



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



ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL  
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE



1936



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THE end of the sixth year of the School's history shows the reaching of a definite stage of progress in all its departments. The plant was crowded by the 85 boys who were enrolled this year. The School is becoming widely known throughout the East. The new tuition system is functioning well, and the boys enrolled through it last year are the highest standing boys, as a group, in the School.

Our graduates are doing well in college. Their scholastic records have been good, they have taken an active part in the life of their colleges, and they are well liked there. We have heard of no college course failed for this year by a St. Andrew's boy.

Our teams have held their own. Our athletic program is well rounded out by the addition of the Gymnasium. The leadership of the Sixth Form this year has been excellent, and the responsibility taken by the boys themselves for the orderly life of the School has become something to be counted on. This and other traditions have become sufficiently established so that they carry the weight of a good deal of the supervision and leadership formerly assumed by the Faculty, and now only shared by them with the boys.

In short, our full School is functioning well in all its

parts, and is ready to grow into the next stage of its existence.

Once more do all who have the School's progress at heart find ample opportunity to thank its Founder for his generosity. To say nothing of his support of the Foundation in helping the School meet its operating expenses, he has given this year the Gymnasium, the Maintenance Building, the new Master's House, a fine dwelling which may well serve as a model for future buildings of this sort, and the magnificent addition to the Main Building, which signifies the beginning of the second stage in the expansion of the School. Whatever the results achieved by the School, they will always have to go further to express adequately its gratitude for all its Founder has given it.

The completion of the addition will mean great things for the functioning of the School. It will give us a good library in the room now used as a Chapel; a fine new Chapel that will accommodate over 200; a Masters' Common Room and Library of sufficient size; a dining room doubled in size; an Art Room, a Biology laboratory, a Physics laboratory, an English room with book shelves and a reading table, and two History rooms, each equipped with a single oval table to seat twelve boys and the master. This type of classroom has become popularized by its adoption at Phillips Exeter Academy. The theory is that in small classes discussion is promoted and the relationship of fellow-learners created between master and boys when all sit without distinction around the table.

As the addition nears completion it becomes more and more a thing to be marvelled at. The School lives for

the day when it may take possession. All hopes are prefaced by the condition "when we move into the addition". Many dreams will be realized then which the Faculty, Staff and boys have nourished for years.

About the grounds we have built the gravel road around past the Gymnasium to the Annex, have planted a number of pines to screen the Maintenance Building, and have landscaped the Boathouse Gulley. This last work was done by the boys' work squad during the winter and by the Second Form Science Class during the spring.

There have also been constructed three new tennis courts, and a retaining wall back of Mr. Cooper's house. This is a support to the new terraces which have been placed there from the earth excavated from the addition.

Further planting is being carried out in the following areas:

1. Around the entrance drive, more pines and the filling of present spaces with dogwood, shadbush, sumac, Judas tree and similar shrubs. This will screen the view of the buildings until one has come about a hundred yards up the drive.

2. Between the School and Farm, a screen blocking out the side view of the Farm house. This plantation will include pines and other trees.

3. North of the Gymnasium and west of the Annex, a grove blocking out the end of the Gymnasium and the view of the Maintenance Building and Annex. This will be grove type planting.

4. Around the new Master's House.

The Pension Fund has been set up and is in operation.

This now provides as follows: The School will contribute to an annuity upon retirement an amount equal to 5 per cent of an employe's annual average salary on condition that:

1. The annuity be adjusted at reasonable intervals to changes in compensation.

2. The annuity be taken with a company approved by the Foundation.

3. The employe contribute to an insurance program not less than 5 per cent of his salary.

4. If he has dependents, this program include if possible, not less than the equivalent of \$5000 straight life insurance in favor of such dependents.

This applies to employes who have had five years continuous service at the School, or, in the case of Masters, who have reached the age of thirty and has been adopted by practically all who are eligible.

It is felt that as time goes on the plans adopted will narrow down to two or three, and that by a process of evolution the ideal types will be found and perhaps be made official.

The School is fortunate in securing a Chaplain after a search of several years. The Reverend John Large graduated from Trinity College in 1928, took his M.A. in Education at Columbia, taught three years in Long Island Schools and then studied for the Ministry at Episcopal Theological Seminary and Virginia Seminary, from which he holds the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. He comes to St. Andrew's from the rectorship of Christ Church, Babylon, L. I., bringing with him his bride of a few months.

We ended the year with 85 boys from the following states: Delaware, 15; Maryland, 15; Pennsylvania, 15; New York, 14; New Jersey, 7; District of Columbia, 4; Massachusetts, 3; West Virginia, 3; Connecticut, 2; Virginia, 2; Georgia, 2; and one each from Illinois, Indiana and South Carolina. Forty-eight boys came to us from public schools and thirty-seven from private schools.

