

THE BEDAN

1957

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BEDE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

1956—1957

Head Mistress	Miss Moul.
Second Mistress	Miss Carrick (Chemistry).
Form Scholarship VII	Miss Waggott (English).
Student Teachers ...	Miss Harding (Biology).
Form Upper VI Arts	Miss Wilman (Mathematics).
„ Upper VI Science	Miss Carlin (Biology).
„ Lower VI (1)	Miss Hayton (History).
„ Lower VI (2)	Miss Heslop (Geography).
„ Lower VI (3)	Miss Tweed (French).
„ IV C. ...	Mr. Taylor (Physics)
„ IV Bm. ...	Mrs. Shrimpton (Geography).
„ IV Ba. ...	Miss Bernard (Music).
„ III C.... ...	Miss Crone (Art).
„ III Bm. ...	Miss Norman (Art).
„ III Ba. ...	Mrs. Wilkinson (Chemistry and Biology).
„ II X	Mr. Hymas (Divinity).
„ II Y	Mrs. Lewis (French, Latin, English).
„ II Z	Miss Duns (German).
„ I X	Miss Kinch (Mathematics).
„ I Y	Mrs. Bryce (Mathematics)
„ I Z	Mr. Shrimpton (Spanish).
Mrs. Alderson	(Physical Education).

Miss Bell (Divinity).

Mr. Cox (Classics).

Miss Fall (English).

Miss Hall (Domestic Science).

Miss Metcalf (Physical Education) (until Easter, 1957).

Mrs. Proud (English).

Mr. Rogers (History).

Miss Taylor (French).

Miss Wedderburn (Physical Education) (until Dec. 1956).

Mr. Hartley (Music).

Visiting Staff: Miss Elliott (Violin).

School Secretary: Miss Gibbons.

Dining-Hall Superintendent: Miss Hornberger.

Laboratory Assistants: Muriel Jones; Muriel Burry.

Captain of School: Valerie Cuthbertson.

Vice-Captain: Joan Lister.

Rounders Captain: (1956) Sally Swales; (1957) Norma Gray.

Netball Captain: 1956-57) Robina Foster.

Hockey Captain: (1956-57) Beryl Wrangham.

Tennis Captain: (1956) Maureen Gordon; (1957) Olga Gibson.

Staff Changes

Since the last issue of "The Bedan", in April, 1956, we have said goodbye, with much regret, to Miss Crosby, Miss Wedderburn, and Miss Metcalf. We do not forget them and we send to each our good wishes.

Mrs. Lewis joined the staff in September, 1956; we welcome her to the school and hope that she will be very happy amongst us.

Mrs. Slade and Mrs. Alderson, who have been temporarily on our staff, have been very pleasant colleagues and have given valuable help.

Letter from Miss Moul

My dear Bedans,

It affords me great pleasure to write to you once a year. I wish only that I was gifted with the persuasiveness of the poet or prophet so that I could write you something worth-while.

The other day, working in my garden, I came unexpectedly on a small phial in which were about a dozen tablets. Inspecting my find I was amused to discover that I had been bequeathed a tube of 'pep-plus' pills. Out of whose pocket had this unexpected gift fallen? Should I venture to try the effect of 'pep-plus'? How many children are attracted by such innocent-seeming phials? What deficiency in us, what insecurity, makes us depend upon 'pep-plus'? Some of my musing was disturbing and unpleasant. What has taken zest from living and made us so dependent on pills, pastilles and powders? It seems as if, when life is promising and expanding and opening out in an extravagantly exciting way, at that very moment the world is least sure of itself. It looks as if the broadcasting by God finds us fiddling with our receiving sets and never getting a clear reception. It looks at first sight as if the Sower's work seems doomed to failure. The pre-occupied, deaf to entreaty, dead to spiritual reception, with hearts hard as the trodden path through the traffic of self-concerned ideas, give a "nil" return. The shallow-hearted, who are set on fire with enthusiasm for a short time but hesitate, and hum and haw, and languish and wither and die in spiritual effort, give a "nil" return. Two soils, two receiving centres, are completely unproductive, the materialistically-pre-occupied and the superficial. The weedy soil is rich in itself and fertile, or the weeds would not grow, but it is cluttered up with a multitude of profitless things. The response that could have been so valuable is rendered valueless because there is no right selection; the good runs to weed. Three soils and, so far, no profit; but the fourth soil is fertile. It receives the seed and cherishes it and the yield surpasses expectation, for there is a miraculous power of growth in the seed. There IS hope for the world. Despite all pessimism the end is a good harvest.

All of a sudden, we at school have become aware in an urgent way of the many careers that now demand Advanced subjects in the Certificate. Fascinating openings in Nursing, in the Civil Service, in Engineering, in a multitude of technological jobs, are now available for the girl whose certificate shows passes in two or more Advanced subjects. Our most recent news is of a Teachers' Training College that seeks students with Physics and Chemistry at Advanced Level. I suppose such provision is to meet the anticipated need from Secondary Technical Schools. I am, perhaps,

heretical but I feel that a great deal of public money is being spent on scientific gadgets that could be spent on more essential Arts like English, and the demands for scientific practitioners might better be for the well-equipped Arts students, able to speak and read and enjoy the Queen's English. I have noticed the gradual decay of improvisation in teaching and a dependence on 'aids' that makes Education one of the most subsidized departments of civil administration. The welfare state in Education, a phase through which we are passing, takes drudgery out of learning but addicts us all to looking outside ourselves for satisfaction, to 'pep-plus' pills.

I have all but completed twenty-three years at Bede. I am now on my last lap for I shall retire in July, 1958. The flying months rush ruthlessly past. I am in the grip of an emotion that is, I am told, like that felt by men caught in the heart of a hurricane. There is movement and agitation and noise and the battle of the elements all around, but one is so absorbed in mere living that one feels almost anaesthetised to pain. To come alive, and become aware and sentient, would be to face too much. It is possible, however, to live fully just one day at a time.

I should like to tell you of an experience that befell me thirty-five years ago. I was holidaying in Corsica. Our party, idling in the woods of Vizza-Vona, decided on an adventurous climb of the highest mountain of the island, Monte d'Oro—over nine thousand feet high. In order to reach the summit we had to descend to the valley at the foot of the mountain and then begin the ascent. No rock-climbing was involved. A well-trodden path snaked its way over the volcanic debris of past eruptions, infinitely distant. Forty men and women set out one summer's evening and by ten o'clock we had reached a plateau about half-way up Monte d'Oro. We were on a small ledge, about the height of Ben Nevis above sea-level. Two shepherds, looking after their mountain goats, built us a pine-wood fire, and we prepared to snatch a rest before the Corsican guide came to lead us to the top. The ascent was to begin at midnight, for we meant to see the sun rise. We seemed hardly to have fallen asleep before a cry arose, "The Guide has arrived". The night was black as pitch. One couldn't see one's hand before one's eyes. The stillness of the unfamiliar mountain was unnerving. Not an owl hooted. Not an animal stirred, but the Corsican Guide, though veiled by the night, stood quietly waiting, his lantern held in a steady hand. Lantern and hand were alone visible. The only light was that cast by his lantern and it fell on a spot only large enough for one foot. The midnight climb, begun in inky darkness, meant our absolute dependence on the Guide and a determination to move by such light as there was, one step at a time. At five in the morning four men and four women reached the summit. We looked expectantly towards the sea to witness the miracle of the

birth of a new day. The sun arose above the horizon, first one finger of light, then another and another, then the rim of its orb showed like an arc, and finally the whole round glory blazed over the island. The side of Monte d'Oro on which the sun shone was clearly lit and showed every detail of rocky hillside and worn stepping-stone. The side of the hill, which the sun had not reached, lay in what seemed unconquerable darkness, but every moment the sun rose higher, and every moment more darkness was conquered by the light. Now we realised that our blind faith in our guide had taken us over many rough places and by ways that looked, in the light, anything but secure. We had made the ascent in the fastest record time, so unwaveringly had we planted our feet where the Guide's light lay; but when we had to make the descent, some of us, made fearful by the obstacles along the pathway that the light revealed, took the longest time on record to come down.

For me this experience has always been a parable, and an encouragement. The light of the world cannot be conquered by darkness. I need to travel only a step at a time, day by day, for my Guide knows the way. It is only my own fearfulness and anxiety that make me uncertain of the road that He has already travelled, and my lack of faith in His already-demonstrated efficiency to meet every need, that makes me hesitate to take His way. So long as I keep my eye on Him I arrive finally where I seek to be.

