

THE
QUORNIAN.



No. 7. APRIL. 1909.

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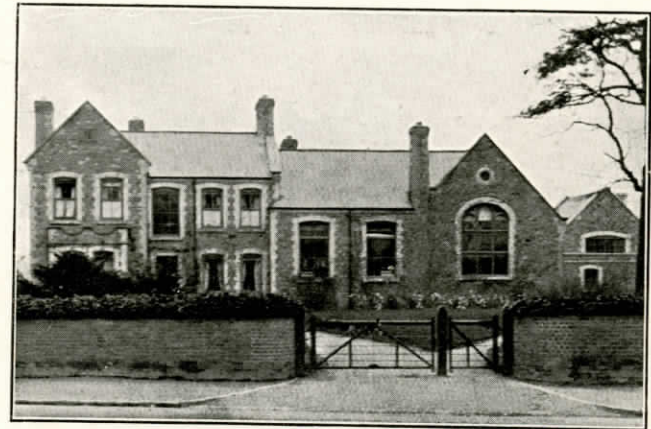


Photo by SHUTLEWOOD]

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School Notes.

OUR readers will understand why this issue did not appear in March, as it should have done. Owing to the prevalence of measles in the district, the Medical Authorities deemed it advisable to close the School for a short period. This is the first time in our history that this has been necessary, and it is worth noting that from Midsummer last year, until half-term, the attendance had been exceptionally regular, there having been very little illness. Several families connected with the School have had a very large share of trouble, and in one case, all the children, boys and girls, fell victims to measles, two of them also being attacked with diphtheria as well. Their parents, and especially Mr. and Mrs. H. H. North, have our hearty sympathy, and we are glad to be able to congratulate them on the fact that all the patients are now well, or are on the road to recovery. It is also most satisfactory to us to be able to state, that owing to the prompt enforcement of the quarantine rules, and the loyalty with which the parents have assisted us in carrying them out, not a single case of epidemic disease has been contracted by one pupil in the School from another.

* * *

We are all pleased to know that Cyril Frisby, who has been unwell for some time, is now making good progress after two successful but very trying operations. We hope that his health will now be thoroughly restored.

His father, Mr. G. Frisby, contributes an article on Bird Life to this number, and we hope it will be of interest to all our readers,

Facsimile of a page of the Guildhall Manuscript, No. 1517.

July 9 1666
The Ato of Mr. Tho. Darlins who deceased the 12 day
of July last being y^e devised Audited & Examined by
us whose names are here underwritten Shew find his
Receipts to Amount to y^e some of two hundred twenty
five pounds one shill three pence
And more find his Disbursements to Amount to y^e some
of two hundred eighty five pounds thirteen shill and
five pence
Soe we find there is due to y^e Estate of y^e said m^r Darlins
the some of fifty six pounds twelve shill & two pence

Written Under Seale
Jona: Smith

Tho: Hopper
Will: Hopper

and to our boys especially. Mr. Frisby is an expert in ornithology, having made birds his study for many years, and he has been the local recorder on bird migration for the Zoological Society for a considerable period. We hope that what he has to say will help to make us more careful observers of birds and their ways.

* * *

The School has recently been honoured by the acceptance of the first six numbers of the "QUORNIAN," for the Guildhall Library, by the Library Committee of the Corporation of the City of London. In an informal acknowledgment of the receipt of the books, Mr. Kittle, the exceedingly courteous and obliging Sub-Librarian, writes as follows:—

"I am very much obliged for the six numbers of 'THE QUORNIAN' to hand this morning. We shall be very pleased indeed to keep them. Nowhere else, I am quite sure, could the information be found which you have brought together in these numbers on the Rawlins family. As we specialise on London, we are only too glad to get out-of-the-way and valuable items, such as you send, on citizens of London of bygone times. We shall be very glad to have the subsequent numbers, and if we can render you any assistance here we shall be very pleased to do so."

The promise contained in this last sentence has already been made good, for it is owing to Mr. Kittle's kindness in arranging for a photograph that we are able to reproduce, as our frontispiece, from a manuscript in the Guildhall Library, the interesting facsimile which conclusively proves that our founder's father did, as we suspected, die of the plague in London.

* * *

Since the issue of our last number the most notable event to record, outside our School work, is the highly successful Dramatic Entertainment given in the Village Hall on Wednesday and Thursday, December 9th and 10th. An account of this Entertainment, and a statement of the receipts and expenditure, will be

found elsewhere; but it is fitting that one or two things in this connection should receive attention in these notes.

First we must express our appreciation of the splendid way in which parents assisted us by allowing pupils to remain at School on Wednesdays and Saturdays for rehearsals, and by doing so much to provide the necessary dresses for those taking part. Alfred Hickling also deserves a word of praise and thanks for the cheerful way in which he endured our Saturday rehearsals, which must, on several occasions, have delayed his work considerably.

The splendid loyalty of all who had any share in the performance made the somewhat trying task of management quite a pleasure.

* * *

Owing to the fact that this year there was a falling-off in the number of entries for the "Hobbies" competitions, it was thought undesirable to hold a public exhibition. Entries were accepted, however, and the exhibits brought were judged by members of the staff. The awards and comments will be found elsewhere.

