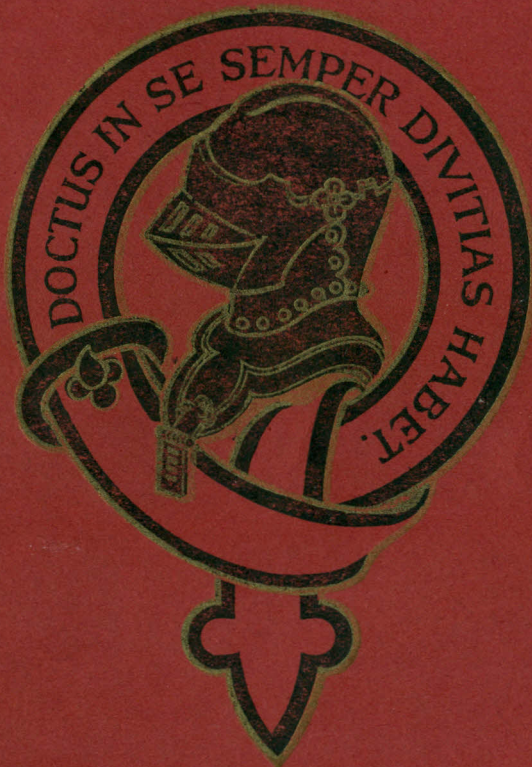


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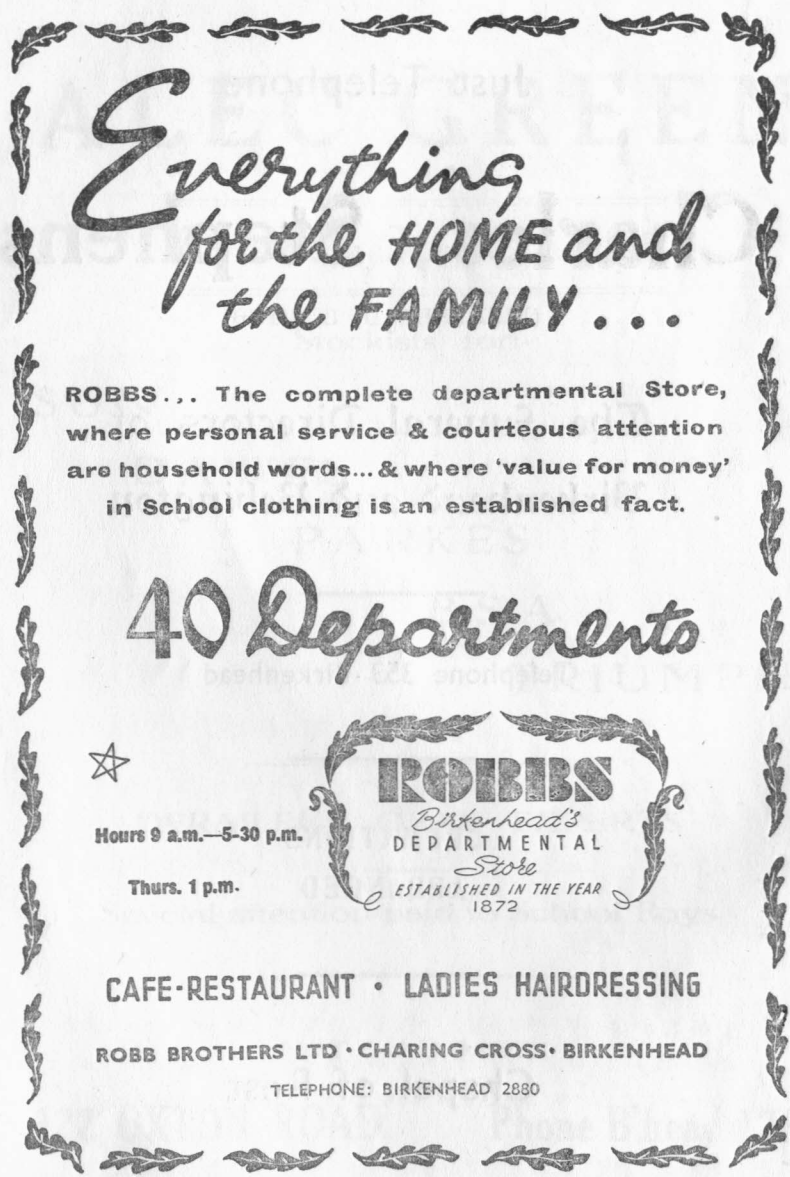
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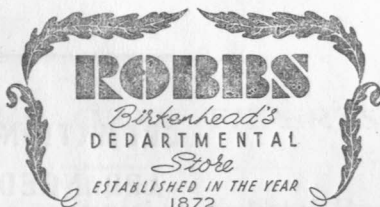
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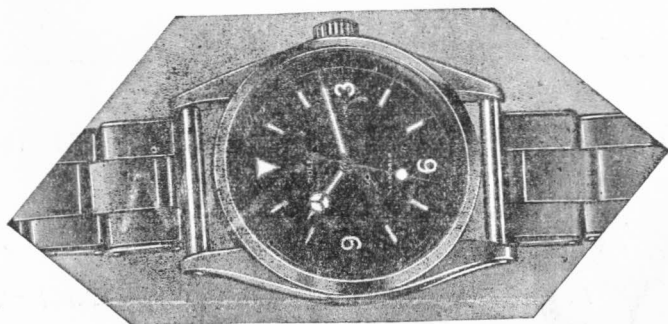
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Birkenhead Institute

The
First Seventy Years

1889 to 1959

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Photo by Bacon

LORD COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD

Foreword by

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Cohen of Birkenhead

I HAVE known the Birkenhead Institute since 1912. Early that year I had been awarded one of the few scholarships to the school which were offered to elementary schoolboys of the borough, more I suspect because of the references of my too kind teachers at St. John's than by virtue of any precocious academic prowess. I arrived at the school during the period of its extension, and was amongst the first to do P.T. in the new gymnasium. I stayed at the school for five years, leaving in the third year of the First World War, with a scholarship to the University of Liverpool. I know what I owe to the Birkenhead Institute and have a lively interest in its welfare and achievements.

It is, therefore, for me a proud privilege to be invited to contribute a foreword to this History of the first Seventy Years of the Birkenhead Institute. The Education Act of 1870 had tried to ensure the demise of illiteracy amongst the people of Britain; for the first time the prescient could foresee the creation of an educated democracy which might change the face of this country. Other measures were to follow including the last of the great Education Acts, that of Mr. Butler in 1944. This was in essence an act of faith. In the midst of a holocaust more ferocious than the world had ever before witnessed, our statesmen (irrespective of party but as members of a coalition government) were building for the future, and rightly, on the foundations of a sound educational system. The War had brought in its train changing concepts of social rights and responsibilities, and the Act of 1944 sought to ensure that in the educational field there should be equality of opportunity for every child, and that there should be no financial or geographical obstacles to every child receiving the education appropriate to his or her gifts and needs,

This History, which I have had the privilege of reading in proof, shows the impact of these changing public responsibilities for education on the development of the school since its inception seventy

years ago. It tells the story of the now abandoned Junior School, and of the various clubs and societies within the school. It is inevitable that there should here be a record of the staff and of many of the old boys and their achievements, for as Carlyle wrote, 'History is the essence of innumerable biographies'. But there will be many whose names will not be found in the record and who, because they benefitted from the character training of our school, have by their lives made the lot of some of their fellow men lighter and happier.

Looking back is profitable only if it points the way to the future. This history will give pleasure to many by its nostalgic recollections, but it will achieve its purpose only if the pupils of the future by reading of the pupils of the past are stimulated to emulate their achievements and so keep alive the spirit and traditions of those, who in an act of faith, founded this great school—seventy years ago.



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A. O. JONES, M.Sc.	1953 to 1956
E. G. WEBB, B.A.	1956 to Present Day

Preface

ON January 12th, 1959, Birkenhead Institute completes the first seventy years of its history, although if we reckon from the moment when its creation was decided upon — 1883 — it might well claim to be even older than that. Earlier histories of the School were presented to the public at its Golden and Diamond Jubilees in 1939 and in 1949 and these accounts, like the present volume, are due to the enterprise of the *Visor*, the Institute Magazine which has been published continuously since 1927 and from whose pages, from that year at least, much information has naturally been gleaned. The Editor begs to express his obligation to two successive Senior History Masters at the School for the use of material from the earlier accounts, firstly to Mr. G. W. Harris (who was Headmaster between 1950 and 1953) for the valuable research he did on the School's origins and its history up to 1927, and secondly to Mr. Williams who took up the pen at that point and who has endeavoured in this volume to retell our story from the beginnings to the end of 1958. In order to conserve space and primarily to give a picture of the progress of the School, the earlier arrangement of the material has been modified as a glance at the Table of Contents will show. The minutiae of the passing scene have in consequence been pruned but we hope that nothing of significance or importance has been thereby eliminated. In these pages we have striven to record our debt to our founders, governors, headmasters and staff and while stressing our academic achievements, given also due place to our prowess in the field. We have also appended a list of the most outstanding Old Instonians and reprint with pride and gratitude the Roll of Honour of the 1914-1918 War and of the Second World War of 1939-1945. This history of Birkenhead Institute during its first seventy years is published in the confidence that it will be widely read by that great company in this town and district who feel a deep interest in the School and in its continuance.

IV. *A History of Birkenhead Institute from its Inception in November 1883 to the end of 1958*

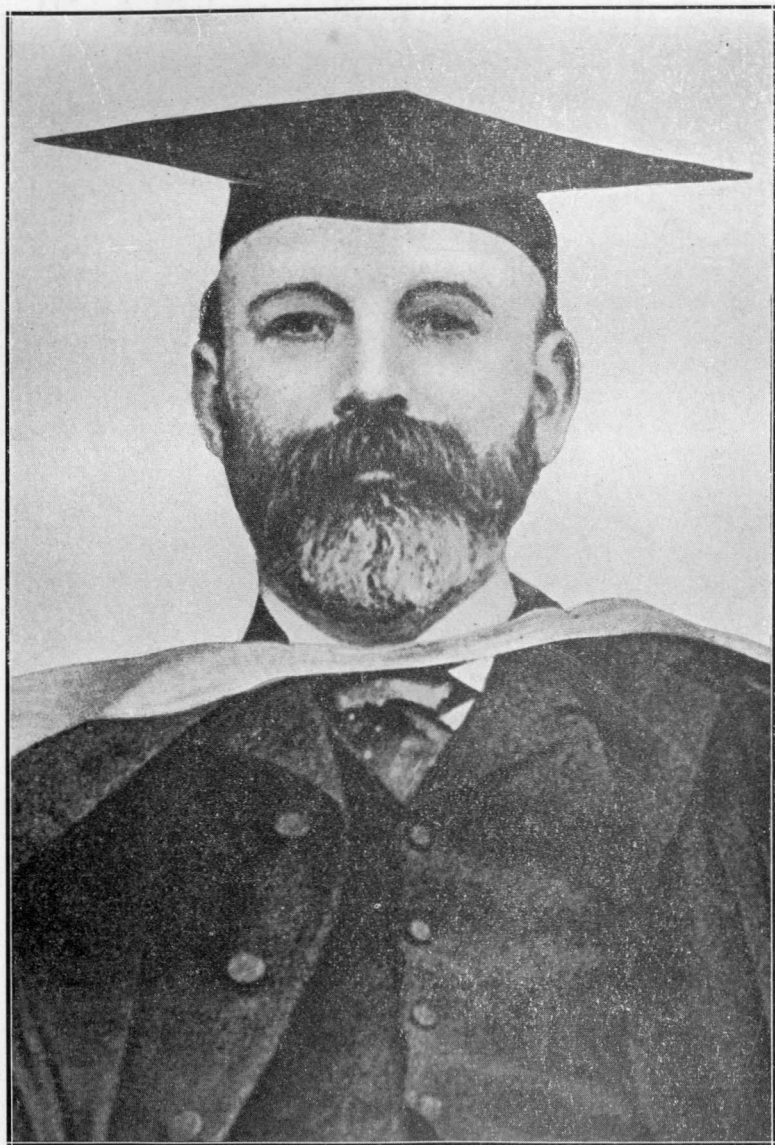
WHATEVER obscurity surrounds some details of the earliest years of Birkenhead Institute, its founders at least were clear on three fundamental points. Firstly, its purpose was "to provide a Public High School for boys." Put another way, in the language employed on the day of its inauguration, it was to provide a 'middle class' or grammar school education. Forster's Act of 1870 had no intentions beyond primary education under public control, and those with wider ambitions for a 'collegiate' education for their children which should include languages, mathematics, and science had already set about creating their own system. This determination dated back, in fact, to days long before the celebrated Act of 1870 and establishes our founder's second point.

For a generation at least, and before a single stone of the School was laid, the decision had been made that it should be called 'the Institute' and it was Mr. G. Atkin who was responsible for it. "I have been associated," he said, "with Liverpool Institute since 1840, which was a child of the Mechanics' Institute movement of 1823. It was found desirable to alter the name from the 'Liverpool Mechanics' Institute' to the 'neutral' name by which it is now known. The name 'Institute' has been adopted by the Directors for our establishment." By the word 'neutral' Atkin clearly meant 'up-to-date' since the term 'mechanics' no longer had its earlier significance. 'Institute' without qualification honoured the tradition begun by Lord Brougham that culture must be sought by those who hungered for it while the state tarried.

But, while admitting his debt to the great Liverpool school, Atkin was determined to have something equally good on the Cheshire side of the Mersey. His new School, he said, must be "in Birkenhead." He pointed out that some five hundred boys and girls crossed to Liverpool daily for secondary education. Mr. Connacher later elaborated this theme when he said that the going to and fro meant time lost from games and further that some stragglers between the Pier Head and Mount Street "picked up notions of seafaring life not acceptable to their parents." This sardonic comment underlines the third aspect of our genesis.



G. ATKIN, Esq.



W. S. CONNACHER, Esq.

There was to be collegiate education for boys; it was to be provided in 'the Institute'; it was to be established in Birkenhead.

Measured in drive and exertion the real founder of Birkenhead Institute was Mr. G. Atkin of Egerton Park, though he insisted that "the man who had conceived it for twenty-five years past" (i.e. in the 'sixties) was William Legg of Fordown House, Chesnut Grove. At all events both names appeared in the Preliminary Circular and Memorandum of Association of November 1883, together with those of five other local business men. The venture was begun as a limited company with a share capital of £10,000 in 2,000 shares of £5 each, and although these were only taken up slowly at first this did not deflect Atkin either from his determination that the School should not be a charity or that public caution should imperil its creation. For, at the first general meeting of the shareholders on January 23rd, 1885, held in the Common Hall, Hackins Hey, Liverpool, Atkin from the chair informed them that a site and property upon it had already been purchased. Like Disraeli he saw that no argument is so compelling as a *fait accompli*; for he had advanced the £2,725 purchase price himself. The site thus secured in Whetstone Lane was known as "Brooklands," one of the massive stone mansions on the western fringe of what was then called Clifton Park. The house itself and its grounds occupied the land which the present generation will recognise more easily as the area between the School's main entrance and Beechcroft. Of that original property perhaps the only reminder in 1958 is the semi-circular drive in the front of the School, though up to a dozen or so years ago traces of "Brooklands" gardens still survived in the shrubberies of the School yard.

