

ST. GABRIEL'S
SCHOOL
MAGAZINE

SUMMER TERM 1937.

St. Gabriel's School Magazine.

Summer Term, 1937

In Sodalitate Virtus.

EDITORIAL.

The school continues to flourish; more and more girls seek the privilege of coming to St. Gabriel's and we have a waiting list!

As the numbers grow, so do the school buildings. In September we hope to find, instead of cramped quarters in St. Christopher, a new Gym. Already tribes of workmen have arrived and have cleared the ground and even started the walls. Although we have been told firmly that we must not stand and watch them, we very much like to see the walls grow brick by brick and we dream of the ropes and booms we shall see next term.

Last year saw the arrival of new hard courts and we have been so grateful for them. It is the first winter that we have had the courts and they were a great joy to us. They made it possible to play netball immediately the rain stopped without waiting impatiently for the courts to dry.

At the end of last summer term we regretfully said good-bye to three of our staff, Miss Wende (now Mrs. Chapman), Miss Javan and Miss Parry. In September Miss Roberts came to wrestle with our Latin and History, and Miss Way arrived to coach us at Games. Miss Mayes took charge of the "Prep", and we are green with envy and admiration when we see the handwork that they do.

There are not quite so many farewells to make this year, this is because most of 'Upper Fifth will be staying on at School so that, as they pessimistically remark, "We can take School Certificate again in December." We are very sorry indeed to have to say good-bye to Muriel Kitchiner. We shall miss her very much especially at Games.

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We are feeling particularly important at the moment because Companion Lilla has (no one knows how) managed to gain permission for us to have School Certificate Examinations at St. Gabriel's. This is a great honour and we of the Fifth are very grateful to her.

And now we must leave our readers to pass on to the magazine. We have endeavoured to point out landmarks of our school life during the past year and now we hope our public will enjoy reading of our activities in more detail in the following pages.

ROSAMOND PRITCHETT.

MOLLY ROBINSON.

SCHOOL NEWS.

SUCCESES.

French Concours

Concour Mensuels (Préparatoire)

Prix Margaret Woolrych

Hazel Banner

Peggy Fransella

Mary Cousins

Mention Daphne Dowlen

Music Examinations

Grade IV.

Jean Poole

Grade II. (Honours) Peggy Fransella

Grade I. Victoria Duke

Art. Royal Drawing Society Exhibition

Figure Composition and Portraits

Mary Jackson, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Class

Commendations

Bari Martin, 1st Class Commendations (3 sheets)

Pamela Baker, 1st Class Commendations (2 sheets)

English

Prizes for Essays awarded by the Robert Louis Stevenson Club, London.

Molly Robinson Muriel Kitchiner, Beryl Dain,

Mary Jackson, Hazel Banner, Elisabeth Brown.

VALETE. Muriel Kitchiner, Form Upper Vth. Came September 1931; Sub-Prefect, 1935; Prefect, 1936; Team Leader, 1935; 1st Netball VII; 1st Tennis VI.

We are very sorry to lose Diana and Sylvia Freer, Jean Gray, Anne Vereker, and Audrey Wilson, all of whom are leaving the district.

CONFIRMATION. At St. Michael's Church on June 30th the following girls were confirmed :—Audrey Middlemass, Pamela Dowlen, Doreen Cowper, Margaret Turner, Joan Denoon, Margaret Knight, Mary Brailsford, Mary Prince, Jean Poole, Bari Martin, Pamela Arter, Victoria Duke.

ST. MICHAEL'S DAY. On Tuesday, September 29th, several of the lay staff and older girls who had made their Communion at St. Michael's Church joined the Companions in a festival breakfast at school. Later in the day we kept our 7th birthday in the usual way by a school party. The Juniors played games in the afternoon and the whole of the main school sat down to tea together. Again we have to thank Mrs. Maw for the largest and nicest cake we have ever had. Mary Maw, our Head Girl, ensured us a lucky year by blowing out all the candles at one go! After tea the Seniors stayed for individual and team competitions which included general knowledge, music, unwrapping parcels and exploding paper bags. A very strenuous day and a very happy one!

DANCING DISPLAY. On March 18th at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Miss Way's four dancing classes gave a very delightful display of Greek Dancing. The "Sea Dance" to Mendelssohn's "Fingal's Cave" and the "Archery Dance" by the Senior Class, and the "Fire Dance" by the Intermediate were specially appreciated. The "Bunny Dance" by the little ones was very charming.

