



REPORT *of the* HEADMASTER  
*to the* BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL  
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE



1934 - 35

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*to the* BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 8, 1935

FOR five years, the life of St. Andrew's has flowed along like a river, its material changing continually, its general course remaining the same. He who takes stock of things from the inside does so with mixed feelings of joy and humility. Our plant has expanded constantly, our teams go on the field expecting to win, our graduates are doing excellent work in seven colleges, and we have more boys applying than we can accept. For these and many other reasons is our joy; our humility comes from the realization of many things left undone and many questions to which we have only partially found the answers.

Our gratitude to the Founder, Donors, and Trustees increases yearly, as their gifts, interest, and wise judgment set the pace for the growth of the School. The New House has been put to excellent use this year by Mr. and Mrs. MacInnes and the Sixth Form, the only real objection to its use in this way being that the Sixth Form is taken out of the heart of the School where it ought to be for purposes of leadership.

This spring we employed a gang of men for plant-

ing, and not only replaced the large sycamore which broke off last summer, but added three more on the entrance drive, and started a pine plantation around the New House and the Headmaster's House. This is a mixture of three native pine species and is a great addition. The organization used for this planting seems to be quite capable of handling any planting we shall need as time goes on. The boys' work squad did most of the planting around Mr. Sherwood's House.

The gullies, locally known, as "branches," and labeled "ravines" by the more aesthetically minded, are an important feature of our landscape. It should be our ambition to treat these gullies by draining, landscaping, the preservation of their rich foliage, and the addition of meandering trails so that their luxuriant beauty is readily and permanently available.

The addition of Mr. Cortlandt Schoonover as office manager has been a very happy one. We have been able to maintain an office in which all activity is properly centralized; and more than this, he has helped greatly with coaching and dormitory work, and even by teaching a course this term.

We have ended the year with 74 boys distributed by states as follows: Delaware 19, New York 12, Pennsylvania 12, Maryland 11, Massachusetts 4, Connecticut 4, New Jersey 4, District of Columbia 2, and 1 from each of the following: Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Our curriculum has been carried forward along approximately the same lines as last year, except that no boys elected Greek, and the Headmaster was thus

free to teach Biology to some of the older boys as well as to the Third Form.

The classes have continued to average about ten boys. During Mr. Hall's convalescence, he took three of his courses and Mr. Holder and Mr. Schoonover each took one of the others under his direction. During Mr. Sherwood's absence, for an appendectomy, the boys were ably and charmingly taught by Mrs. Sherwood in one class, and the others were divided between Mr. Schmolze and the Headmaster. It will thus be seen that the Faculty are not only capable of taking care of their respective duties, but also of "spelling" one another when emergency requires. This has been an experience of benefit to all who shared in it since we now have a clearer appreciation of one another's duties and problems. There was also a closer correlation of courses through occasional departmental meetings, supplementing the regular masters' meetings.

St. Andrew's graduates in college have more than justified our expectations. Of eight old St. Andreans at Colgate, Drexel, Lehigh, Princeton, St. John's, Trinity and Virginia, five have been doing honors work.

There was an unusual number of good lectures this year, both those sponsored by the Scientific Society and those of a more general nature. These were usually held on Sunday nights.

The Criss-Cross Club presented another ambitious production, "Three-Cornered Moon," and did it well. The masters, their wives, and the Staff gave an entertainment for the School on Hallowe'en.

The editing of the *Cardinal* has been excellently done this year. The form has been improved and the reading matter never dull. Through the efforts of a few individuals in this year's graduating class, and particularly of Hollingsworth Whyte, the *Cardinal* has struggled up from a naïve mimeographed sheet to a well printed paper which is eagerly awaited each month, and which offers a worthy medium for the journalistic talent of the School.

Two dances were held, a week-end affair in the winter term, and an informal dance on a Saturday night in the spring.

The athletic season of 1934-35 will be long remembered as particularly enjoyable and successful. Our football team came into its own and the baseball team continued to make a fine record. These teams won for the School the trophy of the Delaware Interacademic League, which includes our venerable rivals, Tower Hill and Wilmington Friends.

Last summer Miss Michaelis came back from England with a cricket outfit. We made a crude pitch on the playing field and had two or three informal matches, one of which was dignified by the presence of some real visiting cricketers!

