

# The Guild of Old Bedans.



## ANNUAL REPORT.

1943—1944.

Sunderland :

ROBERT THOMAS, PRINTERS, ETC., 36 NORFOLK STREET, SUNDERLAND.

## The Guild of Old Bedans.

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President	Miss W. J. E. MOUL
Vice-President	Miss M. E. BOON

### Office-Bearers and Committee for 1944-45:

Chairman	ETHEL THOMPSON
Vice-Chairman	G. M. LITTLEHAILES (Mrs. Beany).
Joint Secretary & Treasurer	H. M. CRAGGS (Bede Collegiate Girls' School).
Assistant Secretary	BESSIE TAYLOR (29, Rowlandson Terrace).

### Committee:

Mary Baker, Florence Jackson, Nora Johnson, Cathrine McCree, Margaret Mitchell, E. R. Shearer, Winifred Scott (Mrs. Thomas), Mariel Woodruff.

### Information for Members and School Notes.

Annual Subscription, 2/6.

Life Subscription, £2/2/0, if paid within two years of membership, otherwise, £2/12/6.

Associate Subscription 1/- for Members of Form Up. VI. and Student Teachers.

Annual Subscriptions count towards Life Membership. Anyone who has paid one half-crown subscription becomes a Life Member by a further payment of £1/12/6 before the end of her second year's membership. After that time, the total of the payments made must be £2/12/6, e.g., a member who has paid ten annual subscriptions becomes a life member by a further payment of £1/7/6. If membership is allowed to lapse, however, payments must be begun anew.

We number 420 — 19 Life, 369 Annual, and 2 Associate Members. Some former members have not rejoined yet, but we feel sure that not all of these intend to let their membership lapse.

We thank members who, in a difficult financial year, passed round notices of meetings, and Bede pupils who delivered Bedans. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Beany for her hard work behind the scenes in connection with subscriptions at meetings, and to Mr. Hyth for the time and trouble he has spent on our affairs. He has audited our accounts for many years, and has again seen that all is ship-shape.

For easier identification we use maiden names. The married name is given in brackets or omitted to save space. Please excuse us!

The Badminton and Dramatic Clubs and Metal and Make-do Evenings suggested as possible activities failed to materialise. Will some enterprising Old Bedans take action now? There is also a netball awaiting teams.

The Guild of Old Bedans Hockey Club is, as the name implies, open to all members, and only to members, of the Guild.

In the season 1943-44, we gained second place in the Durham County Tournament, being beaten 1-0 in the final by the Caledonians. Two members of our team, Dorothy Grimson and Doreen Kirwell, were selected as reserves for Durham County. This season we gained six points out of eight at the County Tournament.

Members of the Guild who wish to join the Hockey Club, and girls who will be leaving School shortly, should get into touch with

GLADYS M. SHEWAN (Secretary), 80j, Bright Street, Roker.

**Old Bedans Loan and Scholarship Fund.** Fourer loans were needed. A small Scholarship was awarded to Hilda Hope for good influence and general helpfulness.

Congratulations to these winners of Guild of Old Bedan Prizes:—

House Picture, 1943-44—South House.

School Prize, 1943-44—for Art: Kathleen Bell and Doreen Walker.

*Bedans* Competition Prizes, 1943—for Verse Translation: Sylvia Simpson, Phyllis Whitfield and Mariel Mackay.

*Bedans* Competition Prizes, 1944—for an Illustration: Doreen Walker and Beatrix Hetherington.

We welcome to the School Staff, Mrs. Proud and Miss Dean.

Mary Brydon is School Captain this year and Heather Gardner Vice-Captain.

Many members have asked, "Where is the Hall Clock?" The Hall has been open recently to all and sundry, so the clock was removed for safety to the Head Mistress's room. It is hoped that it will soon be possible to return it to its real home.

Under the direction of Miss N. Abbott, helped by Misses Seddon and Showell, the School Choir will produce *Trial by Jury* at the end of term.

Now, may we ask for help?

1.—Please let the Secretary know if you are coming to meetings.

2.—Please pay your Annual Subscriptions punctually: 14s are still unpaid, and reminders are costly in stationery, postage and trouble.

3.—Will married members, when writing, please give their maiden names as well? It would be helpful to the new Secretary.

