |
| Donation Appeals .. | 3 | 10 | 0 | Account | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Balance 31.12.54. .. | £172 | 19 | 4 | | | | |
| | 152 | 7 | 9 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | £325 | 7 | 1 | | £325 | 7 | 1 |

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

£160 3% Savings Bonds in the names of the Trustees of the Association.

THE SPRING REUNION

The Spring Reunion, held at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club on March 5th, was an outstanding one in many ways. Actually there were three meetings in succession; at the first, before Miss Brake's arrival, a Certain Presentation was discussed; next, the Annual General Meeting—the briefest ever—and then the Reunion itself, occupying the remainder of the afternoon.

The attendance was a record; about 200 Old Girls and Staff were present, some having travelled many miles for the occasion. From Scotland, Wales, the West Country—from all parts, in fact—they gathered to do honour to Miss Brake before her retirement. Forty-five years of the School's life were represented; several members had never attended a Reunion before, and some were accompanied by their daughters who have now joined the ranks of Old Girls.

Little need be said about the preliminary discussion except that a very lively interest was taken in the proceedings. The results will be made public before this report reaches the readers' eyes.

At the conclusion of the debate, Miss Brake was "collected", and made her appearance. In the writer's view, her entry was the most impressive item of the afternoon. No tumultuous applause, but something far better; there was a sudden stir in the crowded hall as with one spontaneous movement, the company rose to its feet in silence, remaining standing until our Chairman had taken her seat. In one moment, time dissolved, and we were all back at Ashford.

The Annual General Meeting which followed was cut to bare essentials. The Secretary reported on the Old Girls' Association membership (now nearing the 700 mark), on the good response to her appeals for donations, and on the improvement in the Association's financial position. This is now in a happy state of solvency brought about by these donations and the increase subscription rates, which are beginning to bear fruit. The accounts were then passed; a copy of the Balance Sheet appears elsewhere in the magazine. The re-election of officers concluded the business programme, and Miss Brake took the floor, giving her usual entertaining account of School happenings, with special reference to Miss Nightingale's appointment as her successor. After this there was a general move towards the buffet, where the Club provided a super tea. From then on, the atmosphere was extremely sociable, with members dashing about to greet old friends with whoops of delight, and chattering to their hearts' content. Wherever Miss Brake moved, she was the central figure of a dense crowd, and, towards the end of the time, a queue formed to bid her "au revoir". Eventually, a porter, armed with a large broom, began to tidy the hall; it was obviously time to leave, so we dragged ourselves away with a firm resolution to "come again next year".

Members present: Miss Brake, Miss Haffenden, Sister Clement, Miss Churchill, Mrs. Green, H. G. Churcher (Mrs. Kneen), D. L. Rofe, C. R. Stroud, E. Webb (Dr. Broad), K. Weston, L. Gregg (Mrs. Wigney), J. Butler, B. Vidler (Mrs. Hamer), E. K. Hope, J. A. Carpenter, Angela Mumford, J. Kilford, P. Osmond (Lady Williams), H. Vickers (Mrs. Robertson), F. Leslie, A. Gibson, D. Cole, R. M. Tait (Mrs. Aubury), M. Stow (Mrs. Baker), P. Bailey, I. Dawson, D. M. Williams (Mrs. Davies), J. B. Cole (Mrs. Mills), M. Cole, B. Hodgson (Mrs. Muskett), E. Gregor, G. Watson, Jennifer Fairbairn, R. Surén, M. Scowcroft, E. Cheadle (Mrs. Gamble) S. A. Burnell, M. Punton-Smith, E. Pidsley, C. May, D. G. Horne (Mrs. Strong), M. Strong, H. Byrne, P. Hoes, A. Griffiths (Mrs. Scott), A. Hammond, D. Lougher, J. Rand, J. Snow, A. West, J. Holmes (Mrs. Wood), M. Turner, M. Roberson (Mrs. Holmes), M. Bowskill, T. Roberts (Mrs. Rayner), D. Irwin (Mrs. Wilson Haffenden), H. Bury (Mrs. McMullen), P. Wachter (Mrs. Westoby), N. Bayes (Mrs. Kent), J. Lee, B. Feather, A. Head, G. Haxworth, V. Walker, Jane Castle, R. Cowan, S. Marsh (Mrs. Bradford), D. Haines Cox (Mrs. Dickinson), B. Atkinson (Mrs. Robson), P. Roper, J. Kiln, M. Atkinson (Mrs. Davison), J. Hartree, H. May, A. Cooper, Adrienne