The tennis team was beaten only by Beacom College and continued to hold its title of Interscholastic Champions of Delaware. The wrestling team had a good season with four matches. There was much interest in this sport, and much fine development of physique from it.

The crew had a season of six rowing Saturdays, three of which were on the Schuylkill and one at Princeton. Our gig four won the King's Cup, and in other races with schools and lightweight Freshmen St. Andrew's came off with credit if not always with victory. The addition of an eight and a pair-oared tub gave impetus to this sport, which now numbers many devotees.

New sails were donated for the sneak-boxes by the Founder, and regattas were held by the School yacht club on Sunday afternoons as previously. We entered a crew in the Interscholastic Yacht races on Cape Cod in June.

A feature of this year was the extraordinarily good health of the School. There were only 33 cases admitted to the Infirmary compared to 65 and 71 in the two previous years, and 65 hospital days and nights compared to 215 in 1933-34 and 116 in 1932-33. There were 85 colds, 22 cases of intestinal grippe, and 34 bilious attacks. These last are prevalent at the opening of School in the fall, and for some reason which no one has discovered, afflict other schools and even colleges at this time, the only difference being the local names applied to them.

The average gain in weight during the year was 7 pounds. Fifteen boys gained from 1 to 5 pounds, 27 from 5 to 10 pounds, 12 from 10 to 15 pounds, and 6 from 15 to 21 pounds.

Miss Miller was on leave of absence during part of the fall term in Rochester, New York, for an operation on her shoulder, and her office hours were kept by Mrs.

Hutton, for whose willing services the School is most grateful.

As the School has grown older the spirit of sophistication has inevitably crept in! When you win games and belong to an established school you have to swagger a bit! A childlike faith in the Faculty's pet intangibles is unbecoming to the manly rôle! The older members of the home and school community know a little about some things, but scarcely anything about how a young man of parts should conduct himself and what his interests should be. To balance this tendency we propose the eventual restoration of the Sixth Form to quarters in the Main Building and so to the heart of the School's life. Increased responsibility and association with the School as a whole should serve to give its leaders a better sense of proportion and their followers a more sensible standard. With the help of the new tuition plan we are enrolling more boys of the type who take life more seriously and themselves less seriously.

Our disciplinary system is based on the policy of withholding punishment until it is absolutely necessary. This has given the School two things which will always outweigh failures in surface order. One is the feeling on the part of the boys that they can be frank in discussing their troubles; the other is the real development of character, amounting almost to a conversion, which has characterized many boys as they have gone through the School. This change in attitude and behavior has come swiftly and suddenly to some, more gradually to others, but it is a real phenomenon in which we greatly

rejoice and which we believe is fostered by our personal type of discipline.

We tried for the first time making older boys responsible for dormitories. Two Sixth Formers occupied the suite adjoining the South Dormitory all spring term and thus relieved the masters of some confining duties. The general practice of giving boys a large responsibility in such fields is widespread among our schools and is one which we believe should be developed here to a greater extent than it has been. Such responsibilities have to be given gradually, however. For example, it has taken two or three years to work older boys into supervising morning study hours, and they are only now learning to conduct these periods to our entire satisfaction.

Again we voice our gratitude to the faculty and staff, more than half of whom have been an integral part of the School for the five years of its existence, and only two of whom have been here for less than four years. The value of their individual contributions has been demonstrated in the achievements of the students to whom they have given the best they had. But they have attained something even more demanding than individual strength, and that is the close coördination of personality with personality so that each has the advantage of the sustaining and guiding force of the others in dealing with the duties and problems of the School. One of the features of the Harvard football system under Percy Haughton was the so-called "shoulder to shoulder" line charge. The opposing linesman who found himself a target of this fast-moving wall of enormous men,

between whose bodies daylight could hardly be perceived, never forgot its impression of irresistibility. During these five years, our faculty and staff have learned more and more to make their individual power count by charging shoulder to shoulder. The daylight between them has steadily decreased, and the effectiveness of the organism has correspondingly increased.

Mr. Hall has been an example of courage and unselfishness to all of us. He has insisted on carrying on most of his teaching through his convalescence, and this has enabled us to come through the term without outside help. This has been a joyful sacrifice on his part which we have felt misgivings in allowing him to make. We could not have done so if it had not been for Miss Miller's vigilance and her stern hand of restraint over his activity!

I have already indicated instances of men and women doing more than their share. This spirit is further illustrated by the enthusiasm of Mrs. Holder, who, when the crew lost its manager to the lures of the baseball diamond, drove the coaching launch all season.