* * *

It is pleasing to note such a great improvement in the Wednesday afternoon field attendances. We do not wish to keep talking about the great value of games, but we do hope that this renewed interest will be permanent, and will have an influence for good on our School life.

* * *

Before this number is in circulation we hope that shooting practice will be in full swing, and that the great majority of our boys will use this means of hand and eye training, and will enjoy good sport.

* * *

Two important additions have recently been made to the School precincts. Two acres of land in the field below our present cricket ground have been purchased from the Quorn Central Land Company, and about an acre-and-a-half of the allot-

ment ground between the School and the Churchyard have also been acquired. The former will very shortly be fenced in and incorporated with our present playing field, and will give us a full sized football ground and a really level cricket ground. The latter will remain as it is at present, but we are saved from the threatened row of cottages immediately overlooking our hockey and football grounds, and are glad to know that there can in future be no buildings on that side of the School premises nearer than the Church.

* * *

C. G. Richardson, who is leaving us to take up an appointment in the Manchester works of Messrs. Armstrong and Whitworth, has the hearty good wishes of all of us for his success and prosperity. His genial disposition, sound physique, and intellectual attainments ought to stand him in good stead in the occupation he has chosen, and we have every confidence that he will make his mark in the engineering world. A boy who can cycle from Loughborough to Brighton in one day, and who at the end of the summer holiday can gain a place amongst the first fifty-one names in the London Matriculation list, at the earliest possible age at which candidates are allowed to sit for the examination, has in him great possibilities for the future; and we thoroughly believe that his strength of character will enable him to turn these possibilities to actualities and achievements not only creditable to himself but beneficial to those around him.

WHEREAS by Deed of Gift bearing date the eleventh and twelfth days of August, in the third year of the reign of William and Mary, by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King and Queen, Defenders of the Faith, etc. Anno Dni. 1691, a School was founded at Woodhouse by one Thomas Rawlins, Gent., of Woodhouse in the County of Leicester, at which School the following subjects, among others, were to be taught, to wit Latin, English and

Arithmetic; and **WHEREAS** in the year 1892 the said School was removed to Quorndon, in the aforesaid County of Leicester, where it now flourisheth exceedingly; and **WHEREAS** in accordance with the laws devised, collected, printed, and published by certain high and mighty authorities, to wit, Lindley Murray, Mason, Abbott, Morris, West, Sweet, Skeat, and other the High Court of Parliament of Grammarians, it is lawful to call the said School by all or any of the names following, that is to say, Thomas Rawlins's School, Thomas Rawlins' School, The Thomas Rawlins School, or the Grammar School, Quorn; but **WHEREAS** sundry careless, ill-advised, thoughtless, ignorant, ill-disposed, or evil-minded persons, in despite of the said laws of the grammarians aforesaid, and in neglect of the warnings which have from time to time been issued, published, and otherwise made known, persist in miscalling the said School by a false name or names, viz. Thomas Rawlin's School or the Rawlin's School, or even, which is still more to be deprecated, the Thomas Rawling's School, to the annoyance of the masters and pupils of the said School and of other the King's lieges, thereby provoking a breach of the peace; **THEREFORE be it known by these presents** to parents, guardians, governors, clergy of all denominations, journalists, printers, officials of the Local Education Authority, and of the Board of Education, and to all others whom it may concern, **THAT** it is my will and desire that, for the further avoidance of strife and inconvenience, the said School shall now and henceforth be known by the name of the **GRAMMAR SCHOOL, QUORN**, and no other.

Signed, sealed, and published, on the 6th day of April, 1909, in the presence of us

Signatures unfortunately }
illegible. } Witnesses.

THOMAS RAWLINS.

* * *

The above document was found amongst the school papers on the morning of April 7th last, but it bears no certain indication of the source from which it came. Some may say that it was

inserted surreptitiously by some master or pupil who desired to call attention to the distressingly frequent repetition of erroneous spelling of the name of the School; others may perhaps think that Thomas Rawlins himself has manifested himself by spirit writing or some other means yet imperfectly understood. Between these rival theories we will not undertake to decide, but we will willingly place the document in the hands of Sir Oliver Lodge or some accredited member of the Psychical Research or other learned society, if they should desire it for the purpose of investigation. Personally, however, we are of opinion, from certain imperfections in the phraseology, that the paper is a fraud; yet, notwithstanding, we think that our readers will do well to take note of its contents and to adopt in future the name therein prescribed for the School.

The School and its Founder.

IN our second number I gave extracts from the will of the elder Thomas Rawlins, dated June 28th, 1665, and I threw out the suggestion that the testator probably died of the plague. This theory I have now been able to substantiate by the aid of a document, presented to the Guildhall Library in 1906, but which, I believe, had not been catalogued at the time of my last visit there.

