

The Advertiser 15th December 1897.

UNLEY PARK SCHOOL.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The Albert Hall was filled with a large and fashionable audience on Tuesday evening, when the prize distribution in connection with the Misses Thornber's Unley Park School took place. The chair was occupied by Mr. Theodore Bruce, Mayor of Unley, and a varied programme served to show the excellence of the tuition afforded, while the happy faces of the pupils testified to their pleasure on the occasion, and their upright carriage proved that bodily exercises are not sacrificed to culture of the mind. The programme opened with a pretty little comedietta, entitled an "Hour in Fairyland," in which song and humor were nicely blended. The trial scene from "The Merchant of Venice" showed that elocution and a good English pronunciation are cultivated by the Misses Thornber. Miss Grace Williams, who took the part of Portia, spoke with unusual clearness and intelligence, and Miss Olive Verco as Shylock, Miss Florrie Rogers as Antonio, and Miss Emma Harris as the Duke were also very successful.

The school report was read as follows by the Rev. A. W. CLAMPETT, M.A.:—

Once more as the year hurries on to its close we are privileged to meet together in friendly relations. These annual gatherings are of great and mutual interest. They are occasions of happy reunion for old scholars and their friends; they present an opportunity to our girls of showing to some extent the results of twelve months' training and tuition, and the teachers seeing the interest that is taken in the work receive much encouragement and inspiration. A short review of the year's work is received with interest. We therefore present a few details.

Last Easter we found it necessary to discontinue our class of boys. We were sorry to part with them, for they were gentlemanly little fellows, who worked well, and generally took excellent position at school and college when they left us. This change, however, has given us additional room in school and in the playground, which is greatly to the advantage of our increasing number of boarders. We have just bid farewell to Miss Jacob, who has taught French in the school for many years. We shall miss her greatly, because she has endeared herself to all by her kindness and ability. We wish her every success in her new career. Her place will be supplied by a French lady chosen for us in England by Miss E. P. Hughes, of the Cambridge Training College. Miss Hughes is so well known in educational circles that we feel certain the knowledge that she has kindly selected for us will create every confidence, who, owing to her position, has unique opportunities for making such a choice. The new teacher is expected to arrive early in February, and we feel sure she will give a new impetus to the study of French.

It is with deep gratitude that we speak of the wonderful health vouchsafed to our large household. We have not had a single case of sickness in the house or a doctor inside our doors during the past year. I believe the dry season has promoted health, and I must also make mention of our perfect water supply. Our drinking water is all obtained from a natural spring of considerable depth, unfailing in quantity and excellent in quality. It is cold in the hottest day, and a fountain of health in itself. Of course our baths are supplied from the ordinary Happy Valley reservoir, and, thanks to the courtesy of the sanitary engineer, we have now an extra and unlimited supply.

Our boarding-school has been full. We have had an average of 30 boarders during the year. The girls are well and happy, enjoying cricket and tennis, and study as healthy girls should. We have had delightful Saturday excursions in the summer to Glenelg, where most of our girls learn to swim, and during the spring glorious drives to Hallett's Cove or the hills, bent on geological and botanical research. Cherries and strawberries have later on occupied our attention, and we think a love of nature and coloring has been engrafted which will linger a long time with our girls.

Of our successes at the University we do not need to say much, the results will speak for themselves. In music we did fairly well, six girls passing in the junior practice of music. Much earnest and thorough work is going on under Mr. C. J. Stevens and Mr. E. E. Mitchell, which must bear good fruit in the future. In art we did well. Ten girls passed in freehand, four obtaining good; three passed in model. Charming work in oils, water-colors from nature, drawing from the round, &c., is being carried on under Miss Overbury's tuition. Our elocution classes, under Mr. Reeves's able management, have been successful and interesting, and our friends may judge of them this evening. The clear intonation and careful pronunciation are largely due to his training. Our drill exercises are as popular as ever, Mr. Leschen having hard work to decide his prizes among so many proficient candidates.

A great interest has been taken in collecting geology specimens of common stones found in and near Adelaide. Last week Mr. Howchin, the well-known geologist, inspected the specimens and awarded the prizes to the best collection. He says—“In judging the six collections of rock specimens and minerals made by the pupils of your school I have been agreeably surprised at the number of specimens exhibited, reaching nearly 200 in the larger collections, and also the general accuracy of the determinations. The collections had evidently been made on educational lines, illustrating the typical rocks of the colony, correctly arranged in their respective classes, with a considerable range of varieties in the different classes. A few errors occurred in the naming of the specimens as well as in the localities from which the specimens were said to have come; but these mistakes were exceptional, and for the most part the arrangement and naming of the collections showed a clear understanding of the chief lithological features of our local rocks and minerals.”