Mumford, D. Gubbin, B. Vokins, J. Girling, A. Furneaux, P. Pierson, J. Cobb, J. Trechman, B. Allnut (Mrs. Knight), D. Fish, E. Johnson, J. Richards, J. Wicksteed, R. Jezzard, R. Stapley (Mrs. Manwaring), V. Arrow, M. Ellis, G. Marks (Mrs. Grantley-Smith), P. S. Peel, J. Morrison, J. Sherborne (Mrs. Procter), S. Barfoot, A. Marshall (Mrs. Kidner), D. Milton, J. Slatter, P. Petitpierre (Mrs. Gilbert), M. Heymann, E. Ward, H. Steytler, A. Harmer, A. Edwards (Mrs. Watts), R. Girling, M. C. Daniels, B. M. Harvey, K. Roife, A. G. Porter (Mrs. Wood), J. Smith, A. King, E. Horne (Mrs. La Trobe), J. Lovatt, S. Singer, B. Millen (Mrs. Buggé), J. Millen, J. Edginton, A. Colyer (Mrs. Elman), L. Goonewardene (Mrs. Baker), B. Hickie, W. Wheeler, Mary Wheeler (Mrs. Emmett), M. Judd, W. Spillett (Mrs. Bard), M. Deveson, M. Chéng (Dr. Wright), E. Mawson (Mrs. Harris), G. Goonewardene (Mrs. Grigg), B. M. Morton (Mrs. Thomas), J. A. Anderson (Mrs. Kekwick), J. Harvey (Mrs. Baker), M. I. Thomas (Mrs. Reeves), M. Johnson, K. Perry (Mrs. Evans), M. Sherman, B. Matthews (Mrs. Armitage), A. Shackleton (Mrs. Baker), R. Brake (Mrs. Mustoe), L. Young (Mrs. Booth), J. W. Harland, E. Simpson (Mrs. Wailes), Thea Young, H. Young (Mrs. Clifton), E. Withers (Mrs. James), D. Salmon, S. Tait (Mrs. Bate), C. Alley (Mrs. Williams), M. Kingsley, S. Judd, D. Robertson (Mrs. Matthews), B. Caton (Mrs. Jackson), R. Parker, J. Barfoot, H. Arnold, P. Wallis, V. A. Brown, J. Chennells, J. Lindsay, A. Rose (Mrs. Wordley), N. Loxley (Mrs. Watkins), J. Treasure (Mrs. Griffiths), D. Pollard (Mrs. Taylor), A. Bullpitt, V. Goater, J. Callender, J. Burren, Jenny Fairbairn, M. Vallintine (Mrs. Carr), B. Thomas (Mrs. Lovatt), R. Richmond, A. Weston, F. M. G. Gausden, and several others who omitted to sign the attendance book.

MISS BRAKE'S POST-BAG

ALL OUR SYMPATHY TO:

JILL GIRLING on the death of her mother.
 JULIE AND JACQUELINE CASTLE on the death of their father.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

ANNE LARKINS (Mrs. Moncrieffe) on the birth of a son.
 LYDIA TORRANCE on her marriage to Dr. W. F. M. Dorward.
 MARY PUNTON-SMITH on her marriage to Mr. Roy Clarke.
 JANET BALDWIN on her marriage to Mr. A. O. R. Mitchley.
 ANNE PEARSE on her marriage to Mr. Geoffrey Vinson.
 DAWN MIGHELL on her engagement to Mr. A. J. Kent.
 JILL CHUDLEIGH on her engagement.
 JEAN FLEMING-BARNARD on her engagement.
 ANNE-MARIE JEVONS on her engagement.
 JEAN GUBBIN on her engagement.

SUSIE MARTIN has been accepted at Bedford College to do a Physics special course.

ANNE GIBBINS is enjoying life at the Maynard School, Exeter.

JILL RAND is sharing a flat with HAZEL BYRNE. Jill is working in London as an Editorial Assistant for a chemistry journal, and enjoys the work very much.

ELISABETH RAGGE starts at Berridge House in September.

BARBARA SOMERVILLE (Mrs. Parsons) writes from Southern Rhodesia. She is looking forward to her first long leave in December.

JEAN BRACKETT has just finished her teaching practice, and has started looking for a post in Nottingham.

CHRISTINE JEANES has started as Junior Assistant Matron at Clewer Manor.

VALERIE BERTING has started work in a bank in Vancouver. She plans to put herself through college.

DOROTHY SHACKLETON has seen both ANGELA MUMFORD and MISS HAZELDEN, who was Matron at Nightingale for a short time, and now teaches music in Watford, having taken her Diploma.

GILLIAN HAXWORTH met HAZEL BYRNE and ANNE MARTIN in the X-ray department of Guy's Hospital. HILARY has started her Secretarial training.

PAT THREADGILL has arrived in India, after a very interesting journey out.

DOROTHY DELAFIELD, who left Ashford in 1914, sends her good wishes.