A Mr. F. C. Eeles, who is interested in ecclesiastical customs, church ornaments, and ceremonial, particularly of the seventeenth century, purchased in New Oxford Street, at the shop of a second-hand bookseller, now deceased, a book of accounts of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. Finding that it contained nothing of any use to himself, he sent it to the Guildhall Library, where there is a fine collection of books and manuscripts relating to London churches, livery companies, and the City of London generally. We, in Quorn, owe him a debt of gratitude for his thoughtful kindness, for the volume in question is the account book of Thomas Rawlins, senior, who was churchwarden of St. Botolph's

from April 2nd to July 15th, 1665. Whether this period covers the whole of his term of office I am unable to state, for I have received no reply to a letter of enquiry on the matter, which I addressed to the Curate in charge of St. Botolph's some six weeks ago. It may be of interest, however, to note that although the plague had not reached the parish of St. Botolph's at the beginning of April (the first death recorded there took place on May 30th), it had broken out in St. Giles's in the Fields, and St. Andrew's, Holborn, in December, and by the end of March had spread within the City boundary. The exodus from London of those who were able to leave had already begun, and it is not improbable that Thomas Rawlins may have taken over the duties of a Churchwarden who had made his escape. If it is objected that a puritan, such as I believe the elder Thomas to have been, and as his son certainly was, would hardly act as a Church officer, my reply is that, according to Defoe, religious differences were sunk whilst the plague lasted, and not a few dissenters who had been deprived of their livings in consequence of the Act of Uniformity occupied the pulpits of these conforming ministers who had either died of the scourge or had deserted their posts in the time of danger. Moreover, what applied to the ministers applied in an equal if not a greater degree to their officers and their congregations. The bakers, again, and Thomas Rawlins amongst them, were compelled to continue their work, and to "keep their ovens going constantly, on pain of losing the privileges of a freeman of the City of London."

The receipts recorded by Mr. Rawlins are entered under various heads at one end of the book, and the payments at the other; and, as we might expect, they include many items of interest, which, however, it will be impossible to give in detail. The following, however, may be noted:—Sunday receipts, ranging from May 13th to 24th, for "seacoles that was sold at ye Church," amounting to £102 13s. 9d.; fines received from various people for "abuse of the sabath," "drinking in divine service," and "keeping company in divine servis"; money

collected at Communion at the four monthly celebrations; money collected at the church door for the poor, and paid in at the Guildhall, and "money collected at the table on midsummer day." The occasion of the last collection seems to have been one of the "parish feasts," of which there were three during Mr. Rawlins's churchwardenship; I must, however, be content to give the names of the feasts and the total cost of each, viz., "Perambulation Diner" (i.e., the feast at the beating of the parish bounds) £9 3s. 7d.; "Audit diner," £3 8s. 5d.; and "Midsomer diner," £9 17s. 7d., this sum including 4s. 3d. for "straberyes and Rasberis."

The payments are more varied and interesting than the receipts, but a few extracts must suffice. Weekly payments to poor people, varying from 1s. to 1s. 6d.; monthly sums, from 3s. to 6s., for nursing parish children; "pd for a Grammar for Crosby a psh boy, 1s. 6d." (he was probably, as we may see in a later number of the magazine, one of the St. Botolph's boys elected to a scholarship at Dulwich College); "pd for a suite shirt and hat for Robert Saxford, 2s. 8d.;" "pd to goodye Giles for to gett her husband out of prison, 2s. 6d.;" June 8th, "pd for fagots for a bunfire made by the Lord Mare and for ringing and drinke for the victory at sea, 10/-" (this was for Monk's victory over De Ruyter and De Witt off the North Foreland in the running fight of June 1st to the 4th); various payments connected with the plague, such as for removing sick people, for watching and visiting suspected houses, for hired nurses, "for keeping goode peper" (probably burnt as a disinfectant), and for shrouds for the dead.

The most important entry of all, however, for our purpose, is a certificate near the middle of the book, after the last page of payments, which I must quote in full:—

"July 9^o 1666. The Acco^t of Mr. Thomas Rawlins whoe Deceased the 15^o day of July last Being produced Audited & examined by us whose names are here underwritten. Wee find his Receipts to Amount to y^e some of two hundred twenty nine pounds one shill. three pence.

And wee find his Disbursments to Amount to y^e some of two hundred eighty five pounds thirteen shill. and five pence.

Soe we find ther is due to y^e estate of y^e sayd Mr. Rawlins The some of fifty six pounds twelve shill. & two pence.

WILLM CADE, dept.

JOSIA ANDREWS.

THO: HOPPER

WILL PRESSON."

The latest entry in the accounts is dated July 15th, which was also the date of Mr. Rawlins's death. Mr. Thos. Hopper is one of the legatees under our Thomas Rawlins's will, and William Presson is the rather uncommon name of a person who appears from the Quorn parish register to have lived in this neighbourhood. These facts appear to leave no room for doubt that our Thomas Rawlins and the churchwarden of St. Botolph's are the same person, and that, whether his family, or some of them, made their escape at this time to Woodhouse or not, he, at any rate, died of the plague, as I have conjectured.

I must now turn to another item of research, which, though not equally fruitful with the above in decisive results, was not without its reward.

On the day before I made the discovery in the Guildhall Library I was searching in the Record Office for an original paper relating to an engagement at Mountsorrel during the great Civil War, when I came across the evidence of Cromwell and a number of his officers, adduced in support of a complaint against Manchester and Essex that they had failed to prosecute the war with sufficient zeal and vigour to bring it to a successful conclusion—evidence, as most of us probably know, which led to the passing of the Self-Denying Ordinance and to the appointment of Fairfax as Commander in Chief of the Parliamentary armies, with Cromwell as his Major-General of horse.

