



(An Apotheca of the Upper Stratton Senior School.) July, 1938

EDITORIAL.

Here is the end of another term in our school passage. To some of our boys and girls it is also the end of an important term in life: the end of their school career. May they find helpful and patient employers outside, and much to keep them interested and grateful through the journey. We hope, too, that they will be gracious in their turn to others, and never lose the school sense of activity and goodwill.

Being the end of term, we present this further addition to "Pottage," with hearty thanks to all contributors, and hoping much of enjoyment may be found therein.

This issue lacks the poetry and wit of former efforts; but we know you will find compensation in other features.

He was a Britisher who toasted "Right or wrong, my Country!" Likewise you will say of this volume "It's jolly good!" And we will be heartened to please you further.

CHIP.

I was born in the nest by a little lake, called Salt Pan Creek. I am a blackbird and I'm nearly old enough to fly.

One day mother said to my brother and me, "We will have a flying lesson." Shakily I climbed out on a twig. My mother flew on a nearby twig and tempted me with a nice fat worm. I made a snatch, but I missed and fell. The wind plucked at my feathers. I shut my eyes, but by chance my wings opened. The rushed flight was checked and I floated easily to the ground. I lay on the ground twittering with fright. All of a sudden something came over me. I was then uncovered, and I looked up into a boy's face whom I thought was a hundred years old. I opened my mouth and he spat in it, I thought it was very nice. My mother came and hopped round him, when all of a sudden he threw his cap over her. My brother fell from the nest; he picked him up and put him in his pocket. He took us home and put us in a cage.

One day I was sitting on the door of the cage when I heard a screech, I turned round and saw a cat pelting away as fast as he could. I then saw my master who was carrying a paddle with a kind of pipe on the end which was about 2 ft. 6 ins. long. He said, "I nearly lost you that time, Chip, lucky I had my gun." I flew on to his shoulder where my master gave me a fat worm.

(E. Lewis, I Magog)

The following is a detailed list of the results:-BOYS.

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High Jump 11-13

1. M. Burns 4'3"
2. D. Hobbs
3. C. Woodfield
3. B. Sheridan

100 yds. 11-13
1. M. Burns
2. D. Hobbs
3. J. Bowles

Hurdles 11-13
1. C. Woodfield
2. M. Burns
3. D. Large

4 x 100 yds. Relay 11-13
1. Upper Stratton S.S.
F. Waters )
J. Bowles

Long Jump 11-13
Long Jump 11-13
1. D. Large
2. C. Woodfield
3. D. Hobbs
3. D. Large
3. J. Wheeler
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It is pleasing to note that South Marston were well represented with B. Sheridan and D. Large and that 'Banger' Hobbs and D. Godwin (unplaced in the Long Jump) kept the flag of Blunsdon flying.

The North Wilts Area Schools Sports Meeting was held on the first day of June.

Fewer schools competed this year: partly from the want of enthusiasm and because of prevailing sickness in the forms of measles, pinkeye and chills. Moreover, the day was cold and wet, and the standard of athletic efficiency below par.

Our school maintained its position and again retains the Senior Shield. The Junior Shield was won by the Highworth Junior School; whom we very heartily congratulate.

The following of our scholars have been selected to compete at the County Meeting on June 22nd:-

Large, Topham, Hillman, Woodfield, Cue, Barnes, Wheeler, Sheridan, Burns, Hobbes, Bowles; Fay Smart, Joan Miller, Ivy Musty, Annie Boulter, Audrey Richards, Joan Ilett, Millie Fisher, Jean Hobbs, and Vera Arkell.

Good effort, and just deserts!

A BIRD STORY.

One day when I was walking across the Recreation Ground I saw a bird fly into the hedge and when I reached it there was a chaffinch's nest, and it had three eggs in. When I came away some more children came and took two of the eggs and left one in there. When the chaffinch came back and found one left in there she forsook the nest.

(H. Daglish, I Og)

THE SPRING OF 1938 will be remembered for its drought. In this locality there were only two light falls of rain in three months. Sowing was almost in vain, small plants nearly broke their hearts, and some shrubs planted in the Autumn and Winter, together with our 'striking' specimens, quite gave up the ghost. Frosts, too, were unusually severe in May, as whimsical as ever, and spiteful to the forward.

