



THE SILCOATIAN.

NEW SERIES.

DECEMBER, 1935.

No. 25.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

The School is very fortunate in its new Treasurer. Mr. W. F. Wrigley, of Buxton, is well-known, not only in the north of England but also throughout the denomination. Indeed the action of the Governors in inviting Mr. Wrigley received speedy and striking endorsement. Only a week or two after he began his labours on our behalf, the Congregational Union of England and Wales thought it could do no better than follow the lead given by Silcoates and un-animously appointed him to its vacant treasurership. Mr. Wrigley must feel now he has retired from business that providence is clearly working on his behalf in preventing that inertia which is often so fatal to men who retire from a busy life.

From one point of view by far the most outstanding event this term, and one which will make the term memorable in after-years, was the signal honour done the School and the great privilege enjoyed by it when Dr. Albert Schweitzer paid us a flying visit on December 3rd, sandwiched between a speech in Edinburgh the previous evening and one in Leeds that night, before going on to Bristol the following day. Dr. Schweitzer did not arrive till 3.40 p.m. and he had

to be in Leeds by 5.30, but his words were as memorable and weighty as they were brief. He spoke first in French (interpreted by a lady who accompanied him) but when replying to the Head Boy, who thanked him in German with considerable fluency and no little sincerity and dignity, he used the latter tongue. The proceedings started with the singing of "Nun Danket Alle Gott," accompanied by Dr. Saunders on the Organ, and ended when Dr. Schweitzer pronounced the Benediction in German. The Head Boy presented the visitor with a wallet containing the offering of the School towards the Doctor's work in Lambarene, and a collection was taken for the same purpose.

A full report will be found on pages 781 to 786.



In place of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. H. Wood, we welcome to the South House this term Mr. and Mrs. A. H. W. Williams. Our new Modern Language Master comes from New Zealand. Mr. Williams holds the degrees of M.A. (First-Class Honours) New Zealand, University of Otago (of which his wife is also an Honours Graduate) and also M.A. and B.A. (First-Class Honours) of London University.



Mr. Stoddard was presented at the end of last term with a sash for making 53 runs in the Staff Match. T. E. Massey won a sash for taking 50 wickets during the season.



On the last night of last term the Headmaster announced the welcome news that the Governors had completed a purchase of land in the vicinity of the School, which is now surrounded by a good belt of land, and is henceforth free from the menace of the housebuilder. About 15 acres have been acquired and the School grounds now extend over 53 acres.



There have been many and various outings and expeditions this term. The first was the First XV's visit to Bradford to watch the "All Blacks" play Yorkshire and Cumberland.

THE XVII CLUB.

At the General Business Meeting on September 29th the Club elected four new members, A. H. Banton, B. Willis, F. P. Longbottom and S. B. Harris. D. Dobson was elected Secretary and J. R. Lauckner Treasurer.

On October 6th a discussion on the Modern Tendencies in the Arts was held. This was a great success and our thanks are due to Mr. Lusted and Mr. Baron for opening the discussion. At the conclusion of the meeting a vote was taken which showed the majority of the Club to be confirmed "Moderns."

On October 20th the Club held a Lexicon Drive which was won by D. R. S. McColl.

J. M. Barrie's play, "The Admirable Crichton" was read on November 3rd and was very much enjoyed.

There will be a Poetry Reading on November 17th and the session will conclude with a Social Evening on December 1st. The Club hopes shortly to produce a Mock Trial.
D.D. (*Hon. Sec.*).



VISIT OF DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER.

On Tuesday afternoon, December 3rd, the Headmaster had the privilege of introducing to the School Dr. Albert Schweitzer, of Lambarene, who had come specially to speak to the boys. Among the visitors present in the Hall were the Headmaster and a number of boys and girls from Ackworth School. Mr. Moore said that two sentences in Dr. Schweitzer's book *My Life and Thought* seemed to sum up the ideals for which his life has been spent—"Nowhere does Jesus demand of his hearers that they should sacrifice thinking to believing," and "To unbind what is bound, to bring the underground waters to the surface: mankind is waiting and longing for such as can do that." Because those words seemed to be the keynote, as it were, of Dr. Schweitzer's glorious romance of service, the Headmaster had great pleasure in asking him, not to play a "Fugue by Goethe" (as was once requested of him), but to speak on "The Meaning of Ideals in Life."

Dr. Schweitzer gave his address in French and it was translated into English, phrase for phrase, by his interpreter. We print below this translation, hopeful that it may

convey both his message and some idea of the naïve and friendly way in which he got on terms with his young audience.