Among the affidavits is one by Captain Thomas Rawlins, who gives an account of Manchester's unwillingness to charge the

royalist horse at a juncture in the second battle of Newbury when a little more vigour on the Parliamentary side might have secured a decisive victory. This affidavit, like the others, appears to have been taken down by a clerk, and also, like the others, it is signed by the witness. I made a careful copy of the signature, intending to compare it with any signature of our Thomas Rawlins that there might be on some document in our school archives. Unfortunately, however, we have no such signature, for the deeds of purchase of property are signed only by the vendors and their witnesses and not by the purchaser; and it will be remembered that our Thomas was a purchaser, and that his donation to the charity came by will after his death. I took advantage, however, of the last half-term holiday to visit Somerset House, and obtained access to the original of his will, which is, of course, signed by himself. The initial letters of his signature are decidedly different from those of Captain Rawlins's; the "w" in Rawlins, too, is not identical in the two names; but the other letters exhibit certain resemblances of a rather peculiar nature, which are difficult to explain except by a comparison of the signatures themselves or of their facsimiles, and which may be accidental or may be due to the signatures having been written by the same person. The initial letters of our Thomas's signature appear at first sight to be those of a less literate man than the Captain. On the other hand, it must be remembered that there is an interval of twenty-one years between their dates, and it is quite possible that our Thomas may, for trade purposes, have purposely adopted a distinctive style of initial rather different from that in vogue amongst the ordinary educated men of his day. The most I can say, therefore, as to the value of the comparison as an argument for or against the identity of the writers is that it leaves the question still in the balance, with a tendency to incline it towards the negative side.

This enquiry, however, was by no means futile, for it led me on to another trail of some importance. In searching for the will I came upon a document known as an "administration with will

annexed," which, I believe, may be correctly explained thus: when an executor under a will dies before probate, or when a living executor declines to serve, the Probate Court issues an "administration" to some other person, usually connected with the family of the deceased, authorising him or her to act as executor. Now, the administration just mentioned, dated November 24th, 1665, was issued to William Rawlins, of Burleigh, the brother of the testator, and, therefore, the uncle of our Founder and of Isaac Rawlins, of Barrow; and the reason given for this course of action is that one of the executors, Thomas Rawlins's daughter, Mary, died before the testator (also most likely of the plague, for she was certainly alive on June 28th, when the will was made), whilst Agnes Rawlins, the testator's widow, refused to act. In the margin of the document there are notes of two other administrations; the first, dated August 3rd, 1668, in favour of one Thomas Hassell; the second, dated November 13th, 1669, in favour of Thomas and Isaac Rawlins, who were now both of age, Thomas being twenty and Isaac eighteen years old.

No reason is assigned for the appointment of Thomas Hassell in place of William Rawlins, but there can be no doubt that the two nephews were dissatisfied with their uncle's management of their affairs. As soon, indeed, as they were both old enough, they instituted legal proceedings against him in the Court of King's Bench. The trial came on, as the Docket Books in the Record Office prove, in Trinity Term, 1670, and in Michaelmas Term the brothers obtained judgment against their uncle for £575. In 1671, however, they compromised the matter, and agreed to except in full settlement three hundred pounds, of which one hundred had already been paid, leaving a balance of a hundred pounds still due to each of them. As far as Thomas Rawlins was concerned, however, this balance was never discharged, for amongst the papers in my custody there is one giving a list of payments towards its extinction, ranging over the years 1673 to 1678, and amounting in all to only £42 4s. 9d. At the foot of the sheet is the note: "My unkell owed mee about

60 pounds & Interest of it, 16 year before he Dyed ; " and in the right-hand bottom corner is written in a smaller hand "Ed. Farnham & u (ncle) Rawlins both alike for cheating."

E.W.H.

Our Feathered Friends.

IT is highly probable that to boys Ornithology, or Bird life, is one of the most attractive studies. Each of the following branches has it keen students, and reveals much that is of interest:—Flight, Structure, Plumage, Food, Song, Call Notes, Nests and Eggs, and Migration, the latter being a life study in itself.

If you care to study birds, do not be an "armchair" student, satisfied with what others can teach you, but get acquainted with the birds one by one, noting day by day, as opportunity offers, anything interesting about them. Note for instance the date when you hear the first song of any species, or when you first see any of our immigrants. The Missel Thrush, or Stormcock, the largest singing bird we have, is one of the earliest to delight us with its loud, pleasant, and welcome song. Then we have the Song-Thrush, Hedge Sparrow, Starling, Chaffinch, Blackbird, Skylark, etc. The Robin and Wren may be heard at all seasons, except when moulting.

Our immigrants begin to come in March, and arrive in something like the following order:—Chiff-chaff, Willow-wren, Swallow, House-martin, Sand-martin, Wryneck, Cuckoo, Tree-pipit, White-throat, Redstart, Nightingale, Whinchat, Reed-warbler, Corncrake, Swift, Sedge-warbler, Blackcap, Spotted Flycatcher, Grass-hopper Warbler, Yellow-wagtail, Sandpiper, etc.

Flight is a study of itself, and much might be said about it, but I will only mention that if we examine the amazingly strong muscles of a bird's wing, with the strong, but exceedingly light bones of the body, especially those of the head, and if we re-

member that the breathing organs of birds allow air to pass into the whole body, even into the bones, and then notice the beautiful arrangement of the feathers, we shall understand something of the way in which a bird's structure is adapted to enable it to remain poised or in motion in the air. It is estimated that the Swift, in its fastest flights, can travel more than two hundred miles an hour, and that it commonly covers eighty miles; when, therefore, we consider that it is on the wing all day from early morning till late in the evening, we can form some idea of its activity.