Keep fit; and look before you leap!

TWO DOGS.

One day I went to Ramsbury to see a friend of ours.

The lady whistled and called her two retrievers "Joe" and "Jock."

She took us over her farm.

When we went into the fowls' run and opened the box where the eggs go she told the dogs to put them in their mouths. That was only one each; the others she had in a basket.

They carried them safely to the door and then laid them on the back door mat without breaking them.

Sometimes they go to the shop. "Joe" has a purse round his neck with a penny in it to get the paper. "Jock" has a basket with a purse in it to get some grocery.

The lady has it all brought safely to her.

(Betty Foster, I Og)

EVENING SCHOOL TEST RESULTS.

SESSIONAL "ENGINEERING" TEST, 1938.

Total marks, all subjects: First, Stanley Davis; Second, (Tied) Roger Gray and Ivor Grant; Third, Leonard Taplin.

The next best in merit order are Harry Wheeler, Peter Cove, J. Sansum, Kenneth Pinnegar, Jack Warren, Raymond Kitchener, Peter Bullock, Jack Snell. - All these have been recommended to the consideration of the Principal of the Swindon College.

To the others who completed the test: better fortune next time.

Taplin was top in Mechanics; Davis in Machine Drawing; Grant in Geometry; Gray in Mathematics; and Jack Warren in Metalwork Design.

The County Education Committee awards
Certificate to all students who make 95% of
possible attendances. The following have
qualified to receive these; Eva Merryweather,
Kathleen Ford and Joan Kitchener; also John Large,
William Morse, Roger Gray and Douglas Arman.
Special recommendation has been made in the instances
of three other boys.

STORY OF A SWAN.

Once I was going for a walk down Lower Stratton and saw a swan in the road. I was walking along by him and he flapped his wings at me. I had my dog with me and he ran away. The swan stood high up on his legs. I went home and he followed; he came right inside our gate and made a hissing noise. I went in to get him some bread and he carried it outside and went all up the road with it. He carried it all up the road, but there he was run over.

(Joan Warren. I Magog)

Mr. R. R. Colman has been transferred to a Trowbridge Senior School. He gave real help in the production of the last two numbers of "Pottage," and in other ways.

Swimming commenced this year the first week in May, and most of the class have made great strides. Mr. Davis is keen on our doing better than ever; and we must not let him down.

I was out of work and my friend and I were out walking, looking for a job. Outside a very large house, pinned on the gate was a notice, "Two assistants wanted. Apply within."

My friend and I decided to apply, and so putting our hair tidy and pulling ourselves together, we went up the drive, up the stone steps, and rang the bell. A very peculiar butler came to the door. He was Chinese. He asked my friend and I into the sitting-room.

We waited about five minutes, then we heard steps, and another Chinese man came into the room. We soon learnt that this was our master to-be, if we got the job.

Ki-a-wong was the name of the Chinaman and Ha-wee was the name of the butler. Ki-a-wong said that we had to be very trustworthy, as he was working on a secret and very precious formula. He said he would try us, and that we could live with him.

My friend and I both swore on our lives that we would not tell anyone, or say anything to anyone about the Formula. Ki-a-wong made us both stop to dinner, and then move into the house in the afternoon.

(To be continued)

(A Buckingham, II Magog)

JUST WONDER-FULL!

II Magog wonder: -

When will we have the pleasure of Joe coming into class?

When we shall get a hundred-per-cent.

When Deggy will learn to dance.

When Taffy will lose his accent.

When Jimmy runs his flat down.

How many ice-creams Anne sold.

What the garden would do without Joe.

If Curly is slimming.

If Edie believes in many holidays.

If Gandy rode his motor-bike, to sell Alexandra roses at Lower Stratton.

If a certain girl can jump four feet six yet.

Who Mr. Cox's spies are.

Which letter of the alphabet is the chief one concerning this school.

If Topsy will ever stop talking.
When picking up stones and pieces of wood will stop at this school.

How many gardening lessons does Joe have a week?