During the year a class has studied shorthand under Miss Steuning, with most satisfying results. A new Yost typewriter and mimeograph have been in use and some of our girls have learned to use them well.

We have this Christmas to bid farewell to many of our girls; some have been with us for four or five years and have endeared themselves to us by many a loving tie, which cannot easily be broken. We trust God will guide them in their future, and that they may find that the habits of industry, concentration, and obedience have fitted them for earnest and the larger work of life. We wish to express our gratitude to all our teachers who have been so intimately connected with us during the past year and to whose co-operation and never failing punctuality and ability so much of our success is due. With grateful hearts we render thanks to Him “who has granted us success and helped us on our way.”

The CHAIRMAN gave a short address, in which he remarked on the pleasant evening they had spent. (Cheers). The report showed that everything had passed off excellently during the past year at the school. To most of them the name of the Misses Thornber's school was as familiar as a household word. They looked upon it as *par excellence*, the school of the colony, and the young ladies attending it received not only a good English education, but what was of still greater importance sound, religious training. He regretted that so little attention was paid to this subject in our State schools, and hoped to see an alteration made some day. Those among the parents present whose daughters had received their education at the Misses Thornber's school found that when they left that establishment they were anxious to acquire more knowledge, which showed that the education they had received was conducted on the very best lines and had produced an earnest desire for knowledge. (Cheers.)

The evening was brought to a conclusion by quite an ambitious performance in the shape of a comic operetta, “In Woman's Land,” the words being by Mr. A. E. Lawton, and the music by Mr. C. J. Stevens. The music was light and tuneful, and the libretto, which dealt in a bright and humorous way with the “Woman's Rights” movement, was heartily appreciated by the audience. The characters were well sustained as follows:—The Queen, Florrie Rogers; Prince, Eva Minchin; Cat, Grace Williams; Dame, Maggie Stuckey; The Lady, Pen Wood.

The prizes were distributed by the chairman, and the prize-list was as follows:—

Kindergarten—Helen Culross, Alice Charlick, Clara Chambers, Dorris Pile, Jean Pile, Tom Taylor, Georgie Clappett, Ted Grasby, Dorothy Bakewell.

Class II.—English, Gladys Kingsborough; French, Dorothy Kell; sewing, Dorothy Kell; attendances, Gladys Kingsborough, Dorothy Kell.

Class III.—Examination, Gladys Bakewell; French, Gladys Bakewell. English, Gladys Bakewell. Drill, Gladys James. Sewing, Edith Richardson; Harriet Duncan. Attendances—C. Williams, Olive Haslam, Clara Gurr, Fanny Hallack, Ethel Motteram, Lois Grasby, J. Ackland.

Lower Fourth.—Examination, Hilda Greenshields. French, Hilda Greenshields. Freehand drawing, Mabel Wilson. Scripture, Avie Brandwood. Writing, Appy Reid. Music, Hilda Greenshields. Attendances—Myra White, Ethel Waddell, Mabel Wilson, Addie Ringwood, Hilda Greenshields, Kathleen Armstrong, Gertrude Lewis, Agnes Gurr, Nellie Heever, Elsie Hantke.

Upper Fourth.—Old Scholars' prize for arithmetic, £2 2s., Beatrice Charlick (presented by Old Scholars). Essay prize, May McKenzie (presented by Sands and McDougall). History prize, Barbara Thornber (presented by E. S. Wigg & Son). Drill, Dovie Gerrard (presented by Herr Leschen). Painting and drawing, Edith Hancock (presented by Miss Overbury). Free-

hand drawing, Edith Hancock and Dovie Gerrard. Homework drawing, Louie Schlegel. Examination, Olive Laffer. English, Alma Kelsh. French, Alma Kelsh. Neatest exercise-books (a ring), Barbara Fenn. Music, Clarice Parker and May Daniel. Singing, Ethel Chinner (presented by Mr. C. J. Stevens). Attendances—Mollie Hughes, Hilda Felstead, Katie Dollman, Alma Kelsh, E. Hancock, Olive Malpas, Mary Gosden.