There was a Confirmation class of eleven, our largest number to date, including some boys whose decision cost them more than ordinary searchings of heart. We have had some fine visiting preachers including Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson for our Christmas Carol Service, Rev. Theodore O. Wedel, who conducted a Meditation for Ash Wednesday, Rev. Brooke Stabler on Palm Sunday, and Mr. T. Lee Roberts, Superintendent of Ascension Farm School in South Lee, Massachusetts, who gave us a Good Friday Meditation on the Passion

which stirred us all to our souls' depths. We welcome our old friend Dr. McGregor as our Commencement speaker.

We had a wonderful Easter, beginning with a Corporate Communion of the whole School at the early service. For the late service we had Ante-communion with all the flowers and hymns which sound the note of the day so joyfully. At this service it was the Headmaster's happy privilege to give the School its Easter message.

Fashions change in religious activities as well as in other fields. Last year the question box was used considerably, this year scarcely at all. There has been an increase (which I welcome) in the number of boys who have wished to make sacramental confessions. The Chapel has been used more or less regularly by a varying number of boys for private prayer.

We close the year with the feeling that much real progress has been made. There have been disappointments, but it is when the going is hard that fibre is toughened, decision made surer, and foundations laid deeper. We have never forgotten the challenge of last year's Commencement speaker to the School to act as the quintain which deals "a right lusty wallop" to the young esquire whose aim is unsure or seat unsteady. If more than the usual number of such wallops have been administered this year, we pray that they may have gone to train better than ordinarily in skill and chivalry and purity of life the youthful knights whom we are sending out into the world.

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October 8, 1935

The Athletic Building is going up with the usual fine workmanship and speed of the Turner Construction Company. It is expected that it will be ready for use during the entire winter term, and a great relief it will be to have such a place, to say nothing of its usefulness for all sorts of assemblies.

Mr. Robert Tonks, of Williams College, Princeton and Pennsylvania Graduate schools and the Marine Biological unit at Wood's Hole, who has taught at Suffield School, Suffield, Conn., and Mr. Coerte Voorhees, of Kent and Princeton, who has taught at Kent and Nichols School, Buffalo, have been added to the Faculty. These men are fitting in effectively, and we feel fortunate in having been able to secure their services. Mr. Voorhees, his wife and small son are living in apartments at the Farm, Mr. Tonks in the Main Building. Mr. Hall is in the Gaylord Sanatorium at Wallingford, Conn. He is keeping in close touch with School affairs and his valuable counsel keeps coming to us regularly in his letters, so that we do not feel he is really absent.

Our graduates of last June entered college as follows: Haverford, 1; Lafayette, 1; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1; University of Pennsylvania, 1; Princeton, 4; Trinity, 2. Two boys are working.

We opened on September 18th with 80 boys, of whom 31 were new this year. This was the largest enrolment of new boys since the first year, and undoubtedly the selective process was stricter this year than ever before. The New Tuition Plan was fully justified by its works,

and put parents and school on a new basis of frankness that was a distinct advance over the old method.

The enrolment by states follows: Pennsylvania, 17; Maryland, 17; Delaware, 14; New York, 11; New Jersey, 6; Massachusetts, 3; Connecticut, 2; Kansas, 2; District of Columbia, 2; West Virginia, 2; Illinois, 1; Indiana, 1; South Carolina, 1; Virginia, 1. There are 16 boys in the Second Form, 22 in the Third, 13 in the Fourth, 11 in the Fifth, and 18 in the Sixth.

The youngest additions to the School family are David Richard Cooper, born in June to Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, and Ian MacInnes, born in September to Mr. and Mrs. MacInnes.

The year has started with a spirit which both boys and masters agree surpasses anything we have known before. The Sixth Form leadership is being drawn out by increased responsibility in the way of supervision of dormitories and study hours, to the great improvement of those parts of our program. With the increased number of masters, the average number of teaching hours is about 20, a number which allows the best to be given to each course and time for deeper association with the boys in athletics, hobbies and recreation of all sorts. A good many of the most important lessons a boy learns in school come almost unconsciously through the relaxed and unofficial companionship of such moments, and there must be time for them.