With much affection, my dear Bedans,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

WINIFRED J. E. MOUL.

FOUNDERS' DAY, 1956

Founders' Day was held in 1956 on 24th April, when the Bede Schools united to worship in Bishopwearmouth Church.

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. C. L. P. Bishop, and the lessons read by the School Captains, Rita Trueman and Brian Baxter.

Brahms' anthem "How lovely are Thy dwellings, Lord!" was sung by the combined choirs and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Ripon.

Taking his text from St. John's Gospel, the Bishop reminded us, "Others have laboured and ye are entered into their labour". This was true of any society, but especially of a school. Our first

instinct should be one of thankfulness, and we were in church to give thanks that morning. This alone was not sufficient. We must not receive without giving, for we owed a debt of service. We must labour so that others might profit by our labours.

After the sermon, prayers were led by the Rev. F. H. Hawkins, Minister of Roker Presbyterian Church.

After the singing of another hymn the Benediction was pronounced and another Founders' Day service drew to its close.

RITA TRUEMAN.

SPEECH DAY, 1956

Senior Speech Day for 1956 was held on November 21st. After the customary presentation of bouquets and buttonholes, everyone joined in singing the School Song. In honour of our chief guests, His Excellency the High Commissioner for New Zealand, Sir Clifton Webb and Lady Webb, the New Zealand flag hung beside the Union Jack above the platform.

After the opening remarks of the Chairman, Councillor Armstrong, Miss Moul presented a full and stimulating report on our year's work. She concluded with the words of Plato, "Wisdom only is true riches," and expressed the hope that each girl might have her store of gold.

Sir Clifton Webb was the next speaker. He quickly captured the whole-hearted attention of his audience by his friendly manner and spontaneous wit. From his wide experience of education, His Excellency said that he had discovered that the most important thing was not so much to be the top of the group as to be working to one's full capacity. He also spoke of life in his country, and in particular, stressed the happy relationship between the New Zealanders and the Maori people.

Since Sir Clifton believed in sharing his official duties with his wife, it was Lady Webb who presented the prizes and certificates: she had a kindly greeting for each girl.

The singing by the Senior Choir of the two-part songs, "Five Eyes", "I wandered lonely as a cloud" and "The Lord is my Shepherd" added greatly to the evening's enjoyment.

Councillor W. L. Craggs moved a vote of thanks which was seconded by Valerie Cuthbertson, the School Captain.

The singing of the National Anthem brought yet another successful Speech Day to an end.

VALERIE CUTHBERTSON.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

A Parent-Teacher Association is a bridge between school and home and provides a very convenient link for the exchange of information and ideas.

Parent-Teacher Associations may begin simply by raising funds for school projects. They may go on to help various school activities. But whatever Parent-Teacher Associations do, the barriers between parents and teachers begin to be broken down by co-operation between them for the benefit of the children.

The Bede Grammar School for Girls' Parent-Teacher Association came into being twenty-two years ago through the inspiration of Miss Moul and has continued through many successful years of activity. In an outstanding role of service to the school it has provided a new library at a cost of £700; new curtains costing £160 for the School Hall; musical instruments for the School Orchestra; subsidized lectures and film shows, and donated to Sports and Speech-day prize fund. These items are mentioned so that parents may have some idea of the scope of financial assistance to school projects.

Probably one of the least known funds of the Bede Parent-Teacher Association is the Grant-in-Aid Fund. This was raised in order to assist financially those pupils who had passed their Higher School Certificate Examination and, wishing to proceed either to Training College or University, found the expense too great for their parents to bear. The appropriate grant was made from the Fund to assist needy pupils. Today, with the very generous grants which the Local Education Authority makes to students proceeding to Colleges or Universities, the need for the Grant-in-Aid Fund is not so great. However, should any pupil incur expense in the pursuit of her ambition to enter College or University which is not covered by the Authority grant she can apply to the Parent-Teacher Association for assistance and can be assured of sympathetic and, if necessary, practical consideration.

Family parties for the younger pupils and dances for the more senior pupils are organised by the members and, in recent months, question quiz programmes with parents and pupils as panel members have been arranged.

You will see that much can be done by a virile association and Bede Parent-Teacher Association would welcome parents' membership and support of the Association's projects.

J. W. BIRBECK,

Hon. Joint Secretary.

SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

The School Parliament continues to meet regularly, with the School Captain in the Chair.

The attendance of members has been very good and they have raised many interesting and useful points. Many of the problems this year seen to have concerned the First Form cloak-room, but most of the difficulties have now been overcome.

Questions have been asked about the School Dramatic Society. It is hoped to begin meetings again next year.

Parliament has been responsible for many repairs in school and also for the addition of a new set of pegs in the Gymnasium cloak-room.

JOAN LISTER, Secretary.

THE SUNDERLAND BEDE COLLEGIATE GIRLS' SCHOOL LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This fund was established in the year 1924 as a result of £1,000 having been raised by the Guild of Old Bedans. The interest from this money is used to help girls after leaving school to be trained for any career, either by definite award of scholarships or by loan of money.

Any girl, who is leaving school and who feels that she is in need of help from this fund, should make an application in writing to the Hon. Secretary.

K. M. CARRICK, Hon. Secretary.

SCHOOL CHARITIES REPORT, 1956-1957

During the past three terms the Charities Committee has been as active as ever and the School has contributed to numerous varied and deserving causes the pleasing total of £188 5s. 0d.

Almost half of this sum was raised in a single fortnight when girls, moved by the pitiful plight of Hungarian refugees, asked that the scheduled programme should be set aside and a special appeal

made on their behalf. £60 was donated to the Mayor's Fund and £31 to the Save the Children Fund. In addition, the School invited the fourteen refugees housed in Sunderland to the school dance where each received a Christmas parcel.

A pleasing feature of the work during the past year has been the increasing readiness on the part of the charity monitresses to come forward with suggestions as to which causes to help. Volunteers to make the weekly or fortnightly appeals have shown commendable keenness, though it is a pity that such enthusiasm tends to be largely confined to the junior school.

The contributions from individual forms have varied greatly. Some forms do pay thoughtful attention to the appeals and give regularly and generously. Others, however, appear to be completely unmoved and many of their members cannot, except on a very rare occasion such as the Hungarian Relief Appeal, find it in their hearts to spare a single penny. If everyone in the school who has some pocket money (and there can be few who have none) would endeavour to give at least one penny each week the school's achievement would be even more encouraging than at present.

A. A. Y. HAYTON.

D. M. WILMAN.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

Last term, in preparation for the Autumn Term Conference, the group took as its theme, "Christian Faith and Action". Although the title seemed rather vague, we found much to discuss and with the aid of visiting speakers, we defined "Christian Faith" and endeavoured to discover the form of action which our faith must take. The Conference was held at Houghton-le-Spring Grammar School on November 10th, 1956. The speakers, the Rev. T. P. Brooks, M.A., and the Rev. Douglas Tucker, took as their subjects "A Christian's Beliefs" and "A Christian's Life", and those who attended the Conference found both the talks and the ensuing discussions very interesting and stimulating.

At present the group is following a Study Outline, "The Sermon on the Mount" and is finding that the subject provokes much discussion.

In the future, we hope to have representatives from various denominations to explain why they belong to their particular Church. We have already had one meeting in this series when two "Mormon" missionaries visited us, and if their visit is an indication of the success of the series, we may look forward to some very lively and thought-provoking meetings.

The Junior Christian Movement has been revived for those who are not old enough to join the S.C.M. The aim of the J.C.M. is Service, and already it has provided Christmas presents for needy children and also a Christmas Party. It is run by the Juniors themselves with the help of senior members.

Although the membership of the S.C.M. has increased, most of the newcomers are boys, and we would like to see more girl members from the Fourth and Lower Sixth Forms.

JOYCE WILSON, Secretary.

MUSIC

During the past year our Senior Choir has combined in many musical activities with the Boys' School. At our Annual Founders' Day service the choir sang the anthem, "How Lovely are Thy Dwellings", by Brahms. In June, under the direction of Mr. Kirk, the choir took part in a concert of madrigals and other part-songs. Members of the staff and pupils of both schools also contributed various items.

At Senior Speech Day, the Senior choir sang three part-songs: "Five Eyes", by Armstrong Gibbs; "Daffodils", by Thiman, and a setting of "The Lord is My Shepherd", by Schubert. The Junior Choir, at their Speech Day, sang "Son of the Muses" by Schubert, "Golden Slumbers" and "Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore Him", to the tune by Haydn.