The destinies of the Institute were thus decisively shaped, both name and location having been fixed by the end of 1885. And in the next year the physical characteristics by which, for all intents and purposes, it has been known to the town for seventy years were also settled. Despite the fact that only a little more than one third of the proposed capital had been secured, the indefatigable Atkin pressed on with building schemes. The result was the fine perspective drawing of the "proposed School buildings" prepared by Mr. T. Mellard Reade, F.R.I.B.A., the Liverpool architect, in 1886. Though only a portion of the Institute as we now know it, this drawing so clearly envisaged the essentials of the School's façade that it is worth careful scrutiny. To the north it incorporated part of "Brooklands" (which was to be the Headmaster's house) and joined to it a two storey range of lofty class rooms built of

stone, i.e. substantially everything south of today's main entrance up to the vestibuled porch at the side and end of the block. Since class rooms change their names with the passing years, perhaps only a recent generation will identify the present 2A, 4B, and 3B rooms on the ground floor of the architect's plan. While the external appearance of these remains to this day as it came off the drawing-board seventy-three years ago, the first floor elevation was to be modified considerably by the laboratories. When in the fulness of time additional buildings were required, the decision to build at the northern rather than the southern end of the site, left the porch with its carved monogram by the Junior School retaining wall of one storey only. Appended to Mellard Reade's drawing was a list of the shareholders of February 1886, among whom with an eye on the future it is important to notice the names not only of G. Atkin but also of S. Stitt, H. Tate, and the Duke of Westminster.

But, in the summer of 1886, the fate of the Institute was in the balance, since trade depression made the public reluctant to take up further shares. The pessimistic advised abandonment, and even Atkin, though he scouted such an idea, had to agree with the Board's view that Mellard Reade's plans for a School of 300 pupils were too ambitious and that he should be asked to prepare an alternative scheme for the mere conversion of the purchased mansion and its outbuildings to accommodate 100. To the architect's credit he reacted most unfavourably to this makeshift plan. Since the indomitable Atkin was already seeking in Liverpool the capital he could not raise in Birkenhead, Mellard Reade was authorised to design and not merely to adapt a building for 150 pupils. This unpromising stage in the School's origins was largely weathered by the munificence of business men who lent the Birkenhead Institute Company money free of interest and of Atkin himself who waived the interest due to him on the considerable sum he had already advanced for the purchase of the site.

1888 proved to be the decisive year; for it was in March, when half of the original share capital had been taken up, that tenders were at last invited for the construction of the building. This historic decision accounts for the carved stone figures '1888' on the present façade (a date perpetuated even as late as the Prospectus of 1912/13 under Council ownership) rather than the following year which saw the actual inauguration of teaching. At the end of March the tender of W. H. Forde of Claughton Road for a stone building was accepted, and Mellard Reade then went ahead with the single-storey structure which was to be the

nucleus of the present School. The Directors' financial worries were now fairly behind them, and they were able to devote the nine meetings held that autumn to the equipment of the building and to the recruitment of staff. On October 31st, 1888, out of a very large number of applicants, Mr. W. S. Connacher, M.A., a Perthshire Scot, was appointed Headmaster. With the publication of the prospectus outlining the proposed curriculum, the stage was fairly set for the raising of the curtain early in the next year.

On Saturday, January 12th, 1889, Birkenhead Institute was formally inaugurated in a ceremony of which happily we have the fullest details owing to the ample coverage of the event in the local press. Indeed, the *News* and *Advertiser* rightly saw the proceedings as an outstanding happening in the town's history. Further there is the historic photograph of the occasion, perhaps the most prized of our early records, which hangs in the Headmaster's room today and from which we are able to reconstruct that first, if temporary, aspect of the Institute. After lunch in the house (i.e. in "Brooklands") the official party passed into "the large school room" for the speeches appropriate to the occasion. 'Large' that room might well claim to be for it was 53 feet long. And where, Instonians of later generations will ask, is that room now? In fact, today it provides two of our modern class rooms separated by the stationery store room over which Mr. Harris and Mr. Hall after him presided for many years. Anyone who takes the trouble to pace out the floor from one limit of today's 3A room to the opposite extreme of 5B, will be left in no doubt as to the location of Mellard Reade's mammoth room. In its division now it still honours the original purpose of its designer; for he always intended it to be so divided. The ceiling guide rail governing the movement of the glazed and sliding screen which converted in a matter of moments the great school room into two form rooms is still there and runs through the store room wall to the original skylight of the tiled entrance hall. At the opposite end of this, Mellard Reade built a temporary wooden porch and it was there that the formal opener of the School, the Duke of Westminster, his Duchess, Mr. Atkin, his daughter Blanche (later to be Mrs. Jackson, the wife of that most zealous Deputy Chairman of Governors Mr. W. Jackson), Mr. Calder, Secretary of the Company, and Mr. Connacher were photographed in the bitter air of a January Saturday afternoon. The ground on which they then stood looking out on to Whetstone Lane is now part of the main corridor and the staircase leading to the laboratories. Many prophetic things were said upon that day and said at such length

indeed that his Grace afterwards missed his train at Woodside. Some of them deserve recall, not least Mr. Connacher's hope that "the day is not far distant when it will be necessary to enlarge the School which I have no doubt will in time claim some of the most eminent men of the future as its former pupils." A scrutiny of Old Instonian accomplishment surveyed later in this volume amply justifies that prophetic utterance of seventy years ago.

The very first lessons were given in the Institute on the following Monday, January 14th, when 42 pupils assembled. A second historic photograph also taken outside the temporary porch shows some 46 boys and from the early registers we can date it to March 1889. We must picture Mr. Connacher, Mr. Crofts (Mathematics), Mr. Thompson (Classics), and Miss Farrell of the 'Kindergarten' (or original 'Junior' School) at prayers in the big room, the glass screen folded back, in those days of early spring. Prayers over, the monitors draw the screens across, and the day's work could begin. Miss Farrell will have taken her very small boys to a third room on the left (the "dark room" which obtains its uncertain daylight from the main corridor and is now the home of the VI form). A fourth class room to the right of the original entrance hall is now a cloak room. Such was the nucleus of Birkenhead Institute, four rooms providing space for 150 scholars entirely on the ground floor. A temporary brick wall on the west extended from the porch where the original folding doors leading to "the large well-lighted entrance hall" still are. These buildings "will be eventually hidden by the extensions" said the architect, and since 1891 they have been bounded by corridor and additional rooms. Numbers on the roll grew rapidly. By December there were 97, a year later 144, and, as we shall see, by the end of the century pupils topped the 200 mark. It was clear that not only had Atkin correctly assessed the real need for such secondary education in the town but also that Mellard Reade had been right to repudiate in 1886 any mere tinkering with the "Brooklands" buildings. From the very outset a full and comprehensive grammar school education was provided. The fees (varying according to the pupils' ages between £2-10-0 and £3 a term) offered the widest syllabus. Latin was to begin immediately in Form I, French in Form II, a reversal of later procedure, and both Greek and German were taught in the Upper School. Of the original staff, Thompson was an Oxford Classic, and Crofts a Cambridge Mathematician. But even more significant for the future was the architect's provision in his proposed second storey of a large laboratory and lecture room. Science teaching, which

has been given here with such distinction, was no afterthought with us, no belated attempt to catch up with the tendencies of later generations, as it frequently was in many public schools. It was implicit in our earliest origins, and in this respect Birkenhead Institute was a pioneer, its first science master (Mr. P. F. Gillies) being appointed in April 1892. Again we should notice the very high standard set by Connacher and his governors in the choice of speakers for the annual prize-givings. Beginning with Principal (i.e. Vice-Chancellor) Rendall of Liverpool at the inauguration, Edward Russell, the famous liberal editor of the *Liverpool Post*, was the guest speaker at the School's very first Speech Day held in the Town Hall on December 21st, 1889. In 1896 the speaker was the Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell (later Chief Secretary for Ireland), in 1901 Mr. Justice Kennedy, in 1904 Professor E. H. Griffiths, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales. And, if pupils were to be thus brought into direct touch with leading figures of the day, from its opening the Institute also welcomed the most thorough inspection of its work by competent authority, for example by the Rector of Edinburgh Royal High School in 1889, by Owens College, Manchester, in 1891, and by the University of London in 1892. Any middle-class youngster who sat beneath the great gas chandeliers and under the eagle eye of Connacher (who insisted on fine penmanship) during the 'nineties was being brought along in an atmosphere which was aware of the best thought of the day and in many respects educationally twenty years ahead of it. Finally we should notice, in this consideration of the School's aims in its earliest years, the determination of its sponsors that it should be a gateway to the Universities; for Mr. S. Stitt founded its first Scholarship with that intention on the inaugural day, beating Westminster's similar endowment only by a short head and a few minutes. Tate's University scholarship was endowed seven years later in 1896.

Once launched the School gradually acquired many features of grammar school life which are part of today's familiar heritage. There was already a School uniform by February 1889, the navy blue cap bearing a red star; a cricket field in Willmer Road that summer, which house-building engulfed within a year, driving the boys further out to "Gaskell's field" in Woodchurch Road; the Latin motto "*Doctus in se semper divitias habet*" adopted in November 1889; a code of rules which still obtains; the introduction of physical training and music to the time table in May 1890, and the very first Athletic Sports Meeting on June 27th, 1891, on the Park Football Ground. In encouragement of athletics,

the first of our now considerable collection of trophies was presented, the Silver Cup given by Lieutenant-Colonel St. John Blake-Campbell in that year.

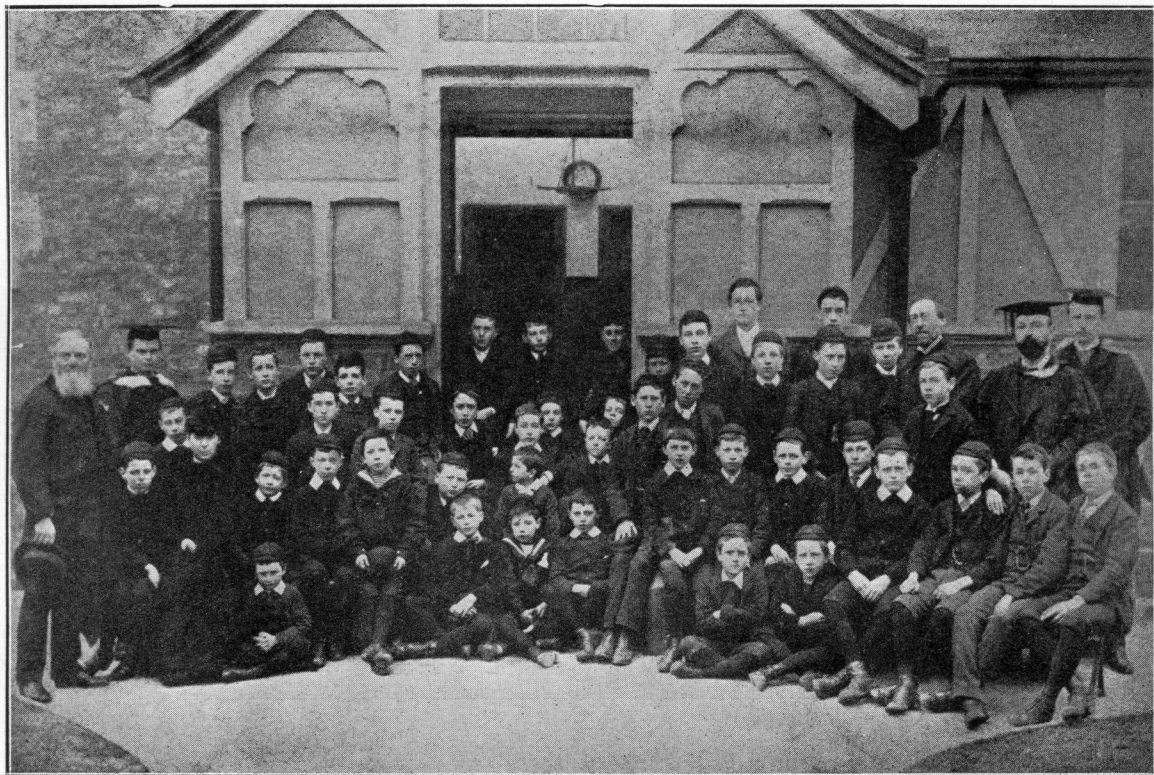
But more important was the erection, also in 1891, of the present south wing of the School which, as we have seen, dissolved for ever the original aspect of the historic single-storey, four-room nucleus, and fulfilled the architect's promise of "three large rooms on the ground floor and above them two class-rooms, a large lecture room, and laboratory" substantially something like a third of the present main School building. In July 1892, the Mayor of Birkenhead opened the Tate Laboratory, which its munificent founder had promised at the first prize-giving. Thus was the serious teaching of science inaugurated in Whetstone Lane. In that year, too, one of Connacher's original senior boys passed the first M.B. examination at Liverpool University. Practices which have become traditional marked those enterprising years of the early 'nineties. At the first Old Instonians reunion (forerunner of the present vigorous club) in 1893, there were 60 present. The teaching of woodwork began in March 1894, in the space below the great school room, "taking advantage of the ground's natural slope," as had been forecast in the 1886 Prospectus, and where since those times the bicycle shed has been. In 1895 the confidence and patience of the Directors was at length justified in the declaration of a 3 per cent. dividend, and Atkin was presented with his portrait in the following year — the founder's portrait which today hangs in the main entrance hall alongside the Headmaster's door. And in 1898 our Visor emblem replaced the red star on the School cap. These long-hallowed aspects of our corporate life deserve record as they were established, but of more moment was the continued increase in membership, reaching 222 in 1897 and a further emphasis on the importance of science in the curriculum. For in 1899 South Kensington College of Science urged the provision of more advanced facilities in physics and chemistry. The result was the erection of a tiered lecture theatre with a "demonstration table" in what in 1958, after many vicissitudes, is still the Advanced Laboratory, although the university style theatre seats have long since been removed. That the Directors' meetings in 1900 were occupied more with the recognition of the Institute as a "science centre" approved by South Kensington — the true parent of such teaching — than with dividends is a measure of the distance the School had come in eleven years. Now the chief financial concern was to raise a £2,500 mortgage to finish the south wing. In 1901, Mellard Reade's handsome façade was at

length completed with the addition of the present Physics laboratory, and teaching began in it on March 17th, 1902. Pupils from Port Sunlight were already being seconded here, and in January Mr. W. H. Watts had already been appointed Physics Master, a post he was to hold for 33 years.