“It is a great pleasure that the plan of addressing you has proved realisable, for I know what an interest you take in my work and I hesitated about whether I should speak to you about my work: but I am not going to do so, because I want to talk to you about something which I have very much at heart. I want to speak to you about yourselves, about the path you are going to seek in life. You have not got to seek it yet; here you are at School preparing for your life. But the day will come when you start on the path of creating your life and then you will want to know in what direction to go. And you will see that it is harder to find the direction than you think. I want to ask you, with what thoughts are you going to leave School and go out into life? I want to make you understand that you must have thoughts when you go forth into life. Here you are at School: you learn. What do you learn? You learn various kinds of knowledge which are necessary in order to become something in life. You learn Languages, you learn Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics...and I would tell you, you cannot learn enough. You want to pass your exams, and I hope you will pass them well. I hope you won't be forced to pass too many exams. I have experienced the misfortune of having to pass too many exams, and so I hope you will pass as few of them as possible—but pass them as well as possible. You must have all kinds of knowledge for life and you should carry away with you from this School, which is so admirably situated, the necessary knowledge; but you must also carry away with you thoughts. It is not only knowledge that you are taught; you are taught also to understand thoughts. You find those thoughts in the books you read, you find them in what your masters are teaching you; that is the reverse side of teaching. But on that side you will never be examined, because there are no examiners who can look into your hearts and put questions to you about what thoughts you have as you go out to enter upon life. It is life itself that will examine you and it is life that will ask you: “Have you profited by your youth; have you profited by taking into your heart all the thoughts which are necessary, all the thoughts which you find in your books, in the Classics? Are you carrying with you the necessary idealism?” For not one of us can live merely by knowledge—all of you have need to think. What thoughts are there that you have need of? You need to think about the true way of being a

human being, not merely to be someone who has knowledge or who is clever in what he does, but to be somebody who knows what he wants to do. Be one who knows that for life you require the truth, that to live you need goodness, to live you need gratitude, and that within life there is a spiritual life and that we are but poor if we go into life without a realisation of that spiritual life. So during your boyhood here at School you want to get into your hearts those thoughts which make for spiritual life. You will need to say: "I don't only want to live an exterior kind of life." You don't wish to be a person who says: "I want success, I want to have a good position, I want to be comfortable in life"; but you wish to be somebody who says: "I want to keep my own soul."

It is with thoughts like that that you ought to leave this School. When you do so, you will find many people who have lost their ideals and who will say to you: "Oh, that is sentimentality; with that kind of thing you won't be able to do anything practical; in life the only thing that matters is to be energetic, to know what one wants and to have various kinds of knowledge." Do not be deceived, do not become poor in your lives: know that to live you need the wealth of the heart. Don't become sceptics: be people who are looking for ideals. Life would like to take ideals from you, so hold fast to them. You will need to defend them and you will be in danger of being led in life only by exterior kind of thoughts. Don't let that be, ever. Say this, all of you: "I want my soul to have a part in my life, for what is all success in life if a man has lost his own soul?" And if I tell you that you need ideals, I tell you at the same time that you must serve. You will be poor in life if all you think about is to get success for yourselves: the real purpose in life is to serve, to be there for others, to help in realising what ought to be realised.

I don't know what paths you will go on. There will be some of you who will become theologians, who will become teachers and professors, and to such I would say: "Know that such a calling is a Grace you have received; know that in it, you can serve with your *heart*, that you have not got a prosaic sort of activity, not an activity which is purely material, but that you are helping to bring up and to educate the world. Know that those who can serve others with their *hearts* may have great happiness in life." But there are others of you who will be in offices, who will be in factories, who will have to look after machines—whose activity will be material; and those will be in danger of having to say "my heart

cannot give itself out in life." They will say: "I only have to do with things that have nothing to do with my soul." But I would say to them: "No! No one in this world is destined to have nothing but material activity." If we engage in material activity with the thought of doing our duty, of wholly doing our duty, in that way every activity is idealised. To those who have an activity of that kind I would say: "Look also for another activity alongside that one; seek some form of activity in which you can help others with a human heart"—and that can give true happiness. In fighting against evil we are looking for volunteers and those who are engaged in this sort of work would tell you how difficult it is to find volunteers. I would have you say: "I want to be one of those volunteers. I don't wish to pass my time only for myself,—in resting, in enjoying myself, in reading the papers. . . . but I wish to give some of my time for the work which needs to be done in our human society. I must find something where my heart will be happy."