Our graduates of this year have been admitted to the following colleges: Duke, 1; Haverford, 1; University of Pennsylvania, 2; Pennsylvania State, 1; Princeton, 1; Swarthmore, 2; Tri-State College, 2; University of Virginia, 2, and Yale, 4.

There were four changes in the curriculum this year:

1. Ancient History was taught in the Third Form as an optional course, the alternative being Biology.
2. English History was taught in the Fourth Form, for the first time in this School.
3. The three lowest forms each had an hour a week of music. This course was taught by Mr. Schmolze by means of phonograph records, with explanations and comments. The records covered a wide range of good music.
4. Mr. Craik Morris, Jr., came to the School every other week during the Winter Term and part of the Spring Term as visiting Art Teacher, and had an informal class of about a dozen boys. They did some creditable work in charcoal.

Both Fifth and Sixth Form Latin classes studied Virgil this year, and the Physics class was given primarily for the Sixth Form instead of for the Fifth. No boys took

Greek this year, but it is expected that this course will be taken by several boys in next year's Fourth Form.

We shall start Manual Training next year, by having a visiting teacher once or twice a week. The addition of the shop will round out our equipment in those branches of instruction on which modern education puts so much stress, art, manual arts, and music.

There has never been a course in this School which sponsored debates or public speaking as a regular part of its work. We have tried to make up for this by having the boys speak at other times, particularly on such occasions as there might be a real reason for saying something. Football and anniversary dinners have offered some opportunity for this sort of thing, and this year we tried with some success having the older boys present short talks on current events from their tables after Sunday night supper. We believe that this is worth perpetuating, and that the effect on both speakers and listeners was excellent.

The dinner to celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of our Dedication was a very fine occasion, and new boys caught much of the early spirit of the School from the rapid fire of reminiscences which featured the dinner. The Thanksgiving and Football Dinners were also great successes.

The program of entertainment was particularly good this year, and included two concerts of a high order, one by the Stringart Quartet, and the other by the Hampton Quartet. There were some good plays and skits, and there was a dance in the Winter Term, for which a number of fair guests spent the whole weekend, and another less elaborate affair in the Spring Term.

The *Cardinal* was well edited, and thanks and congratulations are due five of the editors who graduated and who have contributed splendidly to the building up of this paper.

The Scientific Society did little beyond organizing this year, but there was great activity in two other societies which came into being, the Photo Club and the International Club, the purpose of which was to collect, trade, salvage from waste baskets, and auction off postage stamps, with the usual excitement and vociferous intensity common to philatelists.

We had good athletic seasons, with more than usually fine spirit displayed and a greater enjoyment of the games for their own sake than ever before. The football and baseball teams won the Hopkins-Lawson trophy of the Delaware Inter-Academic League, the Tennis team won again the schoolboy championship of the state, and the Crew won for the second time the King's Cup.

Mr. MacInnes started and carried on a close and exciting series in intra-mural basketball, while the Wrestling Team enjoyed the use of its new mat in the room temporarily assigned to it in the Gymnasium. Squash was extremely popular, and in addition to a squad of boys who played regularly, almost everyone in School played this game to some extent, and joined in various tournaments during the Winter Term.

The new Gymnasium speaks its own praises to anyone who has entered it. By way of dedicating the building we had a service of prayer and praise. The boys, in athletic costume, marched in procession into the main room of the Gymnasium for the service. Upon its com-

pletion there were exhibition squash matches between Donald Strahan, Dan Martella and other visiting players.

Sailing was popular this year. There were races nearly every Sunday afternoon during the Spring Term, and a crew took part again this year in the Interscholastic races at Cape Cod. There was good skating for three weeks of the Winter Term, and we now have a low board hockey rink which may be put on the ice whenever it can be used. Swimming and life saving instruction were conducted on a more definite basis this year by Mr. Tonks.

The health of the School was extraordinarily good for the first part of the year, breaking all records for a small number of cases treated or admitted to the Infirmary. But the last part of the Winter Term brought grippe and follicular tonsillitis in such abundant measure that the final statistics of the year are the worst for the past four years. There were 90 cases admitted to the Infirmary compared to 33, 65 and 71 for the three previous years, and 175 Infirmary days and nights compared to 65, 215, and 116 for the three previous years. There were 1560 visits for treatment, and 975 last year.

The average gain in weight was 6.9 pounds for the boys who gained, but there were 16 boys who lost, 4 of whom were definitely overweight when they came. Illness late in the year prevented a larger gain for several boys. Five boys gained less than one pound, 17 boys from one to 5 pounds, 28 from 5 to 10, 16 from 11 to 15, and one gained 16.