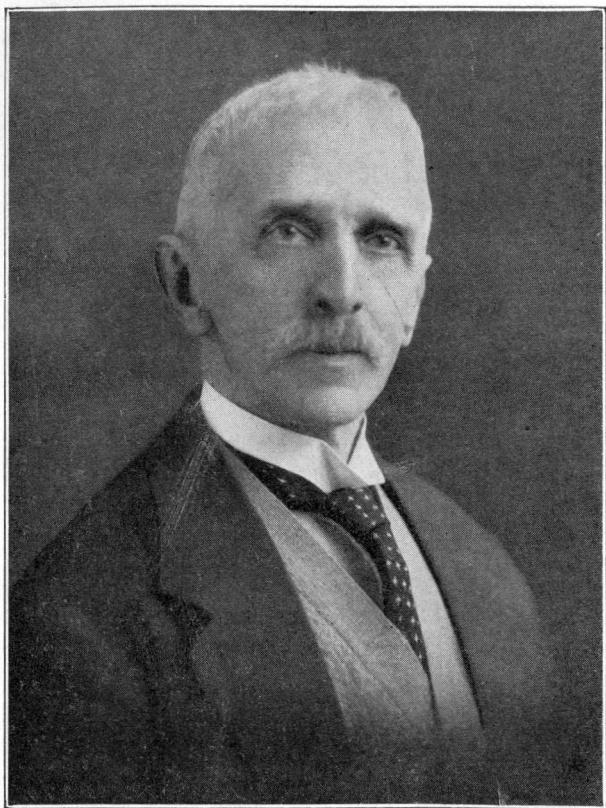
As the Victorian age ended, then, it is possible to estimate the progress made in our formative years and in some slight measure to "beget that golden time again." In the first place, a really splendid building had arisen. Even viewed with the critical eye of a later age there is no doubt that it was grandly conceived and that the men of '89 had not been far wrong in adopting the lofty and spacious. A Corporation surveyor in 1939, faced with the problems of reinforcement against blast and damage from aerial bombardment, described the Institute as "one of the soundest buildings in the town." This was an impressive tribute to Mellard Reade, who deserves well of Instonians. Secondly, a true grammar school tradition had been established, and this we owe to the vision of Atkin and also to the first Headmaster, who had the day-to-day task. W. S. Connacher wrought well during his fourteen years' tenure of the post. Today his name is remembered in the valuable English prize which has been awarded annually now for half a century and which his brilliant pupil J. M. Furniss (later Chief General Manager of Martins Bank) was largely instrumental in founding. Before Connacher's death in February 1903, he had seen the Institute recognised by the Board of Education as a School of Science; he had been made a member of Liverpool University Council; Cheshire County had accepted his School for the admission of County Scholarship holders — thereby beginning a long and valuable association that endured for nearly fifty years — and in 1902 one of his pupils, G. Pollexfen, went to Balliol with the Tate Scholarship. Standing on the hill amid the trees and mansions of Clifton Park, Birkenhead Institute had become in a little over a decade one of the most successful and progressive establishments for higher education in the north west.

But now the Edwardian age had come, and big changes were impending. After a short interregnum, Mr. J. Smallpage was appointed to the vacant headship, and in that same year occurred the notable amalgamation of Robert Galloway's Clifton Park Private School with the Institute. The practical effects of this step were that Mr. Galloway became second master and that the preparatory department, better known for the next forty years as 'the Junior School,' was transferred to his spacious premises on

the northern side of Clifton Road. Yet, even while these considerable domestic changes were taking place, Parliamentary legislation already foreshadowed the end of such constitutions as the Institute possessed. This was the Education Act of 1902 passed by the Balfour Government. As far as the School was concerned, this Act had a double irony. We have seen that the Institute largely owed its origin to the deficiencies of Forster's 1870 Act, yet its corrective of 1902 virtually doomed the privately-run grammar schools which had done more than anything else to fill those thirty intervening years with anything worthy of the name of secondary education. This was one thing. But we must remember also that Balfour's Act adjusted an anomalous situation, exposed by an acute London County Council auditor, who was upheld in the High Court when he contended that secondary education subsidised out of the public purse was illegal. Once the state amended the law and itself provided such instruction, how long would it be prepared to continue grants to academies, however meritorious in their pioneering or efficient in their methods, whose directors looked for dividends on each year's turn-over? Mr. Smallpage's first three years were therefore largely absorbed by the problem of transfer though the bulk of the negotiation was most ably conducted by the Birkenhead Institute Company's Secretary, W. F. Terry (who had succeeded the first secretary Mr. Calder in 1892) from an office in North John Street, Liverpool. Terry faced a dilemma. On the one hand he could not guarantee the continuance of the Board of Education grant unless he drew up a plan of School government acceptable to a President who remarked acidly, "I do not favour Public Schools run as limited companies." On the other, if he were forced to sound the Borough Council for its views on the acquirement of the Institute, what terms was he likely to get that would satisfy his own Directors? Either way, his independence and his revenues were alike threatened. Both sides proved obdurate, and by 1906 the sands were beginning to run out. "A School in search of a parent" might well have been our theme song in that year. With staff salaries imperilled and with no certain future, the 1883 Company was wound up, and Mr. Terry became liquidator and trustee. This was the second major crisis which the Institute faced (the first having been in 1886) and triumphantly weathered. As though the very fates themselves were playing a hand in dissolving the last of the old ties, Atkin himself died in December 1906. In him the Institute had lived, moved, and had its being, and, while we salute his memory, it is fitting here no less to honour the second



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J. A. SMALLPAGE, Esq.

and last Secretary of the Company, W. F. Terry, who administered Atkin's creation in a dark hour and by unremitting courage and perseverance handed it on unscathed. His letters of November 1906 are illuminating. He asks the support of the Cheshire County Council on the 17th, and, while dilating upon the character of the School's pupils, instances an Old Instonian — Herbert Gray — “who was frequently mentioned in despatches in the late South African War as a most brilliant despatch rider. He was captured by the Boers three times, and three times he escaped.” And again four days later he urges the President of the Board of Education to make a generous settlement “considering the excellent record of Birkenhead Institute in turning out capable citizens and professional men.”

The Chairman of the Birkenhead Education Committee at that critical moment chanced to be Mr. G. A. Solly. From the start of the negotiations he was our champion, when his proposal of February 1907 that the Council should take over the School met with stiff opposition. Will it not, with its ambitious syllabus, be expensive to run, opponents asked? If you show eagerness to adopt this hitherto privately managed School, how many other importunate bodies may knock on your Council chamber door? Where will you draw the line? To all these objections, Solly had ready and convincing answers. He told the critics that to allow the Institute to perish for lack of revenues would be disgraceful, that they had made no provision whatever for secondary education for boys, and that the essential success of Birkenhead Institute had never been so strikingly demonstrated as when fifty new boys were enrolled *since* July 1906 when the Company was liquidated. He went on to argue that the buildings and range of instruction “were ideally suited for establishing a Pupil Teacher centre there” and that “the increased Board of Education Grant which would automatically follow if the local council controlled its governing body would resolve all the financial anxieties.” These eloquent pleas secured a committee majority of 11 to 5 (April 1907), but two months later the full Council rejected the proposed acquisition by 24 votes to 21, apparently owing to misgivings that Corporation ownership would inevitably imply extensions to the building and an increased staff. As things turned out, this fresh anxiety on the part of reluctant councillors worked for Solly's victory; for only three weeks later the Board of Education informed Terry that, as no outline plan for the School's future had been received, the government grant was in jeopardy. Terry turned what guns he had on the Town Hall, and he was powerfully reinforced by the

heavy artillery of the Board, which pressed the Council for a decision forthwith. On July 3rd the Council at length carried a resolution that Birkenhead Institute should become the property of the Corporation, and on October 7th the liquidator was paid £3,362 for the buildings. Since May 22nd, 1908, i.e. for the last half century, the School has been maintained by the local community. As an earnest of the changed control, fifteen scholarships to it were to be awarded annually by the town, ten of these being reserved to scholars from public elementary schools.

If Mr. Smallpage's régime had this lengthy prologue, since it took five years to transform him from a servant of a limited company to a headmaster employed by a County Borough, it must not therefore be imagined that the School made no headway during this period. Boys and masters contrived to get on famously on this as on subsequent critical occasions. They occupied the stage, and, so far as they were concerned (except perhaps for some temporary staff-room uneasiness over salaries), the political conflicts which were to shape their future were little more than "noises off." The establishment of the Pupil Teacher centre developed our VI form; in the summer of 1906, Mr. Smallpage himself took a party of boys to the Annual Volunteer Manœuvres at Bisley, earning a word of thanks for his enthusiasm from no less a person than Field Marshal Lord Roberts, and in 1909 the shade of Connacher himself must have nodded approvingly when the School XI won the secondary schools' Senior Shield at Goodison Park. But by far the most momentous event in the years before the first world war was the extension of the School buildings, the very matter which had caused conciliar uneasiness in 1906. Builders and masons moved in during April 1912, and for some months the playground groaned under their materials, which seriously impeded the endless football which has been played there for seventy years. Before the stone and mortar were brought in, we must notice that, as Mr. Galloway's premises in Clifton Road had not been acquired by the Corporation, junior school pupils had perforce been moved thence to the old "Brooklands" mansion, where Connacher had once lived, but where Headmasters dwelt no longer. But the decision to erect the new buildings to the north of the existing block meant the demolition at last of the old house, and the Junior School had to move once more, this time to No. 1 Hollybank Road. Well might Miss Farrell, who nursed this important department from its birth in January 1889 to her retirement in September 1914, have said with feeling "Here we have no abiding city, but we seek one which is to come." The

new buildings were to be extensive and ambitious, and finally gave us the Institute we know today. Looking at the building from Whetstone Lane and working northwards, there were now added and joined to the original wing: on the ground floor, a new entrance hall and headmaster's study; three new classrooms (in recent years occupied by forms 1A, 1B and across the main corridor, which was now continued in an unbroken line from the south porch to the gymnasium steps, 2B); the gymnasium and gallery, with an adjoining dressing room and 'shower,' and the woodwork shop. A new cloak room was also provided on the far side of the extended corridor. Above these additions, continuing the line of laboratories, the Library, Staff Room, Art Room and two further class-rooms (today's 5A and 4A) were built. Below ground level a dining room (now the Music room), Kitchen, Boiler Room, and even a lift shaft (which the men of 1912 conceived with such secrecy that no subsequent generation has ever grasped its real purpose) were provided. The whole work was carried out as nearly as possible in the spirit of Mellard Reade, and when formally opened in July 1913 presented an impressive and homogeneous façade. The Junior School moved to the new wing from Hollybank Road, but within three years increasing numbers in the senior department drove it forth once more, this time to its abiding home in the mansion once occupied by the Brasseys beyond the south retaining wall. In 1913, too, the house system began, and the four houses into which pupils were divided fittingly commemorated the great founders and benefactors of 1889, Atkin, Stitt, Westminster, and Tate. Perhaps two final glimpses of the School may be given before the outbreak of the first world war ended the epoch. The Institute Prospectus of 1912/13 bearing the Corporation crest lists Councillor Solly as Chairman of the Governors, a post he held until his death in 1941; Mr. Smallpage, Headmaster; Mr. Galloway, Second Master. Among sixteen assistant masters we may select the following whose careers were later distinguished here or elsewhere — Messrs. Bennett, Dowse, Fisher, Grant, Harris, Hilton, Watts, Wood, Clague, Charles Lord, and W. G. Lewis. Each and every one of these names, representing as they do a substantial part of Institute history, will rightly evoke the happiest memories among many generations of Old Instonians. The prospectus was published under the hand of Mr. Robert T. Jones, Secretary of the Education Department, or as we should now say, 'Director of Education,' and reveals that the original fifteen town scholarships had now been increased to twenty-four. The most important internal prizes

were already established, the three George Holt Prizes for Languages, Mathematics, and Science, and the Solly History and Connacher Memorial awards. Just before the dogs of war were let slip, Ralph Seward won an open mathematical scholarship to Balliol. So were the dreams of 1889 justified in a glittering achievement before the sternest sacrifices were required of that generation. Seward himself was killed on the western front in 1915.

Twice in its history has the Institute felt the impact of world war, and, although there were significant contrasts between the influences and results of the two conflicts as experienced here, in two respects they were unhappily identical. Our first Roll of Honour, affixed to the northern wall of the Entrance Hall and unveiled by Major General Sir Reginald Barnes in March 1920, commemorates the 83 names of Old Boys who made the supreme sacrifice between 1914 and 1918. We print these elsewhere in this volume with pride and gratitude. The list includes the name of an Old Instonian whose work earned him international fame, Wilfred Owen, one of the greatest poets of that lost generation. Further, the demands of military service caused serious dislocation on the staff. But no more convincing proof of the School's resilience during this difficult time can be instanced than the departure of Henry Cohen in 1917 from our VI form to Liverpool University. His subsequent career through professorship to peerage is part of the history of British medicine. Among the many brilliant sons of Birkenhead Institute, he remains *primus inter pares*. A memorial of the exertions of those who worked on the home front is the two-handed silver cup, our first House trophy, purchased with the earnings from the war time labour camps.

With the return of peace, the School could pick up the threads again, and staff appointments made in the immediate post-war years need only the barest recapitulation here to show how fortunate we were to be once more in the recruitment of masters who were to give service of the highest distinction for many years afterwards. Their names speak for themselves including as they do Mr. Paris (1919), Mr. F. W. Jones (1919), Mr. Paice (1920), Mr. A. O. Jones (1920), Mr. C. Moat (1920), Mr. Bloor (1921), Mr. Allison (1921), Mr. Hall (1923), Mr. Sorby (1924), and Mr. Thacker (1926). This was a decade of notable expansion and progress. By 1924 our numbers had risen to 500, organised in three streams per year, and numbers continued to increase for some years afterwards so that even the gym, gallery was crowded at prayers. In 1925, another splendid property was added, when seven acres were purchased in Ingleborough Road for the Institute Play-

ing Fields, the Pavilion being built upon it, through the generosity of the Old Boys and the labours of the Staff, in the following year. This was opened by the Mayor on November 6th, 1926, and in the next headmaster's time the flagstaff was erected in 1930, trees were planted around the ground (1932), and the ornamental entrance archway was added in 1933. The School magazine, the *Visor*, was first published at Christmas in 1927, and, though this was a comparatively late venture, its production has been amply justified since; for it has appeared in an unbroken series (except for the war years 1940-44) to this day. Its enterprise is responsible for the present volume, and its successful career of thirty years (not out) springs largely from the editorship of Mr. Hall throughout that period. But one more change was impending in 1929 with the retirement of the headmaster. Mr. Smallpage had his own method of running the School, and the results justified him. Though it might be described as masterly inactivity, a Walpolian '*quieta non movere*,' it would be a serious misconception of the man—and the more one studies his documentary records the more apparent it becomes—to think that the reins were ever out of his hands. If he had a foible, it was to seem to be unobtrusive, but in fact he was a jealous custodian of Institute tradition and could be both trenchant and importunate on paper. He had pressed for a miniature rifle range in the yard in 1914, and his last memorandum of June 28th, 1929, was a masterpiece that was only negated by the world economic crisis. He wanted an Assembly Hall and a new laboratory for post-matriculation work. He criticised the perversion of both the Library and the Gymnasium dressing-room into form-rooms owing to the pressure of numbers, and said he wanted to see them revert to their true functions. He insisted on the equipment of history and geography rooms for specialist teaching, and finally, looking well ahead, demanded a biology laboratory. Circumstances then were against him and against the plan also to build a new Institute in Oxton since Whetstone Lane had altered considerably since 1889, but the fact that he asked for these things before disappearing from the scene earns for him a praiseworthy place in our history.