In recent months, Miss Florence Hooton gave us a delightful 'cello recital which was enjoyed by all. She was accompanied by Dr. Suttle, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Early in the year, a party from school visited Newcastle to hear a concert given by the Vienna Boys' Choir under their conductor Gerhard Track. Everyone was charmed by the voices of the choir and their singing was greatly enjoyed.

During the Autumn Term the Waldo Lanchester Puppets gave us a concert. Their chief presentation was Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and for several days before the visit of the puppets many forms listened to a recording of the music.

On the last day of the Christmas Term, during prayers, the combined choirs sang the carol "Hodie", by Sweelinck. In the afternoon we held our Carol service in which the choir and orchestra took part.

After the success of the Choirs' last concert consisting of short items, it was decided to attempt a much more ambitious work this year, namely Handel's "Messiah". The soloists were Joan Elwin, soprano, and Marie Anderson, contralto (both old Bedans); John Carr, tenor, and Ralph Tennant, bass. Mr. Hartley accompanied the choirs at the organ and the conductor was Miss Bernard.

The choirs worked enthusiastically at the seventeen choruses, and reached the climax of their efforts at the performance. Handel's "Messiah" is a great work, and every member of the choir seemed to realize that it was truly something worth singing. At the end of the evening both the audience and the choir sensed a feeling of great achievement.

MARGARET WEBB.

THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

In August, 1956, three members of staff and nine pupils visited the Edinburgh Festival of Music and Drama.

Special outings to concerts were planned for each day and sight-seeing and shopping occupied our free time. Visits to the Castle, the Palace of Holyrood House and St. Giles's Cathedral proved very interesting.

Our first evening in Edinburgh was spent at the King's Theatre where the Hamburg State Opera Company presented Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" and "Mavra". It was a new and exciting experience for some of us to see Shakespeare's "Henry V." presented on an apron stage by the Stratford Ontario Festival Company. The same day we saw the Sadlers' Wells Ballet Company perform, among other items, the new ballet, "The Miraculous Mandarin", with music by Bartok. After this, a number of us went to the Castle where we were thrilled by the glittering spectacle of the Military Tattoo.

Those particularly interested in piano-playing were delighted to be given the opportunity of hearing Dame Myra Hess in a wonderful Beethoven recital, and the symphony enthusiasts were not forgotten, for we visited the Usher Hall to hear the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Our final concert was an excellent Lieder Recital by Joan Alexander, accompanied by Ernest Lush, after which we immediately hurried to the station and returned home.

BERYL WRANGHAM.

MALHAM TARN

One of the attractions of Advanced Level Geography is the emphasis laid on practical work. In March, 1956, Miss Heslop and the Advanced Level group travelled by rail to Settle station, where we were met by a Land Rover with trailer which was to transport us to Malham Tarn Field Centre, thirteen hundred feet above sea level.

Tarn House is backed by a massive limestone cliff and surrounded by conifers; below it lies the deep, quiet Tarn. After our arrival we went to a small cottage at a short distance from the Centre where we were to sleep during our stay.

Our days were spent in exploring the fascinating Malham area under the guidance of a lecturer. We visited Gordale Scar with its narrow, steep waterfall, and also Malham Cove, an impressive sheer limestone cliff near which the River Aire begins. We hacked fossils out of the limestone; we learnt to recognise the difference between limestone topography and millstone grit topography; we noted water-sinks, blind valleys, and the limestone pavement; in short, we found that the substance of our text-books was founded on facts, and there we were, looking at and handling the facts.

Much history was interwoven with our geographical studies. We saw Iron Age fields, Anglo-Saxon "Lynchets" or "terraced" fields, and a Bronze Age burial cairn. We also explored the Victoria caves where archaeological remains of great interest have been found. Here our enthusiastic ideas of cave-exploring were somewhat "damped" by the constant dripping of water, the thick slimy mud underfoot (and overfoot), and the hazards of jutting ledges and rocks, further intensified by the blackness. On a coach trip we visited Alum Pot, a swallow hole nearly three hundred feet deep, and also saw the remarkable ice-transported "erratic" boulder, on Norber Hill, balanced precariously on a tiny limestone pedestal—as it has stood for centuries.

Since our return to school, classroom lessons have assumed a new interest after we have seen so much for ourselves.

PAT BERGSON, ANN TAYLOR.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY, 1956-57

On May 15th, 1956, the Science Society had its annual outing. In the morning thirty-three girls went to Guisborough and, after lunch, some of the girls visited the parish church and priory, whilst the keen biologists went in search of specimens. In the afternoon, twenty of the girls were shown around part of the I.C.I. plant at Billingham. We saw the nitric acid and ammonium sulphate works and were afterwards entertained to afternoon tea. At half-past five we left Billingham, joined the rest of the party and travelled to Richmond, where we spent an enjoyable hour exploring the town and castle before returning home.

Our next meeting was not until September when we met to elect officers for the coming year. It was Mrs. Wilkinson's turn to be Vice-President and the following girls were elected: Chairman, Marjorie Young; Secretary, Sheila Laybourne; and Treasurer, Eileen Ward. The Society also agreed to give Miss Carlin £1 to buy bulbs for the school.

The following month we visited the Physical Medicine department at the General Hospital where Miss Happer, the superintendent, showed us the various forms of treatment which could be given to relieve rheumatism, and exercises which eased breathing difficulties and hyper-tension.

In November, Marjorie Young, of the Scholarship VII, gave a lecture on "Sea-Shore Life" illustrated by coloured film-strips.

In December we had another outing, this time to the Royal Infirmary. We were taken around the Bacteriology, Pathology, Bio-chemistry and Hæmatology departments and saw a wide range of medical work.

The first meeting of the Spring Term was held in February. Mrs. Wilkinson obtained some films on petroleum which demonstrated the various processes in the extraction and purification of oil.

In March, we were glad to welcome Dr. Corner, of Durham University, who gave a very interesting talk on "Astronomy".

The Society has had a successful year and the membership has increased considerably. We hope the Society will continue to flourish in the future as a centre where girls can learn about and discuss the various aspects of science.

MARJORIE YOUNG, Chairman.

THE MODERN EVENTS SOCIETY, 1956-57

In November, 1956, the Modern Events Society rose phoenix-like from its long-cold ashes. Miss Moul consented to be President, and Miss Hayton, Vice-President. Laura Howard was elected Chairman, and Gillian Collins, Treasurer.

Cups of tea have paved the way to informal, friendly, and often vigorous discussion. Suez, Hungary, Russia, Kashmir, South Africa, and the United Nations Organisation have presented challenging problems, and Bedans have found that they have many, if conflicting, ideas on putting the world to rights.

On two occasions, outside speakers have addressed the society. One was an ex-Bedan, Ethel Foreman (Mrs. Towers). Her experiences shed an illuminating light on the many difficulties which face the missionary in dealing with primitive peoples. Pathos, tragedy, optimism and humour mingled in her experiences, but the dominant impression left by Mrs. Towers was of real happiness in a satisfying and worth-while task.

Dr. Hiller told us of 'Hitler's Germany'. Her talk was a grim reminder of the dictator and the horrors for which he was responsible; it gave us a lesson in the need for awareness of every threat to our priceless heritage of personal freedom.

Any member of the senior school interested in modern problems will be welcomed by the Society which will in future meet on the first Monday in every month.

VALERIE SPENCER, Secretary.

THE INTER-SCHOOLS DEBATING SOCIETY

The Debating Society programme during the session has shown considerable variety, although this year, because of world events and crises, there has been a tendency to have a high proportion of debates on world politics.

There have also been debates on such motions as: "This house approves of comprehensive schools"; "Grammar Schools should be given a greater measure of self-government"; "This house believes in ghosts". In addition we have had a "Balloon Debate".

During the year, the usual Cup Debates have taken place. Victoria Thompson won the Bi-Annual Cup.

Unfortunately for the Society, Mr. Moore is leaving school this year. For many years now Mr. Moore has given much of his time and enthusiasm and invaluable guidance to the Society, and for this we are exceedingly grateful, and would like to thank him very much indeed. We wish him much happiness in the future.

CHARLOTTE ROBINSON, President.

BEN HOUSE

House Mistress	:	Miss Wilman.
House Captain	:	Pat Bergson.
House Secretary	:	Ann Taylor.

Ben House is the largest of the houses. During our first meeting a committee was elected, and for what it lacks in experience it makes up in enthusiasm. Much time is spent in running after people, who are running after people, who are running after people who are forgetting to do things. Nevertheless out of the chaos has appeared one blue baize notice-board, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Milburn, father of two of our house members. We now hold the exalted position of being the only house which possesses a personal board.