The Kingfisher will rival most foreign birds in beauty of plumage; and many common birds, such as the Jay, Magpie, Yellow and Grey Wagtails, Great Tit, Yellow-hammer, Greenfinch, the Woodpeckers, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, etc., or even the common Chaffinch, which may be seen everywhere, are beautiful creatures. Again, what country in the world has songsters equal to ours? The Song-thrush can be heard anywhere and everywhere in the spring. Then we have the Sky-lark, Missel Thrush, Blackbird, Nightingale, Blackcap, Garden-warbler, Wren, and a host of other good songsters.

I firmly believe that the Charnwood Forest is as prolific in Bird life as any part of the British Isles, for there we have visitors to, and residents of, the reservoirs, the uplands, the woods, the arable and pasture lands. We have birds varying in size from the Bewick Swan, Cormorant, and White-fronted Goose, to the smallest species, namely, the Gold-crested Wren.

We may reap much pleasure from a study of the characters of birds. For instance a little careful observation will make it evident that birds are often brave. I have known a Coot to refuse to go more than a few yards from her nest, stamping and splashing on the water, and doing her utmost to get rid of the intruder, who, by the way, was only testing her bravery and zeal.

I have seen young Water-hens and Coots, almost immediately after emerging from the shell, boldly scramble over the edge of the nest and follow the mother bird out into the open water for fifty yards or more. This, I contend will eclipse any human baby

performance. Birds are also very courageous in defence of their young. Last year a gentleman told me that a Missel Thrush always attacked him when he passed under its nest, and a market gardener informed me that one came at him with such vengeance when he picked up the bird's offspring, that he threw down the cap and coat he was carrying, and rushed into the house. Brave man !

In my opinion there is a very narrow line between what we call instinct and reason. Let me give just one illustration. A young water-hen, venturing at too great a distance from its mother, was caught by the strong current in the river and carried away. The mother hastily followed, and attempted by coaxing and pushing to place the young one out of danger, but all to no purpose. Realizing that the case needed prompt and urgent attention, she seized hold of her baby by the neck and forcibly dragged it out of danger.

If you observe closely you will soon find that the different species of birds have their own particular haunts. The three Woodpeckers, Nuthatch, Tree-Creeper, Jay and Magpie prefer parks and woods ; the Great-crested Grebe, Coot, different kinds of Ducks, Geese, Sandpipers, Heron, Lapwing, Snipe and Water-hen like the running stream or the lake ; the Redwing and Field-fare prefer the open fields.

Much has been written about the use of birds, and conversely, about the damage done by them to farm and garden crops. Here is a splendid opportunity for a budding Ornithologist to distinguish himself by finding out what suspected birds really eat, and how far common report as to their harmfulness or otherwise is true.

There are many branches of nature study, one or other of which is almost certain to appeal to you. Follow up this inclination in your spare time, and I venture to prophesy that it will give you a new interest in life, and that if you take your lesson aright, you will first learn to admire the beauties and wonders of nature and then to revere the all-wise Creator.

GEO. FRISBY.

Musical and Dramatic Entertainment.

ON Wednesday and Thursday evenings, the 9th and 10th of December last, an excellent Musical and Dramatic Entertainment was given by the pupils of the School, aided by a few Old Quornians. The programme was divided into two parts, the first consisting of a charming little French play, "La Belle au Bois Dormant," in five scenes, the second part being a five act play, the "Waterbabies," arranged by Miss E. Butler, from Charles Kingsley's well-known story. The interest of both plays was enhanced by the performance of suitable incidental music. Thus, in the first, the fairies' incantation was sung to music by R. Waddy, the procession to the throne room was accompanied by Mendelssohn's Wedding March, the dance of the courtiers was adapted to a well-known gavotte, and the guests departed to the strains of an eighteenth century French air ; the music of the "Waterbabies" again consisted of some decidedly pretty part songs by Florian Pascal, performed by a chorus of forty-six members, in addition to the twenty-nine "waterbabies" on the stage. Both plays were very creditably performed, and in not a few places considerable dramatic power was shown. The players spoke clearly and distinctly ; the French accent was quite satisfactory ; the voice of the prompter was conspicuous by its absence ; and the children entered heartily into the spirit of the characters that they represented. The singing was remarkably good, the tone being full and sweet, and the attack in most places, all that could be desired. It might seem at first sight that some apology should have been made for presenting a French play to a village audience ; none, however, is needed, for the story is well-known, and the action of the young performers, together with the "argument" printed on the programme, were quite sufficient to explain its meaning to those least conversant with French. Certainly there was no sign of boredom amongst the audience ; and no wonder, for the stage was well set, the dresses were brilliant and harmonious, and the grouping provided some