RECITALS. We have very much enjoyed the seven music recitals arranged by Miss Hemmerde. Among the most interesting were a piano recital by Miss Jewel Evans (Royal College of Music) and the Brahms D Major Violin and Piano Sonata which was played by Miss Ruth Pearl (R.C.M.) and Miss Hemmerde. Mr. Fraser (baritone) has twice delighted us with programmes of mainly Scottish songs. We always look forward to the "By Request" programmes at the end of each term. We are all very grateful to Miss Hemmerde for the lovely music she gives us.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL. The new organisation in the Preparatory School has proved most successful and we feel that Miss Mayes is to be congratulated. We all marvel at the wonderful handwork the very small children achieve under Miss Clarke's guidance. We were all so sorry that an outbreak of chicken-pox prevented the Preparatory children from taking any part in the Nativity Play.

HOLIDAY READING ESSAYS. Prizes have been won this year by Molly Robinson, Beryl Dain, Pamela Dowlen, Jean Gray, Pamela Baker and Peggy Fransella.

THE BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP. At the end of the School year there are 25 Seniors and 16 Juniors belonging to the Fellowship. The "School" series of notes which the Seniors use have been particularly good, and we hope that they will be used by many of our Senior girls. We are again very grateful to the Rev. J. Stubbs for coming to speak to us each term.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY. On June 19th some of the girls of the Upper IV paid a visit to the National Gallery to see some of the great Italian pictures about which they had been hearing in school. We spent about two hours in the Gallery and then had tea together before returning home.

THE NATIVITY PLAY.

At the end of the autumn term, the School gave four performances of a Nativity Play called "Flower of the Holy Night" specially written for us by Mrs. Maw.

The Well Scene made a lovely opening to the play. Our Lady tells the children the story of the daisy flowers and when they have run away the Angel Gabriel enters and announces the Holy Birth. Then came the Inn Scene, with its noisy crowd at the beginning and its peaceful ending when the Innkeeper and his wife show the two travellers the stable. The preparation of the stable came next. This was done in silence and the little angels, under the direction of the three archangels, did it all very sweetly and reverently. The Shepherd Scene was one of the great scenes of the play—ending with the departure of the shepherds led by the boy David crying, "To Bethlehem—Rejoice all ye people for Love is born into the world." David reaches the stable first and when he has made his offering of flowers turns to re-assure his father and grandfather who wait at the stable door. "Come in—there is no need to fear, it is just Jesus and the angels." Then came the procession of the Kings and the final tableau and hymn—"O come, let us adore Him."

One of the great features of the performance was the music. Carols—many of them very old—with beautiful words and music, were sung by a special choir between the various acts. The loveliest of all, we thought, was

"I heard a merry mess of shepherds sing" set to music by Miss Hemmerde. We are hoping one day to hear it again.

We were all very much impressed by the quietness of the house during the performances. It was possible for those of us, who had to be in the hall and on the stairs, to enjoy the singing and to hear nearly every word of the play. One of our loveliest memories is of three stately archangels coming slowly down the stairs with the little angels hand in hand tiptoeing behind them.

A collection was taken at the door for St. Dunstan's and amounted to £9 4s. 6d.

ST. AIDAN.

This year we have once more been lucky enough to win the Sports Cup. At some of the practices we were not very hopeful, but after some very exciting races on the day we were rewarded with success. Our Senior Netball team was, unfortunately, not so successful, although the Junior team won the Cup. This term after a very exciting match of three sets, Betty Cooper just missed winning the Junior Tennis Cup. Hard luck, Betty!

In work, although we never quite manage to gain the highest number of commendations, we usually have the lowest number off. So keep up the good work, Aidan!

We are very sorry indeed to lose Muriel Kitchiner who has done so much for us as our Team Captain.

ST. ALBAN.

We have not much to boast of this year. Our one success has been on the netball court. Here we wrested the Netball Cup from St. Bede after an historic struggle. Our Junior team also reached the final, but was defeated by St. Aidan.

In work we have not done so well. In spite of the efforts of some of the Upper IV, we have no chance of coming top in work. Bessie Arnot and Molly Troughton have worked very hard.

Although we were only third on Sports Day, everyone tried very hard.

The tennis and swimming contests have not yet been decided, so we cannot tell of our progress.

We hope that next year we shall be able to report more successes.

ST. BEDE.

St. Bede has not had a very successful year. We seem to have lost everything by just two or three points.