One motive in initiating a house system is to encourage girls to make use of their various talents and to enlarge their circle of friends in the school. Our house is sub-divided into three groups, B., E. and N. (names for obvious reasons) each of which is required to provide the entertainment on a certain day.

B showed their powers by charades, quizzes and pianoforte playing. Perhaps our musical appreciation was not increased by "Garden of Eden" and "Singing the Blues", but certainly they received an ovation equal to any given to a Symphony Concert. E gave a 'spirited' performance of a ghost play. N's offering still remains to be seen.

Prowess in the musical and dramatic spheres is equal to, if not surpassed by, ability in the sports fields. Our junior teams have succeeded in winning both the hockey and netball shields, and as the juniors of today are the seniors of tomorrow, we hope that we may look forward to a few more years of sporting honours.

After reading this you must agree
That Ben's the house for you and me.

PAT BERGSON, House Captain.

ESK HOUSE

House Mistress	:	Miss Powell.
House Captain	:	Valerie Cuthbertson.
House Secretary	:	Pauline Bernstein.

Together with 1066, there is one date which all members of Esk will remember. It is Monday, 11th February, 1957, when the first meeting of Esk House was held in the Art Room. After a short welcoming address by Miss Powell, the main business of the meeting was the election of officers.

Senior members displayed their talents in song and drama for our second meeting and the programme was varied with gramophone records. The keen dramatic interest in the house has since been stimulated by the formation of a Drama Committee made up of representatives from each year. On April 8th, at a joint meeting of all houses, we enjoyed the film "The Three Rivers" showing familiar Tyne, Wear and Tees countryside.

During the last two terms sport has been the main feature of house activity. The 'aged scholars' of the house proved themselves to be anything but 'frail and faint', when they won the senior hockey cup, despite having to play in rain and snow. On Sports Day, they secured the Senior School Cup for the house, thanks chiefly to the efforts of Marjorie Tweddle, who was Senior Champion of the school. In the netball tournament, the senior team made Drom fight hard for their victory, while the junior hockey team proved no mean opponents of the junior tournament winners, Ben.

How observant are you? That was the question Miss Heslop asked us when rain made us cancel our plans for an out-of-doors meeting. Acting as an expert question master, Miss Heslop gave us clues to the names of Sunderland shops. 'You would not do this to a brown shoe'. Of course, Blackett. That was one of the easier questions. Later questions such as 'Which shop's name is beery but does not sell beer?' and 'What did Rudyard Kipling keep hearing?' stumped even the First Formers.

As yet, like the source of the river whose name we bear, we are just beginning and we look forward to exploring the broadening horizons ahead of us.

VALERIE CUTHBERTSON, Captain.

DROM HOUSE

House Mistress	:	Miss Hayton.
House Captain	:	Robina Foster.
House Secretary	:	Eileen Ward.

Last term the House System was re-established in the school after a break of some years. The First Forms were fascinated, the Middle School was enthusiastic, and the Senior School rather dubious, so that feelings at our first house meeting were very mixed and there were even some pessimists present.

It was strange to be separated from one's special friends and many of the older girls found it difficult to make new friends quickly, but after three meetings a much more friendly spirit prevails.

The first meeting was given up to the choosing of officials. At the next we had a sing-song (there is some little doubt whether our mistresses appreciated our voices). We were happy to welcome Miss Moul at our third meeting and we hope that she enjoyed our choice of records.

We are very proud of the fact that Drom House won the Middle School Championship on Sports Day and we look forward to further successes in the future. Encouraged by our success we have organised an athletic group. We also intend to have a skiffle group, though we regret that so far we possess only an old wash-board.

Our aim is to be the most active House in the school and we enjoy the feeling of friendly rivalry with other Houses. The older girls who will be leaving in July are unfortunate that they will not be able to enjoy the fruits of their labour, but we believe they will have the satisfaction of watching the House System which they helped to establish flourish in the Bede School.

LAURA E. HOWARD, Vice-Captain.

AVON HOUSE

House Mistress	:	Miss Harding.
House Captain	:	Shirley Butler.
House Secretary	:	Muriel Watson.

It is a new task to write a house report for 'The Bedan' and a difficult one, for as yet the houses have had little time to develop their individual characteristics. However, enthusiasm overcoming early pessimism, we recognise that we have made progress.

Our first meeting was held in the Sewing Room and the house officials were elected or asked to volunteer. Suggestions offered for future activities included drama, country-dancing and a skiffle group.

For the next meeting, the House Captain and Vice-Captain, aided by requests from members of the house, selected a number of records varying from 'Rock around the Clock' to 'On with the Motley'. There was something to please everyone and also something to make many people groan. It is certain that everyone left the meeting with some sound ringing in her ears.

A great deal of enthusiasm was shown for hockey by seniors and juniors, but although the netball captain made gallant attempts to form a team, it was eliminated in the first round. We should like to offer our congratulations to our conquerors who beat us by a very narrow margin—somewhere in the region of thirty goals. We met the same house in the finals of the hockey tournament and although we were once more beaten, this time the match was strenuous and exciting.

Our third meeting was held jointly with the other houses and we should like to thank Miss Moul for this opportunity of seeing the film called "The Three Rivers".

The May meeting was severely affected by the weather. After days of sunshine the afternoon was miserably damp. The outdoor meeting during which we were to play rounders or practise athletics, had to be abandoned. At the last minute, a quiz was arranged during which the panel, with the help of Mr. Cox's hints, showed themselves to be more intelligent than the Question-Master. We ended the meeting with a sing-song accompanied at the piano by the Vice-Captain.

Our connection with Stratford, if only in name, is encouraging to the drama group which, under the leadership of Dorothy Mennear, will give its first performance at the June house meeting.

Now that the house system has been re-organised, may Avon go from strength to strength.

SHIRLEY BUTLER, Captain.

NESS HOUSE

House Mistress	:	Miss Crone.
House Captain	:	Joan Lister.
House Secretary	:	Valerie Stafford.

Five members of Staff and some eighty girls from different forms in the school have been formed into a group known as Ness House. This is one of six such groups. So far Ness has held four meetings, one each month.

Our first meeting was held in February and since, on that occasion, all the House meetings were held on the same day, we were confined to the Junior Laboratory. Despite the lack of space there was no lack of enthusiasm. The meeting was devoted to the election of officials and the gathering of suggestions for future meetings. For the most part, the officials have proved themselves competent and the suggestions interesting. Perhaps the most startling proposal was that a woodwork class should be formed. At this first meeting there was not much time in which to find out who was a member of Ness House.

However, this chance came later through the proposal that an entertainment should be provided for the next meeting. During the search for talent, the committee became acquainted with more people and finally managed to secure 'volunteers' for our performance. This took the form of two charades, one acted by Scholarship VII and U.VI, and the other by L.VI. The other items were supplied by Second Form members who proved their ability in verse-speaking and singing. We ended our meeting by listening to a record of the 'Ying Tong Song' 'sung' by the Goons. Although the gramophone proved rather awkward, we were at last able to hear the song.

In the interval between these meetings, Hockey and Netball teams were selected. Both Junior teams were unlucky in their first games, but the Seniors managed to gain a replay in the Hockey Tournament and reached the second round in the Netball.

Perhaps Ness's greatest achievement so far has been the Sports Day performance. Though the Senior and Middle Schools were not well represented, both the Junior Championship and the Junior Cup were won by Ness. We also won two out of the three relay races.

For our next meeting we joined with other houses to watch a delightful film about the North-East Coast called 'Three Rivers'.

Since we have enjoyed some fine weather during May, we decided to make the most of it. For our last meeting we divided into three groups. One went off to play or watch tennis, another to play rounders and the third remained indoors and listened to excerpts read from 'The Complete Marjorie Fleming', the diary of a child who was a young friend of Sir Walter Scott.

Though we have held only four meetings, I am sure that everyone has enlarged her circle of acquaintances and we have already begun to find talent and ability in many different spheres. We hope to go forward in this spirit of friendliness, gaining strength and many more honours to add to our laurels won on Sports Day.

JOAN LISTER, House Captain.

STRATH HOUSE

House Mistress	:	Mrs. Wilkinson.
House Captain	:	Beryl Wrangham.
House Secretary	:	Kathleen Tagg.

At the beginning of 1957, Bede School was divided into several houses and eighty-four girls and five members of staff became the founder members of Strath House.