There was an epidemic of German measles, our largest outbreak to date of the regular contagious diseases, late in the Spring Term. Twenty-three boys came

down with very mild cases. During the year 21 had sub-acute intestinal grippe, 30 had bilious attacks, 25 had grippe, 25 had follicular tonsillitis, and there were 160 colds.

There was a large number of demerits for surface disorder this year, even upper formers not being immune from these, and a smaller proportion of boys than ever before, 35 per cent, ended the year on the White List for conduct. At the same time there seemed to be a good spirit about the life of the School and a greater avoidance of major disciplinary troubles than ever before. On the whole it could be said that the boys could be trusted further with the fundamentals of good conduct, and that they had a closer grasp on basic Christian behavior.

When all our boys are housed under one roof there is bound to be an improvement in general conduct, promptness and the efficient performance of jobs. This concentration of the School body will eliminate a lot of loose joints in our machinery and promote more effectively the family spirit of the life here.

The assimilation of a large number of new boys, 37 in all, was also hard on the conduct record of the School. It appears that with a rather liberal system such as we have it is necessary to explain its spirit often and clearly, and to keep the boys in close personal touch with their faculty advisors. We shall be ready to do more along these lines in the future.

Our new Faculty members, Mr. Tonks and Mr. Voorhees fitted in well and made themselves invaluable to the community in many ways. Mrs. Voorhees is an attractive addition to the ladies of the School family,

and their youngster swells the ever-increasing throng of very young St. Andreans who may be seen almost anywhere on the landscape in anything from a perambulator to a streamlined scooter! Another addition to the very junior group is William H. Cameron, III, born in August.

Every friend of the School will be glad to hear that Mr. Hall is improving in health at a surprising rate. He has gained over 20 pounds in weight and is now able to be out of bed each day. He is spending the winter in South Carolina, and we look forward to having him back at School next year.

Mr. Holder married Miss Marian Speakman on June 27th. This match, which seems to all of us a very happy one, has an added interest since the bride is the first Delawarean to become part of the School through marriage and is also the sister of Walter Speakman of the Class of 1938.

Miss Dorothy Welton assumes her duties as Librarian-Secretary after receiving her degree of A.B. from the University of Delaware this Fall. She has been completing the cataloging and reorganizing of the Library. A gift of about 500 books on all subjects has come from Miss Olive Jones of Calvary House, New York. These represent part of the private library of Miss Jones, who has been a leader in American education, and include much fiction and several sets of standard authors. Our Library now numbers about two thousand books. When it is housed in its new quarters we should make an effort to increase this number to at least three or four thousand.

There was a time in the history of the School when it

was small enough for the Headmaster to have a finger in most of the pies it was producing. Now that he has had to delegate to others many of his former activities and has seen how well they are performed by those others, he feels increasingly grateful to the Faculty and Staff for all they have given the School. There is not a member of either who has not given unique contributions and special emphases of vision and ability, from which the whole body benefits. Yet all are bound into a closely cooperating unit through a common loyalty to the purposes for which the School was founded.

The religious life of the School is always the hardest to evaluate, but to judge from definite figures which are available, it was healthy and there was a normal interest in things spiritual. We are taking into consideration such facts as the average attendance at early Sunday morning Communion Services, which was 25.

During Lent we emphasized definite preparation for Holy Communion. Services to that end were held late on Saturday afternoons, with an average attendance of 15. There was also a study class for the Faculty and Staff, and a good number of us spent several afternoon sessions studying and discussing the religious problems of modern students.

There was the largest Confirmation Class in the history of the School, some 18 attending regularly. Of these 11 were confirmed at School, 3 more at home and several more were members of other churches who came along for the instruction and better understanding of the School's worship.

Bishop Cook was the preacher for our Christmas Carol Service. We had some fine visiting preachers

especially during Lent. Mr. T. Lee Roberts, Superintendent of the Ascension Farm School in Massachusetts gave us another Meditation on the Passion for the Good Friday service. The Headmaster had the great privilege and joy of celebrating and preaching on Easter Day. The Rev. Churchill Gibson, Rector of St. James's Church, Richmond, was our Commencement speaker.

Perhaps the results of the religious life here are to be seen more clearly when the boys have graduated than while they are here. Several of our graduates have expressed what more of them doubtless feel, that there is a big difference between the impersonal and highly competitive spirit of the world outside and the personal and highly cooperative life, with its basic family pattern, of the School. The comparison greatly favors the School's type of life, in their judgment, and many of them are seeing the solution of the world's problems in terms of family life on a large scale. Which means, after all, that they have come to grasp the social implications of the life of the Christian Church. And feeling as we do that this is the message which God must be particularly anxious to give the world at the present time, we rejoice in this first impact on the world of St. Andrew's boys imbued with the genius of the School's life.