We have not excelled at all in Sport yet, but Doreen Cowper is in the final of the Senior Tennis Tournament, so we hope for better luck there. Play up, Doreen!

In work so far we come second—we are trying very hard to beat St. Aidan and if we don't do too badly in the examinations we may succeed.

ST. CHAD.

This year has not, unfortunately, been a very successful one for us. Our Team Captain left last Christmas term, and owing to the epidemic of chicken-pox some of our best games people were absent for the sports trials, but we made quite good progress when they returned and we were not far behind the other teams on Sports Day.

Joan Haigh won the Junior Tennis Cup. Well done, Joan!

We have not been very successful in work either this year, though girls have gained individual successes. Better luck, next year!

HISTORICAL, LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

We have missed Miss Wende very much this year and for a little while the Society languished. But now we have made a fresh start.

We have had two meetings this term. The first was held on May 7th. After a meeting of the committee it was decided that the second meeting should be an expedition to some place of interest.

At the first meeting each girl had to come with a drawing to represent a book title. Molly Troughton won a prize for the most original design—a small boy fishing—"Great Expectations." Mary Maw and Molly Robinson each won a prize, one in this competition and the other in the second—"Cut Quotations." After these competitions we had historical charades which had been prepared beforehand by two teams. These were very funny to watch and difficult to guess. This brought to an end a very entertaining meeting.

On June 25th we went to the Tower of London. First we went to the White Tower, to St. John's Chapel and the Bloody Tower. We also saw the Traitors' Gate, the square where the unfortunate prisoners were executed and many other interesting things.

After tea we went to All Hallows, Barking, which is the "Toc H" headquarters. Excavations had been made under the church for underpinning and many Roman remains had been found. Among the interesting things we saw was a Roman pavement, a model of Roman London and a small but lovely chapel. We all enjoyed our outing very much and we hope to go for another one soon,—*when* we have money in hand! Suggestions for raising funds are invited from members.

PAMELA DAVY,
Secretary.

LE CLUB FRANCAIS.

Nous voici à la fin de l'année scolaire au cours de laquelle le "Club" s'est réuni deux fois par trimestre.

Au commencement de chaque réunion nous avons chanté des chants populaires français.

En décembre dernier de petites conférences, avec projections, ont été faites par les membres les plus courageux du club. Tout en écoutant leurs discours nous avons pu voir sur l'écran "L'Histoire du Grand Méchant Loup," "Les Trois Ours," Mickey Mouse. Mary Maw nous a parlé de la Belgique, Muriel Kitchener du navire "Berengaria," Beryl Dain des "Lacs suisses et italiens," Doreen Cowper de "La Famille Royale" et Peggy Cooper des "Chiens."

Au cours de toutes les réunions il y a eu des jeux divers, des devinettes et des concours. Des charades jouées par différents groupes, ont été pour la plupart, amusantes, bien que des gestes aient eu à remplacer très souvent les mots inconnus.

Pendant le trimestre de Pâques les membres du Club appartenant au groupe Upper V ont joué un extrait de la pièce de Racine "Britannicus," Lower V un extrait de la pièce de Molière : l'Avare et enfin Upper IV "Cendrillon."

Dans l'ensemble des progrès ont été réalisés et presque tous les membres ont assisté régulièrement aux réunions.

L. SILLANS.

MUSIC CLUB NOTES.

This year for the first time we have a Music Club. At the opening meeting, Miss Hemmerde gave us a very interesting talk on the life of Sullivan and we now feel that we know much more about this composer. Afterwards we all sang songs from the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas.

The Club will meet twice a term and we are looking forward to the next meeting which will be a lecture-recital on Brahms and Schubert. We shall do our best to illustrate this lecture vocally if called upon to do so!

PEGGY WILSHIRE,

PEGGY COOPER,

Secretaries.

... 5th MILL HILL (ST. GABRIEL'S) GUIDES.

Once again Camp must come first. It was quite a different camp this year but equally enjoyable. The weather was unsettled and there were very heavy showers but the sun always came to the rescue and dried everything before the next downpour. Anxious parents at home were saying, "How will they manage, will they come back?" Guides in camp were saying, "Isn't it fun having supper and breakfast in bed! I shouldn't mind if it rained tomorrow." Harassed Guiders ran from tent to tent with plates, cornflakes, sugar, milk, knives, spoons, forks, bacon, tea, bread, butter and marmalade! However, a glorious hot sun always came at the critical moment and saved the situation.