Strath is still a young house. The past months have seen the first stage of its development into an enthusiastic, lively organisation. Beginnings are always strange, sometimes difficult, and growing pains are inevitable, but we hope that Strath has overcome the initial difficulties.

Our humble beginning in the Biology Laboratory several months ago has a place in every Strathonian's memory (I take the liberty to coin the name). The inaugural meeting saw the election of House Officers. Although the time was devoted entirely to business, there was a feeling of anticipation and excitement. The election of our Captain, Beryl Wrangham, and Vice-Captain, Betty Howat, was received with enthusiasm. At the end of this meeting we felt we had "arrived" for, with the help of our understanding House Mistress, Mrs. Wilkinson, we had chosen our officials and elected a House Committee.

During the succeeding month the Committee met, selected the programme for the next House Meeting, and thus established a precedent in house management. The girls themselves were encouraged to take a hand and in the following month, Junior, Middle School and Senior members busily rehearsed charades for a House Meeting. Perhaps we did not attain the precision of the Old Vic, but we all enjoyed the impromptu acting which included a lively demonstration of 'rock and roll'. We were delighted to welcome Miss Moul to the entertainment.

The third meeting was held jointly with the other Houses, but individual activity was continuing in other directions. With the approach of Sports Day, teams and contestants were needed. Hilary Wheale, the Athletics Captain, took on the strenuous task. We were not the winning team this year, but our results were not discouraging and next year we hope to do better.

It is indicative of progress that at the last House Meeting, the entire programme was run by the girls. The Committee had decided on a 'record session' to be run by the Captain and Secretary. The records were varied, ranging from the aria 'One Fine Day' ('Madam Butterfly') to the singing of Elvis Presley and Johnnie Ray.

In our plans for future meetings we welcome suggestions from any of the staff or girls. To help us, we have a list of each girl's hobbies and her suggestions for future House meetings; for the successful running of a House depends on co-operation.

Strath has made its beginning. Soon new officers will be elected for another year. The Committee wish them every success and hope that they find much enjoyment in working for Strath House.

KATHLEEN TAGG, Secretary.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Girls are reminded that National Savings Stamps are on sale in school every Tuesday morning.

During the six months ending on 31st March, savings in school amounted to almost £650. Although at first glance this may appear to be a large sum, it could and ought to be much larger, considering that our numbers in school total over five hundred.

When are YOU going to join your Form's Savings Group?

A.R.T.

ATHLETICS, 1956-57**Hockey**

The First Hockey XI has improved steadily since the beginning of the season but has succeeded in winning only four matches and drawing two of the eleven played so far.

The following people have played for the First XI during the season: Shirley Butler (Vice-Captain), Valerie Cuthbertson, Ursula Field, Rosemary Gilchrist, Veronica Harrison, Betty Howat, Hazel McCree, June Miller, Joan Robinson, Olive Smith, Winifred Smith, Muriel Watson, Margaret Webb, Iris Wood and Beryl Wrangham (Captain).

In the Inter-Schools County Tournament held at the Bede School on October 6th, 1956, our team won one match, drew one and lost one in their section.

Netball

During the 1956-57 season the team have played twelve matches, eight of which have been won, two drawn, and two lost. This has been an interesting season since the team has been changed several times owing to the lack of shooters, but finally they combined effectively.

The following girls have played for the First VII during the season: Beatrice Baker, Jean Carlton, Robina Foster (Captain), Norma Gray, Margaret Hodgson, Ann Phipps, Winifred Pickering and Marjorie Tweddle.

The standard of play is high and the players have learned to have confidence in each other. Dodging is good when opposition is strong, but usually the team rely on their speed and ability to jump. Throughout the season the matches have been enjoyed by all taking part.

Rounders

The 1956 rounders season was very successful. The team lost only two matches out of the ten which were played.

The team consisted of: Ruth Crompton, Robina Foster, Norma Grey, Margaret Hodgson, Denise Kenny, Olive Smith, Sally Swales (Captain), Marjorie Tweddle and Hilary Wheale.

Bede's victories were due, mainly, to the successful backing-up of the deeps. Fielding, on the whole, was good and accurate. Batting at times was excellent.

Tennis

The First Tennis VI had, on the whole, a successful season in the summer of 1956, losing only one of the six matches played. Unfortunately, many matches had to be cancelled owing to bad

weather. We reached the second round of the Northumberland and Durham Inter-Schools Tournament where we were beaten by Newcastle Church High School, ultimately the winners of the Tournament.

The Singles Championship was won by Elizabeth Parr, who also won the Mixed Doubles Championships with Peter Smith. The Student Teacher Group won the inter-form tournament.

Those who played for the School VI during the 1956 season included: Olga Gibson, Maureen Gordon (Captain), Elizabeth Laws, Sheila McBain, Elizabeth Parr, Winifred Pickering and Ann Smith. Colours were awarded to Sheila McBain and Elizabeth Parr.

Swimming

During the Swimming season the following girls have represented the school in the Inter-Schools Swimming Gala: M. Beresford, J. Birbeck, J. Carlton, M. Hunter, M. Smith, J. Taylor, J. Watson, M. Watson. I. Wood and A. Wrightson. M. Beresford was the winner of the Schools' Championships.

From the results of this Gala, J. Birbeck, M. Beresford and M. Watson gained places in the town team.

M. Beresford was then chosen to represent Northumberland and Durham schools in the Inter-County fixture in Yorkshire. Finally, she was chosen to swim in the English Schools' Swimming Association Championship. She had the honour of being elected captain of the Under-Fifteen county team.

J. Birbeck, M. Beresford and M. Watson were also selected to attend the holiday training course in speed swimming which took place early in January.

In the Corporation Gala our team combined with a team from Bede Boys' School to compete for the Festival Cup which they won for the second year in succession.

The following girls were awarded Life Saving Certificates this year:—

Intermediate and Bronze: P. Noble and J. Wilson.

Bar to Bronze and Bronze Cross: M. Beresford.

Award of Merit: Pat Thompson.

Bar to Bronze Cross and Bar to Award of Merit:
C. Parkinson.

Third-class certificates were awarded to twenty-eight girls, second-class certificates to sixteen girls and first-class certificates to four girls.

Special certificates were awarded to J. Carlton and M. Beresford, and two girls, J. Birbeck and A. Wrightson, gained E.S.S.A. A.S.A. medals.

Sports Day, 1956

Sports Day was held on Wednesday, 30th May, 1956. Alderman Miss E. E. Blacklock, ex-Mayor of Sunderland, kindly presented the prizes. The programme was altered from that of previous years in that there were more field events and a full-sized track was used behind the school. With the help of the groundsmen we now have a high jump pit, and this event was included in the programme together with discus and javelin.

The standard all round was high, because several enthusiasts persevered through the winter with regular practice; Hilary Wheale, in particular, did very well and was chosen to represent Durham County in the All-England Schools Athletics Meeting held at Plymouth in July, which was attended by the Duke of Edinburgh. We all hope this is only the beginning and that in the future, many representatives will go from the Bede School.

Sports Day results were as follows:—

Junior Champion:	Carol Cooper,	IIZ,	23 pts.
Runner-up:	Freda Curry,	IIZ,	21 pts.
Middle Champion:	Winifred Pickering,	IIIC,	24 pts.
Runner-up:	Gloria Thompson,	IVBM,	21 pts.
Senior Champion:	Hilary Wheale,	LVI,	32 pts.
Runner-up:	Marjorie Tweddle,	UVIA,	25 pts.

Form Championships:—

Junior:	IIZ,	46 pts.
Runner-up	IIIC,	31 pts.
Senior:	LVII,	41 pts.
Runner-up:	IVBM,	34 pts.

PRIZES, 1955-56

JANET TODD

for exemplary conduct and high attainments—
Marguerite Trueman.

MARGARET IRENE MALLEN

for the encouragement of Science, and for success in—

Physics	...	...	Doreen Anderson.
Biology	...	...	Dorothy Hawkins.
Mathematics	...	...	Patricia Pickering.
Geography	...	...	Patricia Pickersgill.

JENNIE SEYMOUR

for Latin—

Dorothy New.

MARGARET MILLER

for Divinity—

Dorothy Allen, Barbara Smith.

LILY HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL PRIZE

for most appreciative advanced work in—

English	...	...	Dorothy New.
French	...	...	Barbara Tunn.

MRS. SHARP

for Geography—
Dorothy Hawkins.

HEAD MISTRESS

for History—
Marilyn Miller, Kathleen Tagg.

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

for Art—
Marie Scott.
for "Bedan" Competition—
Marguerite Trueman, Sylvia Thatcher.