At Mr. Smallpage's retirement no-one could have foreseen that events would trim the next era to an exact and neat decade; for his successor, the third headmaster, Mr. E. Wynne Hughes, had held the post exactly ten years when the second world war broke out. During that period several changes were made both to the fabric of the School and to its internal organisation. In 1929, for instance, the growing bulk of records made the creation

of a School office imperative, and this was equipped on the eastern side of the entrance hall. Since 1932, detailed records of every admission replaced the ancient registers, and much later (1948) a photograph of every pupil was added to the files. Considerable changes were made in the Art Room by the provision of new windows, in the gym., where the stalls were set back under the gallery, and in the Tate laboratory by the rearrangement of the benches. The new Headmaster encouraged more pupils to aim at university degrees. At the end of his career he had the satisfaction of seeing 33 Old Boys in simultaneous residence at various British Universities. He abandoned the traditional cognomen 'C' for the third stream of each year, and between 1930 and 1934 endeavoured to cope with a widening syllabus by a five-period morning. The School uniform was modernised, and some distinctive additions were made to the black and gold of the 1898 device. A General Inspection of the School in 1931 resulted in a highly satisfactory report, the many School societies were fostered and encouraged, and the thirties passed happily enough without crisis, their climax probably being the Coronation celebrations of May 11th, 1937. But sterner times lay ahead. At a staff meeting in the Summer Term of 1939, Mr. Wynne Hughes outlined plans for the evacuation of the School in the event of hostilities. The Polish crisis of August resulted in the recall of the staff on the last Saturday of that month. During the last week of peace all boys who intended to go to an evacuation area attended School each day. Two hours after the British declaration of war on Germany, 11 a.m. Sunday, September 3rd, a School party left by special train for Oswestry.

We shared the buildings of Oswestry County School for the next three months though unforeseen difficulties resulted in the town's Memorial Hall also being pressed into service. Lessons took on a new dignity when they were given in the Oddfellows' Chamber and every master occupied a massive cathedra. An astonishing amount of solid work was done in this novel exile, and a full time-table was maintained. But it became evident by Christmas 1939 that the evacuation scheme had broken down and that for two reasons. Firstly, only half the School took part in it, and secondly the absence of air raids in 1939 (the period of the 'phoney' war) made it appear pointless. The Institute building, which had remained closed for formal education since the beginning of the summer holidays, was partially reopened on November 5th, and at the beginning of the Spring Term 1940 practically the whole School reassembled at Whetstone Lane. The Oswestry

“branch,” which functioned until April for the benefit of a few pupils who remained in the ‘safe’ area, gradually died of attrition. From then, until the close of the European war in May 1945, the conflict bore heavily on staff and boys alike. Many of the former were called to the colours, and from first to last some sixty staff changes took place in the five years, if we count all the comings and goings. Serious air raids began in October and November 1940, and after the March ‘blitz’ of 1941, the School was closed for three days (between 13th and 15th) owing to a partial dislocation of normal life in the town. It was a time of constant alert, of broken rest, of restricted transport, of a shortage of books, paper, and fuel — though only once, on January 31st, 1945, did the latter force the closure of the building, — of black-out at nights, of disrupted home life. The cross-country runs and the prize-givings were abandoned during hostilities. Yet on only one occasion was our building immediately threatened, when in the early hours of March 13th, 1941, incendiary bombs fell in the gym. These were promptly extinguished by Mr. Hall and other fire-watchers on duty that night. And, although many homes were damaged or destroyed, we lost only one pupil, A. R. Gibbons, who was killed when a bomb fell in Conway Street. On active service, however, the School’s toll was once more a grievous one, 95 Old Boys being lost. The heavy demands made by the R.A.F. and other arms for educated officers and N.C.Os. who could master the technicalities of new weapons were largely met by former grammar school boys. So a second war memorial was placed on the wall facing Atkin’s portrait, and this was unveiled by the Mayor of Birkenhead on December 18th, 1949. A permanent Old Boys’ Memorial Committee, composed of six Old Instonian trustees with Mr. Malcolm representing the Staff, has awarded annually since 1949 the most coveted of all our prizes in proud recognition of that sacrifice, to the senior boy who has fostered our traditions most worthily on the field. Mrs. Forshaw also established a valuable Art Prize in memory of her son.

It was now the Headmaster’s first care to nurse the School back to normality as soon as possible, and by 1946 every department was once more in capable and experienced hands. In 1945 the old six-day week was at length abandoned. A general inspection in 1947 resulted in yet another excellent report from H.M. inspectors. Indeed, academic achievements in the immediate post-war years not only equalled but surpassed those of earlier times, with two State and three Borough Scholarships in 1949, and again three ‘States’ in 1951. A further addition to the School buildings

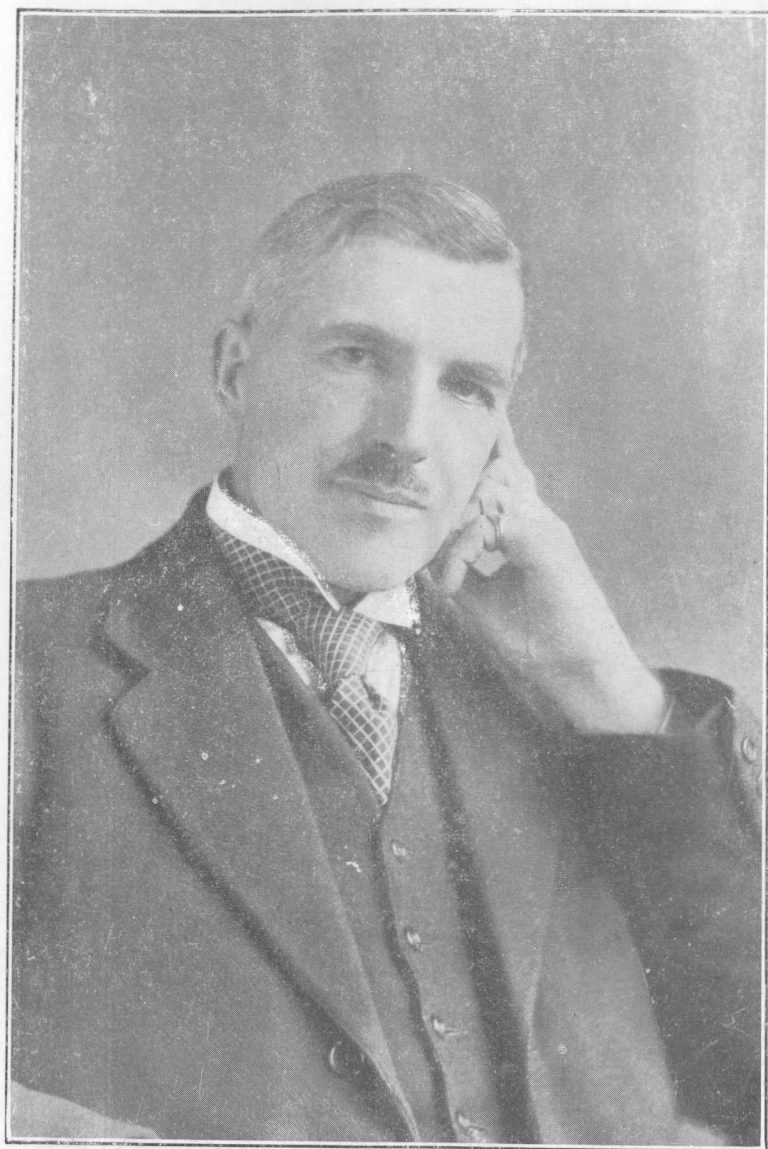
in January 1949 provided a new dining-hall in the grounds of the former Junior School, thus releasing the old room in the main building for the study of music, which now makes notable progress under Mr. Shaw.

This flourishing condition might have tempted an outside observer to believe that the *status quo ante bellum* had been completely restored. That this was to some extent illusory was due to an event outside our control, new Parliamentary legislation repeating the experience of 1902 to 1908. For in 1944 Butler's Education Act had been passed, completely modifying, while it expanded, English secondary education. Just as Balfour's Act forty-two years previously had drastically altered our constitution, so this new measure deflected our course. While creative in some aspects it could also be destructive and revolutionary. From the Institute point of view, it meant the end of recruitment from the County of Cheshire which dated back to Connacher's time. It forced the closure of the Junior School, since preparatory departments were now held to be obsolete and unnecessary by some interpreters of the Act. It further reduced our membership, which had remained constant for some years even after the opening of new secondary schools had challenged our ancient monopoly. It brought us under new governors, who had obligations to other schools as well as our own. In 1948 the old Board of separate governors ceased, and at that point we can place on record our profound debt to Mr. Solly and to Councillor Furness who succeeded him as Chairman (1941 to 1948). At the same time an entirely revolutionary method of selection at 11, coinciding as it did with the new tripartite framework of academic, modern, and technical education beyond the primary stage, produced a school of thought which believed that too many grammar school places for boys in the town were inimical to the operation of the new Act. In consequence, at the retirement of Mr. Wynne Hughes from the Headmastership in the summer of 1950, the future seemed troubled and uncertain. He had done his utmost to the end to preserve the older atmosphere at the Institute and jealously to guard the character it had borne since its foundation. Symbolical of his departure perhaps was the last of the old School and Higher Certificate Examinations that summer, since they were replaced by the General Certificate in the next year.

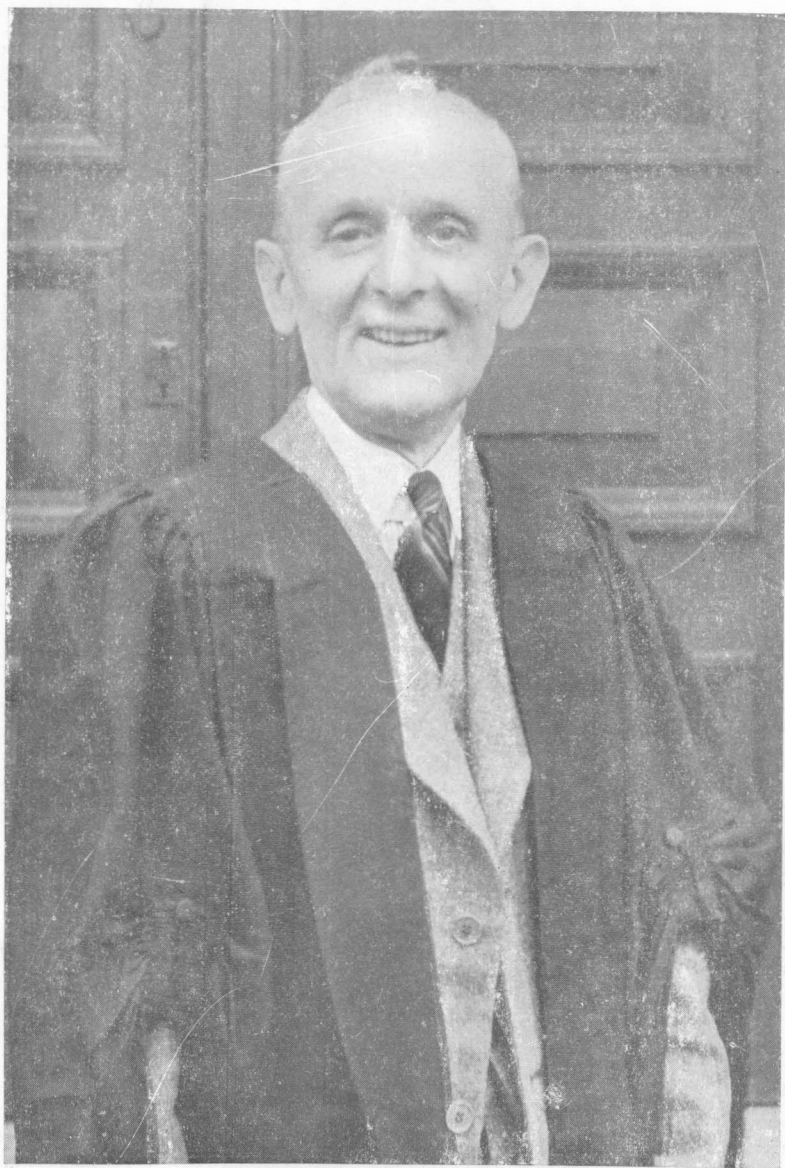
Yet the Institute had weathered many previous storms and emerged full of heart from many an earlier crisis. There might be a threat of amalgamation or absorption of the School. But while the foreboding might cry :



THE SCHOOL



E. WYNNE HUGHES, Esq.



G. W. HARRIS, Esq.



A. O. JONES, Esq.

"Keep thou my feet. I do not wish to see
the distant scene. One step enough for me"

no-one can deny that we continued to flourish even when the decision was made to replace Mr. Wynne Hughes only from a strictly restricted candidacy, that is by seeking headmasters from within the staff during the period of emergency before the full implications of the Butler measure were clarified. We have been singularly fortunate in our regencies and protectorates, and it would be difficult to show that the best of our traditions have not been fully maintained under the three headmasters since 1950. Firstly Mr. Harris was appointed. He had been on the Staff since 1906 and second master since 1935. When he retired in 1953, he had established a record of service which must surely defy all comers in the future. He knew more about the School and what it had always stood for than any other living person, and he held office with dignity and competence. During his headship "God save the Queen" was heard in the hall for the first time for fifty-one years, at the memorial service for H.M. King George VI on February 15th, 1952. Before Mr. Harris left, some modernisation of Mellard Reade's original classrooms was carried out. He was succeeded in September 1953 by Mr. A. O. Jones, the Senior Science Master. Well known to many generations of Instonians for an easy and apparently effortless friendliness, he contrived to make his short régime a time of felicity for all around him. Academically speaking this was a notable reign, since four state scholarships were secured in the Summer examination of 1954 and three in 1955, an outstanding achievement which gained the congratulations of the School's new governors at their meeting of October 28th in the latter year. In March 1956 one of our most venerable traditions was broken when the annual prize-giving, which had been held in the Town Hall except during the war since 1889, took place in the Technical College Hall. This building had been opened by one of our old boys, Sir Henry (now Lord) Cohen, on January 8th, 1955.