There has been a development in the Company this year. The Guides over 15 have formed a Cadet Ranger Patrol and Miss Wyatt, the Commissioner, very kindly came to enrol them. Two of the Cadets take the alternate meetings and have proved a very great help to the Guides.

All the Cadets come to the other meetings to widen their knowledge of Guiding.

In September we are looking forward to welcoming to the Patrol a number of would-be Cadets.

We must congratulate Audrey Middlemass, Pamela Dowlen and Pamela Davy on becoming First Class Guides and the first three on gaining All Round Cords as well.

Guiding in the summer is distinctly an out-of-door recreation, but we are planning a very definite Autumn and Winter programme and we hope to help our numerous recruits to progress on the right lines.

HOCKEY.

The weather again has been the cause of the little Hockey played by the School this year. In the Autumn Term they played eight times but in the Easter Term they did not play at all as it either rained every Thursday afternoon or else the ground was waterlogged. Next year we hope to get the use of another ground and we shall have

an alternative day in case of rain, so we hope to get more games in future.

NETBALL.

The School had a very successful season—losing only two matches and drawing one out of a total of fifteen matches.

The First Team was as follows: Shooter, M. Maw; Attack, A. Middlemass; Centre Attack, D. Cowper; Centre, M. Kitchiner; Centre Defence, P. Wilshire; Defence, B. Dain; Goal Defence, P. Cooper. V. Arter played in one match in the Christmas Term.

CRITICISM.

The First team combined very well together and this accounts chiefly for their success.

The Shooters were steady and reliable in all matches. Audrey Middlemass was very helpful in the centre court as well as in the circle.

Muriel Kitchiner was a very good centre and held the team together well. She was strongly supported by the other centre court players, Doreen Cowper and Peggy Wilshire. The Defences not only marked their opponents closely but when they got the ball were very quick in getting it out of the circle. Beryl Dain was particularly good at backing up the centre court players.

Those who played for the Under 15, Under 13 and Under 12 Junior Team matches included: Shooter, H. Fry, P. Underhill; Attack, D. Dowlen; Centre Attack, P. Fransella, J. Perry, E. Hilborne, M. Scothorne; Centre, M. Cousins, P. Arter; Centre Defence, J. Jupp, E. Fraser, A. Vereker, B. Bray; Defence, B. Cooper, P. Young; Goal Defence, E. Brown, J. Haigh, A. Wilson.

The Senior Netball Cup was won by St. Alban and the Junior Netball Cup was won by St. Aidan.

GAMES FIXTURE LIST.

October

21. 1st VII. v. The Mount 1st VII ...	Won	32—5
21. Jnr. VII. v. The Mount Jnr. VII.	Won	32—1

November

6. 1st VII. v. Southlands 1st VII. ...	Won	22—5
18. Jnr. VII. v. Lyonsdown 1st VII ...	Won	33—2
25. 1st VII. v. Downhurst "A" VII ...	Won	19—17
25. Jnr. VII. v. Downhurst Jnr. VII.	Won	21—3
26. 1st VII. v. Ravensfield 1st VII. ...	Won	19—16
26. Jnr. VII. v. Ravensfield Jnr. VII.	Won	15—13

February

12.	1st VII. v. Southlands 1st VII. ...	Won	33—2
18.	1st VII. v. Ravensfield 1st VII. ...	Scratched	
18.	Jnr. VII. v. Ravensfield Jnr. VII.	Scratched	
24.	1st VII. v. Downhurst "A" VII ...	Lost	14—15
24.	Jnr. VII. v. Downhurst Jnr. VII.	Won	11—9
27.	1st VII. Royal Naval College		
	1st VII.	Scratched	
27.	Jnr. VII. v. Royal Naval College		
	Jnr. VII.	Scratched	

March

10.	1st VII. v. Our Lady's Convent		
	1st VII.	Won	20—13
10.	Jnr. VII. v. Our Lady's Convent		
	Jnr. VII.	Draw	13—13
10.	1st VII. v. Old Girls 1st VII. ...	Won	

TENNIS.

The match results show that this has been a successful Tennis season. The style of play throughout the School has definitely improved but girls could give more time to practising strokes before starting to play a game. Quite a number of girls were able to have coaching from Miss P. Roades and they realised how fortunate they were to have the benefit of her help.

The first Tennis VI. was as follows :—

- 1st Couple—M. Maw, D. Cowper.
- 2nd Couple—M. Kitchiner, A. Middlemass.
- 3rd Couple—B. Dain, P. Cooper.
- Reserve—R. Pritchett.