MISS STEWART

for the encouragement of Scripture Study in the
Fifth Form ... Norma Walsh.
Fourth Form ... Brenda Emmerson.
Third Form ... Jean Lockie.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

for the encouragement of Study in—
Scripture ... Dorothy Venus.
Catherine Watson.
German ... Ann Fambely.
Spanish ... Barbara Tunn.
Mathematics ... Linda Cook.
Hygiene ... Freda Hopper.
Domestic Science Brenda Simpson.
Constance Bailey.
Pauline Bernstein.

for proficiency in—

Hockey	...	...	Beryl Wrangham, Olive Smith.
Netball	...	...	Robina Foster
Rounders	...	...	Ruth Crompton.
Tennis	...	...	Maureen Gordon.
Swimming...	...	...	Margaret Beresford.
Athletics	...	...	Hilary Wheale
Best-All-Round	...	...	Marjorie Tweddle.

MRS. HARTLEY for Music—

Dorothy Allen, Ann Harland.

LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Dorothy Allen, Ruth Crompton, Ann Foster,
Joan Johnson, Marguerita Trueman.

GEORGE HILDREY SCHOLARSHIP

for Hygiene—
Freda Hopper.

The NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION
in appreciation of character and disposition—
Dorothy Keenlyside.

The AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
in appreciation of character and disposition—
Irene Smith.

Special Awards

DOMESTIC SCIENCE: ROBSON CUP	...	Brenda Simpson.
HOCKEY: JUNIOR CUP	... ..	Form III BA
BRUCE SENIOR SHIELD...	... ..	Form Sch. VII.
NETBALL: JUNIOR CUP	... ..	Form III C.
NICHOLSON SENIOR SHIELD	... ..	Form L VI, 1.
ROUNDERS: JUNIOR CUP	... ..	Form III BM.
BIGGS SENIOR CUP	... ..	Form IV C.
TENNIS: THOMPSON SINGLES SHIELD	... ..	Elizabeth Parr.
LODGE SENIOR TROPHY...	... ..	Form S.T. G.
SWIMMING: COUNCILLOR MRS. HEDLEY SENIOR CUP—		Constance Parkinson.
GAMES: BEST ALL-ROUNDER—JOSEPH CUP		Marjorie Twedde.
ATHLETICS: SENIOR CUP	... ..	Form L VI, 1.
SPORTS CHAMPIONS:		
Senior School	... ..	Hilary Wheale.
Middle School	... ..	Winifred Pickering.
Junior School	... ..	Carol Cooper.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

In July, 1956, the following girls were successful in the University of Durham examinations of the General Certificate of Education.

Advanced and Scholarship Level

Dorothy Allen, Doreen Anderson, Lillian Bamborough, Ruth Crompton, Ann Harland, Norma Harris, Sheila Harrison, Dorothy Hawkins, Pat Henderson, Freda Hopper, Joan Johnson, Denise Kenny, Dorothy New, Pat Pickersgill, Beryl Potts, Marie Scott, Barbara Smith, Sylvia Thatcher, Pat Thompson, Rita Trueman, Barbara Tunn, Dorothy Venus, Catherine Watson, Gladys White.

Ordinary Level

Kathleen Austin, Constance Bailey, Joan Baillie, Rona Batey, Pauline Bernstein, Georgina Biggs, Aureole Blakelock, Joyce Bolden, June Bulmer, Mavis Burnand, Joyce Burnett, Sheila Burnley, Delice Campbell, Maureen Cheal, Elizabeth Christie, Cynthia Clark,

Pat Clarke, Rose Clarke, Joan Clifford, Gillian Collins, Frances Cranmer, Maureen Darling, Judith Davidson, June Doberman, Ann Dobson, Margaret Dockray, Margaret Donnelly, Anne Elliott, Sylvia Ellwood, Marjorie Fairbridge, Maureen Farnan, Doreen Fenwick, Veronica Fleury, Robina Foster, Mary Freeman, Margaret Gadsden, Olga Gibson, Sheila Gibson, Valerie Gibson, Jean Godfrey, Norma Gray, Beverley Hall, Jean Hamilton, Elaine Hardy, Ann Harrison, Lilian Harvey, Kathleen Henley, Rita Henney, Margaret Hodgson, Betty Howat, Catherine Howat, Pat Hull, Glenda Hutchinson, Ann Irving, Margaret Irving, Joan Jenkins, Jocelyn Johnson, Jacqueline Judge, Elaine Laws, Marjorie Lax, Sheila Laybourn, Sylvia Lee, Martha Lockie, Sheila McBain, Hazel McCree, Mary McHarg, Doris McMullan, Kathleen Marshall Valerie Mason, Marilyn Miller, Ann Montgomery, Margaret Nesbitt, Margaret Ormston, Gwynne Page, Judith Parker, Vera Parkin, Connie Parkinson, Pat Pickering, Eileen Reeve, Charlotte Robinson, Margaret Robson, Joan Shield, Brenda Simpson, Irene Smith, Olive Smith, Valerie Smith, Valerie Spencer, Ann Steel, Sally Swales, Constance Tate, Dorothy Taylor, Patricia Taylor, Marjorie Twedde, Norma Walsh, Margaret Webb, Patricia Webster, Hilary Wheale, Rona Whitney, Maureen Wilkinson, Ann Wilson, Margaret Witten.

THE GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

The Editors of 'The Bedan' are very glad to have the opportunity of expressing, once again, the School's thanks to the Guild for their interest in present Bedans and for their kindness in giving two prizes for annual competitions. Such generosity is much appreciated.

This year the subjects were set by the Music Department and the senior prize has been won by Margaret Webb, in Form Scholarship VII, and the junior prize by her sister, Joan Webb, in Form IW. Their essays are printed below.

Music through the Ages

Music has always been important in the life of man; from the time when cave men first began to beat their primitive drums, to the present day when so many forms of entertainment claim our attention. We cannot state a time when music actually began because it has been with man for as long as we can tell, but it began in a simple form; and from the church plainsong it gradually developed into something more intricate and of wider scope. Each nation has formed its own characteristic style and has often devoted itself to a certain branch of the art.

The simple rising and falling of the melody of the old plainsong, if contrasted with much of the music we hear to-day, may appear dull. Plainsong, however, was a beginning. Choral music has

progressed since the time of the early ecclesiastics and in the hands of a master such as J. S. Bach, it reached a perfection never before approached. Although Bach lived in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the splendour of his "Mass in B Minor" has never been surpassed by any other composer.

The works of Elgar, particularly his "Dream of Gerontius", have a fascination of their own, but although they are held in great esteem, they cannot be said seriously to rival the works of the German composer. At the present time we have several composers whose works, though interesting, are not yet regarded by all as rivals to the works of the older schools of composers. It may be that men such as Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten (whose worth is already recognised by many), will have to wait for a later generation before their writings are universally accepted. Their music is regarded by some to-day with a certain amount of scepticism.

Opera has had a profound influence on the development of music. It has had an interesting career, although it may not appear to be so from repertoires of many present-day opera companies. We are surrounded by the popular works of Verdi, Puccini, Rossini and Bizet, and often people may be persuaded to believe that opera began and ended with these men. Although they were some of the most prominent composers of opera, their works represent only a certain stage in its career.

Opera originated in Italy and the name of that country was given to a certain set form of composition, the 'Italian Opera'. With a relaxation of the regulations determining the number of characters and of the arias which they had to sing, the 'Romantic Opera' emerged, aided by Verdi and, later, Puccini. We do not hear as much as we would like of modern operatic works, which show a further development. Walton's 'Troilus and Cressida' is not performed as often as it might be, and the recent unsuccessful presentation of Tippett's 'Midsummer Marriage' tends to show that, as so often in the past, the public is unable fully to appreciate the works of a contemporary composer.

Instrumental music is a large subject to discuss when considering music through the ages. With the development and increase in the number of instruments in the orchestra, composers have been given greater scope in their work. We see this clearly if we compare the orchestral accompaniment of Walton's 'Belshazzar's Feast' with that of any choral work written during the seventeenth century. The symphony has always been the form most frequently used in works written for the orchestra, and it reached its peak with Beethoven in such works as the 'Choral Symphony' and the Symphony No. 5 in C Minor.

One of the most obvious and important developments which can be traced in instrumental composition is that of Programme Music. We have a foreshadowing of it in Beethoven's 'Pastoral

Symphony' and it is brought to the fore in the works of later composers such as Liszt and Berlioz.