CHRISTINA O'FARRELL has been awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to the Tasmanian University, and starts her course in Arts there in March. She thinks she will probably end up by teaching!

VALERIE STEVENS is doing well at the Royal Academy.

CAROL SIMPSON is finishing at Bexhill and is going to Milner Court as a Matron.

DAPHNE COLE is back at college, and is taking her degree this year.

ALISAMON WOLF finishes her training in July and has a post under the Buckinghamshire Education authority.

MISS HARDIE (Mrs. ———) writes of her happy memories of Topsham. She is living in London with her mother and step-daughters.

MISS HASSALL is settled at Shamrock Cottage, Kirby-le-Soken, Essex.

LENA GREGG (Mrs. Wigney) came to judge the Skating Competition.

MARGARET CASH (Mrs. Thomas) is living at Heathfield and waiting to join her husband in Germany.

MARGARET PERRY has passed out as a Pilot Officer. She is now posted to Bicester, near Oxford.

BARBARA EAST came to see us. Miss Parsons of Crediton has been coaching her.

IVY WILLIAMS (Mrs. Howard) writes that JUNE has recently gained her S.R.N. She is now going on to Reading for a Queen's Nursing Course. AUDREY has two babies.

MARY BATEMAN (Mrs. Macleod) sends snaps of her children, John, Ian and KATRINA. ERICA has been staying with her before going off to Fiji.

JOAN SILLIBOURNE finishes at Bedford College in July and hopes to get a post with the I.C.I.

ANNE PARSONS is going to do Domestic Science. She has been working in a nursery for three months.

JOAN TRECHMAN came from Scotland for the Old Girls' meeting, and much enjoyed it.

JOAN MORRISON is nursing at University College Hospital.

TONIA KNOTT writes from Auckland. She is at the University taking English and History.

AUDREY GRIFFITHS (Mrs. Scott) brought a photograph of her own and her sister's children.

MISS COW has been very seedy and is having to give up her post as House Mistress at St. Swithin's.

HAZEL PERFECT is going to Roehampton.

ALISON FURNEAUX finished in July at Berridge House, and hopes to get a post in a boys' school.

JUDY BENZIE (Mrs. Jarman) is now living in Solihull.

MARJORIE COLLIER is busy at Bedford College with exams. She is very interested in the University Air Squadron.

SHIRLEY TATMAN has applied to B.O.A.C. for a post as an Air Stewardess.

CHÉRIE is enjoying life at the P.A.R.A.D.A.

BETTY COBB (Mrs. Radley) is very busy with her home and family. JOYCE is a physiotherapist at King's College Hospital.

GWEN WALKER (Mrs. Rennie) came down to bring her daughter, who started school, this term.

BETTY BECKETT (Mrs. Brown) is now living at Whitstable. She came with her husband, son and twin daughters for lunch and a swim on the day the pool first reached 60° this term.

MARY SIMPSON is enjoying her work at Colwall Court, Bexhill. She hopes to take up nursing.

CHRISTINE HENRY (Mrs. Ure) and her husband brought their delightful daughter of eleven months to see me.

HELEN YOUNG (Mrs. Clifton), her husband and daughter, and RUTH BRAKE (Mrs. Mustoe), her husband and son, all came and stayed at school over Easter. I had tea with PAMELA HOUGHIN (Mrs. Thorne), her husband and small daughter, at her parents' home at Ruckinge. The small daughter, like the other three babies mentioned, did great credit to their up-bringing.

MONICA STREATFEILD is working at the Arts and Crafts School in Vienna.

URSULA ROUGHLEY is now secretary to the Superintendent of St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey.

BERYL MICHELL (Mrs. Stanley) came to see us.

VALERIE STACEY hopes to get a post with the Agricultural Advisory Service. She has been working in the Chemotherapy Department of the Wellcome Research Laboratories at Beckenham. She is engaged and hopes to be married at the end of the year.

MURIEL JUDD spent a night with us when adjudicating for the Kent Festival.

ANGELA SYKES (Mrs. Eyres) is teaching at Reading. She has seen PAT BARRETT (Mrs. Beacon) and ROSEMARY STAPLEY (Mrs. Manwaring).

BERYL PEARSON (Mrs. Jenkins) spent a night here on her way home from Baghdad.

GLADYS BROWN, now teaching at Luton, came to see us on her way to Canterbury.

JENNIFER TURVEY is at the Mary Datchelor School, and has passed seven subjects of her General Certificate. She is now taking French, German and Medieval History.

PHILIP HEADLEY was at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and found himself being nursed by MARY ELVY. MARGARET COLE, MARGARET ROGERS, CAROLINE WYNN THOMAS and SALLY ERITH are also there. SHEILA MURRAY is a dietician.