The Junior Couple was D. Dowlen and B. Cooper.

SCHOOL TENNIS MATCHES.

June

17.	2 Senior and 1 Jnr. Couples v.		
	The Mount	Won	42—28
24.	1st VI. v Ravensfield 1st VI. ...	Won	87—48
26.	1st VI. v. Southlands 1st VI ...	Won	69—59
28.	1st VI. v. Old Girls 1st VI. ...	Won	64—35
29.	2 Senior and 1 Junior Couple v.		
	The Mount	Won	35—24

July

1.	2 Senior and 1 Jnr. Couple v.		
	Downhurst	Lost	37—44
9.	3 Jnr. Couples v. Lyonsdown		
	1st VI.	Scratched	

The Inter-teams Tennis doubles is not yet decided.

The Senior Singles Championship is between D. Cowper and B. Bain and the Junior Singles Championship was won by Joan Haigh, St. Chad.

SPORTS DAY.

Tuesday, June 15th, dawned cold and grey, and our hearts fell, for it was meant to be Sports' Day. At prayers, Companion Lilla gave out that "weather permitting," we should have our Sports. All the morning both mistresses and girls kept gazing out of the window saying, "I'm sure it is going to rain," or the more optimistic ones saying "No! It will clear up before this afternoon." However tea was prepared in spite of the dull weather. We were still hoping!

But the weather did *not* permit and our hoping was in vain, for by the end of the morning the rain began to fall heavily. Unfortunately it did not stop and the Sports had to be postponed. Parents were rung up and told not to come. How many times did that 'phone ring? We were all very disappointed, for apart from not being able to have our Sports, Commander Way, who was to have presented the Cup, was not able to come the next day.

The second Sports Day dawned a little less grey, and there was even some blue sky. Companion Lilla said that if it rained, the jumping would be held indoors and afterwards we were to eat up the tea.

This time, however, the weather was kinder to us and at last Sports began. All the time the teams were very close, and at one time three of the teams had the same number of points, which was very exciting.

A few races before the end it began to rain and the Parents went inside to have tea, while girls ran to and fro taking chairs indoors out of the rain. We were told that the remaining races were to be held next day. Everyone was very disappointed but made the best of it. While the parents were having, and we hope, enjoying tea, Companion told them what was wanted for the new Gym.

The next day the remaining races were run. Three parents were present. They were the mothers of the three girls who had been at the School the longest time. After

a very exciting "Colour" race, we knew that St. Aidan had won. The Cup was presented by Mrs. Pritchett. Cheers were given for the winning team, for Mrs. Pritchett and for Mrs. Maw who had so kindly given us ices. The Staff then had their obstacle race, the last stage of which was the eating of a very stale bun on the end of a piece of string. Miss Way was first and Miss Mayes second.

A few days later we were told that from the sale of the tea tickets we had made £8 10s. which was to be used for the Badminton set and to supply the "horse" with rubber feet.

PAMELA DAVY (15).

MUSIC.

The singing of the School is making real headway. The hymn-singing improved so much that we were able this term to sing unaccompanied and with descant and alto. We look forward to building up a repertoire of these hymns.

For the Christmas Term a Special Choir distinguished itself by some really determined and musical singing of carols, both with and without accompaniment, in the Nativity Play.

The ordinary Choir has improved steadily. It essayed a three-part unaccompanied glee and sang choruses from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

The Senior Classes also sang Gilbert and Sullivan choruses, and part-singing is beginning to come more easily to them. The Middle and Junior Classes sang unison and action songs.

The enthusiasm and energy displayed by singers throughout the School has been most gratifying.

Next Term an inter-team singing competition will take place. There will be an outside judge and a Cup, to be competed for annually, will be awarded to the winning team.

Pianists now have the opportunity of giving an informal recital to Companion twice a term, and the most successful performers play to the School. We were very pleased by Joan Ralston's playing of a Bach minuet.

Two prizes for pianoforte performance will be given at the end of this term.

A few people have begun to compose. Pamela Baker's "Gnome Dance" for pianoforte shews originality and promise.

THE OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

Another year has come and nearly gone and we have found our numbers swelling in a most heartening way.

