

Batchelor had good cause to continue to ask Parliament to provide a system of secondary education. He felt very proud of the school and the work it did, and wished its numerous scholars the compliments of the season. (Applause.)

Attendance prizes presented by Mr. Bonython were handed to the winners, Evan Morecott Holder and a little girl six and a half years old, by Dr. Cockburn.

The TREASURER, in a few words, expressed his pleasure at being present, because 20 years ago he was a State school teacher himself, and now three of his children attended the school. He was pleased that the love of the beautiful was being continually instilled into the children by the decorations on the walls, and that their heads and hands were being trained by manual work. Formerly the children had to learn, now the teachers had to teach. As a result of the splendid opportunities they had he hoped to see them grow up to fill the places now occupied by those visiting them. (Applause.)

Mr. E. L. BATCHELOR, M.P., also gave a brief address and praised the system of education, as the scholars had shown it to them.

Cheers for the Minister of Education, Mr. Bonython, and the school board were given with schoolboy enthusiasm.

Mr. MAUGHAN, in replying, said the good work that was done at the school was owing largely to the teachers; he was only the figure-head, the director. No school had a more heartily devoted staff of teachers, who were anxious to do their work well and had the children's interests at heart. They had as fine a lot of children, of heads and hearts and brains and faces, as could be found anywhere. The goodness of heart, the kindness and thoughtfulness of some of the boys and girls was most pleasing, and it was the pride of his life to be associated with them. (Applause.)

At the request of the Chairman the Minister of Education gave the children a half-holiday, and the school broke up for the Christmas holidays.

The Grote-street school was then inspected and the visitors were met at the entrance by Mr. R. Hand, who has charge of the school during the temporary absence of Mr. McBride on sick leave, and a guard of honor composed of the sword class in military uniform. After several of the classes had been inspected and some of the boys had given an exhibition of sword exercise the visitors assembled in one of the large rooms to listen to the singing of the senior scholars, who were in charge of Miss Pettitt. Several songs were admirably rendered, and some of the visitors were astonished at the manner in which the children's voices have been developed.

Mr. BONYTHON expressed pleasure at seeing so many well-clad, happy-looking children receiving their education amidst such beautiful surroundings, but regretted that their headmaster was not with them. The success of a big school was not now dependent on one individual, but the members of the board realised that Mr. McBride was an exceptional teacher. It was gratifying to know that the past year had been a satisfactory one in every respect. The average attendance had been better and the scholars had taken a larger interest in their work, with a greater desire to excel. At the annual examination the percentage gained was 85.26, which spoke for itself. The school took a large share in the concerts of the Decoration Society, and the school choir was specially commended for its very excellent rendering of the two-part songs, and after what he had just heard he was not at all surprised. The sword class had also performed with much success. It was pleasing to parents, and especially gratifying to teachers, that the school was in a more efficient condition than formerly and that a good healthy tone prevailed, which could not fail to have a highly beneficial result. He must compliment the school on the good work that it had done in the past. Seventeen years had elapsed since he first visited the school, and a number of the scholars who formerly attended were now graduates of the University. Dr. Rogers, who obtained his qualifications as a doctor in England, had the previous day received his M.A.

degree at the Adelaide University, and he was a scholar of the Grote-street school. Many other names might be mentioned to show what the school had done, but enough had been said to convince them that they were proud of the Grote-street school, which was the oldest of the large schools established in South Australia. He wished them a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. (Applause.)

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION expressed pleasure at the way the school had distinguished itself during the year and regretted that Mr. McBride was not present to hear the good accounts. It said a great deal for his work that during his absence the school could go on as they had seen it that morning. The sword drill was very good, and he had seen many a real battalion do it a great deal worse. He

was greatly delighted also with the singing, which was highly creditable to the school.

The TREASURER distributed the attendance prizes, which were presented by the Chairman of the Board. The recipients were:—For 1896, Gertrude Hartley and John Stafford Northcote; and for 1897, Ruby Schell, Hubert McBride, William Duggan, and Roy Johnstone.

The TREASURER in addressing the children said he often thought with pleasure of what the pioneers had done for South Australia, and he hoped the children would not forget that they were the pioneer school, and would try to show the way to the others in accomplishing all that their great education system was expected to accomplish. He knew that it would in singing. (Applause.)

Messrs. BATCHELOR and O'MALLEY gave short addresses, and on the proposition of Mr. C. BRANN, seconded by Mr. W. H. CARPENTER, and supported by Mr. C. BASTARD, an old scholar of Grote-street, a vote of thanks was passed to the Minister of Education, the Treasurer, and Messrs. Batchelor and O'Malley for being present. Cheers were given for the Minister of Education, Mr. Bonython, and the board of advice and the teachers, Mr. HAND replying on behalf of Mr. McBride. Dr. Cockburn gave the children a half-holiday, and the school broke up for the Christmas vacation.