We come at length to recent and freshly remembered events. Mr. E. G. Webb was appointed Headmaster in the summer of 1956, and took up office in the autumn term of that year, after having been Senior Languages Master for a decade previously. He has probably had a more difficult assignment than any other man called to preside over the School since Atkin began it. Some of the novel influences of the new educational system were now being felt to the full, and it was not always easy to instruct the uninitiated in the rudiments of grammar school life. While it would

be presumptuous to attempt an assessment of the work of one who still grasps the helm, it is safe to say that no-one, in our first seventy years, has done more to establish the closest and most cordial relationship between the School and the town. This has required high gifts of tact, patience, and industry. By carefully prepared meetings between Staff and parents (inaugurated on January 16th, 1957, in the first instance for the V and VI forms); by the setting up of a Careers Department under Mr. Squires; by the hospitality extended to all visiting teams at Ingleborough Road — made possible by the devotion of the Ladies' Committee to which the School owes a profound debt — and by encouraging our present music master, Mr. Shaw, to hold concerts with a competent choir; by all these means the Institute has gained a new social background based on genuine esteem and goodwill. Not all headmasters have the talent for such enterprises, but, where they succeed as our recent ventures have so conspicuously done, we can be certain that, whatever the future has in store, our name and our work have earned a deep affection among the local community.

We have thus endeavoured to give a picture of Birkenhead Institute from its remotest origins to the end of 1958, from the tranquil days of Queen Victoria to this age of ferment and of change, to show that throughout its history it has been true to the ideals of its founders. We urge, in conclusion, that its past achievements and its present-day vigour have earned what its countless friends and members will steadfastly desire, its most jealous and careful preservation for many long years to come.

V. *The Junior School 1888 to 1944*

A JUNIOR School as a cadre or cell from which recruitment to the main School could be made was an integral part of the Institute from its foundation. Known at first as the 'Kindergarten' or 'Preparatory,' since 'Junior School' in the earliest days really meant the first three forms, it began to have a history of its own from 1904, after the amalgamation of R. Galloway's private school in Clifton Road with the Institute, and was to continue for forty years. Its vigour was unimpaired by a somewhat nomadic existence; for not only was the original Kindergarten of 1889 moved to Clifton Road in 1904, but thence to the Headmaster's house (after the Corporation took over the Institute in 1908) i.e. to where the first forms now are in the north wing;

to No. 1 Hollybank Road, while the 1912 building operations were in progress; back again to these 'new buildings' in July 1913, before finally, owing to the great increase in the School's numbers, taking up its permanent residence in 1917 in what is still known as 'the Junior School Building.' The true creators of the department were Miss Farrell and Mr. Hilton (a golfer of more than local celebrity), but its definitive organisation really began under Miss F. E. Bowers, who presided over it from 1917 to 1942. The excellence of her methods produced a preparatory division of which the Institute came to be genuinely proud, and some of its most distinguished members owed much to the foundations laid "over there." Its pupils wore a distinctive uniform of dark blue or grey (according to season) with red facings, and their life, whether in the class rooms, in the annual play produced in the delightfully kept garden, or in the Cub pack, was admirably conducted. Honours boards in the entrance hall still commemorate those who proceeded by internal scholarship at the age of 11 to the Senior School. In the late 'twenties a Junior School Magazine called the *Whetsonian* was published until absorbed by the *Visor* in 1928. From the many mistresses who did yeoman work there in addition to Miss Bowers, we recall Miss Ashcroft, Miss Dyer, Mrs. Davies, and in particular Miss Booth (later Mrs. Curtis) who was on the staff from 1927 until 1946, thus seeing the end of the department for which she had done so much before closing her career with two final years in the Senior School. She will be long remembered with deep affection by former members of the Junior School. The operation of the Butler Act brought about its closure in 1944. Good use has since been made of the premises by the Geography Department under Mr. Allison and by the lending library. The old form libraries have now been combined under Mr. Hall's guidance, and an excellent collection of fiction and general literature (as distinct from the reference library in the main building) is now available to borrowers. The rest of the ground floor is occupied by the Careers Department under Mr. Squires.

The abandonment of the Junior School cannot but be deplored by those who knew its worth, and no history of the Institute would be complete without a tribute, however brief, to the place it once occupied in our life.

VI. *The Staff*

WE append an alphabetical list of the Assistant Masters at Birkenhead Institute from 1889 to 1958, believing this will be of interest to Old Instonians of many generations. We have drawn attention, in many cases, to signal later achievements of former masters. It cannot be presumed that this list is absolutely complete, owing to various vicissitudes, particularly the upheavals caused by two world wars, some obscurity in our early records, and very short tenure of posts by some. Although a master's impact cannot always be measured by his length of service, the Institute owes an enormous debt to a number of graduates who have given their working lives to the School. We have therefore offered an appreciation of those who served here for a score or more years but who are with us no longer. As for veterans on the present day staff, modesty precludes more than a note on the length of their tenure to the present moment. We must hope that the Institute will survive long enough for a later historian to do justice to their labours.

Pride of place goes to Mr. Harris, who was on the staff for 47 years and whose career spanned the years from 1906 — not much after our very earliest days — to the new Elizabethan Age. He touched our life in practically every aspect, and most worthily crowned his long course by becoming Headmaster at its end. Mr. R. Galloway, himself the son of one who had established a school in Clifton Park at what now seems a fabulously remote time, carried a Victorian air into the very 'twenties. Though a man of austere principles, he had the radical's jealous love of personal liberty, which he was prepared to defend against all comers. And who can forget the famous triumvirate of Bennett, Wood, and Watts? The two former had been appointed as far back as 1899, Mr. Bennett in January and Mr. Wood in May, and both had the exuberance of character in which that age delighted. Mr. Bennett stumped through life, formidable and incisive, and after he retired in 1929 continued in vigorous health for many years in characteristic mockery of the carefully compiled actuarial statistics of the Burnham Committee. Mr. H. P. Wood was a versatile scholar who could teach anything up to specialist level with an easy and genial mastery. Classics, mathematics, and literature were all one to him. As for Mr. W. H. Watts, he linked two scientific periods, having the polish of the age of T. H. Huxley but keeping abreast of the most modern developments in physics.

An astronomer of repute, he had a radio receiving and transmitting set in his laboratory years before the B.B.C. was ever heard of, and his play, "The Horoscope," performed in Beechcroft in November 1925, contributed to the speedy raising of the fund to which we owe the pavilion. Nor must we forget Mr. Clague and Mr. Moat, with whom we deal elsewhere. Mr. W. G. Lewis reigned in the woodwork shop for a quarter of a century, a rubicund and knowledgeable character who practised the rare art of using speech to say what he really meant and not to conceal it. Mr. J. Paris (33 years service) delighted his colleagues with many a *bon mot* tinged with the cultivated accents of Edinburgh, and his best pupils revelled in the wit of one who had sat at the feet of Saintsbury.

The Institute staff room has always been famous for its good fellowship, an attribute less common among schoolmasters than some suppose. Three of the prime founders of this wholesome tradition were undoubtedly Mr. Paice, who was Art Master for 20 years, Mr. A. O. Jones, who over his 36 years was in turn senior science master, second master, and finally Headmaster, and Mr. Bloor, who was on the staff for 35 years, being senior mathematics master for 25 of them. All three had a remarkable genius for anecdote. P. S. Paice has become a legend by this time, but in his case there was as much truth in the facts as in the tradition. An immaculate figure with a rare knowledge of the world, he would have graced the most exclusive West End club. For every newcomer to the Institute staff, Mr. Jones was invariably a guide, philosopher and friend. As for Mr. Bloor, who could brighten the darkest day and ease the heaviest burden, what memories abide of his jests! New arrivals could scarcely have realised that behind his modesty lay long service as a field officer in both world wars. Lastly, we have only just parted from yet another master who gave 37 years service to the School. Mr. Allison's academic standing as a geographer makes him one of the most distinguished specialists ever to have worked here. Author of a standard work on the Mersey estuary, Chairman of the Liverpool Geographical Association, a consultant for Sir Charles Reilly's development plan for Birkenhead, and the leading authority on the town's territorial history, he is known and admired far beyond our confines. Here his work will be remembered by the Allison Geography Prize founded in 1958. Long serving members of the staff still in office include Mr. Hall (36 years), Mr. Sorby (34), Mr. Thacker (34), and Mr. W. E. Williams (29).

Staff List 1889 to 1958

(ABBREVIATIONS: HM=Headmaster, JS=Junior School Staff
 †=Secondmaster, *=Head of Department
 GS=General Subjects).

J. G. ALLAN	English	1945—1957
Miss A. L. ALLAN	French	1946
*J. E. ALLISON	Geography	1921—1958
C. AMLOT	G.S. (temporary seconding)	1947
J. W. ANDERSON	Chemistry	1958 to present day
†S. ANDRADE	—	1893—1894
Miss F.K.ASHCROFT	J.S.	1925—1933
N. BAILEY	Chemistry, Music	1945—1949
A. BARTLAM	Art	1915—1920
J. BAYLIS	Mathematics, Science	1914—1915
*H. BENNETT	Modern Languages	1899—1929
W. C. BERRY	—	1890
*B. L. BLAKE	Geography	1958 to present day
C. T. BLANSHARD	French	1909
*F. BLOOR	Mathematics	1921—1956
R. P. BOLTON	Mathematics	1941 to present day
Miss K. BOOTH (Mrs. Curtiss)	J.S.	1927—1946
*Miss M.F.E.BOWERS	J.S.	1914—1942
S. F. BRAY	English, French	1909—1912
W. T. BROAD	G.S.	1906—1908
H. BROXUP	—	1895—1896
E. H. BRYANT	G.S. and Singing	1921—1927
W. BROWN	—	1896—1901
Miss J. E. BURN	French History	1916—1919
R. CALLOW	Mathematics, English	1919
E. CARTWRIGHT	Woodwork	1939—1944
D. P. CHEESEMAN	Music	1952
A. P. CLAGUE	Physical Training	1908—1938
C. D. CLARE	Physical Training (later P.T. Organiser, Wallasey Education Committee)	1938—1947
H. CLARE	Chemistry	1918—1920
H. J. CLARE	Art	1913—1919
P. E. COLLER	J.S.	1914—1915
Miss A. COXON	J.S.	1916—1919
*J. H. CROFTS	Mathematics (later H.M. Whit- church Grammar School)	1889—1893

†E. H. CRUMP	---	1897—1904
F. D. CURRIE	G.S.	1927—1929
Mrs. A.M. CUTHBERT	J.S.	1946
A. S. DALE	J.S.	1915—1917
J. DALTON	English	1957 to present day
A.E. DARBYSHIRE	English	1941
E. DARLINGTON	Woodwork	1934—1939
Miss A. DAVIES	J.S. and School Secretary	1919—1927
C. DAVIES	Physical Training (later North Wales Representative, Cen- tral Council for Physical Recreation)	1949—1954
H. DAVIES	Chemistry	1927—1941
Mrs. I. P. DAVIES	J.S.	1927—1935
Miss M. DAVIES	J.S.	1915—1918
R. W. DAVIES	Music	1889—1925
J. I. DAVIES	Art	1946
W. A. DEAKIN	French	1929—1931
A. A. DERBYSHIRE	Physics	1941—1943
*Miss A. H. DODGE	History	1915—1925
*G. DOWSE	English (later H.M. Cowley Grammar School, St. Helens)	1911—1919
G. DRINKWATER	French	1947—1951
Miss A. M. DUGUID	J.S.	1916
Miss H. M. DYER	J.S., English	1929—1937
F. J. EDGE	Woodwork	1945—1948
Miss E. EDKINS	J.S.	1926
C. W. ELLIOT	J.S.	1913—1918
Mrs. C. E. ELMSLIE	Latin, English	1946
Miss M. I. EMERY	J.S.	1923—1929
W. A. EVANS	French	1927
Miss D. EWING	English	1918—1922
Miss J. E. FARRAND	J.S.	1920—1923
Miss M.K. FARRELL	J.S.	1889—1914
I. FINN	French	1927—1930
F. B. FISHER	History, English, Latin (Pupil Teacher Super- visor; later, H.M. Thornton Grammar School, Bradford)	1908—1913
H. J. FISHER	Chemistry	1954—1955
Miss E. K. FOSTER	French, German	1902—1908
J. H. FOULGER	Chemistry	1920
L. FOX	Mathematics	1939—1946
Miss E. A. GALE	J.S.	1937—1938
†R. GALLOWAY	Languages	1904—1924
A. R. GILL	Latin	1946—1949
P. F. GILLIES	Science	1893—1898

E. GRAINGER-	Art	1941—1943
SMITH		
G. GRANT	History, German (later Registrar, Birmingham Univ.)	1913—1919
*R. J. GRIFFITH	Modern Languages (later H.M. Rock Ferry High School)	1913—1924
Dr. TEASDALE-	Music	1925—1939
GRIFFITHS		
Miss H. E. GUEST	J.S.	1923—1924
J. W. HAIME	Latin	1928—1941
	(later Personnel Officer, British Road Transport Services)	
+*R. HALL	English	1923 to present day
G. W. HAMILTON	Chemistry	1909—1919
+*G. W. HARRIS	History (H.M. 1950-1953)	1906—1953
N. S. HARRISON	History	1915
H. L. HAWKINS	English	1915—1919
*R. S. HILTON	J.S.	1902—1913
Miss K. HUDSON	J.S.	1924—1927
J. D. O. HUGHES	Woodwork	1952 to present day
E. W. HUGHES	Music	1953—1954
E. K. HYSLOP	J.S.	1915
Miss E.M.JACKSON	J.S.	1913—1914
Mr. JAMES	—	1893—1896
*T. J. JAMES	Modern Languages (later H.M. Gowerton County School)	1925—1927
J. W. JEFFERY	Physics	1935—1945
A. JOHNSTON	Physical Training	1889
R. H. JOHNSON	Mathematics (later Lecturer, Birkenhead Technical College)	1957
+*A. O. JONES	Chemistry (H.M. 1953-1956)	1920—1956
*F. W. JONES	English (later H.M. Beaumaris Grammar School)	1919—1933
J. H. JONES	French	1937—1939
Miss M. JONES	J.S.	1921—1922
D. KERMODE	Mathematics, Music	1920—1921
E. A. KNIGHT	Latin	1928
F. J. LAKE	French, Music	1939—1947
J. D. LAMB	—	1889—1904
Miss M. LAWN	J.S.	1922—1923
A. D. LEWIS	English (later H.M. Ardwyn Grammar School, Aberystwyth)	1936—1946



