

The
Ruytonian.



FEBRUARY, 1910.

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GROUP OF BOARDERS.

The Ruytonian.

No. 2.

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OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The Old Girls' Association has had a very successful year, there being now about 150 members. We have presented a very handsome oak Honour Board to the School, designed by Miss Alsop, an Old Ruytonian.

The Annual Gathering was held on 10th November, 1909, and as we were fortunate in having a beautiful afternoon, it was a great success. The Committee were very pleased to welcome so many old girls.

The following have consented to act for 1910:—

President, Mrs. Rawden Chomley; Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. Simpson; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Butler Walsh; Committee, Miss G. Ramsden, Mrs. C. E. Campbell, Miss Alsop, Miss F. Hindley, Miss Salter, Miss H. Daniell, Mrs. Teague, Mrs. Outhwaite, Miss L. Dunn, Miss B. Derham, Miss M. Anderson, Miss D. Hedderwick, Miss T. McIntosh.

All wishing to join the Association, please communicate with Miss Simpson, Highbury Grove, Kew, to whom the annual subscription of 2/6 is payable.

M. WALSH, Hon. Sec.

OLD RUYTONIANS.

The engagement of Dollie Ramsden to Mr. Guy Smith is announced.

Ida Porter's engagement to Mr. E. Villiers-Tuthill is also announced.

Hazel Patterson was married to Dr. Theo. Anderson on 24th November, 1909; her home will now be in Perth.

Mab Kelly was married to Mr. Russell Grimwade in October.

Lily Smith was married to Mr. G. W. Officer on the 1st December.

Rene Austin has gone to New Zealand for three months. She did the Sounds' trip on the Waikare, which was wrecked in Dusky Sound, but fortunately left the boat the night before she struck the rock.

Ida and Mollie Wallace have gone with their parents for a trip to China. Mollie is returning to Ruyton after the holidays.

Gwen and Dilys Jones have left for England. On her arrival the former is to be married to Mr. Palmer. Although she is not to have her wedding in Melbourne, she is to have old school friends for bridesmaids; they will be her sister Dilys, Bessie Moffatt, and Enone Molesworth.

Bessie Moffatt has gone for a trip to England; she left on the Malwa.

Nellie Gatehouse (Austin) has been winning fame in the golfing world. Last season she won three championships, viz.:—The Australian Championship, the Victorian Championship, and the Ladies' Doubles' Championship.

Katie Lush has completed the first year of her Arts' Course at the Melbourne University.

THE RUYTON TENNIS CLUB.

The Ruyton Tennis Club have had a very successful year. We have again won the Kia-Ora Club pennant; this is the third year in succession and the fifth time altogether.

The four are:—

1st—Mabel Fitz-Gerald	3rd—Marjorie Young
2nd—Bon Ronald	4th—Lily Whybrow
Emergency—Mildred MacDougall	

The following are the results of the matches:—

Ruyton 47, v. Aldworth 27,	Won by 20 games.
Ruyton 41, v. Priory 36,	„ 5 „
Ruyton 48, v. Stratherne 1,	„ 47 „
Ruyton 44, v. Tintern 16,	„ 28 „
Ruyton 46, v. Lauriston 13,	„ 33 „

FINAL DOUBLES

Ruyton 37, v. Toorak College 36, won by 1 game

FINAL SINGLES

Ruyton 40, v. Toorak 35, won by 5 games

The Finals and Doubles combined decided the pennant matches, and Ruyton was the winner by 6 games.

In the School Girls' Championships played on the Warehousemen's Ground, Mabel Fitz-Gerald was runner-up, being beaten in the finals by M. Waxman of Toorak College.

Mr. Young has very kindly given a handsome shield to the School to be played for by "fours" chosen from each form; this year it has been won by 3B.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Nellie Miller and Frances Hawker have passed the Junior Public Examination held in December.

Frances Hawker gained one of the prizes presented by Messrs. Vial and Smith for an essay on Nature Studies during last year.

Barbara James gained second place in the Alliance Française Examination, class under 18 years of age.

Miss Bromby and Miss Lascelles wish to thank members of the Old Ruytonian Association for the Honour Board which they have presented to the School.

THE LOVE STORY OF THE BROWNING.

It is not easy to imagine a more wonderful change in the history of any human being than that which occurred between two periods of the life of Miss Elizabeth Barrett. It is shortly summed up by her in the following lines from one of her sonnets—

“The face of all the world is changed, I think,
 Since first I heard the footsteps of thy soul,
 Prone still, oh, still, beside me, as they stole
 Betwixt me and the dreadful outer brink
 Of obvious death, when I who thought to sink,
 Was caught up into love, and taught the whole
 Of life in a new rhythm.”

Years before their marriage in 1846, the poets Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett had known one another through their writings, and each was a deep admirer of the other, but the publication of Miss Barretts poem, "*Lady Geraldine's Courtship*," was the reason of their personal intercourse.

In it Miss Barrett had expressed her admiration for her brother poet in the well known lines—

"Or from Browning some pomegranate
Which, if cut deep down the middle
Shows a heart within, blood tintured
Of a veined humanity."

Robert Browning expressed to John Kenyon, a cousin of Miss Barrett's, his great admiration of the poem, and he begged Browning to write to her and express his opinion of her work. This was the beginning of a correspondence which was carried on almost daily, and which ended only with their marriage, for they were never again separated even for a day.

