

MARLBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL.

Staff.

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I. REPORT OF THE HEADMASTER.

In compliance with your request of the 28th November, 1907, for a general report on the Marlborough High School, I have the honour to submit the following extracts from the last annual report of the Principal:—

"I have great pleasure in presenting this report on the year's work. Owing to the raising of the standard of examination for proficiency certificates, the number admitted to junior free places was very considerably less than in previous years, and the roll-number is therefore not so high as last year; but the quality of the pupils is better and the standard of work is higher, while our success in outside examinations has been unprecedented.

"The number of new pupils admitted was 28—14 girls and 14 boys. Nineteen left during the year, 14 to take up employment. The total on the roll for the year was 107. . . . The asphalt tennis-court for the use of the girls is now being constructed, and will be ready by the beginning of the next term. . . . In the autumn the hockey-ground was drained, and it has recently, in common with the rest of the field, been ploughed and levelled. In this connection I wish to commend the boys for the readiness with which they undertook and carried out, with pick, shovel, and barrow, the work of removing the raised paths from the hockey-ground so that they should be outside the field of play. They also carried out other earthwork about the place, and this self-help of theirs had the further effect of stimulating the Board to action. The shower-bath provided in the boys' yard proves a great convenience. The woodwork in connection with this bath was done by two of the boys.

"It would improve the appearance of the grounds if a live hedge were planted along the Francis Street frontage, and a few trees put in places where they would not interfere with the playground. A more pressing present need is a room, or rooms, in which can be stored furniture not actually in use, and especially the uniforms and ammunition of the cadet corps. At present this last is kept in my office, and proves a source of inconvenience. . . . The cadet corps has been supplied with belts, and has secured a new and much better uniform, and has done so without having to carry on a debt beyond the present year. The physical-drill squad competing at St. George's Day sports won the Carr Cup for the third time, and now retains it. During the first term the corps was inspected by Colonel Joyce, and during the second term by Colonel Davies, who was accompanied by Colonel Joyce and Lieutenant Chesny. Colonel Davies expressed his satisfaction with the company and his great pleasure at the performance of the physical-drill squad. At a third inspection, in October, Colonel Joyce complimented the corps on the excellent state of the arms, and on the fact that no property on issue to us had been lost. The annual camp was held in October, and was fortunate in having fine weather. This was our most successful camp. The behaviour of the boys was excellent, and there was less interruption of school-work than usual. Under the judicious instruction of Sergeant-major Jones the efficiency of the cadets was greatly increased. There is no doubt that such a camp, when properly conducted, is of great advantage to the boys. As the week's camp included a Sunday, the corps attended church parade. A good deal of shooting has been done—in February class-firing, and, after winter, team practice. Under Captain Goulding's leadership the team has greatly improved. We have to thank Mr. Jordan for presenting us with a 200-yards target, and also for presenting us with a gold medal. The competition for this medal took place on the 23rd November. On the 30th we took the firing for the Secondary Schools Competition, and on the 7th December that for the schools of the Empire Competition.

"In the public examinations we this year achieved gratifying success. Sixteen candidates passed the Senior Free Place and Civil Service Junior Examinations, ten passed Matriculation, three on University Junior Scholarship papers, and one came eighth in the University Junior Scholarship 'credit' list, and was offered a Senior Queen's Scholarship (£50 annually for three years), but declined it. One passed the examination for keeping first year's terms for the University degree. This year thirty have entered for the Senior Free Place or Civil Service Junior, one for Civil Service Senior, eleven for Matriculation, and four for University Junior Scholarship. . . . The course of study has received but few changes. Botany and physics being now taken by all forms, physiology has been discontinued. A class of girls has attended at the Technical School for cookery, and the same time a class of boys for woodwork. During the last term a class was also instructed in freehand drawing."

2. WORK OF THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST CLASSES.

Highest.—English—Nesfield's Grammar, Past and Present; Manual of Grammar and Composition; practice in composition and essay-writing; Shakespeare's Julius Caesar; Lamb's Essays (selections); History of Literature. Latin—Cicero, Pro Milone; Horace, Odes, Books III and IV; sight translation from and into Latin; Grammar, Wilkins's Antiquities; Schuckburg's History of Rome. French—Molière, L'Avare; Scribe, Le Verre d'Eau; Hugo's Les Travailleurs de la Mer; grammar, composition, and sight translation. Mathematics—Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry as for University Junior Scholarship. Botany and physics (heat) as for Junior Scholarship.

Lowest.—English—Nesfield's Outlines, and Junior Composition; Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare; Scott's Lady of the Lake. History—Tout, Book III, Tudor Period; the earlier portion of the book used as a reader. Longmans' Geography, III, pp. 1-45, 61-87. Latin—Scott and