4.—Please recruit a new or bring back a "lapsed" member this year.

5.—In future, even if space allows, we can mention marriages and births only if announcements are sent to us. To call extracts from newspapers if one happens to see them and recognise a Bedan's name is inaccurate at best and nerve-wrecking; we have no infallible Miss Ewart now to help us! And do send other items of news too to any of the Committee, and in particular to the News Sub-Committee:—

May Gibson, 12, Argyle Street.

Mrs. Hacker (Elsie Wilson), 102, Ewesley Road.

Norm Johnson, 6, Dunbar Street.

Barbara Ross, 39, Nookside, Grindon.

Mrs. Thomas (Winifred Scott), 18, Bede Street, Roker.

Dorothy Wilson, 32, Rockville, Fulwell.

E. S. Shearer, 40, Ashwood Terrace.

Annual Subscriptions—due since September 1st—will be gladly received now by the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer:

H. M. CRAGGS, Bede Collegiate Girls' School.

## Letter from Miss Shearer,

My dear Bedans-of-the-Past,

This is not an Editorial, but a personal letter.

I was much moved by the kindness you showed me on September 27th, when I ceased to be Secretary and became an ordinary member of the Guild.

I was able then to thank many of you — somewhat inadequately — for the beautiful bag and flowers and the more than generous cheque you gave me; but there are many who have had no word of thanks from me. Indeed, I think not a few of you to whom I have written since on other matters must have wondered that I made no mention of your share in my gifts. The reason is that my Book of Names of Contributors is not yet complete. Will you all, therefore, who have contributed to my present in any way, tangible or not, please forgive my seeming lack of good manners and accept my very sincere "Thank-you" now?

May I say at the same time how much I value the many kind messages you have sent or written to me? These have been so numerous that I have not managed to acknowledge them all; but I do appreciate your thought of me.

I feel sorry to hold no longer the office of Secretary. I have had much joy from the great opportunities it gives, not only of coming into contact with you individually, but also of meeting in our Guild with that indefinable something that makes a community and lies at the heart of all worth-while corporate life. I had occasion recently to look up the Bedans of 1929 and 1939, and I read with considerable emotion what the young Bedans of those days wrote of their parting from the Old and greeting to the New School. In their obvious sincerity I recognised the spirit that has made and keeps alive the Guild. That that spirit, whether born in the "Tin Tab", Room 37, under "our crocodile," or in the beautiful new Hall or Library, may continue to live within all of us who are connected with Bede School and that we may still be "in all changes of fortune . . . loyal . . . one to another" is the heart-felt wish of

Your one-time Secretary and all-time friend,

ELSPETH R. SHEARER.

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Notes on Meetings, 1943-1944.

**Winter Re-Union, Thursday, December 2nd, 1944.**—100 present—President, Miss Moul, greeted Bedans, but no formal reception—Talk, games and dancing—Wynneeth Rough (McHenry) and Mary Mackintosh (Alderson) very kind about playing for dances—Members brought "food for one"; Gladys Littlehales made and served coffee—Prizes given during evening a gift from Miss Boon—Two Bedans found to be sharing the one "lucky seat" at right moment. Fortunately, two prizes available!

**Summer Meeting, Thursday, June 29th, 1944.**—Also informal — 67 present—Pre-war tea-party impossible, so sociable jolly evening instead—Brought "biscuits for one"; drank coffee or orangeade hot or cold, as cheer—Two pleasant surprises: presence of Miss Hutchinson and arrival of some "old Old Bedans" we had thought lost—Amusing games—Rushed hither and thither in search of post-boxes; wished on return we had chosen cold instead of hot orangeade—Last game very funny: directed to gossip by mysterious paper, found we represented words of title of book or play—Each group called in turn to mime title, others forming audience and guessing it—Many promising actresses—"The Doctor's Dilemma" particularly amusing—Wondering ever since why Guild Drama Club has not revived!

**Summary of Annual Business Meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 27th, 1944.—**

Short kindly speech of welcome by President, Miss Mead.

Adoption of Minutes of last Business Meeting, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports.

For gist of Secretary's Report, see *Information*, for Balance Sheet, p. 11. Balance (£28/15/104) misleading; only possible because of Life Subscriptions (£27/12/8).