KIRA DILLON is so much enjoying Grenoble that she hopes to remain longer in France.

JUDY TURNER is enjoying life at Gloucester Domestic Science College.

BARBARA HUGHES (Mrs. Lamb) has just gone off with her husband and family to Germany for three years.

BETTY GRAY (Mrs. Leitch) has a new small daughter, Fiona.

ALISON SIMPSON is at the Art College at Canterbury, where she sees JEAN CALLENDER.

MARGARET BUTLER has been appointed to Bromley Grammar School as a Physical Education Mistress. She will be near ROSEMARY, who is at Denmark Hill.

MISS KENNY is still studying New England history. She is going to the U.S.A. in July.

SUSAN CHADBURN is enjoying life in France. She goes to Paris for lessons in Art.

BETTY SMITH (Mrs. French) came to swim for the Old Girls on the twenty-first birthday of the pool. Her husband and their three children, two girls and a boy, came with her. SHEILA WILLSON also came to swim, and MARGARET BUTLER, who had got the team together.

JEAN FLEMING-BARNARD has gone out to Southern Rhodesia for a holiday. She is engaged, and expects to be married at the end of the year.

LYNETTE SHRUBBS is back in England ready to start her nursing training at the Middlesex Hospital in August.

JUDY GODDARD writes from Darjeeling that she has been accepted for nursing training at the London Hospital.

HILARY JENKINS is doing a secretarial training in London.

ELIZABETH CHEADLE (Mrs. Gamble) is living in Ipswich.

CYNTHIA PEARSON (Mrs. Webb) writes from Kenya of her continued progress six years after having polio. She swam for Bridge when the pool was first used in 1934. Her son, Rodney, is two.

Congratulations to BARBARA SHAPTER on getting her London Chamber of Commerce Examination in Real and Personal Property and Conveyancing.

ELIZABETH HARLAND has had a good holiday in France. She spent a night with us on the way.

PEGGY YOUNG finds her car very useful in Gatooma as she can get to Salisbury so easily. She is now nursing in the European Hospital.

CAROLYN SHAW writes:

"At last I am back in England after the strangest six months of my life—I was in a Convent in South Germany, in the most beautiful countryside near Lake Constance; we slipped into Switzerland for an afternoon and to Austria for the week-end. I learned to ski and ice-skate and, of course, to speak German, as I was the only English girl there; it was certainly the best way to learn a language and after two months I began to love it, but it took me a long time to settle in. I was there for Carnival and Lent—both of which are quite an experience in a Convent! Also the 'Banquet', following the Seniors' final examinations, proved an interesting custom; they wine and dined the examiners, and the examiners passed them! In the last twelve months I've seen quite a bit of Germany; four months in the Rhineland, Carnival in Cologne, a sitting at the Bunderhaus in Bonn, six months in a Convent, and delightful visits to Konstanz and Frankfurt. Now I'm at Mrs. Hoster's Secretarial Training College in London, hoping to be able to use my German with my shorthand and typing for an interesting job travelling about a bit and meeting lots of people, to know them and other countries.

"Now I'm in London I am seeing a lot of Old Girls, in fact we're quite a colony here in South Kensington, most of us 'learning the trade'; SARAH MARRIAGE and ANN KING are at St. James's and AUDREY NAJER-GRANT at Queen's. ALISON DALE has a flat here, so has LOIS BOYS. Alison is at a Repertory Theatre as Assistant Stage Manager and Lois is doing dress-making. I see VALERIE FLETCHER quite often and DINAH GUISE. Both are in their second year of Dramatic School, Valerie at The Guildhall and Dinah at The Royal Academy where she occasionally sees VALERIE STEVENS, but as she is a Music Student the meetings are not often. I also meet JEAN SMITH for lunch frequently; she is doing Physiotherapy at St. Mary's Swedish Institute and finds it pretty hard work. MARY ASH wrote from Canterbury saying how much she enjoys herself at St. Christopher's. JUDY GODDARD writes from India that she is coming home this summer ready to start nursing in the Autumn. DINAH COOPER 'phoned a while ago, but the election was keeping her very busy so that, as yet, we haven't been able to meet; still we hope to have a good 'get-together' at Barnardo's this year and really catch up on all the news then!"

FROM DAWN MIGHELL:

TONIA KNOTT writes from New Zealand that she is looking forward to seeing Miss Brake in December. Tonia seems to be leading a very busy life, going to the University during the day, and Technical School three evenings a week, where she is learning shorthand and typing. She is taking driving lessons, and admits that she is very fond of driving fast!

ELIZABETH COVER has just finished taking the last part of her I.M.A. Diploma. She has got a job in Germany with The Malcolm Club.