The meetings throughout the year have all been very happy affairs. Our first meeting was on a cold winter's night, if my memory has not played tricks with me. At this meeting we endeavoured to place the O.G.A. on a firm basis by electing a real committee, and being very important; but the star turn of the evening was when the present girls performed a series of little plays of the most highly entertaining quality. We laughed till we cried, and, need I say, that the acting was superb?

Our second meeting took the form of a Netball match. Some of us old hands are losing a little of the finesse on the field that had made us the envy of the School in the old days and so we were unfortunately beaten, I don't remember by how many goals, and I don't think it matters because we all enjoyed ourselves so much. The usual huge tea, under Miss Pattinson's direction, followed, and then as the rain came down, we organised a friendly Ping-Pong contest and talked.

Our final meeting, in the Summer Term took the usual form of a Tennis match. We were soundly beaten by a fearsome team of Present Girls and this, on their part, was particularly praiseworthy, as just before the battle began, Mary Maw fell and hurt her arm so badly that she was unable to play. (We have since heard that she has broken two small bones in her right arm. Hard luck, Mary!) Peggy Wilshire, however, nobly stepped into the breach and played a splendid game for her team.

A lovely supper, including strawberries and cream, followed. It is strange how the food part of these meetings sticks in one's mind, and must surely speak very highly of the culinary department!

The annual business meeting followed. It was decided that the old Committee should continue in office, with the help of one extra. Betty Hilborne was elected, and now, she, Phyllis Clarke and Prue Hudson support our valiant Treasurer, Mary Crone, to keep me up to scratch.

We were all especially pleased to see Prue back again after her illness looking so well and happy. We were only sorry that she could not help us to whack the Present Girls. Perhaps she will next year!

JEAN BROOKER,
Secretary.

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS.

Jean Brooker and Mary Crone are taking a Secretarial Course.

Irene Harris is a Receptionist to four Dentists in Hanover Square.

Betty Hilborne is a shorthand typist.

Betty Knight is a student at the Ginner-Mawer School of Dancing.

Rita Lant is working in Debenham and Freebody's.

Ruth Mead is now in the Colonial Office and was successful in the recent competitive examination for the Clerical Class of the Civil Service.

Gwen Medcalf is a Nursery Governess at Luton.

Hazel Walker has been acting in a Repertory Company.

CORAL LEAGUE.

Nothing specially exciting has taken place this year, but members have been working steadily and as a result we have a number of things almost ready for despatch to Africa. These include some sets of really artistic snap-cards, some number-cards and a multi-coloured rug made of knitted squares, to which many kind friends have contributed. We still need more squares, as we are beginning a second rug.

At the moment, some of our machinists are busy making towels and dusters for the house, on which we hope to make a profit for U.M.C.A.

We should like to see more girls entering for the competitions set in "African Tidings." Mary Jackson has already gained three of the four certificates necessary for a prize.

LETTER WRITING.

There are several kinds of letters which may be written. There is the business, the duty, the thanks, the friendly and the snobbish letter. All these types shall, in due course, be dealt with for the edification of the reader.

First there is the business letter. This, so I have been told by the powers that be, should be short and to the point. There should be no chatty remarks about the weather or other such interesting subjects. It should merely deal with the subject in hand clearly and concisely. It is, I believe, not very good form to use "re" and "the same" in letters of this sort, although it is very often done among firms which know no better. It should, however, always be

polite, and the firm of a higher class must not be snobbish and talk about "our latest improvements" to the unfortunate firm which has only one typist and a couple of rooms on the third floor. This sort of thing is not tactful and may lead to trouble.

The next letters are the "duty" letters. Great care must be taken with these. They are usually written to an aged relative who is inclined to fade into a misty background if one does not write; one writes, of course, to cheer them up, unless there is a birthday approaching, when one talks about it in a tactful kind of way. Among duty letters are the invitations that one sends occasionally to the worthy people of the country-side. Actually, the letters are not as bad as the tea-parties which are the result of them.

The thanks letter is one of the hardest to write, for it is almost impossible to find a new opening to the letter. One tires of the everlasting "Thank you so much for your delightful present." which is the acknowledged beginning to a letter of this sort. I sometimes wish that I could burst into verse something like this, only better if possible:

"I must thank you so much

For the dear little hutch",

(or anything that rhymes with much). It is just as hard to write a letter of thanks after a visit. Jane Austen has provided a perfect example of this, so the subject need not be expanded.

The friendly letter is comparatively easy to write. One rambles on with a clear mind and talks about everything. One knows that very possibly the reader will skip most of it; but what matter? It is like telling someone who cannot answer back all about everything. This so seldom happens except in letter-writing, that a friendly letter is quite amusing.