The descriptive elements in music of the Romantic period later found expression, with amusing effects, in the realistic sounds of Honegger's symphonic movement under the title of 'Pacific 231', a glorified representation of a steam engine.

Music has advanced along many differing paths as the centuries have passed. Fortunately we have a record of its development. To-day we can look back upon two thousand years of music. Perhaps we can look forward to the time when some critic, reviewing the history of music, may regard the twentieth century as an age of music-makers.

MARGARET WEBB, Form Scholarship VII.

Music of Foreign Lands

Often, when reading a book of fairy tales, I have secretly wished that one day I might be able to step on to a magic carpet and be whisked away round the world to visit various countries and to hear the music peculiar to that place.

First my magic carpet would take me to Spain where the popular music is mainly played on castanets and guitars, and sometimes someone sings.

Next, I would go to Arabia to hear music played on pipes. The dancers are mainly women, who perform in trousers and wear veils over their faces. Some music is played by men who sit cross-legged and charm a snake in front of them.

Next I would journey to Africa. Here, folk-music is played on percussion instruments and has a syncopated rhythm.

My carpet would carry me to China and Japan where the music is played on drums and gongs.

Then I would fly to Australia where folk-music is played on drums covered with animal skins. In South America and the West Indies I would hear calypso music played mainly on a banjo and drums. Sometimes, the drums play a tune of three or four notes repeatedly for a long time.

In North America the negroes sing plantation songs which are unaccompanied, as they are sung while the people are working.

At some time I would go to Russia where the native music is played on balalaikas and men and women dance to it. Their composers have also written music for opera and ballet.

Lastly, I would travel to Austria, the country of Mozart and Schubert, and listen to great orchestras. In Hungary I would hear wild gypsy airs.

So, my dream tour would come to an end, but I am happy because I know that, although I may never travel to these countries, I can hear the music of the world on the radio and the gramophone.

JOAN WEBB, Form IW.

HOLIDAYS ABROAD

Paris in Spring

During the Easter Holidays in 1956, and again in 1957, girls from school visited Paris. I went on both these trips.

I was fascinated from the first moment I saw the spacious, tree-lined Avenue des Champs-Élysées, with its rows of lights and big shops and the floodlight Arc de Triomphe at the top. This monument stands in the middle of the Place de l'Étoile which is so called because it is the meeting place for twelve avenues. The best view of this is from the Arc de Triomphe. To me, one of the most wonderful things to do in Paris is to wander up the Champs-Élysées at night and see the lights, the huge shops, and the people sitting in the cafés, watching the traffic streaming past.

The Eiffel Tower is, perhaps, the best known of Paris landmarks. The top is reached by means of three lifts (or by climbing the steps). From the top a wonderful view of Paris is obtained. Immediately below, the people look like ants, and it seems strange to look down upon birds flying.

The boat trips 'sous les ponts de Paris' were very interesting. All along the parapets on the river banks there are little green stalls, like boxes, where books and prints are sold.

We boarded a pleasure boat near the National Assembly and went along the river, passing the Isle of the City on which stands the magnificent cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris. The boat turned round the Isle of St. Louis and went along the other side of the Isle of the City. Again we saw Notre-Dame and Sainte Chapelle, with its beautiful stained-glass windows. Near to that is La Conciergerie where Richelieu and Marie Antoinette were imprisoned.

On the other bank is the Louvre, which contains such works of art as the Mona Lisa, by Leonardo da Vinci; the Venus de Milo; the Winged Victory of Samothrace; many pictures by Renoir, and some beautiful ballet pictures by Degas. Next to the Louvre are the Tuileries Gardens and, beyond the Petit Palais and the Grand Palais, there is the Palais de Chaillot with the Eiffel Tower on the opposite bank.

The Church of the Sacred Heart is not an old building, but it is impressive in its position on the hill at Montmartre. It is white, with a huge dome, and is a favourite subject for artists.

The biggest park in Paris is the Bois de Boulogne where there are trees, lakes, paths and cafés. The scenery is especially beautiful in the springtime. At one café the sandwiches were ten shillings each, but the prices at the others were lower or we would not have had any tea that day.

Shopping expeditions were fun. Prices generally were higher than those in England. Leather goods and wines were cheaper, but nylons, silk and all handkerchiefs were more expensive. Purchases were wrapped in neat parcels or put into boxes by the helpful assistants who nearly always know the prices in English.

The days passed far too quickly and we all enjoyed the wonderful time we had in Paris; there, indeed, magic is in the air.

OLIVE SMITH, Form Upper VI.

German Holiday, Easter 1956

On March 27th, 1956, a party of twenty-eight girls and two members of staff set out to spend a ski-ing holiday in the Black Forest. After travelling for three days, including two nights spent sleeping on the s.s. "Amsterdam", we arrived at Freiburg in Breisgau. The last stage of our journey was in a ski-lift which took us from Freiburg 1,286 metres up in the mountains to the Berghstel.

Until the middle of the week there was no snow, but we took the opportunity to see the German countryside and explore the beautiful city of Freiburg, famous for its Gothic cathedral.

When snow was forecast, we hopefully went to be fitted with boots and skis, and so eager were we to learn the art of ski-ing that we set out in a blizzard for our first lesson. At first, we were all rather unsteady but those who had some previous experience soon regained their former skill, and were eager to show their proficiency to the beginners who were floundering in the snow, entangled in skis and sticks.

In the hotel we could watch both German and French Television programmes and we learned to dance in the continental style.

With reluctant hearts we said goodbye to the many friends we had made during our stay. These people had shown us a hospitality that we shall not quickly forget and many of us still keep in touch with them.

BERYL WRANGHAM and
VALERIE SPENCER.

STRIKE

Black sluggish river laps on lonely quays.
 Chimneys, stark against a heavy sky,
 Wait, smokeless.
 Grim canopy of desolation hangs above the bare heart of the town.
 The damp mist, languid, chokes each funnel, mast and spar,
 Swirls past gaunt warehouses,
 Steals up a hundred cobbled streets,
 Passes a hundred rows of dwellings.
 Open doorways from their shadows thrust
 Men and rubbish upon the pavement,
 Grey groups of lost humanity.
 Hungry eyes gaze into despairing eyes :
 The fire is spent.
 Beyond the soot-tipped chimneys
 Beckoning girders lift their frames ;
 Seagulls mock and call round skeleton scaffolding
 Only half a mile away ;
 But gates are barred by that submissive streak in man
 Which causes him to follow, though unwilling,
 The whim of each diminutive dictator.
 So stare at wealth! Grip the railings
 Till white knuckles gleam beneath taut skin :
 And all is hopelessness.

PAT BERGSON, Form Scholarship VII.

ILLUSION

Faint music rushes in my ear
 And echoes from dark voids of mystic depth.
 I wander on, enchanted, catching breath,
 By castles perched on pinnacles,
 And stars that beckon me to their light.
 Then Earth's five fingers
 Grasp me to her bosom deep :
 Stifling and hot, amid
 The falling ruins of my dream,
 I cry aloud in anguish and in fear ;
 None hears.

MARJORIE YOUNG, Form Scholarship VII.

SACRÉ-COEUR DE PARIS

La nuit, d'un coup de rêves dans l'air frais s'élançe
 Le dernier, long soupir d'un jour humide et chaud.
 D'un éclat de lumière, d'un ricanement des eaux,
 Paris, en réveillant, son bal du soir commence.

Le fiacre, son vol par les rues enchantées
 Y prend hurluberlu. Et s'enivrent les gens
 D'un désir ardent à pirouetter follement
 A l'appel séduisant d'une viole enrôlée.

A l'écart de la foule, qui se bouscule en bas,
 Se tient à distance et déplore le fracas,
 Comme un ange gardien, d'un frisson de ses ailes,

Soupirant vers le ciel, serein et isolé,
 Le saint Sacré-Coeur, en sa blanche pureté,
 S'efforce de calmer son petit enfant rebelle.

VALERIE CUTHBERTSON, Form Scholarship VII.

 HUBRIS

The shadow of a destiny
 Is spreading, creeping
 Imperceptibly, but sure.
 And Admiration makes forgotten,
 And Apathy allows to be endured
 The burden of its weight.
 But when contagious fever disappears,
 Intoxication and delirium,
 Clarity is stark and cruel;
 The good men stood by,
 While a bad man ruined
 Himself and others,
 And stayed the quest
 Of Civilisation for its meaning
 And its final goal,
 For Sin must spread its blanket out
 Over a spacious field.

GILLIAN COLLINS, Form Upper VI.