E. G. WEBB, B.A.
Headmaster 1956—



ALDERMAN GARSTANG
Chairman of the Governors, 1957-59

W. G. LEWIS	Woodwork	1908—1933
R. H. LITHERLAND	Art	1943
D. R. LLOYD	Chemistry	1909
C. LORD	Physical Training	1909—1913 also 1948; 1950
A. V. LORD	French	1930—1941
Mr. McFARLANE	—	1892—1893
A. F. McLEOD	Chemistry	1941—1944
Mr. McLELLAN	—	1900—1901
J. R. McPHIE	Chemistry	1908—1909
S. MAHONEY	Physical Training	1890
Mrs. E.I. MAILLARD	English, French	1941—1945
*L. T. MALCOLM	Physics	1945 to present day
Miss D. E. MAWE	J.S.	1919—1926
V. A. MEALOR	French	1955—1958
A. MITCHELL	Woodwork	1949—1952
C. MOAT	French	1920—1937 and 1941—1943
B. MOORE	Physics	1944—1945
*A. G. MORRIS	Modern Languages (later H.M. Inspector of Schools)	1931—1946
Miss E. M. NICHOLSON	J.S.	1918—1920
D. I. NOBLE	French	1956
P. S. PAICE	Art	1920—1940
J. PARIS	English	1919—1952
*H. PARKINSON	Physics	1945
Miss M. PICKERING	J.S.	1935—1937
W. H. POYNTON	—	1894—1895
A. W. PRATT	French, German	1908—1909
Miss PRESTON	Commercial Subjects	1890
Miss N. J. PRICE	Art	1946 to present day
A. RICHARDS	—	1897—1898
R. A. RICHARDS	French	1919
W. D. RICHARDS	Physics, Biology	1946 to present day
J. G. ROBERTS	History	1919
J. D. ROBINS	Physical Training	1954—1958
Miss K. M. ROCHE	J.S.	1918—1920
Miss H. ROSEN- BLOOM	Art	1944—1946
T. SAMUEL	— (later Director of Education, Wallasey)	1890—1897
V. SAUNDERS	G.S.	1914—1919
E. V. SHAW	Music, English, Physical Training	1955 to present day
J. SILVERWOOD	Geography	1917—1919
J. H. SKELLON	Science	1924—1927
A. A. SMITH	English	1958 to present day
A. H. SMITH	—	1893—1894
C. A. SMITH	Latin	1925—1927
F. J. SMITH	English	1943—1945
*E. SORBY	Mathematics	1925 to present day

H. SPEIGHT	Science (later H.M. Thrapston Modern School)	1944—1945
Miss M. F. SPELLER	English, History	1917—1918
R. H. SQUIRES	Latin	1952 to present day
J. STUART	—	1895—1896
Miss E. M. SUTHERLAND	J.S.	1920—1921
H. STEVENSON	—	1896—1897
A. R. THACKER	English	1925 to present day
F. THOMAS	Latin	1949—1952
*J. H. THOMPSON	Modern Languages	1957 to present day
J. C. THOMPSON	Woodwork	1894
J. V. THOMPSON	Latin	1889
R. S. THYNNE	French	1946—1955
F. TIPPER	Geography	1914—1921
J. TOWERS	Art	1889
E. E. TOWERS	English	1933—1936
*E. C. TOWNSEND	Chemistry	1944 to present day
M. WARE	Chemistry	1914
H. N. WATER- HOUSE	—	1890
†*W. H. WATTS	Physics	1902—1935
*E. G. WEBB	Modern Languages (H.M. since 1956)	1946 to present day
J. WHITE	French	1931
M. D. WILD	Mathematics	1931—1938
Miss J. E. WILKINSON	J.S. English	1942—1946
Miss D.M. WILLIAMS	J.S.	1917—1918
*D. J. WILLIAMS	Physics (later Principal, Singapore Polytechnic)	1927—1944
R. WILLIAMS	Physical Training	1948—1949
T. WILLIAMS	History (later H.M. Inspector of Schools; Secretary, Port of London Authority).	1914—1919
*W. E. WILLIAMS	History	1930 to present day
H. WINTER	G.S. (temporary seconding)	1947
†*H. P. WOOD	Mathematics	1899—1931
H. B. WOODALL	Mathematics, Science	1914—1918

French Assistants

The following French "Assistants" have been attached to the Staff in recent years:—

M. JOUBERT	M. FREYSENSE	M. ARTIS
M. DUSASTRE	M. MEDARD	M. MONTANGERAND
M. CHAURAND	M. GACHER	M. COULBARY

School Secretaries

Miss A. DAVIES	1919—1927
Miss HARKNESS	1927—1931
Miss COOPER	1931—1942
Miss COJEEN	1942—present day

VII. School Clubs and Societies

BEYOND the academic work of the classroom, Birkenhead Institute has throughout its history provided an abundant and varied club life for its members. The Literary and Debating Society, which is the oldest such organisation in the School, has had its ebb and flow of fortune and is now chiefly confined to the VI form. As we have seen, the *Visor*, the School magazine, was founded in 1927. Since the first world war, beginning with the School journey to Switzerland undertaken by Mr. Allison, much enterprise in such visits has been shown, as, for instance, to the Wembley Exhibition of 1924 under the headmaster (Mr. Smallpage) and to the British Empire Exhibition at Glasgow in 1938 under Mr. Morris. In the recent post-war journeys parties have visited Belgium, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Holland, France, Switzerland and Sweden. Valuable work was done in farming camps in both wars. At these during the second war the well-being of our members was the annual care of Mr. Lord, Mr. Lake, and Mr. and Mrs. Sorby at Barrow Hall Farm.

From the very outset, football was enthusiastically taken up, although expansion of the town drove our teams from one ground to another, from Willmer Road to Woodchurch Road in the early 'nineties, to the Archery ground in Park Road East, to Port Sunlight, to Higher Bebington (where the Wiend is now), to Holm Lane and to the site of Carlaw Road, Prenton, before they could settle finally on the splendid Ingleborough Road Memorial Ground in 1926. In Association football, the School XI won the Liverpool and District Senior Shield in 1909, and reached the final on later occasions, as in 1922 when it was beaten 3-2 at Goodison by Liverpool Collegiate School. In 1923 the second XI won the Junior Shield presented by Liverpool Football Club. But as early as 1927 the decision had been taken to go over to the rival code, and in that year Birkenhead Park Club lent their second XV ground in Park Road North for a weekly Wednesday afternoon practice game to the newly-founded Institute Rugby Club. By 1934 it was possible to field a competent senior side and to invite fixtures. The rapidity and the success with which the change was made was in no small measure due to the enthusiasm of several members of the staff including Mr. Paris, Mr. A. O. Jones, Mr. D. J. Williams and Mr. D. Lewis. In the immediate post-war years, formidable teams made their presence felt, and the restoration of our high standard has been due to really hard and expert coaching by Mr. R. Williams, Mr. Webb (now headmaster), Mr.

C. Davies (Captain of Wrexham Rugby Club as well as Physical Training Master here), and finally — as well as supremely — by Mr. J. D. Robins, the Welsh International, who was on the staff from 1954 to 1958. The results speak for themselves. In the 1947/8 season the Institute first XV won 14 and drew 2 games, scoring 520 points and conceding only 153. In the Public Schools Seven-a-Side competition, we scored a notable hat trick with our victories in 1947/8/9. Perhaps the most distinguished of our School captains was J. T. Bartlett, the first Old Instonian to gain an International cap, for England (1947), after having captained the Liverpool University XV of 1945 and also the Combined Universities team. G. Sudworth was a member of Glasgow University first XV, and B. E. Ware and H. Smith of Liverpool University first XV, while A. S. Hodgson appeared in the Scottish Rugby Union Final international trials in 1957. We are always strongly represented in the Public Schools' representative sides arranged in mid season, and such a performance as 1954 when our first XV won eight games out of nine on the run affords ample explanation of our reputation among the selectors. We can say without fear of contradiction that no grammar school in the district takes on the Institute fixture lightly. Only as recently as July 1958, Grove Park School (Wrexham) magazine reminded its readers that the Institute, with a roll of 350, produces season after season impressive teams, which strain to the utmost the opposition of schools nearly three times that size.

Institute cricket has been played since 1889, usually in those early days in Birkenhead Park. Mr. Harris supervised arrangements for many years, and subsequently Mr. Thacker and Mr. Squires took over the responsibility. Outstanding performances by members of the first XI include J. G. Williams, 76 not out against Wallasey Grammar School; G. V. Ovens's century against Rock Ferry High School, and J. R. Morris, 343 runs in six matches. In the sphere of physical training, which has continued unbroken since May 1890, beginning with the gymnastic classes of Sergeant Mahoney, up to the period of Mr. J. D. Robins, the School has been served by practitioners of international repute. For thirty years that genial celebrity Mr. A. P. Clague gave us the benefit of his vast experience, both in the 'new' gymnasium of 1913 and also at the Swimming Galas which he organised — if not exactly from the first (since the original gala was held at Livingstone Street Baths in 1905) at least from 1908, up to and beyond the time that the event was transferred to Byrne Avenue. It is fitting to record here the achievement of W. E. Clare, who was

the Northern Counties' breast stroke champion. Mr. Clague was a famous referee of international events, but we remember him as a delightful colleague, capable of infinite surprises, a great, burly, kindly man. The other 'star' was, of course, the ageless Mr. Charles Lord, who has been associated with Institute P.T. over an incredible number of years — before the first world war and again in 1948 and 1950. When we have been in any staffing difficulty he has always helped us out. Though the years sometimes deal harshly with others, he has a habit of popping up in our history, decade after decade, as fresh as a daisy. Like Mr. Clague he has an international fame. On occasion too he has treated us at Christmas concerts to dazzling displays which would have astonished the most cynical vaudeville agent. In 1947, the School Boxing Club, under the direction of Mr. D. ("Tiger") Lewis were the first holders of the *Birkenhead News* Boxing Cup.

Athletic contests date from the first Annual Sports of June 27th, 1891. For many years the Port Sunlight ground was used for this event, but, since the meeting of June 6th, 1931, the series has been continued at Ingleborough Road. Mr. Paice was well known as Sports Secretary for nearly twenty years. In the last quarter century events as well as the last lap of the Open Mile have been announced on the fine bell which was given to the School by Mr. Luton in remembrance of his son's years at the Institute. The Silver Urn for the Mile Championship was presented to the School in 1935 by Mrs. Jackson, who as Miss Atkin had been present at the inauguration of the School on January 12th, 1889. Of old boys who later distinguished themselves in athletics, we record Geraint Williams, who held the record for the ten miles Cross Country run, University of Wales. A unique prize, a token of the generous interest in our affairs by the parent of a former pupil is annually since 1949 awarded at the Sports. Given by Mr. Meggs, this awards to two boys, who have done most to foster good sportsmanship, test match tickets as well as return railway tickets and "something extra" to make a red-letter day. We give a list of *Victores Ludorum* and the holders of School records on a later page. Since July 1957 House Athletic Awards have been presented by the Old Boys Association.

Birkenhead Institute Scout Troop has had a long and successful history, and it has flourished on historic ground; for only a few hundred yards away from its customary meeting-place Baden-Powell launched the world wide Scout movement in 1908. Mr. E. H. Bryant founded the troop (23rd Birkenhead) in September 1924, and Miss Emery the Junior School pack (21st Birkenhead).

The Cubs were active from the start, running a handicraft exhibition in 1928, and boasting a strength of 48 by 1930. The first week-end camp, run by Mr. Lockyer, was at Irby in 1925, and since that time Ross-on-Wye, Silverdale, Charmouth, Brynbach, and Wychnor are among the many places visited by our Scouts. The troop owes a very great debt to W. D. Coughtrie and F. E. Tomlinson, who 'rose from the ranks' to high position in the movement. Members of the Staff who worked zealously with the Scouts include Mr. H. Davies, Mr. Thacker (who began a Rover Scout crew in 1932), Mr. Darlington, and in the Junior School Miss Booth, Miss Ashcroft, and Mrs. Davies. Leading trophies of the local association won by our members include the Walter Harding Challenge Cup for athletics and the Brewster Shield for swimming. It is of course impossible to mention all who have worked so hard to make our troop so successful but representative names are J. H. Wetherell, D. Magee, E. J. Matthews (whose name is recorded on our second Roll of Honour), W. L. Seed, R. E. P. Wright, J. B. Goodwin and J. Clarke.

Other School societies must be mentioned briefly to complete this account. The Chess Club, which is still going strong, had its most successful season in 1929-30 when it won the Wright Challenge Shield, repeating this success on two subsequent occasions in the next four years. Much of the credit for this performance was due to Mr. C. Moat, who was on the staff for 19 years in all and whose labours were recognised by the British Chess Federation Shield presented to the School in 1933 for annual competition. The Rifle (or "Shooting" Club, to give it its original name) began in 1903, when it was attached to Oxtou Rifles and survived until 1940, in which summer it afforded practice to staff members of the Home Guard. There was a Harriers' Club in 1930, and a Badminton Club was founded in the same year. The Dramatic Club was another successful venture of the 'thirties and 'forties. More recently (1952) a Tennis Club was begun, but perhaps the Music Club of 1954, begun by Mr. E. W. Hughes, shows most promise of a bright future. Under the present guidance of Mr. Shaw it has been infused with life and interest. Indeed the Carol Concert of Christmas 1957 was a notable event in the School's long history and should restore ancient glories; for did not a School choir under Mr. Kermode win the Grosvenor Shield at Chester Musical Festival as long ago as 1921? Our National Savings Association begun in 1924 continues in undiminished strength owing to the work of Mr. Hall. Today we have both a Language Club and a Film Society, and if Instonians still have

energy to spare they may enter the Landscape Painting competition, or tackle the stern initiative tests inaugurated by the present Headmaster which may take them anywhere from the lamp room of the Eddystone Lighthouse to the top of Snowdon

These manifold activities down the years have enriched the life of the School and offered those with the wisdom to employ them opportunities which cannot easily be rivalled by outside organisations.

VIII. *Victores Ludorum and School Records*

(This list includes all Ingleborough Road Champions from the first meeting held there in June 1931. Previous holders won their awards 1922—1930 at the Port Sunlight Ground.)

1931—T. J. ANDREWS.	1945—POLLARD, G. M.
1932—K. J. RICE.	1946—ROBERTS, C. J.
1933—G. W. SMITH.	THOMAS, H. D. (Tie).
J. G. KEATS (Tie).	1947—TURNER, H. M.
1934—MILLIGAN, R. H.	1948 TURNER, H. M.
1935—WHEAT, K.	1949—TURNER, H. M.
1936—JONES, P. O.	1950—DAWSON, R. A.
1937—HILL, R. L. M.	1951—RUSHTON, B. J.
1938—BAWDEN, H. R.	JONES, N. N. (Tie).
1939—CLARKE, L. F.	1952—JONES, N. N.
1940—HUNTRISS, S. R.	1953—JONES, N. N.
1941—PROUDMAN, H. G.	1954—JONES, N. N.
BARTLETT, J. T. (Tie).	1955—HODGSON, A. S.
1942—HARRIS, R. G.	1956—LEE, D. A.
1943—BOSTON, C.	1957—HARDY, T. F.
1944—WARE, B. E.	1958—EVERS, G. B.