Finally, the snobbish letter. Very little need be said about this, for everyone knows the type. Everybody uses it, though sometimes without knowing it. One writes the letter merely to tell about something thrilling that has happened to one. It is boring to read, but such fun to write.

Some letters are marvels of composition, others are friendly and confiding. Personally, I do not love the art of letter-writing, though some of the world's famous men have written most wonderful letters about most varied

subjects. As yet I am not famous, and until I am I do not think I shall write letters which it would interest the public to read.

There are types of letters which I have not mentioned. Chief among these are love-letters, but I have had no experience, so I do not think I had better attempt this.

ROSAMOND PRITCHETT (16).

WIRELESS PROGRAMMES.

How many papers do not receive millions of letters daily, commenting upon and often severely criticising the programmes on the wireless! Every would-be organiser of the programmes points out the features that he considers most boring in the daily transmissions, but as these range from variety programmes to orchestral concerts conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham, and even down to talks for mothers on how to feed their babies, the B.B.C. can do little to help their critics.

The task of arranging the daily programmes is a difficult and thankless task. We cannot expect everybody to enjoy the same type of entertainment, but I am afraid that very many people believe they are the only folk who have the right to voice any opinion on the subject of wireless programmes.

I have known people write three or four times to the heads of the B.B.C. complaining of their inability to deal with the constant demand of what they term "the majority of the English nation" for more programmes of dance music. Thousands of other people complain that every time they switch on the wireless they hear nothing but saxophones and crooners.

I also have my own opinions about wireless programmes, and my chief complaint is the cold and aloof voice of the announcer who says, "This is the National Programme," with a very decided Oxford accent.

Variety programmes have been a constant subject under discussion lately, and I think they need improving. Very poor comedians have been engaged, and I think there are too many singers. My personal taste in variety is for a gayer, more human side, with jokes about famous politicians, etc. It is therefore only natural that my favourite variety stars are the Western Brothers.

Lastly, I criticise the news bulletins. Why cannot the B.B.C. announcers enlighten us poor, ignorant folk as to the meaning of an "anti-cyclone" or a "deep depression"?

I like to hear somebody who does not talk a language which to me is double Dutch.

And now, having pulled the programmes to pieces (which, no doubt, will not make the slightest difference to the broadcasts!) I will say that on the whole I think the programmes are arranged very well, in that there is something for everybody.

BERYL DAIN (15).

MY FIRST LONG JOURNEY.

The train pulled slowly out of King's Cross Station bound for the North. It was my first long journey by myself. Although the train was very full I had managed to procure a corner seat and was able to look out of the window quite comfortably. Presently I looked at my fellow-passengers.

Opposite me sat an elderly gentleman with thick horn-rimmed glasses, a stubby white beard, and a black trilby hat. He looked very much like a professor. Next to him sat a clergyman who had a kindly bronzed face and was absorbed in his paper. The window seat was occupied by a very stern-looking lady who was reading a leather-bound book called "Education" and had a portfolio resting on her knees. I naturally took her to be a schoolmistress, for every now and then she would look up at a talkative little girl who sat by my side as if to say "Children should be seen and not heard." The little girl was quite unaware of these disapproving glances. Opposite the schoolmistress sat an old lady dressed in an old-fashioned bonnet and shawl while her snow white hair framed her pale wrinkled face. Next to her sat the mother of the little girl before mentioned. She was very pale and pretty but seemed quite incapable of keeping her small daughter in order. The little girl was about five. She had black hair and wide brown eyes.

The Professor was the first to speak and he addressed the old lady: "Would you mind closing your window madam! I am in a terrible draught." The old lady looked very annoyed: "No fresh air? I cannot endure such a thing."

The clergyman came to the rescue of the Professor. "It is a very cold day," he said, "and I am sure the little girl over there is cold," with a kindly glance at the little girl. "The child has no say in the matter," said the mistress severely, "I, too, prefer the window open."

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Here followed a lengthy discussion, which only ended when the old lady got out at Newark.

Then everyone settled down to read. Presently there was a general stir and a mixed odour of hard-boiled eggs, bananas and ham, which foretold lunch. I decided to eat my lunch outside so as to enjoy the real quality of it. When I went back into the carriage the window was open and the air was fresh.

I was about to take a chocolate from a big box which had been a parting gift from my mother when the little girl's voice filled the carriage: "Mummy, may I have one of those chocolates?"