ANN HOSKING is now in the last term of her first year at Seale Hayne College, and is taking her first year finals. JENNIFER LUCAS, who is nursing at Torquay, has been up to some of the College dances.

ANNE MARTIN has finished her training in radiography treatment, and is now learning the diagnostic side. She is most upset, as she feels that SUSIE has let her down by joining the local Hockey Club!

NEW AND ALTERED ADDRESSES

(* Denotes Life or 10-year Member)

- *BECKETT, B. (Mrs. Brown), 29 Northwood Road, Whitstable, Kent.
- *BECKETT, K. M., 15 Park Court, Park Hall Road, S.E.19.
- *BAILEY, B., The Pond House, Craythorne Road, Tenterden, Kent.
- *BAILEY, M., The Pond House, Craythorne Road, Tenterden, Kent.
- *BENNETT, B. (Mrs. Burney), Penhale, Park Road, Tiverton, Devon.
- *BERK, J., Cope Hill, Collington Rise, Bexhill, Sussex.
- BERTING, V., Suite 51, 1148 Thurlow Street, Vancouver, 5, B.C.
- *BUTLER, A., 3 West Hill House, Oxted, Surrey.
- *BUTLER, J., 3 West Hill House, Oxted, Surrey.
- *BUTLER, R., Haine Cottage, Haine, near Ramsgate, Kent.
- *COLE, J. (Mrs. Mills), 21 Pickhurst Rise, West Wickham, Kent.
- *COUSINS, J. (Mrs. Stokes), Dunan, Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire, Scotland.
- *DAWE, A. (Mrs. Gulliford), 85 Oakfield Road, Selly Park, Birmingham, 29.
- *GILL, D. C. (Mrs. Brooshooft), 1 St. Alphege Road, Dover, Kent.
- GOODBURN, L. (Mrs. Targett), 1 Sharnden Old Manor Cottages, Mayfield, Sussex.
- GRAY, P., Wootton, Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.
- *HAMMOND, A., 29 Greenhill Park, New Barnet, Herts.
- *HARTREE, J. (M.C.S.P.), c/o Physiotherapy Department, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Kent.
- *HENRY, C. (Mrs. Ure), 81a Herbert Gardens, N.W.10.
- *IZARD, P. (Mrs. Warwick), c/o A. D. Izard, Esq., Duncans, Lamorna, Penzance, Cornwall.
- JOHNSTON, M., Flat 9, 157 Old Church Street, S.W.3.
- *LANCELYN GREENE, M. (Mrs. Ware), Half Acre, Woodmancote, near Cheltenham, Glos.
- *LLOYD, N., 28 Colyer Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent.
- *MARKS, G. (Mrs. Grantley-Smith), 8 Ardmore Way, Guildford, Surrey.
- *MARTIN, R. (Mrs. Fraser-Allen), c/o Glaxo Laboratories (India), Ltd., P.O. Box 108, Madras, India.
- *MILTON, D. (Mrs. Price), The Orchard, Hillcommon, near Taunton, Somerset.
- RAGGE, E. M. Wistaria House, Hadleigh, Suffolk.
- *ROBINSON, B. (Mrs. Hamilton), Rosneath, Prey Heath Road, Mayford, near Woking, Surrey.
- *ROSE, A. (Mrs. Wordley), Southwind, St. Mawes, Cornwall.
- *SAVAGE, S. (Mrs. Todd), Jarmons Farm, Collier Street, Marden, Kent.
- *SHEPHERD, E. (Mrs. Brewer), 8 Bellamy Crescent, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.
- *SILLIBOURNE, J., Noakes Farm, Ruckinge, near Ashford, Kent.
- *STAPLEY, R. (Mrs. Manwaring), The Cottage, Elliotts Farm, Penshurst, near Tonbridge, Kent.
- STROUD, C., 6 Garway Road, W.2.
- *SWATLAND, N., Cap Martin, 1 Callis Court Road, Broadstairs, Kent.
- THOMAS, M. (Mrs. Reeves), 3 Roebuck Road, Rochester, Kent.
- THREADGILL, P., 237 Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
- *TORRANCE, L. M. (Mrs. Dorward), 23 Blackness Avenue, Dundee, Angus, Scotland.
- *TRISCOTT, J. (Mrs. Apps), 65 Albert Avenue, Boronia, Victoria, Australia.
- WACHER, P. (Mrs. Westoby), 102 Quakers' Lane, Potters Bar, Middlesex.
- WATSON, G., Littleworth South, Littleworth Lane, Esher, Surrey.

FORM LISTS, 1955

(C) = House Captain. (P) = School Prefect. (H) = House Prefect.
(L) = Liberty. (F) = Form Captain.