Office-bearers and Committee for 1944-45 announced, and Margaret Mitchell elected to Committee instead of Dorothy Teasdale (resigned).

E. R. Shearer vacated Secretary's Chair; place taken by successor, Rita Cragg.

Meeting thanked departing and welcomed new Secretary and Treasurer.

Reports on Loan and Scholarship Fund and Hockey Club—see *Information*.

Allocations made:—£1/1/0 to School for Annual Prize; £1/1/8 to provide prizes for Competition in Bedas; £2/2/0 to Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund; £3/2/0 to Children's Hospital. £75 to be invested in Defence Bonds.

Arrangements for Winter Programme left to Committee.

**Presentation to Miss Shearer.**—At the Annual Meeting of the Guild of Old Bedans, a presentation was made to Miss Shearer, who has now resigned from the Secretaryship of the Guild, though she still serves on its Committee. We hope our gifts, a crocheted bag and cheque, will give great satisfaction, though they can express only a very small part of our gratitude for and appreciation of the ungrudging hard work and unflinching interest which Miss Shearer has given to the Guild since its inauguration.

Coffee and refreshments of temptingly home-made appearance and flavour were kindly supplied by Miss Mead and provided a delighted conclusion to this pleasurable evening.

F. M. J.

**Since November, 1943.**

These have become *Life Members*: Hilda Arkhison, Isabel Alexander, Mary Artless, Mary Baker, Nellie Blacklock (Hoddy), Betty Fairgrove (Scott), Eleanor Garraway, Nancy Halgroud (French), Louie Halliday, Irene Halliday (Downs), Vera Harnack, Nancy Harrison, Alice Munro, Margaret Robertson, Mary Robertson, Bessie Taylor, Kathleen Thompson, Mary Waggott, Elsie White, Winnie White (Cooper), Agnes Trevett (Wood).

Among those *sworred* are: Dorothy Adamson, Nancy Adamson, Olive Arthing, Isabel Arkhison, Eva Bell (the second), Joyce Bloom, Vera Brady, Midge Brown, Eanice Bruce, Winifred Coates, Lillie Crouch, Elsie Earnshaw, Marian Earnshaw, Lily English, Eva Fishwick, Margaret Gummessall, Amor Hudson, Dorothy Johnson, Iva Kay, Norah Keighley, Irene Lisle, Gladys Littlehalke, Eva Macraoby, Nancy McKeaney, Olywn Naden, Betty Nid, Freda Oler, Thelma Ranson, Joan Richardson (the first), Brenda Scott, Winifred Struthers, Marjorie Taylor, Olive Taylor, Helen Thompson, Norma Treshitt, Nora Turner, Joan Veitch, Mavis Veitch, Ellen Verity, Joan Vincent, Norah Walker, Vera Waeds, Margaret West, Grace Wetheroff, Elsie Wilson (the first), Audrey Winter, Wynnoth Wood.

Among new *Bedas Babies* are those of: Doreen Aird, Peggy Allan, Irene Andrews, Eva Bell (the second), Mary Bleworn, Beatrice Bright, Elizabeth Carr, Phyllis Carr (the second), Gwen Carter, Margaret Chapman, Elizabeth Clark, Margaret Cook, Dorothy Coakley, Daisy Cox, Kathleen Crosbie, Marguerite Davison, Edith Downes, Doris Earl, Joyce Elliott, Mabel Davidson, Lily Forster, Margaret Garbutt, Winifred Gibson, Grace

Gilchrist, Betty Gillis, Marie Gretton, Irene Halliday, Winnie Halliday, Jeanne Haldforth, Eleanor Hoole, Joan Jobbing, Elizabeth Kennisville, Elsie Kirk, Phoebe King, Eileen Kirkcaldy, Elsie Knowles, Edith Koerber, Mary Patterson, Bessie Macrobey, Mary Mackintosh, Annie Major, Laura Manning, Ruth Marley, Audrey Metcalf, Hilda Milburn, Mildred Mitcovich, Dorothy Morton, Lucy Noble, Lilian Richardson, Marguerite Roberts, Margaret Robinson, Nancy Robinson, Wynne Rought, Dorothy Sanderson, Winifred Scott, Mary South, Doris Septon, Dorothy Smith, Rita Thompson, Edith Westmouth, Grace Wetherell, Elsie Wilson (the second), Joyce Wilson, Miriam Winberg, Janie Witten, Betsy Powley, Mary Davidson, Janet White, Mollie Youll.