School Records in Open Events

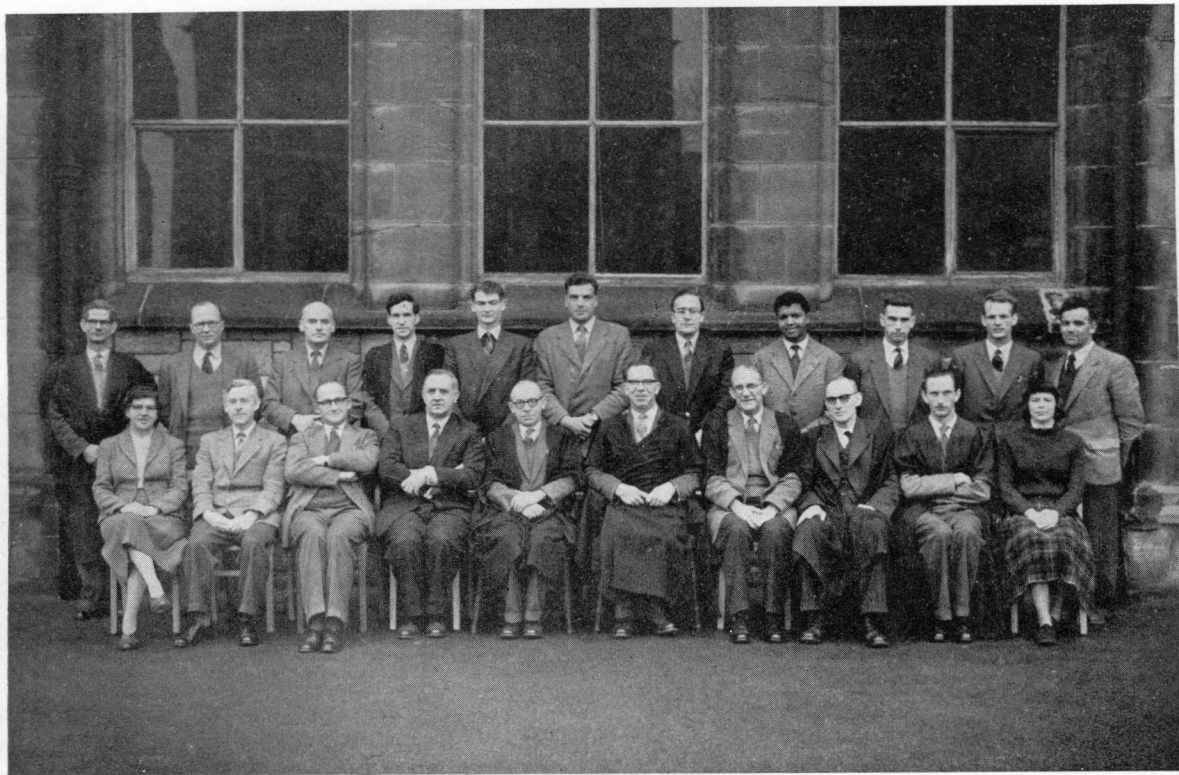
Event.	Record.	Made by.	Year.
100 yds.	10.4 secs.	Jones, N. N.	1955
440 yds.	54.6 secs.	Hill, R. L. M.	1937
220 yds.	24 secs.	Hodgson, A. S.	1955
Mile	4 mins. 53.8 secs.	Dodd, T. A.	1953
High Jump	5 ft. 6½ ins.	Hodgson, A. S.	1954
Long Jump	18 ft. 6½ ins.	Croft, R.	1924
Discus	94 ft.	Hodgson, T. S.	1953
Javelin	150 ft. 3 in.	Hipkin, G. A.	1949
Shot	40 ft. 4 in.	Jones, N. N.	1954
Cross Country	33 min. 13.8 secs.	Grantham, K.	1948

IX. The Old Instonians

OLD Instonians have made vital contributions to the well being of the School throughout its long history and a short survey of their associations is offered here as an integral part of Institute history. Although formal organisation of an Old Boys Club was not achieved until the 'twenties, close contact of former members with the School was maintained from the first. There was an O.B. versus School football match as early as 1892. In 1893 a reunion of sixty Old Instonians may be regarded as the ancestry of the present vigorous society. Our memorial of the 1914-18 war is a visible daily reminder of the debt owing to that generation. But in November 1923 an Old Boys Society—later rightly described in the *Visor* as “the parent body of all other O.B. associations”—was at last established with a formal constitution, its first president being Mr. Smallpage, then Headmaster. In 1926 this new organisation gave invaluable assistance in securing the erection of the pavilion at the then new School playing fields at Ingleborough Road. The most active side of the Society was its association football club which had been founded by Mr. R. J. Griffith and which soon became one of the leading amateur soccer clubs in the district. It began playing regular fixtures in 1924 in the Liverpool Secondary Schools O.B. League. Its senior team was in the Zingari League and also won the Senior Shield in 1932. In addition to football, the Society contrived in the years before the second world war to play the School at cricket, to hold an annual dinner, to organise lectures and concerts and in 1929 to establish a chess club. By 1930 the Society boasted four football teams, two chess teams and a Dramatic Society which was to win national celebrity. Competing against 450 other clubs in the National Festival of Community Drama in March 1933, they won the Merseyside area final with their production of “The Road of Poplars.” Two months later at the Old Vic they beat all comers in the finals and won the Lord Howard de Walden Trophy. On their return to Birkenhead the players received an ovation and played to crowded houses throughout Whit week in the old Birkenhead Hippodrome. Although much activity continued, the A.F.C. managing to field a fifth team for which additional pitches at Arrowe were secured and—typical of the constant interest of the Club in the School—the Society presenting an additional Silver Cup for the Junior



GATEWAY PLAYING FIELD



STAFF, DECEMBER 1958

Victor Ludorum, in 1935 it was decided to reconstitute the society and to co-ordinate its many varied interests. The change over to Rugby football at the Institute, for instance, clearly envisaged yet one more branch of the parent body. The reforms were carried through on December 14th at a General Meeting attended by 100 Old Boys and their successful operation was largely due to the zeal of the Secretary, H. A. Wilmot. Mr. Watts became the first Chairman of the reformed body. The Rugby Club with Mr. A. O. Jones as Chairman began to play fixtures on a ground at Bidston for the first time in February 1936. In that year a Swimming Club and a Choral Society were established and the A.F.C. moved to Arrowe Park Road. In the years immediately before the second World War, the Society showed unprecedented vigour. The Dramatic Club was putting on four shows a year; the Swimming Club—now with 40 members—turned out a squadron at the School Gala and the Chess Club was admitted to the Liverpool and District Chess League. In January 1938, 20 O.Bs. at Liverpool University held the first undergraduate reunion in the Union Building.

One of the immediate results of the second World War, in which so many Old Boys served with the highest distinction, was the establishment of the Memorial Committee, composed of both Staff and Old Instonian representatives. Once their proud duty of erecting a second memorial in the School had been accomplished, they established trustees to administer moneys contributed in excess of the cost of the commemorative tablet as an annual Old Boys War Memorial Prize. This has been awarded to a senior boy since October 1949 and Mr. Malcolm as the sole surviving staff member of the original committee thus serves as an important link between the School and its former members. In 1954 an Old Instonians Club of U.S.A. was founded. In 1956 the then existing O.B. Association was wound up and its assets and responsibilities were taken over by the Rugby Club, which acted as a sort of holding company until a complete reformation of the Society had been undertaken. This important work was inaugurated at a meeting on November 4th, 1957, and culminated in the present Old Instonians Association which to date has a membership of 280, the A.F.C. and R.U.F.C. being affiliated to the central organisation. Since December 23rd, 1957, the Association has maintained a club room in Elmswood Road and has also begun a series of House Athletic awards which are distributed by an O.B. repre-

sentative at the breaking up ceremony on the last day of each summer term. Perhaps Old Instonian activity has never been so vigorous and so varied as it is at the present day. Not only do the A.F.C. with grounds at 'Woodslee' (Bromborough) and Arrove, and the Rugby Club with a home ground at Greasby flourish as of yore but the new Golfing Society holds three meetings annually. Mr. W. Pyke has presented a cup for competition at the summer meeting.

The School owes a very great debt to its Old Boys Association and has a deep interest in its success and continuance. A fitting symbol of this old and happy alliance will be the dinner to be held in Birkenhead Town Hall on January 17th, 1959, to celebrate the seventieth birthday of the School, at which its illustrious alumnus Lord Cohen of Birkenhead will be the guest of honour.

X. Achievements of Old Instonians

THERE are few professions in which Old Boys of Birkenhead Institute have not gained high distinction, not only on Merseyside but also throughout the country and overseas. The following record is not intended to be in any sense a list of Old Instonian appointments. Rather has it been compiled, by selecting a hundred or so names, to illustrate the many and varied callings which our members have adorned, in H.M. forces, in the Universities and in the Civil Service, in municipal life, in the great professions of medicine and the law, in civil engineering, in literature and the arts. We trust that it will serve the double purpose of showing our contribution to the national life and of encouraging present pupils to emulate their distinguished predecessors.

- K. ALDERSON: Distinguished Flying Cross.
 J. F. ALLAN: President, Liverpool Society of Chartered Accountants.
 C. A. ALLDIS: Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Force Cross; Formerly Air Attache, British Embassy, Moscow; Director of Training Wing, R.A.F.
 L. R. ALLSOPP: Chief Inspector, Birkenhead Borough Police.
 J. P. ALMOND: Solicitor, Birkenhead.
 H. ANDREWS: Borough Treasurer, Bromley.
 D. ARCHIBALD: O.B.E. General Secretary, North Atlantic British Liner Committee.
 G. G. BADCOCK: Ph.D. Fellow Liverpool University.
 J. D. BAKER: Lieutenant Commander R.N.
 Rev. H. S. BALBY Vicar of Needham, Norfolk.
 K. BANNERMAN, LL.B.: Member, National Coal Board.
 E. R. BARTLAM: Commonwealth Fellowship (Harvard University); Principal Ceylon Technical College.
 T. BELL: Chief Engineer, Indian Western Railway.
 W. L. BLYTHE: Colonial Secretary, Singapore.
 F. BONE: Distinguished Flying Cross with bar.
 G. BOWEN: Senior Commissioner, Board of Trade, Ottawa; Economic Adviser to High Commissioner for Canada.
 I. BOWEN: Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, M.Sc., F.R.A.E.S.; Principal Director of Equipment, Research and Development, Ministry of Supply; Director of Scientific (Safety) Research, Air Ministry.
 T. A. BOYD: Alderman, Birkenhead.
 L. BRIDGE: Ph.D. Liverpool.
 Rev. W. S. BROWNLESS: Vicar of Moulsham.
 H. O. M. BRYANT, D.P.H.
 J. W. BRYDEN: Ministry of Agriculture (Entomology Division).
 G. CLARK: Secretary to Collegiate Council, University of London.
 E. B. CLARKE, R.N.R.: Croix de Guerre.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF OLD INSTONIANS—continued.

- The Lord COHEN: M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., Professor of Medicine, University of Liverpool; Baron of the United Kingdom; Crown Representative, General Medical Council; Honorary Freeman, Birkenhead.
- R. G. COLENSO: Distinguished Flying Cross.
- W. L. COTTIER: C.B.E., H.M. Staff Inspector of Technical Colleges.
- Rev. J. I. CRIPPS: General Superintendent, West Midland Baptist Union.
- J. G. CURTIS: Advisory Council on Organ reconstruction.
- D. H. CUTBILL: Fellow Chartered Institute of Secretaries.
- G. F. DAVIES: Borough Council, Birkenhead.
- H. L. DAVIES: Orthopaedic Surgeon.
- J. DAVIDSON: First Cadet Officer Prize on "Conway" (Mercantile Marine Association).
- W. W. DAVIES: Fire Assessor, Royal Insurance Company.
- J. R. DICKINSON: F.R.C.S., Harley Street.
- F. DONALDSON: Distinguished Flying Cross.
- A. W. ELLIS: Novelist.
- A. P. EYTON JONES: Distinguished Flying Cross.
- G. E. FOXCROFT: Head of Science Department Rugby School.
- J. M. FURNISS: C.B.E., Chief General Manager, Martins Bank.
- J. GALLAGHER: Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; University Lecturer in History; A contributor to the new Cambridge Modern History.
- J. F. GALLOWAY: M.D. D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Wolverhampton.
- T. R. GARRETT: M.R.C.V.S.; Veterinary Surgeon.
- W. N. GARRY: British Embassy, Washington.
- H. R. GAUGHAN: Staff Officer, Council of Europe, Strasbourg.
- G. GLAISTER: Senior administrative assistant, Town Clerk's Department, Manchester.
- R. C. GUBBINS: M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Willenhall, Staffs.
- T. W. GOODWIN: D.Sc., Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, University of Liverpool.
- K. O. GORE: Nathan Scholar, British Institute (Paris); Fellow, University of Wales.
- C. D. GRACEY: J.P., Birkenhead.
- G. GRANT: Registrar, University of Birmingham.
- Professor G. E. M. HALLETT: M.D.S., Professor of Children's Dentistry, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Member of Council, European Orthodontic Society.
- T. M. HERRON: J.P.
- Group Captain J. H. WINN-HASWELL: R.A.F. Chaplain in Charge, Middle East Air Command.
- R. T. HIGHET: Clerk to Wirral Justices.
- C. JARVIS: Mus.D., F.R.C.O., City Organist, Liverpool.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF OLD INSTONIANS—continued.

- G. JELLICOE: Director of Education, Swindon.
 G. N. JENKINS: Ph.D., Reader in Oral Physiology, University of Durham.
 H. JOHNSTON: Distinguished Service Order.
 G. P. JONES: Litt.D., Professor Emeritus of History, University of Sheffield.
 J. G. KEATES: Artist, Representative work in Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.
 E. V. LANE: Lecturer in Geography, University of Tasmania.
 C. R. LAWLESS: Borough Surveyor, Bodmin.
 Rev. A. G. LEE: Vicar of Rawtenstall.
 Flight Lieutenant F. LEEMING: Member, North Greenland Expedition.
 C. R. LOCKYER: H.M. Christchurch School; Teachers' Representative Birkenhead Education Committee.
 J. McGARVA: Borough Council, Birkenhead.
 C. S. McRONALD: Borough Council, Birkenhead; Deputy Chairman of Governors Birkenhead Institute.
 A. MADDOCKS: Borough Council, Birkenhead.
 G. MAITLAND BROWN: Station Superintendent, East African Airways, Kampala, Uganda.
 M. MAKIN: M.D., Medical Officer, Madassal Hospital, Israel; Hunterian Lecturer, Royal College of Surgeons.
 G. E. MALLEY: Town Clerk, Enfield.
 Sir H. J. MANZONI: C.B.E., Chief Engineer, City of Birmingham.
 S. MARCHANT: Chief Assistant, Birkenhead Central Library.
 W. H. MARSH: Labour Attache, British Embassy, Tel Aviv.
 K. MAXWELL: Police Inspector, Birkenhead.
 I. S. MELVILLE: Lecturer in Town and Country Planning, University of Durham.
 J. M. MILBURN: Distinguished Service Order.
 Lieut. Col. K. G. MILLER: Military Cross.
 E. A. MOELWYN HUGHES, Ph.D., Lecturer, Christ's College, Cambridge; formerly Royal Society Research Scholar.
 R. H. MOFFAT: J.P. Birkenhead.
 M. J. MOORE: Licensed Mersey Pilot (Mersey Dock Board).
 J. E. MORRIS: M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Surgeon.
 WILFRID T. OWEN: M.C., Poet.
 A. D. PAPPWORTH: LL.B., Barrister at Law.
 S. PAPPWORTH: F.R.C.S.
 M. H. PAPPWORTH: M.D.
 G. A. PERRY: Executive Officer, New Scotland Yard.
 J. W. PICKUP: M.D. Medical Officer of Health, County of Worcester.
 A. POLLEX: Lecturer, Agricultural College, Winnipeg.
 Captain W. H. POOLE (R.N.R.): Aide de Camp to H.M. King George VI.; Liveryman, Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF OLD INSTONIANS—continued.