When will Bill get his tandem?

OUR APIARY.

We have yet another interest at School. Yes, some 200,000 extra workers have been duly admitted to our society, and all are dreadfully beesy over in their hives by the fruit border.

We obtained our first hive out of the School Fund early in April. This is a very strong stock that has already deposited about two dozen pounds of honey. A second hive is the possession of Class II Magog; and the third is at the moment a subject of much speculation by Class I Gog.

Use of the school honey extractor and ripener, and all possible encouragement and help, will be given to any scholar who may be allowed to keep bees at home.

The first of these independent bee-keepers is Edna Sutton. Edna will sure make a good bee-master. And may the bees sweeten all the way for her.

Bees "take to houses in the mountains, and in the trees, and in the hives they build. Then eat from every fruit, and walk in the beaten paths of the Lord. There cometh forth from her body a draught varying in hue, in which is a cure for men; verily in that are signs unto a people who reflect."

("Qur'an")

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

BOYS.

There is not much of importance to write concerning Boy's P.T. The weather was very unkind to us for a while, and so apparatus work in the open win was not always possible. Our lessons were partly taken up with exercises which were intended to strengthen the Sports Boy's legs. Now we shall be able to settle down to good honest apparatus lessons in the sunshine again.

I must not let this number of "Pottage" go by without once again drawing your attention to the fact that P.T. lessons in correct kit (shorts and 'daps') are far more enjoyable than those in which you wear every article of your wardrobe plus hobnails. I still have a number of pairs of shorts which may be bought for 1/11 on easy terms.

"When every boy will come to class In P.T. shorts and 'daps' That will be the day, chaps! That will be the day!"

(With abject apologies to the Western Bros.)
(R. R. Cox)

"Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us To see oursels as ithers see us!"

BUZZINGS.

A bee sting is supposed to be good for rheumatism.

It is estimated that 20,000 miles (approximately the distance round the world) must be covered before the raw material for one pound of honey can be gathered.

"The bee is little among such as fly, but its fruit is chief of sweet things."

It is possible for the Queen Bee to lay from two to three times her own weight of eggs in twentyfour hours.

Any class who wish to own their own bees should bring along their subscriptions to their respective teachers. Subscriptions will be returned when scholars leave school. Meanwhile the honey profit will be equally shared: if the bees like you.

In a hive there is the Queen, who is the mother of all; about sixty-thousand workers (females), each only living about six weeks; and about five-hundred drones (males), or court favourites, who are tolerated by the workers for a few weeks and then killed by them because they are just 'spongers'. The busy girls kill the lazy boys. There are no lazy girls: not in a hive.

Those who do 'nowt' for "Pottage" should reflect on the bees.

FOR THE OLD FOLKS.

Mr. Hill commenced duties as Head Master in January 1882, Mrs. Hill began teaching, - though she does not appear to have continued, - in Fovember of the same year; and an Emmeline Hill, who would be fourteen years, started in December as a Fupil Teacher.

Many of us can remember taking School Pence on Monday mornings: ld. when in Std. I, 2d. in Std. II, and 3d. if in Std. III or higher. Mr. Hill redords a change of lessons "to facilitate the collecting of School Pence." School Pence was in vogue from 1871 to 1891, when "Free" and "Compulsory" education came in.

Er. Hill was progressive and enthusiastic in is work. He was teaching Geography and "Drawing on aper" a decade before these subjects were adopted by the Board of Education. In our present vogue of numerous subjects, it is interesting to find that Wer Majesty's Inspector thought he was trying to do too much. "The children," wrote Mr. Hill, "take great interest in the lessons. They are also well forward with their other work. For the present, therefore, I do not propose giving up Geography."

"The weather has been very rough the whole week."
On the following Wednesday the children were taught
to sing "Cold the Blast may Blow." And the
attendance improved! But the Head Haster had to
abandon singing the next lesson "because of
neuralgia!"

READING.

The book our class is reading is called "Chang." It is quite an interesting book. It is all about Siam and the people. It tells you about the war with the Burmese, and how the Burmese shot one of the Siamese Elephants, and how the brave Elephant picked up the flag, and made the Siamese come back and win.