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#### In Memoriam.

MARJORIE FORSTER (Mrs. Charlton),      JOAN WILSON,  
 AMY LOCKEY,                                      MARJORIE NICHOLSON,  
 LILY SKELT.

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#### A Tale of Old Bedans.

"Go ye—get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be diminished!" Surely to us as to the Israelites of old have these words been said by stern task-masters. You Old Bedans clamour yearly for more bricks in the form of more and longer *Notes on Old Bedans*: but do you provide us with the straw? No!

The welcome given to the re-awakened Guild was gratifying. "It was good news indeed to hear of the re-birth of the Guild of Old Bedans and I hope that it will have a long and peaceful life," writes Edith Broderrick. Mary Waggott says: "I think the *Notes* are particularly interesting and find myself reading paragraphs over and over again." Another member writes from a Sanatorium, "As I read, many happy memories came back to me and I am sure that not a few Sandeford girls, although not Old Bedans themselves, found equal pleasure in reading of people of their acquaintance." Amy Huxsey took the *Bedans* to bed to read "and was particularly pleased with the long Old Bedans' section. It was a real pleasure to read all the old names again." Vera Hub too enjoyed "reading of the doings of other Old Bedans. Some of them seem to have most exciting lives and made me feel that my daily round of teaching, house-keeping and nursing is very prosaic", while Kathleen Watson is equally appreciative, "although regretful for the news which has had to be missed out. Still, there is quite a lot of interest to me and perhaps one day if we have our London Old Bedans again, I shall get my questions answered."

To pass round everybody's letters to everybody would be a much more interesting form of news-giving than scrappily edited *Notes* can ever be. However, . . . from our allotments we have gleaned a few straws ourselves, so—let us to our brick-making!

Shall we begin with the Committee? We have been making history. In August, our Vice-Chairman became Mrs. Bearey, and if two "retired" members wandered into the Church to have a look at her to whom they had once taught Singing and French, who shall blame them? Dorothy Teasdale has just resigned her place on the Committee as she is shortly to be married and to leave Sandeford; the Assistant Secretary is convalescing from a big operation; the Secretary has retired from her School and Guild posts; Cathrine McCree has become a Head-mistress; Winifred Scott has had a little daughter, Sheila Margaret, this year. So also have a former Vice-Chairman and two former Chairmen; these are Winifred

Gibson's Margaret, Mollie Hinkley's Gay, and Mary Mackintosh's Elaine who arrived like a true Old Bedan on the day of the Annual Meeting. Elsie Wilson, a secretary of the Guild's Social Service Club during its whole life, was married in May, and Betsy Powley, another of the Club's secretaries, has just got a daughter, Elizabeth.

That the Guild is growing in years is obvious. Not only to the Mistresses at School (all mistresses are "very old"!) do the generations seem to succeed each other very quickly. The Assistant Secretary gets periodic shocks to find herself adding to her Guild address-book new members whose names not so long ago appeared on her Infants' Class register! At Barnes School and no doubt elsewhere children are being taught by Bedan Form-mates of their mothers: Nancy Halgood's Michael (a keen historian!) and Valerie, for instance, who have now returned to Sunderland from the country, and Pat and Peggy, evacuated from Ewell with their mother, Gladys Wilson (Stephenson).

Bonnie of all sorts have brought other Old Bedans back to their home town for shorter or longer periods: Kathleen White (Palmer) who came away from London with her children; Betty Gillis (Yaffa) with Judith, aged then sixteen months, boarded out of two towns and living now in Weston-super-Mare; Ann Wilson (Atkins) with Eleanor Frances. Others have been here on holiday: Alice Munro, and Doreen Ward (Macrae) with Jean whom we were sorry to miss by one day; We were luckier with Evelyn Johnson (Ellis) who arrived in Sunderland just on the eve of our departure last Christmas.