- K. M. PORTER: Borough Council, Birkenhead.
 J. C. PRICE: Inspector, Birkenhead Police.
 A. E. RICHMOND: Borough Council, Birkenhead.
 J. ROBERTS: Coroner of Birkenhead.
 M. H. ROBERTS: Chief Assistant to County Architect, Carmarthen.
 R. E. ROBERTS: Lecturer in Radiology, Liverpool University.
 R. G. ROWLANDS: Editor "Birkenhead News."
 B. J. RUSHTON: Ph.D. Department of Geological Survey, Dodoma, Tanganyika.
 J. St. BELLIS: Harbour Master and Resident Magistrate, Port Swettenham.
 S. SCHOLEFIELD ALLEN: Q.C., LL.B., M.P., Recorder of Blackburn.
 D. D. J. SILCOCK: Holt Travelling Scholar in Architecture, University of Liverpool.
 T. SMART: Distinguished Flying Cross.
 A. A. SMITH: Edward Rathbone Prizeman and Fellow of Liverpool University.
 D. T. SMITH: Detective Chief Inspector. Birkenhead Borough Police.
 E. SOMERSET JONES: Barrister at Law, Northern Circuit.
 Rev. D. G. SPENCER: Vicar of Murchison, New Zealand.
 J. E. SPINK: Chief Cataloguer, Finsbury Public Libraries.
 J. G. STOTT: Principal Officer, Board of Trade.
 J. F. SUDWORTH: Lecturer, London School of Economics.
 B. P. SUTHERLAND: Chairman, Research Board, Consolidated Mining Company of Canada.
 C. H. VERITY: Chief Electrician, Cammell Laird and Co.
 K. WALKER: Lecturer, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst; Head of Arts Department, Federated Military College, Port Dickson, Federated Malay States.
 Commander R. WALL: R.N., Information Officer, Government of Rhodesia (High Commissioner's Staff).
 I. M. WATKINS: M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Surgeon.
 A. R. WETHERELL: Martin's Bank.
 G. A. WETHERELL: F.R.C.S.
 E. G. WILLIAMS: Borough Council, Birkenhead.
 J. P. WILSON: Clerk to Sunderland Magistrates; Member, Lord Chancellor's Commission on Legal Procedure.
 M. M. WOOD: Licensed Pilot (Mersey Dock Board).
 R. E. WOOD: Principal, Leicester College of Technology and Commerce.
-

XI. Roll of Honour

OLD BOYS OF THIS SCHOOL WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR OF 1914-1919.

1914

John H. H. Smith, Despatch Rider R.E.

1915

S. V. Radcliffe, R.N.D.	Gomer S. Roberts, 1/4th Ches. R.
Angus Macdonald, 1/10th K.L.R.	H. T. Burns, 1/4th Ches. R.
G. B. Pollexfen, B.A., 1/10th K.L.R.	A. C. MacLean, Australian E.F.
T. McNaught, 1/10th K.L.R.	Harry Raby.
R. A. Robinson, 1/10th K.L.R.	Lt. R.N.R., H.M.S. "Ramsey."
R. H. Falla, S.Sgt. A.S.C.	

1916

Malcolm Guthrie, 17th K.L.R.	C. H. Easton, Sgt. 20th K.L.R.
John Nixon, Sgt., 11th K.L.R.	H. V. Hughes, Sgt. 20th K.L.R.
C. Leslie Evans, 5th K.L.R.	Richard Pell, 26th R.F.
Ralph Seward, Sgt., 21st K.L.R.	T. Glyn G. Williams, 1st R.W.F.
W. M. Campbell, Lt. 9th R.I.R.	E. M. McGill, Sgt. 1/6th K.L.R.
E. R. Ratcliffe Gaylard,	T. Stanley Davies, 26th R.F.
2/Lt. 1/5th D.C.L.I.	P. F. Cannon, 26th R.F.
R. Dodd, Australian E.F.	Frank Bunnell, 8th K.O. R.L.R.
E. Clarke, 1st K.L.R.	G. W. Watson,
Percy Hancock, 20th K.L.R.	2/Lt. R.W.F. & R.F.C.
W. L. Harris, M.C., Capt. 9th R.S.	Edgar C. Jones, Australian E.F.
P. D. S. Broad, Canada P.P.L.I.	J. C. Chandler, 2/Lt. 17th Ches.

1917

E. Donald Miller, 1/10th K.L.R.	Harry Davies, 8th K.L.R.
Mark S. Watson, M.A.,	J. H. Robinson, R.E. & 9th K.L.R.
Lt. 4th H.L.I.	W. E. Galloway, Lt. 4th R.W.F.
Norman Bell, Lt. Ches. R. & R.F.C.	F. J. Schenkel, Lt. E.African E.F.
W. H. Williams, 2/6 Manchester R.	C. E. Neale, Royal Warwicks.
H. E. Coates, Major K.L.R.	F. Edwards, 2/6th K.L.R.
A. G. Paul, 2/Lt. K.L.R.	F. I. Mercer, Sgt. 9th Northants R.
James Robinson, 2/Lt. 9th K.L.R.	E. P. Beaumont, M.C.,
Horold Ridgeway,	Capt., 17th K.L.R.
Lt. 3rd East Lanes. R.	H. G. Bickley,
W. E. L. Broad, Lt. 5th Canadian I.	Lanes. Hussars & 18th K.L.R.
A. C. Beer, Corp. M.G.C.	H. Vernon James,
Fred Jump, 2/10th K.L.R.	Lt. East Anglian R.F.A.
E. Breuninger,	A. L. Calvert, 2/7th L.F.
2/Lt. London Scottish.	Ernest G. Goy, Lt. R.F.C.
Douglas Terry, 17th K.L.R.	A. H. Hindle, Lt. W. I. Artillery.
Donald M. C. Brown,	John S. Tuckett, Sgt. R.A.F.
286th Brg. R.F.A.	J. H. Good,
C. T. Pearson, Lt. K.E.H. & R.F.A.	H.M. Transport "Pancras."

1918

William Fitton, M.M., Lt. R.A.F.	A. O. Owens, Lt. 15th R.W.F.
T. Langley Williams,	J. Harper, 2/Lt. 3rd Cheshire R.
2/Lt. 5th K.L.R.	C. R. Fraser, 2/Lt. 4th K.L.R.
T. H. Broad Lt. 137th Canadian I.	Charles A. Lewis, Lt. R.N.D. A.L.S.
Alexander Watson, Canadian I.	L. C. Storey, 2/Lt. R.A.F.
J. C. Meredith, Lt. R.F.A.	Cedric Marshall, Wireless Operator.
Albert Dodd, Lt. R.A.F.	George H. Foster, 2/Lt. R.E.
W. C. Poole, 172nd Rocky Mt. Rgrs.	Brayton Scott, 10th Ches. R.
Albert Simmons,	Keyser Atkin, Capt. R.A.M.C.
Shropshire L.I. and M.G.C.	G. H. Wilson, 1/4th East York. R.
Wilfrid T. Owen, M.C.,	
Lt. 2nd Manchester R.	

1919

Ray Wilcox, Capt. 3rd L.F.

Roll of Honour

OLD BOYS OF THIS SCHOOL WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE GREAT WAR OF 1939-1945.

AINLEY, F. R.	HARDIE, W. R.	HADLEY, G. F.
ARTHUR, N.	HARLAND, R. A.	PRINGLE, G.
ASHTON, D. K.	HAYWARD, P.	REEKSTIN, R. R.
AUSTIN, H.	HENSHAW, R.	REES, N. W.
BARKER, D. R.	HIRST, E. W.	ROBERTS, V. H.
BARKER, J. K.	HUNT, G. A.	ROGERS, H. E.
BARTLEY, E. L.	HUGHES, S.	ROLLINS, P. E.
BECKETT, J. G.	IVESON, E. M.	ROWLANDS, C. J.
BLACK, L.	JONES, L. W.	SAMPSON, J. D.
BOZIER, H. J.	JONES, T. A.	SARGENT, A. E. H.
BRYANT, C. E. T.	JONES, W. E.	SMART, T.
CANDAY, C. R.	JONES, W. H.	SMITH, A. E.
CASEY, W. A.	JONES, W. J.	SMITH, J.
CLARKE, L. F.	LEEMAN, W. L.	SPROAT, G.
COATHUP, L. S.	LEES, J. A.	SUTHERLAND, R. G.
COFFEY, C.	LEYLAND, R.	SUTTON, R. W.
COOKE, J. K.	LIDGATE, R.	TARBUCK, R. D.
COOPER, H. L.	McIVOR, H. A.	TAYLOR, C. F.
COOPER, J. K.	McKENZIE, D. I.	TODD, C. G.
CRAIL, W. D.	MALLEY, D. G.	TOMLINSON, J.
CUMMING, D. A.	MALLEY, G. E.	TURNER, A. D.
DEAN, K. W.	MATTHEWS, E. J.	WARD, H. L.
DENT, H. C.	MPAKIN, L.	WILDE, R.
DONNING, G. N.	MENEELY, R. R.	WILLIAMS, A. C.
EDWARDS, G. R.	MOORE, S.	WILLIAMS, J. A.
FORSHAW, M. D.	MOSS, A.	WILLIAMS, J. H.
FRECKLETON, J. Mc.	OVENS, G. V.	WILLIAMS, T. H.
GALLAGHER, L. H.	PEGG, W. J.	WILSON, E. H.
GIBBONS, A. R.	PHOENIX, F. D.	WILSON, H. E.
GULLAN, J. N.	POOLE, W. H.	WOOD, W. K.
HARDIE, J. G.		TOWNSON, F. B.

XII. School Trophies

THERE are in all twenty trophies, most of which have been presented to the School by generous benefactors, the first in point of time dating from 1891, and the most recent from 1953. The majority are valuable silver cups of excellent craftsmanship engraved with the donors' names and bearing in addition the holders' names from year to year.

- 1891—Silver Cup. Presented by Lieutenant Colonel St. John Blake-Campbell of the 1st Royal Cheshire Engineers in 1891 for award to the senior boy who has shown the greatest achievement in both study and games.
- 1904—Silver Cup. Presented by Samuel Stitt, Esq., J.P., in 1904, bearing the donor's crest and motto "Dum spiro, spero." This is awarded to the junior boy who has proved the best all-rounder of the year.
- 1918—Silver Cup, the earliest of the House Trophies. This was given by boys of the School from their earnings at Tilston-Fearnal Farm Camp where they did war work in 1918. The Cup is awarded annually to the Champion House in Cricket.
- 1922—Silver Loving Cup. Purchased with House Funds in 1922 and awarded to the Champion House in Football.
- 1922—Chased Silver Cup acquired in 1922. This was at one time awarded to the Victor Ludorum, but is now the Tug of War Trophy.
- 1929—Oak Challenge Shield embellished with engraved silver, the School crest being the centre motif. Designed by Mr. Paice, this shield was purchased in 1929 from House Funds, and is won annually by the Champion House in Athletics.
- 1930—Silver Cup presented by the Staff in 1930 for the Senior House Relay Race.
- 1930—Silver Cup presented by the Headmaster, E. Wynne-Hughes, Esq., in 1930, for the Intermediate House Relay Race.
- 1930—Silver Cup, presented by the Staff of the Junior School for the Junior Relay Race.
- 1931—Silver Loving Cup, purchased from House Funds in 1931, for the winning House in the Senior Cross Country Run.
- 1931—Silver Loving Cup (a smaller replica of the previous trophy) presented by Miss Harkness, formerly the School Secretary. This is awarded to the winning House in the Junior Cross Country Run.
- 1932—Silver Cup presented by Susan S. Atkin in 1932 and known as the Atkin Challenge Cup for the Victor Ludorum.

- 1933—Challenge Shield embellished with worked bronze reliefs presented to the School by the British Chess Federation in 1933 in recognition of the Institute Chess Team's outstanding performances in the Wright Shield Competitions. This is awarded annually to the Champion Chess Player of the School.
- 1934—Silver Cup presented by the Old Boys' Association in 1934 for the Junior Victor Ludorum.
- 1935—Silver Urn presented by Mrs. Jackson (formerly Miss Atkin) in 1935 for the Mile Championship.
- 1935—Silver Rose Bowl presented by Mrs. Barker in 1935. This was originally a Junior School trophy, but is now awarded to the winner of the Junior Cross Country Run.
- 1936—Silver Cup purchased in 1936 from House Funds and awarded annually for the Champion House in Swimming.
- 1937—Silver Cup presented by the Corporation of Birkenhead to commemorate the Coronation of their Majesties, King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth. Known as the Coronation Cup, this trophy is awarded to the Champion House.
- 1948—Silver Cup presented by Robert Smith, Esq., of Clarence Road, to commemorate the overall period of 17 years (1931-1948) during which his sons J. N. Smith and V. L. Smith were at Birkenhead Institute Junior and Senior Schools. This Cup has been allotted to the winner of the Senior Cross Country run.
- 1953—Silver Cup presented by the Corporation of Birkenhead to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Awarded for Rugby Football.

381 Borough Road
Tel. Birkenhead 1789

BAKERS

A
N
D

CONFECTIONERS

48 Upton Road
Tel. Birkenhead 81

1876

The name that means quality

1958

Food Specialists, Family Bakers and Confectioners

W. Y. Hodgson & Co.

We do NOT sell Factory Bread, we Make our OWN
to ensure its quality.

* * *

TRY our SPECIAL STONEGROUND WHOLEMEAL BREAD

* * *

Our confectionery is acknowledged as THE BEST

* * *

“ For real GOODNESS sake, eat Hodgson's Cake ”

The Cross,
Bromborough
Tel. Brom. 2037

G
R
O
C
E
R
S

Childer Thornton
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IT'S "THE TOPS."

“Unless you give him bacon,
You must not give him beans.”—

So wrote G. K. Chesterton in “The Englishman ”;
but whether it is a question of bacon or anything else to be
found on Nixon’s shelves, HE will never complain, because
Nixon’s quality never varies—it is always supreme.

NIXONS

THE GROCERS,

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