That is what you ought to look for in life: never rest until you have found it. Perhaps you will have to seek a long time. I get an enormous number of letters (I hope none of you will get as many letters as I do) and in some of the letters I get, there is the question: "Can you tell me in what way I can put my goodwill to use? I have got goodwill to give out; I should like to find some good that I can do and I cannot find it." That is the kind of letter I have often, and I reply: "Have patience; don't imagine that you can find the solution at once. You see me at Lambarene and you think: there is a man who has found an activity. But if I could tell you about my life, you would learn that I looked for such work for years and years and that only at last I found it. So if you want to spend that goodwill you have for good, it may be that you will have to seek and wait; but seek, and wait, and you will find." And when I answer such letters I add something else: "Seek a humble sort of thing." Our hearts often look for something very big, something wanting a lot of sacrifice, and often our heart does not see the humble things. At first you must learn to do the humble things and often they are the most difficult to do. In those humble things, be busy about helping someone who has need of you. You see somebody alone—try and be with him, try to give him some of the hours which you might take for yourself and in that way learn to serve: and then only will you begin to find true happiness. I don't know what your destiny will be. Some of you will perhaps occupy remarkable positions. Perhaps some of you will

become famous by your pens, or as artists. But I know one thing: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. Happy only are those who let themselves be guided by their hearts, because the heart is the great reason, the reason which always is right (*la raison qui a toujours raison*) in life. In the preaching of Jesus we find the saying, "Kingdom of God" and when you leave this School that saying, "Kingdom of God" should be written in your hearts in a mysterious kind of writing. See that you get that saying "Kingdom of God" deep in your hearts. For how can our poor world get out of the terrible situation in which it is at present? Only if all of us believe in the Kingdom of God—an ideal of goodness which ought to reign amongst us, which ought to reign amongst all peoples, which ought to reign in our hearts. So each one of you, when he goes forth into life, must have a thirst for the Kingdom of God, a wish to see something of it in his own life, a wish to carry it within him (as is said in the Gospel) and a desire to work in the spirit of the Kingdom of God. If you preserve that ideal in your lives, then you will be happy. May God give you that happiness."

The Head Boy, R. J. M. Evans, presented to Dr. Schweitzer a wallet containing money the School had collected for the Hospital at Lambarene and giving thanks to Dr. Schweitzer in German, for his helpful message, he remarked: "We are the happiest schoolboys under heaven to-day, because we have one of our heroes before our very eyes."

Acknowledging the gift, Dr. Schweitzer said (this time in German): "I thank you that you are so interested in my work and please believe that the fact you have given up some of your pocket money—which you can so well spend on yourselves—has specially moved me. I often have poor black children sick in my hospital and often I am anxious because I cannot give them as good nourishment as I should like to give. When I get help for my hospital from young people, then I give those children something specially good to eat and I tell them that it is the young people in Europe who are giving them that. So often they are astonished that young people in Europe should think of them. So will you please imagine what comes from your pocket money: it will give black children something specially good to eat in addition to their ordinary food? Now I say to you '*au revoir*,' and if any one of you ever thinks afterwards in his life that I gave him courage to stick to ideals, then I shall

know that a blessing has rested on this hour. Keep your courage and good spirits in life, and listen to your own hearts."



The Rev. H. H. Oakley, who recently celebrated his Diamond Wedding, sends us the following, which we have pleasure in publishing :

"THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD."

"The Wine is the Master's; but the guests are grateful to the butler." THE TALMUD.

Thine, MASTER, Thine alone's the Wine;
At cost in Thine own Vineyard grown :
But whilst we share Thy feast divine,
It fits us thankfully to own
Their worth by whom, around Thy board,
That living Wine is broached and poured.

H. H. O.



SPEECH DAY.

The 115th Speech Day was held on Friday, July 12th in the New Hall. The Chairman of the Governors presided and on the platform in addition to the Governors and the Headmaster, were Mr. Angus Watson, Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales and Mr. J. Lewis Paton, late High Master of Manchester Grammar School.

In his opening remarks the Chairman welcomed the guests and speakers. He expressed his keen pleasure at seeing so many Old Boys of the School in the gathering. He reported that the School had had a successful year and expressed his appreciation of the work of the Headmaster and of that unseen but very loyal body, the House Committee. He expressed his deep regret and sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Mr. Haythornthwaite, the Treasurer of the School,