Betty Falegrieve (Scott) writes from Cardiff: "It does give one a lot of pleasure to read about old school-friends . . . The Old Bedans' nursery seems to be fairly full, and so John, a year old in August, will be just one more to add. Perhaps one day there will be a Reunion of "Bedans and Babies" with a competition of guessing "Who's what" Besides those already mentioned we know since last Bedan many more future "baby" guests; another John, Elva Garbath's, about two years old now, who lives in Hale and helps to "dust"; Hilda Udale's Madeline, so full of vitamins that she has broken two plates since we met her first; Bessie Macrae's Joseph we often see, and Rose Taylor's Geoffrey, while we know at least three small sons who now belong to the youngest of the Torntal School "toughs." One day we met Tony, Susan and Margaret, whose mothers we knew as Maie Curry, Hilda Milburn and Winnie Gilsen, being very sociable in Kewley Road. Tony shook hands with us manfully from his pram, while in their Susan beamed on him admiringly and Margaret was occupied with a secret joke. Elizabeth Joan Bell's "Andrew is greatly struck with Sheila" (Winnie Scott's), "and the strangest exchange of toys goes on between prams while their mothers are in some shop or other." Kathleen Stuchart's Marjorie told us she would like to come to our Summer Meeting and Agnes Mackintosh's Joan is all agog for news of her Mother's schooldays and avowed that anybody could be so old. "Did you teach Murray?" Winnie Hughes, writing from Hawick, tells of her "Dean, aged seven, and David, aged three, who both speak with a broad Scottish accent which it sometimes takes me all my time to understand." There are Jessie Smith's little boy, Isabella Dodd's Alison and Christine, Edna Sayers' Ian Malcolm and Kathleen Walton's David Gordon and Peter John. Mary Walton "is still in Elyl and very proud of Antony who arrived last year. Judith is six and a big girl." Doris McCrae who has removed to Leeds, says: "David, now four, has just started at the Kindergarten; he is learning his letters and little poems and songs. I get put through my paces every evening; it seems as if I am to start school all over again." The youngest we have met are Ema Bell's little baby aged then one fortnight, and John Leslie who called on us with his mother, Marguerite Roberts, at the age of three weeks.

A public appeal for clothing for French children in military zones brought a response from five present Bedans and several mothers among Old Bedans. Through this we made the acquaintance of Betty Coates' Valerie and of Ruth Marley's young step-sons and so heard of Ruth's very new Robert Paul as well as of her sisters Gwen, who sent many of the baby clothes the boys brought, and Kathleen; while a parcel came from Lincolnshire from Michael, Sallie and Ian whose mother is Annie Shield (Hill). She tells us her sister Lilian and her husband, still farming at West Hartlepool, have a little girl of five, that "Eleanor Russell is married to the brother of our doctor," while Iaa has an important secretarial post.

The subject of France reminds us how correspondences we arranged with French girls many years ago come to light in interesting ways. One young sister who came to "Bede" two years ago announced that she was "called after her French auntie"; we are suddenly presented with a learned book—the work of "the French correspondent you gave me at school." In 1939 Betty Behrens (Naffahn) wrote very interestingly in the middle of her honeymoon in France—her first visit, and Kathleen Bellamy (Ditchburn) in a recent letter told of having gone with her husband to France shortly before the war, to the wedding of her School French correspondent. As for French lesson memories "especially the poetry," they are numerous.

So does one's past arise and link up with the present. "It seems like yesterday" is the refrain of many letters, preceded in one by "It does not seem like six years since I was in your Form." In another by: "It is thirty-one years since I left 'Bede.'" Emma Taylor (Naboney) and her daughter Moira both joined the Guild when Moira left school; Joan Alexander has joined her mother (née Nancy Whitehouse) as a fellow-member; Amy Robinson (Thompson) joined last year and her mother Amy Scott (Robinson) this; and we hope that Ethel Brown (Carty) will come back to us and bring Pat with her as a new Old Bedan. Miss Arkle celebrated her last birthday by becoming godmother for the second time to an Old Bedan's baby—this time to a boy whose mother she taught. Her other godchild is in her first year at Studley Agricultural College. She is Elizabeth, daughter of Muriel Bruce (Anderson), Bedan and former Bede mistress, who now lives in Birmingham.