charming stage pictures, of which the banquet and spinning scenes were specially pleasing, the latter closing with a highly effective "curtain," when the courtiers, alarmed at the cry that the Princess is wounded, rush on in confusion, and sink in picturesque attitudes, to be charmed by the fairies to their hundred years sleep. Ellen Frisby made a dainty princess; and G. Frisby a gallant prince; F. H. Perkins and Ruth Perkins were becomingly dignified as the King and Queen; F. Winifred Payne as Gâte-Plaisir, the wicked fairy, was suitably sardonic; the small parts of the nurse and the page were satisfactorily filled by Mabel Gamble and G. Mee; whilst Lucy Facer, Adeline Frisby, Lizzie Cotton, Ivy Shuttlewood, Grace Wesley, Olive Bamber, and Gertrude Gamble, bestowed their gifts with grace, and sang and tripped it daintily as the fairies. The setting of the "Waterbabies" was a difficult task on so small a stage as that of the Village Hall, but Mr. Hicklin and his assistants made the best of their opportunities, and were able to suggest efficiently what they could hardly expect to represent with much approach to realism. With the exception of that portion of Act III., in which Mrs. Bedonebyasyoudid is giving an object lesson to the ladies on the evils of small shoes, tight lacing, and so forth, everything went with a swing, the part of Tom, the sweep's apprentice, being rendered by P. Tunnecliffe, in a manner creditable to so young a performer. F. H. Perkins, who took the part of Grimes, was efficient throughout, and made a decidedly good hit in the last scene as the penitent sweep. F. Winifred Payne, as Mrs. Bedonebyasyoudid, Constance Hickling, as Mrs. Doasyouwould-bedoneby, Margaret Bailey, as the School Dame, G. Frisby, as Sir John Harthover, Louie Baker, as his daughter Ellie, H. Moore, as the Truncheon, and F. Drew, as the Chrysalis, seemed quite at home on the stage, and spoke their lines with clear and suitable enunciation, whilst the chorus of waterbabies danced, played, and sang with evident enjoyment, and much to the satisfaction of the audience, besides producing by their pretty dresses pleasing combinations of changing colour. The play

was therefore a decided success. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Messrs. C. K. and C. G. White, announced at the last moment, no music could be provided between the scenes on Wednesday evening, and the rather long waits caused the audience to be a little impatient, but Master Leslie North, a boy of ten years of age, played some dainty selections on the pianoforte in very creditable style during the interval between the plays, and on Thursday, Mr. H. North and Miss Trautmann, the latter of whom performed some taking pieces composed by her father, a musician well-known in this neighbourhood, added not a little to the pleasure of the evening. A word of praise must moreover be accorded to Miss Newby, who managed the French play, and to H. Maude Disney and Octavia Trautmann, who accompanied the songs.

The following is a statement of the Receipts and Expenditure:—

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Payments.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Tickets.				Expenses	...	...	7 15 11½
2/-, 33½	...	...	3 7 0	Balance	...	...	9 3 5½
1/-	215 at 1/-	...	10 15 0				
	31 at half-price	...	0 15 6				
6d., 48½	...	...	1 4 3				
Programmes	...	...	0 17 8				
			<u>£16 19 5</u>				<u>£16 19 5</u>

This balance of £9 3s. 5½d. has been drafted into the Library and School Field Improvement Fund, the present state of which is shown by the statement which follows. We shall be pleased to receive suggestions for improvements that may be made with the substantial balance in hand.

LIBRARY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance, Jan., 1908 ...	1	4	1	Books purchased ...	1	7	2
Profit on Sports Tea a/c., 1908 ...	2	3	3½	Balance ...	12	13	8
Brought down from Sports a/c., 1908	1	10	0				
Profits from Dramatic and Musical Enter- tainment, 1908 ...	9	3	5½				
	£14	0	10		£14	0	10

An Old Boy's Letter.

HAVING been asked by the Editor of "THE QUORNIAN" to write a short article upon harvesting operations in Western Canada, I now do so, though I am afraid that what I have to say will not be of much interest except to those engaged in agriculture.

After landing at Quebec last spring, I travelled by rail, first to Winnipeg and thence to Elkhorn, a town 200 miles further west, almost on the boundary line of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Then I engaged with a Canadian farmer, who owned 1,500 acres of land, and had 1,000 acres under crops, chiefly oats, the remainder being wheat and barley.

The soil is very black and easily cultivated, one man with four horses being able to turn over five acres a day with a double-furrow plough. The grain, moreover, grows very quickly, owing to the productive character of the soil and the enormous amount of sunshine.

When our crop was ripe, three binders, as the Canadian reaping machines are called, were set to cut it. These implements cut a swath of eight feet in width, tie the corn in sheaves, and are fitted with self-carriers, which drop about six sheaves at a time, and thus make the setting up of the shocks much more expeditious than in England.

After we had finished cutting the corn, it was threshed at once, the farmer having his own outfit, thirty men, including the neighbouring farmers, being employed in the work.

We had ten teams of two horses each to draw the sheaves to the "separator" or threshing machine, and eight wagons to convey the grain to the railway station five miles away.

Two loads can be threshed together, one being drawn up on each side of a "self-feeder," which takes the sheaves into the machine, cuts through the bands, and separates the straw from the heads of corn. The separated grain is "elevated," automatically measured in bushels, and shot down a spout into the wagon waiting to receive it; whilst the straw is sent whizzing out of a blower to a considerable distance where it forms a pile, which is afterwards burnt.

After my employer had threshed his own crop, he sent his outfit to assist others, and I went with it. Within a radius of eight miles we visited eight farmers, two of whom were Scotch, one English, four German, and one American. At most of the farms we had to "rough" it a little; but we had very good food, and the people were most hospitable.