The book also describes how the Elephants charge into a train and knock it over. It tells us all about Savat, one of the Siamese, and his pet monkey, Wah, and his friend Old Souk. It tells us how Savat killed one of the biggest tigers in the jungle by putting his hand round his windpipe.

It tells us, too, how the people found that the jungle was on fire, and how the people ran for their lives; and how the Savat tripped over a vine, and how he thought the Elephants were going to trample him to death. After he found his mother.

(R. Ayres. II Gog)

THE BAND.

Our school band started modestly with two violins, three mouth-organs, a melodeon and what seemed an enormous number of percussion instruments. Those members of the band who first joined were our mainstay until they left school, although our numbers grew to two dozen - and we still need more!

Since our inauguration, our members have mostly been keen; so keen, indeed, that they have sometimes been in hot water over other matters, which are often considered more important. Our public performances have always been kindly received. Our earnest thanks are due to those who have supported us - the Headmaster, Staff, Scholars and Friends of the school, who have been most kind.

We congratulate those members who have passed examinations or won places of honour in musical festivals; and for which we cannot claim credit. As for the rest, they have all realised to some extent, that music is a delightful thing, well worth working for, though, as with all other things that are worth while, there are no short cuts.

My friend, Baron Montfort, invited me to spend a few days at his castle. When I got there I looked at the outside of the castle. First was the moat, then there was a stone wall with turrets and the drawbridge for getting to the main entrance. As I went over the drawbridge, I heard a rattle in front of me, and when I looked I saw the portcullis being pulled up. As I went into the outer bailey or yard, I saw a well in the middle and when I looked down it, I could not see the bottom. I went through a door into the inner bailey where there was another well.

When I had rested, I went hunting with my friend, and when we came back we went into the big hall and had supper. We had beef and venison and drank mead out of horns. After supper we asked for a minstrel, who had asked for shelter, to play some music, which he did. After this he did some juggling, and then we went to bed. I was taken to the guest room, which contained a large fourposter bed with curtains which could be drawn all round.

In the morning we had breakfast, and in the afternoon the king visited the castle. I was delighted to be there to see him; and I enjoyed my visit very much.

(W. Razey, I Gog)

HANDICRAFT.

The County Arts and Crafts Exhibition was held in April at Salisbury. According to the press, there were about 1,400 exhibits and the general standard was high.

Work submitted by our scholars was well received. We were awarded the first three places of honour in Woodwork, the first place for Communal Needlework; and Muriel Benham was awarded third 'pride of place' for her individual effort in Needlework.

The Woodwork exhibitors were Leon Embling, Ronald Truman and Enid Jeffoutt, who sent in respectively a China Cabinet, a Refectory Table, and a Medicine Chest.

We all say "Well done; and thank you: " to them and to their teachers.

EMPIRE DAY CELEBRATION.

An effective show of pageantry, well loaded with patriotic songs and recitations, gave added flare to the Empire Day Celebration of this year; which included again the time-honoured practice of saluting the Flag.

A goodly gathering of parents and visitors witnessed the ceremony; including the Chairman of the Managers, Mr. A. G. Keene. (Anon)

The pageant was cleverly produced by two of our teachers; and the children were 'got up' very nicely.

We started by singing "God save the King," and afterwards Leslie Bolton recited a piece of poetry entitled "Breathes there a Man." This was followed by some national airs by the Band; after which came the first pageant group: Britannia (Jean Andrews), England (Amy Basson), Ireland (Doreen Ingram), Wales (Joan Fisher), and Scotland (Fay Smart).

Next Noel Butcher sang a beautiful solo,
followed by another piece by the Band. A song,
"This England," was sung by all; and a recitation,
"Men of England," was given by Benier Tovey. Then
came another piece by the Band.

In the second pageant Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India were all represented.

Then we all sang "Land of Hope and Glory," and made a grand march round the hall to the tune of "Children of the Empire."

After ten minutes break we 'fell in' on the gifls' playground, marched into the boys' playground, saluted the Flag, and dismissed with a good spring for a half-holiday.