Miss Boss too has changed her home and has now a flat in Hale; she likes it. She has seen Miss Weddell and says, "It was very nice to renew acquaintance with her." Miss Hutchinson has been at two of the Guild Meetings and had a great welcome. On one visit to Sunderland she met Lucy Webb, here on holiday, and had a passing word in a tramcar with Janet Summerbell, whilst the last Bedans to find her out at home—through with some difficulty—were Midge Gray and Ellen Whiting. Miss Wilson has not been very well and has not ventured so far as Sunderland. Miss Audrey Lodge is still teaching in Middleborough; her school was evacuated twice. Miss A. E. Williams (Morton), now in India, has a baby girl. Miss Haggart and Miss Shearer arranged a meeting in Edinburgh at Easter and talked from twelve o'clock till six: you can perhaps imagine it? Miss Haggart did not have long to "enjoy domesticity," as she was begged to take charge of the German at Kirkcaldy High School, so there she is—hard-working as ever! As for Miss Shearer, she promises that if you send her Old Bedan news, she will keep it safe in a pocket of her new bag and pass it on in the next Report.

Of "foreign parts," we have not much to say. Little news comes through from Hannah Wright, with her two children in Brazil; we heard in April from Elsie and Winnie White in Vancouver. Winnie is now Mrs. George Cooper, and her husband was then with the Canadian Army in England. "Retiring from 'the Bede' does not mean that you are no



larger a Bedan. It is a grand feeling to have that you are still part of the Old Bedan, even though so far away as Winnsie and I. The only other Bedan I hear from besides Miss Harris is Edith Pearce (now Wearmouth). Dorothy Gibson (Richardson) is still in Melbourne, and her boys "are much interested to read the news of 'Mam's School.'" We learn since then that the elder, Peter, has recently won a good scholarship to Melbourne Grammar School; he was one of six successful candidates from eighty. Betsy Powley (Soulby) is at present home from Oyo and Kate Anderson (Milne) from Nairobi.

Last year's School Captain, Hilda Hope, gained a Scholarship to Hall University and the Vice-Captain Joan Young goes to Whitlands College in September. We have, strangely enough, little academic news. Doris Lawson, however, gained a first class Honours Degree in Classics and Edith Joyce in Botany. Edith is at present doing Research work in Bio-chemistry and has been awarded a Post-graduate Research Scholarship. Alice Lawther (now Makowska) became a *Licenciée en Lettres* in 1939 during the year she spent in France. Joyce Robson (the first) has recently passed the examination of the Electrical Association for Women. She writes: "Domestic Science at this school is flourishing; we have now a third Domestic Science teacher and are able to make full use of the lovely 'Eat' as well as the two kitchens." Mary Robertson is Lecturer in Home-Making at Berridge House, a London Domestic Science College evacuated to Bourne-mouth. Mary Alexander has been appointed to the post of Administrative Assistant to the Southampton Education Authority from one hundred and twenty applicants. Besides Catharine McCow, already mentioned, Alberta Asher and Flora Macdonald have become Head-mistresses in the town. Rita Coaggs, our new Secretary, is teaching French in Bede Girls', and Teresa Stephenson in Bede Boys' School, Doris Miller in Hyth, and Margery Humphrey in Macclesfield, while Winnie Talbot is Mathematics Mistress in Douglas, L.O.M., and Isabel Alexander English mistress in Alwark. Phyllis Hellperr has just been appointed Senior Mistress in a new Jewish school in London. Nellie Mee has now charge of three Nursery schools in Bedfordshire. Marjorie Hanson is teaching in Newcastle. Rose Johnston in a boys' school under the Heston and Isleworth Authority, and Joyce Veitch, Nancy Job, and Joyce Harding in Middlesex. Joyce Veitch tells how badly the children at Camrose have suffered from flying bombs, and Enid Cross tells of the difficulties under which Fulham Higher Certificate candidates did their examinations. It was good to have a glimpse of Enid recently when we spent a day and a night in London. Hannah Graham tells us that her sister May, who lost her husband early in the war, is teaching in Derbyshire; her two boys are doing well at Belper Secondary School. One day we met Ethel Aldridge (Mason), who was then teaching French temporarily, and we have re-discovered Grenville Elliott (Wayman) at Guild Meetings, to find that she has a son at "Bede." Madge Robertson is busy with shop and home-duties, while Flossie Jones (Warden) was a blessing to the sweet-toothed among us just "before the rationing."