The country was very flat where I was, and almost destitute of trees. I saw droves of wild turkeys, geese, ducks, prairie chickens, badgers, and prairie wolves, which disturb your rest by their howling.

TOM PEPPER.

Football.

THE 1st XI. have played five matches, winning one, losing three and drawing one. Nineteen goals have been scored for the School, and 22 against it.

We have had the nucleus of a very good team, but have never been able to complete a satisfactory eleven. Barrow G.S., who were a good all-round team, were responsible for all three reverses; each game, however, was very closely contested. We

drew with Ratcliffe College 2nd XI., and beat Kibworth Grammar School. Illness and bad luck interfered greatly with our programme; and we especially regret the cancelling of the Hinckley match and the return with Ratcliffe.

Wainwright was an excellent captain and the mainstay of the defence, whilst Mee was invaluable in goal. Moore at centre-half was untiring and clever; but the other halves were lacking in speed and power. Richardson was the best forward on the field in each match, and gave the opposing backs a great deal of trouble; while Hayes at centre-forward played with great dash, and scored many goals. Frisby and Hickling, who were *hors de combat* the greater part of the time, were badly missed in the front line, as it was impossible to fill their places satisfactorily. Parkinson was useful during the first part of the season.

The reserves upon whom we had to call so often sometimes played very pluckily, noticeably Brewin and Alec Shedden, who, in the third Barrow match, seemed to derive fresh energy from each fall on mother earth.

The Under 13 team were twice beaten, mainly owing to the superior weight of their opponents, and they did not have the encouragement of winning a match.

Shedden, North, Priestley, Bancroft and Kirchin all played in good style, and with great keenness, and we seem likely to have an unusually strong first eleven in 1911 or 1912!

Hockey.

ONLY one match, that with the Loughborough Ladies, on February 26th, has been played this term; all the other fixtures had to be cancelled on account of unsuitable weather, and the closing of the School.

We were beaten by the Loughborough Ladies by 4 goals to 2—a result not surprising, when we remember that our opponents

team included some County players. The School team played in good style, and if our reliable goalkeeper, Gertrude Gamble, had been with us, the result would undoubtedly have been different. Annie Bailey did good work in goal when placed there, but that, unfortunately, was too late to save the game. We quote from the "Hockey Field":—"The School team has very much improved since last year, the hitting being much cleaner and stronger. The centre-forward and centre and left-halves were most noticeable." (Winnie Payne, Ellen Frisby, and Cissie Burrows respectively, held their positions).

The Wednesday afternoon games have been most enjoyable since a muster of full sides began, and it need hardly be said, that the opportunity of becoming good players has increased enormously.

Winnie Payne, Octavia Trautmann, Mabel Gamble, and Ruth Perkins in the forward line combine well; and the energy and persistence shown by our half-backs, (who generally manage to be where the opponents least desire or expect them), would be hard to beat. Maggie Bailey still holds her position well as left-back. Our greatest needs are for a strong right-back, and a quick right forward. Annie Bailey promises well for the first position, and Grace Wesley or Olive Bamber should be able to fill the second, when they realise the importance of combination.

In our 2nd XI., Ruth Hack, Dorothy Payne, Constance Burrows, Ivy Shuttlewood, Louie Baker, and Ella Walley give promise of becoming good players; and the beginners are acquiring a clean and strong style of hitting.

An enjoyable, though rather curious game was played on March 13th, between a mixed School team and a mixed team of Old Pupils. Result—8 goals each!

Hobbies Exhibition.

THE following are the reports of the judges where the articles *upon* shown:—

Needlework.—There were four exhibits, all very neatly worked. Lucy Facer showed some very good crocheting, and Winifred Payne some very pretty drawn threadwork. The prize was awarded to Ella Walley, whose exhibit showed long continued regularity of workmanship and decoration well suited to the character of the article made, and therefore artistic.

Cookery.—The exhibits were few in number, but showed decided skill on the part of the cooks. Two cakes were considerably better than the others. The prize was awarded to Lizzie Cotton's for its very finished appearance, but C. G. Richardson's delicious chocolate cake deserves to be highly commended.

Models, Fretwork, etc.—Ellen Frisby won the prize with a pair of well-made mahogany brackets in fretwork. The designs were good, and the cutting firm and clear. S. G. Baker ran her close with a folding photograph screen, with an applied fretwork ornament. The cutting in this case was rough in places, and the workman made the mistake of using a distinctly grained wood hardly suitable to the subject, and of applying a dark wood in a light ground; the fretwork ornament, moreover, was made of thicker wood than the background to which it was fixed. L. Wykes's model of a travelling crane was placed third.

Collections.—There were four exhibits only, an album of postcards, and another of cards from cigarette packets, though interesting to the owners, seem to have little educational value. A third collection of coins was very small and imperfect. The fourth, a collection of stamps shown by O. N. Wesley, was the best of the section. The competition was hardly keen enough to warrant the giving of a prize.

Christmas Entertainment.

A MOST enjoyable evening was spent on Monday, December 21st., when tea and a "variety" entertainment were provided by the energetic committee appointed by the pupils.