UPPER VI ARTS AND SCIENCE. *Form Mistress: Miss Bryant Salmon.*

D. Clipsham (P), G. Ford (P), D. Howard (C), G. Kay (H), S. Smith (C), D. Brown (C), B. Cooper (C), A. Hartley (P), B. Horrell (School Captain), M. Mizen (P), R. Proudler (H).

LOWER VI ARTS AND SCIENCE. *Form Mistress: Miss Lansdale.* F. Dorey (H), D. Hamilton (L), A. Mawson (HF), W. Oxford (H), J. Pares (H), A. Porter (H), P. Rees (H), V. Reynell (L), V. Smith (H), M. Townshend (H), A. Webber (C), A. Wiggins (H), S. Barr (C), C. Bland (H), J. Bostock (H), S. Brackett (H), B. Low (P), J. Mutimer (H), S. Pull (P), M. Stein (H).

LOWER VI GENERAL. *Form Mistress: Mrs. Smith.* F. Ball (H), A. Davidson (H), M. Harrison (H), E. Hopper (H), J. Morris (H), A. Palmer (H), S. Pidsley (P), P. Quentin Evans (H), J. Scott (CF), M. Watt (P).

UPPER V ARTS. *Form Mistress: Miss Webb.* A. Baxter (HF), C. Beaumont (L), A. Belcher (H), V. Bennett (L), L. Boler (L), A. Caldicott (H), Janet Clarke (H), C. Collier (H), C. Cook (L), A. Fenchelle (L), E. Fleetwood (H), S. Fletcher (L), J. Godden (L), J. Hancox (H), P. Hicks (L), M. Hodgson (H), M. Knight (L), R. Lattimer (L), Patricia Lewis (H), G. Macdonald (L), A. Martin (H), J. Parry (L), C. Perham (L), A. Revill (H), G. Sanders (L), C. Stainer (L), M. Taylor (L), P. Tolhurst (L), E. Wall (L), J. Williams (H).

UPPER V SCIENCE. *Form Mistress: Miss Simpson.* L. Anderson (H), T. Beesly (H), M. Bellerby (H), J. Brundrett (L), J. Cole (L), C. Coombes (H), E. Court (H), J. Craven (L), J. Dundas (L), S. Fairbairn (H), J. Finn-Kelcey (H), F. Goldsworthy, S. Goodall (L), S. Hayes (L), J. Hills (H), S. Hodgson (H), T. Hurst (H), A. Inkpen (H), Pamela Jackson (H), G. Kent (L), D. Leaver (H), R. Leishman (L), A. Maxwell Lyons, A. Perring, J. Riddell (L), F. Skelton (L), A. Sparkes (HF), G. Wynne.

UPPER V^a. *Form Mistress: Miss Perry.* A. Atkinson (H), J. Bennett (L), L. Costen (L), A. Court (L), H. Dancy (L), P. Filmer (L), P. Hall, J. Halley (H), J. Harrington, M. Hine (LF), V. Hogbin (H), S. Johnson (L), R. Jones (H), A. Laffan (L), S. Pope (H), R. Roper (L), J. Sisson (L), M. Tilsley Green (L), P. Todman (L), P. Turk (L).

LOWER V ARTS. *Form Mistress: Mrs. Sharp.* D. Ames, J. Beeching (L), M. Burnell (L), S. Caldicott (L), I. Carey (L), A. Dix (L), V. Ellis (L), M. Hamilton (L), R. Harvey (L), J. Isaac (L), P. Jenkins (L), H. Lewis (L), A. Low (L), H. Lyndon Jones (L), G. McAuley (L), P. McLaren, J. Norris (L), L. Perry (L), P. Russell (L), J. Short (L), J. Skinner (L), I. Smailes, D. Smith (F), S. M. Smith, C. Stoop (L), J. Stowell (L), J. Teakle (L), D. Webb (L), P. Whittam (L), R. Williams (L).

LOWER V SCIENCE. *Form Mistress: Miss Neal.* S. Andrews (L), V. Barnwell, J. Berridge (L), S. Blacklocks (L), V. Brown (L), R. Carmichael (L), P. Carter (L), C. Chown (L), June Clark (L), A. Douglas (L), P. Edmonds (L), R. Elgood, C. Finn-Kelcey, A. Fortescue-Thomas (L), V. Gregory (L), I. Gubbin (L), P. Hagger (L), A. Holliwell (L), A. King, S. King, C. Klein, J. Mark (L), D. McDermott, J. Pearson, P. Peskett (L), J. Pinkerton (L), J. Posnette (L), J. Reid (L), M. Shutter (L), J. Sillars (LF), M. Vincent, P. Wheaton, A. Williamson.