Among many Bedans in banks are several members of the Guild Hockey Club. Joyce Alder (the second) at Rishton, Lancs., and, in Essex, Maud McLeod, who is still busy studying French and Spanish. Irene Stephenson's husband is Vicar of Castletown, and Evelyn Maddison's of Grampstown; Evelyn had five evacuees from London when we saw her last. Flora Anderson (Quin) is a School Medical Officer in Stockton. Flora Cook is happy in her important Library post in Carlisle; her sister Marjorie is likely to come to Northumberland after many years in London. Joan Haley is a shorthand-typist with British Airways, and Sheila Marwood an apprentice engineer at Clark's Yard. Joan Scorer likes Nottingham and Rose and Sheila Johnston their new home in London. Nancy

McKenney (Melton) is to live in Lincoln. Joyce Askew is now supervisor of a branch of the laundry in Cardiff; Connie Wray is "still fully occupied at the office catering for the beer-drinking and wine-drinking public. I hasten to assure you that I have not yet fallen under the influence of my work, however!" Joan Milner and Eald Spendley have got posts as Nursery Workers in Scotland, and Winnie Henderson and Ellen Grassam are in training. Jessie Ross (Scott-Bailey) is demonstrating for the Ministry of Food in Northumberland, Durham and North Yorkshire. Joan Aynsley is doing Quantity-Surveying in the town. Rena Harde is a Ministry of Fuel lecturer, a liaison member of the Domestic Fuel and Appliances Committee, has written a booklet on the subject, and been lecturing in the North-East.

Mary Mackintosh (Alderson), Lena Thompson and Marjorie Sparling are three of the few Selections for Durham County Hockey. Privately, we think that Rene Halliday's baby, Kathleen, is qualifying for a similar honour, as we see her on Saturday afternoons judging with earnest interest from her perch the form of her mother and the other hockey players.

We have little news of the Services, perhaps because of the nature of duties there. In the W.R.N.S. are Mary Alison, Mary Burton, Sheila Kent, who has just finished and Ellen Henderson who is beginning a course as Air Mechanic Rigger. Kathleen Rockliffe is a Leading Wren Stores Assistant, Pat Potts a Third Officer, and Marjorie Edwards a Leading Wren. Joan Hoey (married) has been an Educational Officer in the A.T.S., and in it too are Alice Bittlesome, Vera Roberts, and Sheila Taylor. Louie Halliday, Sheila Gallon, Elizabeth Lawson, Nora Thompson and Irene Wilson are in the W.A.A.F. So is Marjol Anderson, who has been crossing and re-crossing the Channel with wounded. On one occasion in Normandy some of the men hailed her as a "Geordie," and she was the first W.A.A.F. to land in Belgium. Hilda Hossain is doing secretarial work with F.A.N.V. in India. Vera Clark is nursing at Arakan and living in a "bush." Edith Gibson is still in Malta. Nurses in training are Florence Bowman in Glasgow and Pearl Sayer at Birkenhead, where she is "happy both on and off duty," while Polly Carter has passed the Final Examination at Sunderland and has just gone to Edinburgh to train in midwifery. May Purvis (married) is often seen "going her rounds as a District Nurse. She gives a ting-a-ling on her bicycle bell as she goes past."

Many members have gone "back to the land." The late Secretary has gone all vegetable-minded—poetic justice for one who railed at "little potatoes?"—and works hard on her patch of ground when her "leisure" leaves her time. Amy Hassey organizes the great amount of agricultural help given by Mill Mount School, York; Norma Crozier and others have had experience of various kinds of harvesting; Doreen Turnbull picked fruit in Hereford; Joyce Hobson and Nora Johnson "had a week at Alnwick, where we had our first, and I hope last, experience of living in a workhouse. We were given timber-work to do and were fortunate, but I know of one old Bedan at another camp, who, in spite of back-breaking efforts, just couldn't weed fast enough to please her farmer." Emily Darnant—who has had some rather grim experiences as an ambulance driver recently—was nearly picking cakum on Dartmoor. She was at a harvesting camp there, and on wet days they had to sit in a barn and see up sacks. Mable Henderson is a hard girl, gardening on an aeroshome. Winnie Graham, once a W.A.A.F., has been running a farm for a relative. "Like everyone else, we have lived through an eternity of mud and rain. I could bear never to see a sheaf of corn again, and as for groping in the mud for potatoes—heaven help us, was it for this I wrestled [heart-heartedly enough] with *sigma* and *five* and the lower mathematics? . . . As you