The tea was well managed, and the committee are to be congratulated on learning last year's lesson well — we had sufficient to eat! The Schoolroom was well filled for the entertainment, and a lengthy programme was provided. After a pianoforte solo by Ivy Heggs, we were entertained with a dialogue, "Cool as a Cucumber," which lasted some forty minutes. The performers were Winifred Payne, Mabel Gamble, L. H. Facer, G. Frisby and C. Richardson. Louie Baker next gave us a song, and Beth Cotton, and pianoforte solo by Maud Disney. The next item Adeline Frisby a pianoforte solo. Then followed a song by Eliza—appealed to all intensely, and there were loud calls for an encore. More than one of the audience were moved to tears by that pathetic duett, "Evening Bells," by Lucy Facer and Ellen Frisby, and even now they haunt us—those "Evening Bells."

Then we were favoured with another dialogue, "A Mare's Nest." The performers were W. Wainwright, Winifred Payne, L. H. Facer, G. Frisby, Margaret Bailey, C. Richardson, F. H. Perkins and A. H. Mee. Of these two dialogues we must remark that they showed that we have amongst us actors with high ambitions. Who can forget the thrill when "Zounds! We shall all be murdered!" thundered forth.

The stage arrangements made were well suited to the pieces, and the property—especially the roast chicken—was very creditable.

Sidney Baker then delighted us with a humorous song; C. Richardson gave us a violin solo, Octavia Trautmann accompanying; and Fred MacVinish brought the programme to a close with his recitation "The Wreck of the Hesperus." He gave the

well known piece in very fine style, and received the ovation he so thoroughly deserved.

The Committee are to be congratulated on the business side of their work, for they were able to hand over a balance of 15/- to the "Quornian" Account.

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Programme:

- 1—Pianofore Solo I. HEGGS
 2—Dialogue ... "Cool as a Cucumber"
 Miss Honiton W. PAYNE
 Wiggins M. GAMBLE
 Barkins senr. L. H. FACER
 Barkins junr. G. FRISBY
 Mr. Plumper C. RICHARDSON
 3—Song L. BAKER
 4—Pianoforte Solo A. FRISBY
 5—Song L. COTTON
 6—Pianoforte Solo M. DISNEY
 7—Duet... .. "Evening Bells" L. FACER & F. FRISBY
 8—Dialogue... .. "A Mare's Nest"
 Sam W. WAINWRIGHT
 Rose (his wife) W. PAYNE
 Sepia Dabb (artist) L. FACER
 Crayons (artist) G. FRISBY
 Miss Prudence Poppyhead M. BAILEY
 Mr. Poppyhead C. RICHARDSON
 Drawler (Tinker) F. H. PERKINS
 Mr. Credulous H. MEE
 9—Song S. BAKER
 10 { Pianoforte O. TRAUTMANN
 Violin... .. C. RICHARDSON
 11—Recitation F. MCVINISH

Christmas Term—Final Order.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| VI. 1 Richardson, C. G. | IIIA. 1 Bailey, Annie |
| 2 Trautmann, Octavia | IIIB. 1 Bancroft |
| 3 Disney, Maude | 2 Newbold, Helena |
| 4 Perkins, F. H. | 3 Barrs, C. H. |
| V. 1 Canning, T. | II. 1 Dakin, Dorothy |
| 2 Frisby, G. | I. 1 Bamber, Kathleen. |
| IV. 1 Wesley, Grace | |
| 2 Heap, W. | |
| 3 Smith, A. | |

* * *

The following were neither absent, late, nor put down for punishment detention. Those whose names are starred have not lost a conduct mark.

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|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| VI. *Trautmann, Octavia | IIIA. *Bailey, Annie | III. Dakin, Dorothy |
| *Disney, Maude | Smithard, J. W. | *Payne, Dorothy |
| *Perkins, F. H. | Canning, A. | Baker, Louisa |
| *Bailey, Margaret | Hack, Ruth | Shenton, B. J. |
| Payne, Winifred | Gamble, C. | Branson, A. |
| *Perkins, Ruth | Mee, G. | Heggs, Ivy |
| V. *Canning, T. | North, S. T. | *North, Frances |
| Spence, J. H. | Priestley, W. | Hack, D. G. |
| Mee, A. H. | IIIb. Bancroft, R. | *Cart, A. A. |
| IV. Wesley, Grace | Barrs, C. H. | Walley, Ella |
| Heap, W. | Webster, Edith | I. Wykes, L. |
| *Gamble, Gertrude | | Flewitt, J. W. |
| *Shuttlewood, Ivy | | |
| Cotton, Elizabeth | | |
| Kitchin, A. | | |
| Baum, G. E. | | |

“Quornian” Balance Sheet for 1908.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Donations—			Balance due to Treasurer,		
The Trustees ...	3	0 0	1907	4	6
E. H. Warner, Esq. ...	10	0	Printing	11	13 9
37 Annual Subscriptions	3	17 6	Postage	7	2
Terminal Sales	3	17 0	Stationery	10	10
Sale of Back Numbers ...	4	6	Balance in hand ...	13	9
Arrears	1	0			
From School Entertain- ments—					
Christmas, 1907 ...	17	3			
“Hobbies” Exhibi- tion, 1908 ...	7	9			
Christmas, 1908 ...	15	0			
	<u>£13</u>	<u>10 0</u>		<u>£13</u>	<u>10 0</u>