Lower Fifth.—Preliminary—Eva Minchin, Nora Whittington, Rose Garrod, Florrie Woolnough, Olive Verco, Irene Williams, Evie Boothby, Bertha Tucker, Ruby Brice. Attendances, Rose Garrod, Florrie Woolnough. Painting, still life study, Evie Boothby (presented by Miss Overbury). Freehand drawing, Gussie Gerloff, Rose Garrod. Music, M. Stuckey (presented by Mr. E. Mitchell). Music, Ivy Sayers.

Class fifth.—Old Scholars' science prize, £2 2s. (presented by old scholars). Junior examination—French, Ada Martin. Attendances, Ruby Brice, Mabel Smith.

Sixth Class.—Henry Martin prize for French, £3 3s., Florrie Rogers (presented by Mr. H. Martin). Geology specimens, £1 1s., Bessie Verco and Una Grieve (presented by Stella Howchin, B.Sc.). Scripture, Una Grieve. Out-door sketching, Una Grieve (presented by Miss Overbury). Drill, Una Grieve. German, Florrie Rogers. Music, J. Weston (presented by Mr. C. J. Stevens). Attendances, Dorothy Henderson, Jean Weston. Elocution, Florrie Rogers and Grace Edwards (presented by Mr. E. Reeves). Boarders' prize for neatness, Jean Way Weston. Tennis prize, Juliet Webb.

University Passes.—Junior—Music, junior—Jean Weston, Ivy Sayers, Clarice Parker, H. Greenshields, May Daniel, Ethel Chinner. Preliminary—Eva Minchin, Rose Garrod, Nora Whittington, Olive Verco, Florrie Woolnough, Evie Boothby, Irene Williams, Bertha Tucker, Ruby Brice.

Art Examinations.—Second grade—Dovie Gerrard (good). Freehand—First grade—Rose Garrod, Gussie Gerloff, Edith Hancock (good); Maggie Crowder, Jean Weston, Una Grieve, Louie Schlegel, Barbara Fenn, Olive Laffer (pass). Model—First grade—Edith Hancock, Una Grieve, Grace Williams (pass).

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UNLEY PARK SCHOOL.

The Albert Hall, Pirie-street, was crowded to its utmost extent on Tuesday evening, when the scholars of the Unley Park School, conducted by the Misses Thornber, gave their annual entertainment. An enjoyable programme was opened by the junior scholars, some thirty dainty little ladies, who presented a short cantata, "An Hour in Fairyland." The voices of the children joined very sweetly in the choruses of this little work, and the various solo portions were undertaken with a fair measure of success by Misses Jean Ackland, Edith Smith, Gladys James, Dulcie Mann, Christabel Williams, and Olive Haslam. Mr. C. J. Stevens, who trained the girls, conducted the piece, and presided at the piano with his accustomed skill. Nine young ladies, prepared by Mr. E. Reeves, the elocution master of the school, gave the "Trial Scene" from "The Merchant of Venice," with attention to detail which reflected considerable credit on their tutor. The various characters were sustained thus:— "Shylock, Olive Verco; Portia, Grace Williams; Nerissa, Jean Weston; Bassanio, Nellie Boucaut; Antonio, Florrie Rogers; Gratiano, Minna Thornber; The Duke, Emmie Harris; Salerio, E. Berthby; Clerk, Maggie Stuckey. The most important item of the evening was a short comic operetta, the words having been written for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Lawton and the music composed by Mr. C. J. Stevens. Mr. Lawton's work, which in the main is a skit upon the woman's rights movement, proved highly amusing. Mr. Stevens has succeeded in clothing the writer's lyrics with some very pretty music, which is light, attractive, and eminently suited to such an occasion. On a first hearing the most striking numbers appear to be the opening and final choruses, the chorus "Go, Prince," and a solo sung by the Prince with a humorous refrain, "Mew, mew." Miss Eva Minchin displayed vocal and histrionic ability in the leading rôle as the Prince. Miss Florrie Rogers, though palpably a little nervous, was satisfactory as the Queen; Miss Grace Williams was a decidedly humorous Cat; and Miss Pen Wood sustained the part of an elderly dame with success. The choruses were given with admirable precision and clearness of enunciation, and the whole work, sung entirely from memory, reflected great credit on the instructor, Mr. Stevens.