will understand, I have no Old Bedan news for you as I rarely see anything but sheep . . . I wonder if you ever come across any of Elaine Field's doings? She was, for a few years, chief assistant at Great Cornards Street, but I don't think she is still there. A year or two ago, I came across an article of hers in, I think, the *British Medical Journal* on *The Effect of Smoking on the Uterine Injant*, so evidently she is some sort of authority. . . ."

We are back, it would seem, to letters. Let us end with a few more. From Joyce Logan, evasivated: "Once a month I cycle round the villages visiting the other Sunderland children. The first time I went two of them disappeared for the whole of my visit; they thought I had come to take them back to Sunderland . . . Cousie Wray is staying with me for a fortnight, and Marie Dodd is coming to tea this afternoon, so the "Do you remember's?" will be working overtime.

From Isabel Alexander, whom we were glad to meet unexpectedly at Morpeth bus station:—"I met Bertha Boden (Paul) in Ashington about three years ago. I was judging a verse-speaking competition there and found that Bertha was teaching at that school and had trained some of the girls. We enjoyed our short meeting. I was pleased to see Miss Harris too at an English meeting in Newcastle last summer."

Marie Makrum writes from Ilford: "I was glad to hear of Miss Hutchinson again. I hear of her annually from Mary Machar who spends part of her October holiday here with me after a week-end at Bishop's Bassetford with Grace Wood. But we are all before your time . . ."

We quote Kathleen Walton (Wood) again: "Mary Radclik's brother . . . was married recently to an old Bedan—May . . . Somebody. He met her in York this year, which was rather romantic, as when they were at school he often escorted her home to Hoker . . . I hope I should find all the "old" old Bedans looking well and the same as ever. I'd love to see you all and show you my nice little babies."

And lastly, Winnie Scott (Thomas) again: "There are numerous old Bedans, too, whose faces I knew but whose names I've forgotten, who have been helpful in shops when things have been scarce . . . It's that "Old School Tie" idea again!"

And now, may we appeal to that same "idea"?

We have delivered "the tale of bricks," but oh, Bedans! Do not make us have to "gather straws." Send us "straw!"

E. R. S.

GUILD OF OLD BEBANS

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS ON AUGUST 31st, 1944.

Balance Sheet for Year 1943-44 from September 1st, 1943, to August 31st, 1944.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Subscriptions—							
145 Received at 2/6	...	30	7	6			
16 Completed Life—							
4 at £18/0	...	72	0	0			
5 at £17/6	...	88	0	0			
1 at £16/0	...	16	0	0			
1 at £10/0	...	10	0	0			
1 at £10/0	...	10	0	0			
1 at £10/0	...	10	0	0			
4 at £10/0	...	40	0	0			
1 New Life at £2/2/0	...	2	2	0			
1 Advance at 10/-	...	10	0	0			
1 Arrears at 2/6	...	5	0	0			
22 New Annual at 2/0	...	44	0	0			
4 Association at 1/-	...	4	0	0			
					50	8	6
From Interest—							
(a) On War Stock	...	2	6	10			
(b) On Deposit Account	...	2	11				
					5	17	10
From Balances from Meetings—							
(a) Business Meeting	...	14	6				
(b) Winter Reunion	...	9	6				
(c) Summer Meeting	...	2					
					26	12	10
					76	4	6
EXPENDITURE.							
Advertisement, Printing & Stationery	...						
Postage and Telephone Calls	...						
Gifts—							
Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund	...	1	7	6			
Standard Guild of Help	...	2	8	0			
Standard Children's Hospital	...	2	8	0			
Association des Armés des Volontaires Français	...	2	8	0			
School Prize (Annual)	...	1	1	0			
Prize for Beban Competitions	...	1	1	0			
Greetings Telegram to Vice- Chairman	...	1	0				
					17	18	6
Bebans	...				10	10	0
Balance on Year's Working	...				26	12	10
					54	4	6