(John Hackett. II Magog)

EMPIRE DAY (Another worthy version)

Tuesday, May 24th, as everybody knows, was Empire Day. At school we celebrated the occasion with a pageant at which the Colonies of the British Empire were represented by small groups of children, each group wearing as near as possible the national costume of the colony. We opened by the band playing the National Anthem and then L. Bolton recited Sir Walter Scott's poem, "Breathes there a man." The screens were then drawn and the "Britannia" group came up with Britannia in the middle and a girl guide and boy scout on either side of her; England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales then came in their national costumes and made a fine tableau. N. Butcher then sang "O Peaceful England" from "Merrie England; " colonies then came one by one, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa and India then came and formed one large group and each recited suitable poems in turn. The whole school then sang "Where the flag of Britain flies;" the drummers then took their places and the pageant group marched round the hall to the song "Children of the Empire" which was sung by the children looking on as well as those taking part. After that they all took their places on the stage again and quietly fell back as the screens were drawn. The whole school then sang "Land of our birth we pledge to thee," one of Kipling's poems. We then had our usual playtime and afterwards marched into the playground and saluted the flag. Then we dismissed and went home for the half day.

Douglas Skinner.

A POSER FOR THE CUIDE.

We were in the caves at Cheddar at the time and every one was interested in what was being shown and told them. At some time visitors had broken off chips of the stalactite formations as souvenirs, and to stop further pilferings wire netting had been placed across any spaces where possible. We had all gathered near the guide and he was explaining how the previous old occupant of the cave had made his fires, and cooked his food and tethered his goats. Then the piping voice of my younger brother was heard to say, pointing at the wire netting,

"Daddy, is that where the old man kept his fowls?"

(Jean Hoskins, III Og)

OUR POND.

We have a pond at the back of the Woodwork room. It is about five yards long and three yards wide. We are digging a path around it. We are building a turf wall round the path; and are having the pond cemented out. Then we are going to have some fish.

All the boys in our class have been digging it, and we have to dig a big hole in the bottom so that the fish can get into it in the winter, when it is cold. We have some pipes that run into it from the roof near by.

(Ronald Thompson, I Magog)

POT POURRI.

A dozen Evening School Cookery lasses promised perfect attendance at the Course, and - barring sickness - made good.

No doubt South Marston lads will smile. -They do this kind of thing without promising. Earnestness puts joy into any job.

Here's to the four Washingtons who went to the Swimming Bath without payment.

A gnat once (but only once, mark you) made use of King Charles' eye because he had nowhere else to go. For the same reason do we always practise cricket in the one sore spot of a spacious field.

Rough luck, Max, that broken arm. No, no cricket! But you can do, and may you do, perfect knitting.
"Mone can cure their harms by wailing them." (Shakespeare)

"Plum" petals are dropped in by Marie and Marjorie and Fay: by communal - and no doubt communing - effort they handed in the Union Jack AND THE ROPE.

THE PARENTS' DAY.

The weather could not have been more generously kind; the attendance was very gratifying; and the part played by the scholars gave evident pleasure to all. It was plain "Our good intent is all to your desire.

Mrs. Darling, C.C., Mr. Weaver of the County Education Office, Miss Ourry, the County Organiser of Girls' Physical Training, and Mr. John Cox, our local Schools Correspondent, were emong the visitors.

Expressions of regret at inability to attend were received from several friends we would otherwise have been honoured to welcome.

The boys' and girls' Physical Training contingents did well, and surely pleased their instructors; and the Folk Dancing in the field to the radiogram in the hall proved successful, and daintily represented a spirit of the past.

The Exhibition of work, when it was mustered and arranged, was a big surprise to members of the teaching staff. We had no idea we had made that progress in the scheme of things. And it was very encouraging to our scholars as well. It showed what we have been able to do: and prompts us to do more, and better.

Then there was the good-will all round.

A Parents' Day is well worth while.

III MAGOG FORM NOTES.

The class has been augmented by five boys and four girls from III Gog.

Stanley Nash has been with us a few weeks and we are sorry he is leaving.

The girls won first place in their section for needlework at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Salisbury.

We welcome Phylis Webb from Shrewsbury and Joyce Montier from Shillingford.