DIVERTISSEMENT (Ibert)

A lively tune played by a small
Orchestra, with every humorous
Device a composer can dream of.
A funeral march with blaring,
Discordant trumpets, and a
Raucous echo of the Mendelssohn
Wedding March, a procession which
Cannot be called sad-eyed.
Next a piece of night music, followed
By a swirling Valse with notes
From flute, clarinet and bassoon, not,
However, forgetting the piano which
Next begins a march, a parody
Perhaps on the army, officially
Entitled a Parade, but obviously
A parade of ladies in their
Summer best, accompanied by
Their cavaliers. Clashing discords from
The keyboard introduce the joyful
Finale. A discordant brass section
Adds a smile, and as the tune
Changes, sudden blasts on
A police whistle break through
The happy galop, causing great
Gusts of laughter, a prestissimo
Return of the first theme and
A sudden finish. Applause and
Encore! Encore! Once more the
Crashes from the piano and
More laughter for the brilliant
Whistle-blower. A storm of
Delighted applause for the
Beaming conductor and his small
Band of musicians. A hilariously
Happy piece, thoroughly enjoyed.

ARRIVAL IN TRINIDAD

I shall never forget the first time I saw the island. It was a hot September morning and before us Trinidad lay shimmering in the sunshine.

The ship seemed to be welcomed into the bay, for two long arms of land reached out to enfold us. Between the ship and the shore the sea lay like a blue sheet, unbroken except where a lone pelican perched on a buoy.

I had been told that this island was the most virile and cosmopolitan of all the West Indian islands. But there she lay on that September morning (a Sunday, I remember) looking very peaceful in a heat haze.

Tall stately trees were dotted in places over the skyline. Palm trees caught my eyes quickly for they were the first 'live' ones I had seen. But I was to discover so many new and unusual things that soon a palm tree seemed rather common-place. I remember that on landing I saw a huge yellow butterfly which was almost the size of a starling.

But the heat! That was what I noticed most of all. All the time I had been looking at the view, that huge sun had been rising higher and higher. Because I felt so hot on the ship, it seemed hard to believe that when I reached the land, I would feel as if I were in an oven. I looked at the sky and noticed that, already, cumulus clouds were forming and were the forecast of rain. Then I experienced my first tropical downpour. The shower lasted for only ten minutes but during that time about half an inch of rain fell. It came down in a sheet. The drops pattering on the steel-plating of the ship sounded like huge drums or peals of thunder. But suddenly the sun came out, almost as if someone had switched on a light. Then the steam formed. I think that this humidity is the most trying feature of this climate.

When the storm had passed, the launches came out to our ship. Slowly, oh! how slowly, those negroes worked. They took 'Their Cool Trinidad Time' to load the luggage, but it was very amusing to watch the men. Many of them had wonderful voices, and they sang melancholy calypsos while doing their work.

This was my introduction to Trinidad, my home for the next year.

JUDITH-ANN HARRISON, Form Lower VI.

AN UNUSUAL ENTERTAINMENT

There was silence in the room except for the noise that came from a strange, box-like contraption standing against the wall. A group of people were clustered round the machine, watching intently the graceful, swirling movements on the screen. A galaxy of colours was spread before them, moving in perfect unison, and among them were the shining white and delicate pink of the main characters. These two shone like twin jewels above all the others. They performed a pirouette, an arabesque, twirling, dancing, floating, carrying their audience into a world of moving colour. Then slowly, very slowly, they came to an end. The accompaniment stopped, the show was finished and the watchers heaved a sigh of joy. 'Thank heavens', said one, 'I'll just be in time to catch my bus.' And quickly she lifted the lid and took the damp clothes out of the washing-machine.

ANN VOSPER, Form Lower VI.

MY CONTRIBUTION

In the school prayer book there is a prayer which runs something like this, 'Once more I start upon my daily task, guide and sustain me, Lord, I humbly ask'. If the word 'yearly' is substituted for 'daily', this becomes my plea for inspiration to write something striking for 'The Bedan'. However, it seems to me that everything which might have been written has been written.

Today is Friday. There is still the weekend before me in which my blank mind may begin to function. If I were a First Former I could have tackled the popular subject of Spring. However, I am not a First Former. In the four previous years during which I have been in the school, I have written poems on Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, in turn. Perhaps I might write something on the seasons in general? I think not. The school is tired of that subject. As I cannot think of anything at the moment, I shall leave the problem until Sunday.

Today is Sunday. I can still think of nothing to write. However, I must. It has to be handed in tomorrow. I have dismissed poetry from my thoughts. It is for the younger generation. I try to approach each subject in an adult manner but it is useless. The only thing to do is to rise early tomorrow morning. I shall feel fresher and more ready for work.

It is seven o'clock on Monday morning. I have dragged myself out of bed and feel as fresh as a withered flower. For what seems to be the first time I glance at my paper. Goodness! I have written almost three sides. My contribution to 'The Bedan' is finished for another year.

ELIZABETH USHER, Form Lower VI.

STILL-BORN

A woman weeps, a child is born,
 Brought as the dawn
 Breaks wide on naked-shouldered mountains
 In golden fountains.

No breath of life nor stirring limb
 Belongs to him,
 While comes the day to wake the sleeping world
 With clouds grey-pearled.

A drooping form with stifled cry
 Kneels lowly by
 The cot where he, remote from human-uttered
 sighs,
 Immobile lies.

GILLIAN DITCHBURN, Form IV C.

AN ENGLISH SUMMER SKY

The sun glints on the dew-kissed grass;
 A stream goes rippling by,
 And scents of flowers drift into
 An English summer sky.

The wind sings gently through the trees,
 Upon the hill-top high:
 Below, the corn leaps up to greet
 An English summer sky.

The cows contented gaze around
 (As in their fields they lie,)
 At white-washed houses sleeping 'neath
 An English summer sky.

The evening shadows gently fall,
 And winds begin to sigh,
 Then, one by one, stars creep into
 An English summer sky.

DOREEN MCKINLEY, Form IV Ba.

WOODLAND SCENE

A wood in autumn is a lovely sight.

The oak tree stands,
 King of the forest,
 Symbol of the very heart of England.
 The copper beech sheds its leaves
 Upon all the earth,
 Spreading a bronze carpet.
 Where the willow weeps low into the water,
 Poplars and aspens quiver in the wind;
 And the many-fingered ash
 Rustles its wingèd keys, and sends them
 Floating, wind-borne, to the fading earth below.

A wood in autumn is a lovely sight.

PATRICIA STURT, Form III C.

OUR FRIEND

Furry bundle on the rug,
 Sleeping soundly, warm and snug.

Bushy tail, eyes of green
 Glisten bright, when birds are seen.

Arching back, steely glare;
 Sounds of barking rend the air.

Busy paws, washing clean,
 Yet no difference can be seen.

Inky black, fur like silk,
 Pussy laps his saucered milk.

Sooty pet, loves a nap
 In a warm and friendly lap.

SHEILA THOMAS, Form II Y.

SCHOOL-DAYS

Beneath a little cap of blue,
Everything is spruce and new;
Does not disobey a rule,
Always punctual at school,
Newest little First Year.

Been at school a year or so,
Exercise has made her grow;
Daring angle for her hat,
All the seniors say to that,
Naughty little junior.

But the years roll quickly by,
Even she is not so shy;
Dress she wears of navy blue,
Always with white collar too,
Neatest grown-up senior.

DOROTHY SMART, Form II X.

SUNLIGHT

The jewels on the grass at dawn
 Are lit up by the sun;
 They wink and sparkle for an hour,
 And then the dew has gone.

The noonday sun shines hard and bright;
 The unshadowed grass is still.
 The stately trees are bathed in light:
 No breeze comes o'er the hill.

The shadows lengthen. Evening comes;
 The sun begins to sink.
 Another day has almost gone;
 The western sky glows pink.

ALISON SMITH, Form I W.

THE BEDAN

SWIMMING

Swimming I like best,
 I'd like to swim from east to west,
 I would,
 If I could.
 Would you?

PAT WILKINSON, Form I Z.

EN VACANCES ?

"Mesdames et Messieurs
 Ne manquez cela
 Vite à gauche, vite à droite"
 Vos yeux deviennent las.
 Escaliers sans fin;
 Boulevards infinis;
 "Magnifique," chante le guide.
 "Mes pauvres pieds," votre cri.
 Pour ressusciter l'esprit
 Une bonne tasse de thé—
 "Qu' est-ce que c' est que vous dites ?
 Seulement du café !
 Touriste en France
 A besoin de vacances.

VALERIE CUTHBERTSON, Form Scholarship VII.