UPPER IV^a. *Form Mistress: Miss Blevins.* G. Armstrong, A. Beeching, S. Brown, Anne Clarke, Jennifer Clarke, M. Clement, J. Coldrey (F), J. Constable, G. Evans, J. Fletcher, J. Green, E. Haryott, S. Hughes, P. Knight, C. Lawson (L), P. Leach, Penelope Lewis, J. Maddieson, V. Mills, G. Mizen, M. Murray, H. Rafford, J. Richmond, E. Rogers, S. Rotter, B. Simpson, A. Stein, V. Turner, J. Vaipy, M. Wainwright, P. Waile, S. Webb, J. Woods.

UPPER IV². *Form Mistress: Mlle. Graber.* M. Adams, V. Browning, Gillian Dean, P. Fisher, A. Gaskell, S. Geen, J. Hampton, P. Harrison, G. Hyde, J. Liddell, S. Mackey, J. Manley, D. Marchant, J. Moore, P. Nelson, S. Nuttall (F), E. Page, R. Pennington, P. Pitman, J. Pratt, R. Pringle, A. Robertson, H. Roll, J. Rose, P. Smith, N. Squires, G. Stevenson, J. Street, W. Thuillier, H. White, J. Wilkins.

UPPER IV³. *Form Mistress: Miss Mansell.* E. Barron, E. Cue, A. Excell, E. Foster, E. Graham Smith, B. Hocken (LF), J. Howie, A. Jeanes, J. Maylam, M. Mobley, A. Roberts, A. Thompson.

LOWER IV¹. *Form Mistress: Miss Churchill.* P. Barnes, P. Barker, M. Beaty, C. Burner, E. Burns, J. Chettur, Antoinette Clark, S. Davis, P. Earle, S. Elgood, M. Fraser Allen, S. Grummant, A. Haggie, C. Hall, W. Hobbs, J. Hurlington, A. Langsford, C. Lougher, M. Marcroft (F) S. Nickels, H. Pieters, A. Pinkerton, R. Savage, S. Sillars, A. Snell, C. Stafford, A. Stewart, M. Terry, N. Topham, J. Wood; G. Wyllie.

LOWER IV². *Form Mistress: Miss Harris.* E. Alexander, B. Atkinson, D. Atkinson, J. Bell, J. Burton, J. Carter, M. Cash, P. Cooper, S. Copland, J. Douglas, C. Frank, C. Green, M. Harrington, E. Harris, Penelope Jackson, K. London, J. Orpin, S. Palmer, J. Perfect, S. Posnette, J. Rees Jones, J. Sutton, K. Trapaud, E. Walter (F), C. Wiggins, A. Yates.

LOWER IV³. *Form Mistress: Miss Roberts.* S. Alston (F), J. Chandler, J. Edwards, A. Harris, V. Hayward, C. Hinks, W. Hinks, P. Oliver, J. Pearce, C. Steed, V. Taylor, S. Whalley, P. Wheeler.

III¹. *Form Mistress: Miss Baker.* M. Askew, H. Cassidy, M. Cecil, M. Champ, B. Goodman, A. Griffiths, J. Griffiths, A. Harding, J. Headley, J. Howie, V. Jones, P. Keun, M. Kemp, A. Knowles, S. Littledale (F), M. Larpent, V. Lush, J. Mitchell, C. Nelms, S. Noel, V. Reed, C. Rennie, R. Rhodes, J. Robinson, W. Rudge, A. Saville, W. Stillwell, N. Thexton, C. Walker, L. Wearne, J. White, M. Wynburne.

III². *Form Mistress: Miss Andrews.* M. Barron, J. Bintley, B. Branson, S. Bridge, V. Brown, S. Coldrey, J. Costen, Gay Dean, J. Ealey, S. Furnivall, C. Goede, D. Goodall, J. Hacker, W. Hogben, R. Knight, O. Kortlang, A. Lattimer, S. Leach, M. Lee, R. Livingstone, J. Mount, D. Norris, H. Pacey (F), P. Pratt, V. Trott, R. Wilson, R. Worthington.

III³. *Form Mistress: Miss Lyne.* M. Butcher, B. Crump, C. Davidson, A. Halden, J. Hall, J. Hinde, C. Holmes, A. Johnson, S. Newman (F), J. Parr, M. Pieters, D. Pilkington, J. Scutt, P. Slack, M. Spree, S. Taylor, S. Thompson.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

UPPER A. *Form Mistress: Miss Pryor.* J. Booth, V. Bridge, P. Burnell, B. Burton, Sally Carter, Sheila Carter, M. Charlton, Susan Clark, Sheila Clarke, J. Cozens, J. Goodchild, S. Green, A. Hall, C. Hall, M. Hughes, D. Lambert, A. Martin, Z. Proudler, S. Tipple, G. Wheble, S. Wheeler, S. Whittingham, C. Wilson, R. Wilson, V. Wyllie.