We have recognized the increasing tendency to favor social studies by offering a course in Ancient History in Third Form instead of in Fourth, and one in English History in Fourth Form. With the Modern European

History and American History of Fifth and Sixth Form years, we now have a complete sequence of history courses. The Sacred Studies involve a good deal of history first and last; there the emphasis is on the interpretation of history as the everlasting campaign of God to bring His Kingdom on earth.

Some might question whether the above program is adequate to teach citizenship and social living. Our reply to this is:

First, that instead of a more or less nebulous course in social living based on ideas which, if they do not reverse themselves from year to year, are nevertheless in a state of flux, we have our Sacred Studies courses based on the tried principles of the Christian Church and dealing with race, war, and the political and economic as well as the philosophical alternatives to our American Christian civilization.

Second, that we have the chance which day-schools have in lesser degree to teach social living by the community life here in all its aspects.

A course in General Science, including much that comes under the head of Nature Study is being given the Second Form this year, and it is planned to include in this some manual arts work in the colder months. This leads up to the Third Form course in Biology which is an alternative to Ancient History for boys with a bent toward science.

The Cicero course, usually given in Fifth Form Latin is being displaced by Virgil and Ovid this year, and it is expected that Cicero will become the Sixth Form Latin

hereafter in accordance with the practice of many schools.

An hour of music a week is given by Mr. Schmolze to the three lowest forms. The hour is spent in the Annex common room, where Mr. Schmolze keeps a wide assortment of phonograph records especially selected for the purpose. A few of these are played on the School's orthophonic phonograph and brief explanations given by Mr. Schmolze. These classes are a pleasant and well planned beginning of our musical course. Mr. Voorhees will help Miss Miller this year with the Choir, and will train the Glee Club. Captain Williams has some ten pupils in piano and other instruments. It may be said that music has really begun to come into its own here.

The Library is being efficiently catalogued by Mr. Laurence Ludwig who has previously served the School as College Board Supervisor.

At the Conference of Masters of Church Schools, held at Groton in September, the Headmaster invited the Conference to St. Andrew's for its next meeting in September, 1937. The invitation has been accepted, and the School will have the very great pleasure of entertaining here men of the great schools from which much of her tradition is drawn.

I feel that there is much left undone in the religious life here, possibly because we take it to include all our life. The Church gives us the answer to the questions that beset us, so that we cannot conceive of any other basis for conducting a school of this type. The Church, however, is only beginning to realize her responsibility and power to do this, and the whole question of

religion in church schools needs a more definite and constructive answer. Recently I have come to see that this answer begins with God. He has His program for the present day. What He has to teach each generation differs, therefore no human program has anything but temporary and superficial value. The question of religion in church schools is the question of finding God's program for the world and teaching it to this generation.

God teaches His program through a certain kind of life. It is the kind of life He has found in His chosen vessels, Moses, Amos, Jeremiah, St. Paul, St. Francis, Bishop Kemper, Kagawa, and a host of others, but supremely in Jesus. These men were so open to God that they became aware of a plan He had. As they became willing to carry out their parts in the plan, God revealed it to them progressively. Around these men groups of people naturally formed, and through these nuclei of fellowship great sections of the Divine plan were worked out in the world, the Kingdom came, people were liberated, life was illuminated.

The religious program of a church school is not so much a program as a group of people who are seeking always to know God's will for their generation, and are ready to pay the price of carrying it out. Through the fellowship of this group of consecrated people personal problems are solved, and on a small scale the answer is demonstrated to the larger problems of economic and social relationships which beset the world.

As boys go through such a school, they become increasingly aware of the presence at its heart of something

superhuman and completely successful, working among the older leadership. Not only do they feel the impact of it on themselves, but also they see in it the answers to the world's needs. They find themselves in the training camp of an army which God will use to capture whole nations for His Kingdom. Their entire education assumes a new importance and urgency because it becomes their equipment for the divine warfare. Church becomes the headquarters from which they receive their orders, the Sacrament their weekly rations, the Bible their manual of arms, the Christian Ethic their discipline.

God has a positive plan as an alternative to war, depression and Communism. God is calling His Church to take the offensive, risk and expose itself and win victories over the sinister forces of the world which are now so successfully having their day. The Church need have no fear of its appeal to youth while it obeys that call. Youth wants a hard fight and victory over worthy opponents. It is not interested in anything less demanding. We need not worry about the program of the church school. God has that. What we need is people in a school whom He can trust to carry it out.

Respectfully submitted,

WALDEN PELL, 2D

*Headmaster*