There are also indications that some of our boys will base their choice of a life-work on more than material considerations or present interests and talents, that they are seeing the needs of their fellow-men and the will of God as more significant in their decisions than the glamor of a particular branch of endeavor. In so far as this is true of St. Andrew's graduates, the School may rejoice that some of the seeds of its religious life have

fallen on good ground and also that they have had the power of germination.

During the year we have worked out a questionnaire covering the devotional practices of the boys. In its tentative form this was used with the Sixth Form, and we are now in a position to draw it up in final form and have it printed for wider use. We feel it would be useful to have this information from boys in the School and also from graduates. Other schools might wish to use it, and there is really no reason why such questionnaires could not be used throughout the Church as a whole. Our form of it is arranged so that it is anonymous.

Our findings for the Sixth Form were not startling. Practically all of them attended Church less regularly during vacation than while at School. About half received Holy Communion less regularly in vacation. Only one boy made it a rule to receive Communion every Sunday and Holy Day, three every other Sunday, and eight once a month. One boy prayed every morning, ten every evening, six every once in a while, three had no particular rule about prayer.

Three used devotional reading other than the Bible or Prayer Book, five used the Prayer Book, and most of the boys prayed for people by name and asked God for things for themselves and others. Five signified that meditation was a part of their devotional life. Most of the boys had read a religious book during the year outside of Sacred Studies texts. Nine found their greatest help in prayer, eight in Holy Communion, three in Church attendance and religious reading or study.

Over a period of years such a record should have interest and significance for the planning of the religious life of the School, and for an estimate of its results.

The coming of age of schools and their passage into middle age is a relevant subject for St. Andrew's now, for our pioneer days are past and we have settled down to the steady pace that we hope will last for many centuries on this favored site. In a letter to the Faculty and Staff this summer, I pointed out that the older the School grows, the easier it is to settle back into a comfortable mediocrity and adopt a sort of passing-mark psychology. This is not as great a danger for the boys, who remain here a comparatively short time, as it is for the Faculty and Staff who are here year in and year out.

The problem of entering middle age with the same vision and recklessness of devotion which are natural and easy in the younger days of a school is a crucial one. The School which solves it and still preserves the continuity of its staff is fortunate, and is in a position to avoid the ruts and compromises which tempt most aging institutions.

With the completion of the addition, one or two more masters' houses and planting of the grounds up to date there will have been completed a plant for 100 boys. For at least some years the School will run along at this capacity. The first objective of building up the School will have been gained for the time being.

A new objective will be necessary to keep the life of the School moving forward with enthusiasm, purpose and hard work. This objective must be one that can be realized by the operation of the School rather than its growth in buildings and enrollment.

I believe that the Church has given us our new objective in the last word of the seven points of discipleship suggested by the Forward Movement. The word is "share". So often richly endowed schools have lost their original fire and life because they turned in upon themselves and became self-centered and self-protective. The great periods of the great schools have been those in which they gave most prodigally of great men and great ideas. Their most valuable asset was a missionary spirit and a willingness to serve the world as a whole at some cost to themselves.

St. Andrew's will achieve real greatness in measure as it finds ways to share its life and resources with a world which badly needs the sort of thing it stands for. In some ways we have already begun to do this. Our boys contribute regularly to missions. The buildings, grounds and equipment have been loaned many times for conferences, retreats and gatherings of all sorts. To some extent ideas and practices which have been distilled from the activity of the School have been brought to the attention of schools in general.

Our greatest contribution to the world is naturally our graduates, and no other form of sharing will compare to turning out men of such character and vision that they will fill the real needs of the times.

We of the Faculty and Staff have thought that closer teamwork was one way of keeping our spirit fresh and our aim high. Consequently we have organized small advisory committees to help with the operation of the Plant, the housekeeping department, the health, athletics, and recreation of the boys, and the Chapel and Office. Every member of the Faculty and Staff is on some

of these, and they are functioning with great benefit to all concerned, principally in the wider point of view that they make possible.

As our real objective in all this is one of attitude and spirit, the organization of committees can only provide the framework for it. Something less tangible must be present, to give life from within. Spiritual roots have to be driven deeper, if the divine discontent with anything less than perfection is to persist.

The Church provides very definite ways of developing the inner discipline of the soul's life, and we believe that the systematic use of these is the key to the thing we are looking for. This is especially important in an age like our own when a Christian is subjected to all kinds of contrary and confusing forces, most of which belong to secularism. Being a Christian in the midst of contemporary paganism "takes a bit of doing" as the English say. For this reason it is our hope that many of us will be able to attend retreats, summer conferences, quiet days and other gatherings of Christians, under challenging leadership. If we can become better informed Churchmen, grow further in the discipline of prayer and sacrament, and follow the Master more faithfully through these means, the effect on the whole life of the School will be tremendous.

Respectfully submitted,

WALDEN PELL, 2D

*Headmaster*