"Certainly not, dear. They don't belong to you."

At these words the little girl set up such a howling that I frantically popped one into her mouth when her mother was not looking. Like magic the cries ceased and peace reigned again.

At last I reached Leeds and was glad to stretch my legs. The journey had been quite interesting and I looked forward with pleasure to my return journey.

MAVIS HODGES (14).

AUTUMN.

Grey of misty morning
Softly lighting pearly dew
On glowing golden leaves,
As sleepy dawn breaks through.

Gold of evening sunset
Slanting through the trees,
Reflecting on the little pool,
And on the fallen leaves.

PAMELA BAKER (12)

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is coming, oh! tide of joy,
Christmas, when all are gay.
Christmas, when even the bells ring out,
Telling their gladsome tale.

Christmas, when a Babe was born
And lay in a stable bare,
With only His Mother keeping watch,
And the Angels standing round.

Christmas, when the Angels sang
"Glory to God on high,"
Christmas, when the shepherds heard
That God was born a man.

MARY MADDOCK (15).

NIGGER.

Long ago my Grandmother had influenza and after a long time was still very depressed. One day when the butcher's boy came, he asked her if she would like a little black kitten and she said, "Yes." At half-past two the boy came with the kitten. It was a sweet little thing. After giving it some milk Granny put it on the hearthrug in front of the fire and she dozed off to sleep. Behind the chair was the Grandfather clock. At three o'clock the clock went, "Br-r-r-r-r." The cat sat up very surprised and looked around him to see what the noise could have been. Then at the first stroke of three the kitten was so surprised, it turned head over heels, and looked just like a little black ball. At the second stroke it did the same thing again, and at the third stroke it turned a somersault once more. Granny laughed at this so much that it quite cured her influenza.

When all her children came home she told the story to them one by one, and went into fits of laughter each time. This story is perfectly true.

BETH BRAY (10).

THE GREEDY BOY.

Once upon a time there was a little boy called Peter. He was very greedy. He always wanted one more piece of cake when his nurse said he couldn't have any more, and he always wanted more sweets than would be good for him.

One day at tea-time he was particularly cross with his nurse because she wouldn't let him have any more fruit cake.

After tea he decided to run away, so he put on his coat and hat, and went down the country lane. He had not gone very far when he met Wizard Long Nose.

The Wizard asked him where he was going, so he told him that he had run away from his nurse because she would not let him have any more fruit cake for his tea. The wizard told Peter that he was a very silly boy, and now that he had run away he could not get home again before he had been to the Land of Greedy Boys.

The Wizard ordered a carriage with four horses to pull it. Then he told Peter to climb into the carriage. When Peter had done so the Wizard said some magic words.

Suddenly Peter felt the carriage moving; he was on his way to the Land of Greedy Boys.

It only took a few minutes to get there. They landed just outside the King's Palace. The Palace was shaped

like a cake. The doors were not like our doors, they were only slices of icing. The Wizard took Peter into the Palace where they saw the King sitting on his throne.

The King was like a cherry, with a round face and a round body.

He told Peter that there was a feast in the afternoon and would he like to come to it. Peter said he would like to come very much.

At three o'clock Peter was quite ready. All the afternoon he was longing for tea-time. At last the King asked the people to sit down and have tea.

Peter got so excited when everyone had finished his bread and butter.

The cherries were passed round next. There was one lovely big one in the middle of the plate. It was still left when they were passed to Peter. So he took it. But to his disgust and horror it was stuffed with straw. Peter put it down one of his socks where it couldn't be seen.

The Wizard chuckled to himself when he saw Peter do this.

After this he was passed the biscuits. There was one biscuit bigger than the rest. Peter took this one. But, alas! it was filled with ginger. Peter did not like ginger a tiny bit, but he had to eat it.

They passed him the fruit cake next. Peter took the biggest piece again. But he could not eat it all.

He was just wondering what to do when he felt himself going round and round in circles.

Suddenly he landed on his bed with a bump. It had all been a dream.

Peter is never greedy now, nobody knows why and nobody cares to ask him.

ANN EVERETT (9).

TOPSY.

We have a little cat
And Topsy is her name,
And when I've nothing else to do
We have a lovely game.
And when we've had a game,
She has a little meal.
And after that she has a wash
And then to sleep she'll steal.

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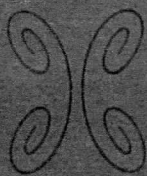
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