Though many of the younger children have suffered from epidemics, we older ones do not suffer from such childish complaints.

The girls are delighted to have a regular Woodwork class.

Our athlete is Audrey Richards who won the 100 yards and 150 yards at the Sports and was also in the Relay.

I OG FORM NOTES.

Thank you, Millie, for getting 2nd place in the 100 yards at the Area Sports.

Our goldfish are doing well. We hope they will live long and grow big in the pond we are making. But, alas, we will hand that over to our successors after this term.

II OG FORM NOTES.

We were very sorry to lose our form-Master, Mr. Colman, and hope that he will be able to come back.

Three boys and three girls have gone up from our class to a higher.

We are working very hard on our handwork model and are looking forward to giving everybody a surprise some day.

We are very proud of M. Burns, D. Large and B. Sheridan, who did well in the Area Sports. They will all be going to Trowbridge to take part in the County Sports.

(David Crew, II Og)

BAND NOTES.

On April 12th, 1938, the Band and I Magog boys gave a concert at the school and the proceeds was 12/-: with which we bought two new instruments. We thank the teachers and scholars for the way they turned up, especially the teachers, who gave more than was needed.

On Empire Day the band played the incidental music in the Pageant.

On Thursday afternoons we sometimes play for Folk dancing.

(D. Collier, I Magog)

THE WITCH OF ORLEANS.

As told by an English Soldier.

When we were fighting the French we had won many battles. One day a witch came along and rode in front of the French army and drove us out of Orleans; but one day she came too near to us and we captured her; but the French wanted to judge her, so we let them. The priests said she was a heretic.

The judges tried to make her admit that it was the devil speaking to her but the witch would not. So they decided to put her to death. We piled up a bundle of wood in the market place and burnt her to death.

Some say that she was not a witch because she asked for a cross just before she died; but I think she must have been, or she could not have defeated our army. Though the witch was dead the French succeeded in driving us out of France. Now we have only Calais.

(W. Warren, II Gog.)

II MAGOG FORM NEWS.

We had a big disappointment at Easter when Mr. Colman left us.

Annie Boulter, Joan Miller, Ivy Musty, W. Cue, D. Hobbs, C. Woodfield and J. Wheeler represented our sporting class at the Area Sports. - We all sympathise with Berice who, after training for the high jump, missed the sports through illness.

(Doreen Clarke, II Magog)

EVENING SCHOOL (1938-1939)

Programme to be suggested for next Session:-

Students under 16 on 1st September, 1938, who are employed at the G.W.R. Works, the Gas Works, at any Garage, or the like, will take the "Engineering" Course: Mechanics (Mondays), Mathematics (Wednesdays), and Machine Drawing (Thursdays).

Other students under 16 may either join the "Engineering" Course, or the following classes:-Junior Woodwork (Mondays); Horticulture and Beekeeping (Wednesdays); Metal work (Thursdays).

Students who are 16 or over may take Metalwork Model Making (Mondays); Horticulture and Beekeeping (Wednesdays); Senior Woodwork (Thursdays).

Students of any age may take Physical Training, including Hygiene (Tuesdays).

GIRLS.

Cooking (Tuesdays)
Music and Drama (Wednesdays)
Physical Training and Hygiene (Thursdays)

Apply not later than August 20th to be sure of enrollment. Send in your name, birthday, address, and occupation; and bring your fee (2/-) on the first night.

"Sowed cockle, reaped no corn."
(Shakespeare)

"OLD" BOYS & GIRLS

Congratulations to Naomi Carter, who has been appointed one of the four Maids of Honour to the Swindon Carnival Queen.

A similar position was held last year by Gwennie Jones.

With sadness we mention the death of Clara Loveridge. All who knew Clara will deeply sympathise with her parents in such an awful loss. She was 18.

OUR COUNTY SPORTS SUCCESSES.

Hartin Burns: 1st, High Jump (11-13) and 3rd, Hurdles (11-13)

Joan Miller: 2nd, High Jump (11-13)

Leslie Woodfield: 2nd, Hurdles (13-14)

Topham: 2nd, High Jump (13-14)

Joan Ilett: 3rd, Skipping (11-13)