UPPER A Parallel. *Form Mistress: Miss Potter.* D. Anson, J. Anson, J. Bailey, P. Barlow, J. Batterham, J. Boyd, J. Brown, G. Bush, J. Coles, B. Crown, C. Goodman, C. Macdonald, V. Butler-Madden, C. Main, R. Older, J. Palmer, V. Pearce, T. Richardson, C. Shaw, S. Ashley-Smith, R. Tubbs, R. Wain, J. Watson, J. Watts.

UPPER A². *Form Mistress: Miss Armstrong.* S. Ambrose, A. Brooks, J. Cochrane, V. French, L. Good, J. Gregory, E. Hudson, P. Hunter, M. Maylam, P. Mobley, S. Morgan-Kirby, A. Paine, T. Quentin Evans, T. Simpson, A. Smith, J. Stock, J. Thompson, S. Tolputt, A. Tylden-Wright, C. Wright.

LOWER A¹. *Form Mistress: Mrs. Duthoit.* H. Alexander, S. Bird, A. Blakeney, W. Boyd, W. Cope, R. Elton, J. Fraser Allen, P. Goble, H. Goodchild, C. Hughes, V. Jenkins, A. Jones, S. Kempe-Roberts, J. Lamont, J. Rogers, D. Sendall, L. Trott, H. Warnes, J. Wibberley, G. Williams.

LOWER A². *Form Mistress: Miss Tudor-Jones.* C. Bridge, J. Bullock, R. Cecil, N. Cini, A. Climpson, B. Cue, R. Fletcher, A. Hansen, S. Hill, S. Hooker, J. Noakes, D. Passey, J. Peach, J. Prebble, A. Purnell, S. Riley, B. Robins, R. Wale, A. Wearne, G. Wheeler, C. Williams, J. Wyn-Pugh, S. Wyn-Pugh.

UPPER B¹. *Form Mistress: Miss Williams.* V. Bayley, V. Boyd, J. Brangwin, H. Glass, A. Gray, S. Gregory, A. Greig, A. Headley, S. Hunter, M. Lamont, M.-A. Laughton, M. Paul, E. Phillips, W. Rafford, M. Scutt, V. Shersby, P. Shute, A. Skilbeck, F. Whalley, E. Wheeler.

UPPER B². *Form Mistress: Miss Browne.* K. Appleby, C. Barlow, P. Clarke, S. Creswell-Evans, C. Filip, A. French, E. Gadd, H. Jarvis, J. Jennings, J. Kitchin, A. Lee, D. Older, S. Pearce, D. Pring, J. Sutton, L. Watts, C. Holtom.

LOWER B. *Form Mistress: Miss Miller.* K. Brodrick, C. Davis, J. Erle Drax, S. Erle Drax, J. Gardner, E. Hewetson, S. Jackson, H. Jewitt, N. Knatchbull, S. Laughton, S. Matthews, D. Morgan-Kirby, J. Norton, J. Paine, G. Pieters, D. Robinson, E. Sharp, H. Sizer, D. Williams.

TRANSITION. *Form Mistress: Miss Stafford.* R. Chantler, S. Coates, C. Cox, P. French, J. Gadd, D. Ginn, J. Godden, C. Hickman, C. Lambe, C. Lee, J. Lee, K. Link, H. Luckett, G. Midgley, J. Rogers, C. Ross, S. Rose-Troup, G. Woodley.

KINDERGARTEN. *Form Mistress: Miss Green.* J. Ashmead-Bartlett, J. Baggallay, P. Creswell-Evans, W. Fowler, J. Hobbs, C. Meakin, J. Perry, P. Pallett, C. Rose, J. Robinson, J. Selman, J. White.

STAFF OTHER THAN FORM MISTRESSES

Teaching Staff: Miss Nightingale, Miss Edwards, Miss Martin, Miss Merfield, Miss Smith, Miss Abbott, Miss Breeze, Miss Daniels, Miss Haigh, Miss Horton, Miss Merrett, Miss Main, Miss Nicholls, Miss Ross, Miss Rowe, Miss Salmon, Miss Hesketh Roberts, Miss Wilson-Haffenden, Mrs. Fenner.

Visiting Staff: Miss Hammond.

School Secretary: Miss Harland.

Assistant School Secretaries: Miss Lepper, Miss Mighell.

Matrons: Miss Harvey, Mrs. Dulhunty, Miss Hicks, Mrs. Lawson, Miss Marriott, Miss Marshall, Miss Miles, Miss Winthrop, Miss Worrall.

Nurse: Sister Kindness.

Housekeeper: Miss Batcheller.

Lady Cooks: Miss Kerr, Miss Lockwood, Miss Minns, Miss Shapcott, Miss Vidgen, Mrs. Costen.