Afterwards a visit was paid to the West Park Lands near the Henley Beach-road, where 650 children of the Currie-street school, in charge of Mr. W. H. Cherry, the headmaster, were found to be enjoying themselves at a picnic.

MEDINDIE SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN.

The annual concert and distribution of prizes in connection with the Misses Brown's Medindie School and Kindergarten was held in the North Adelaide Institute on Friday evening. Although the atmosphere was somewhat oppressive the hall was crowded to the doors with the schoolchildren, their relatives, and friends. The stage was prettily arranged, and the surrounding decorations and the pretty dresses of the young ladies taking part served to divert the audience's attention from the weather and centre it on a much more pleasant subject. The cantata, "The Queen's flower-garden," which was very prettily and correctly performed, paved the way to the distribution of prizes. The solos were rendered by Misses H. Back (Queen), N. Stevenson, H. Cocks, E. Bruce, M. Drew, L. Lascock, and Master Willie Kinderman. The Maypole dance and the country dance were also given by the children, and the whole evening's entertainment reflected the greatest credit on the Miss Browns, who have evidently spared no pains to attain perfection. The distribution of the prizes by the chairman, Mr. J. H. Symon, Q.C., was a sign for much enthusiasm, and the fortunate recipients were one by one applauded as they stepped on to the platform to receive their prizes. The CHAIRMAN in a happy speech congratulated the ladies who had charge of the institution on the success of the year. It was evident that the children

under their charge had received instruction in more ways than one, and the treat they had had that evening showed that school life could be made much happier and more attractive by the year closing in the manner it did that evening. The annual report stated:—

The number on the school roll is now 75, and throughout the year the attendance has been excellent. Eight girls presented themselves for the preliminary examination and four of these succeeded in passing. We had no candidates for the senior or junior examinations this year, but the junior class of last year are busily employed in senior work and are taking the following subjects:—English, French, Latin, mathematics, and science.

The successful candidate from this school in last year's senior examination was awarded an Evening Scholarship at the University, and has passed in the two subjects prescribed for the course, viz., biology and chemistry, and in addition has passed in the higher public French. We shall be delighted if the girls who pass the senior with us go on to the University and take their degrees. Many will have the opportunity if only they have the desire to continue their studies. Unfortunately inclination is sometimes wanting, and there is not the spur of necessity to goad their flagging zeal.

Two of the pupils from the drawing class under Miss J. L. Wilson were successful in the public examinations—one in second grade model and the other in second grade freehand. The music is now in the hands of Miss Elsie Jeffers, A. R. C. M., and two of the pupils passed in the theory exam. of the Royal College of Music.

In outdoor amusements much interest has this year been taken in tennis. Thirteen competed in the tournament in November, and many of the sets were well and closely contested.

We most cordially thank those who have presented prizes, and those who have acted as judges, and we specially thank the teachers for their hearty cooperation.

In conclusion we wish all a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

PRIZE LIST.

Class VI.—Mina Muecke, dux, science, Latin, mathematics; Nellie Fotheringham, French; Josephine Hines, class work, May Drew, mapping.

Class V.—A. Porter, preliminary examination, history, and physiology. French; Hilda Back, preliminary examination, Scripture; Edith Ewens, preliminary examination, yearly marks; Adèle Mofflin, preliminary examination, mapping, tennis; Nellie Stevenson, dux, geography; Addie Sanders, second mark; Gertie Thomas, weekly arithmetic.

Class VB.—Winnie Stevenson, dux; Pearl Bailey, arithmetic, drawing; Elsie Bruce, music, tennis; Marion Barlow, music; Alice Fitch, music.

Class IV.—Hilda Cox, dux and diligence, sewing; Jessie Thomas, marks; Hilda Thomas, sewing (2nd); Ethel Barlow, weekly arithmetic; Olive Edmunds, improvement; Gertie Hailey, music.

Class IVB.—Alice Williams, dux; Alfred Farrow, yearly marks; Muriel Butterworth, exercise book; Bessie Fotheringham, weekly arithmetic; Stella Uren, improvement; Connie Chennell, grammar; May Nottage, dolls' sewing; Maggie Porter, dolls' sewing (2nd).

Class III.—Eva Roach, dux; Bessie Sanders, marks; Arthur Cooper, arithmetic.

Class II.—Louie Williams, geography; Ida Lendeloff, reading; Vera Rickards, arithmetic.

Class I.—Gueda Muecke, improvement; Sylvia Rickards, reading; Leonard Thomas, arithmetic.

Kindergarten.—Jack Sanders, geography; Annie Bignell, reading; Kathleen Lawrence, writing; Dora Simpson, kindergarten work.