It is, perhaps, hard for us to realise the intense joy and interest which this new acquaintanceship brought to Miss Barrett. Several years before their meeting in 1845, the sudden death of a favourite brother gave her a shock from which she never entirely recovered. She spent most of her time in a darkened room, seeing few visitors, and her father had reconciled himself and tried to reconcile her to the idea that she would never again see the outside world. But a few months after her first meeting with Robert Browning a marked change for the better was noticeable in her. The poets merely exchanged letters for a few months, and then the first meeting took place; a memorable one for them both, for it sealed their fates. They met as a rule three times a week, and their meetings had to be planned with the greatest secrecy, for Miss Barrett's father, with his views as to her future, could not be expected to approve of her new friend, and he was kept in ignorance of their frequent intercourses.

Very soon letters were exchanged daily, and Robert pressed for an engagement, but she would not hear of it till her health improved greatly, and even when she did consent it was only conditionally. In the summer of 1846 matters were brought to a climax when the doctor announced that the only chance of any degree of health lay in her spending the next winter in a warmer climate. Her father would not consent to such an innovation, and the only path open before her was to go as Robert Browning's wife. They were, therefore,

married very hurriedly, the fact being kept a secret even from their closest friends, and Mrs. Browning returned to her father's house for a week to rest and recruit for the long journey to Italy.

One evening while the family were at dinner she stole away from the house, accompanied by her maid and her favourite dog, Flush. The only difficulty was in the case of the dog which might bark and betray her. But he rose to the occasion and crept after his mistress without a sound, out of the house to which they were never to return. The news of his daughter's marriage caused deep and lasting resentment to Mr. Barrett, and he refused to hold any intercourse with her from that time and did not even mention her in his will.

The change in her circumstances and surroundings served almost as an elixir of life to Mrs. Browning, and she gained strength slowly but surely. The journey south was of necessity a slow one for her sake, and they lingered in Paris and other towns till they at length reached Pisa, their resting place for some time. Except for flying visits to England, the rest of their married life, an all too short fifteen years, was spent in Italy, the country which they both came to love so dearly. It was in Pisa that Robert Browning first saw the "Sonnets from the Portuguese," those passionate love lyrics in which his wife had poured out her love for him when she first knew that love was to be hers.

One morning after breakfast Mrs. Browning went upstairs while her husband stood looking out of the window. Presently he heard someone behind him. It was his wife who held him by the shoulders to prevent him from looking round while she thrust some papers into his pocket and fled. They were "The Sonnets," which had been written with no thought of any eye seeing them, but her husband felt that he should not keep their beauty to himself and so persuaded her to publish them.

Most of their time in Italy was spent in Florence, in the old Palace which has become famous to the world through the poem "Oasa Guidi Windows." Their life was a quiet one only broken by the visits of their intimate friends, but they were sufficient for one another, and the days passed happily in literary work and in rambles through the beautiful surrounding country.

In 1849 came a new joy to them both, when their only child was born and this seemed for a time to bring new life to Mrs. Browning. But as long as three years before her death

her friends seemed to see in the flush on her cheeks the heralds of death as if her ardent soul were burning up the frail body. With her waning strength came a great longing for rest and peace, and though at times a slight improvement was visible, she gradually sank, till she fell asleep in her husband's arms on the 28th June, 1861, murmuring "It is beautiful."

Thus ended one of the most perfect unions that have ever existed, and though Browning lived on for 28 years and had the consolation of the care of his son, his great desire was to join her who had gone before. A few months after his wife's death he wrote his fine poem, "Prospice," in which he voices the hope and firm belief in the final struggle with Death all that is black and fearful.

"Shall dwindle, shall blend,
Shall change, shall become just a peace out of pain,
Then a light, then thy breast,
O thou soul of my soul, I shall clasp thee again
And with God be the rest."

JEAN H. JAMIESON.



RUYTON DORCAS SOCIETY.

Balance-Sheet, 1909.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
Balance from 1908	...	... £1 8 1	Sewing Materials	...	... £1 13 1
Collections for year	...	... 4 7 3	Free Kindergarten	...	... 0 10 0
Pound Fines for year	...	... 2 1 9½	Children's Hospital	...	... 1 10 0
House Fines for year	...	... 1 14 4	Orphan Asylum	...	... 1 10 0
Collection for Seamen's Mission	...	... 11 9 0	Neglected Children's Home	...	... 1 0 0
			New Guinea Mission	...	... 1 5 0
			Training Home for Girls	...	... 2 0 0
			Balance	...	... 0 3 4½
			Seamen's Mission	...	... 11 9 0
		<u>£21 0 5½</u>			<u>£21 0 5½</u>

HELEN RAMSAY, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*

PRIZE LIST XMAS, 1909.

CLASS V.

Head of School	...	...	...	F. Hawker
English and History	...	...	...	M. Young
Mathematics	...	...	...	B. Patten
Languages	...	...	...	B. James
Physiology and Geography	...	...	...	L. Whybrow
Scripture	...	...	...	F. Hawker
General Knowledge	...	...	...	F. Hawker
Literature (gift of Dr. Osburn Cowen)	...	...	...	B. James
French (gift of Madame Liet)	...	...	...	B. James
Senior Essay (gift of Mrs. Moffatt)	...	...	...	L. Watson

CLASS IVB.

First in class over 70 per cent.	...	...	...	R. Hornemann
Scripture	...	...	...	J. Chapman
Writing and Neatness	...	...	...	M. McDougall

CLASS IVA.

First, over 75 per cent	...	...	...	G. Swanton
Second „ „	...	...	...	E. Gibson
Third „ „	...	...	...	E. Carnegie
Fourth „ „	...	...	...	A. Stevenson
Fifth „ „	...	...	...	W. Cowen
Scripture	...	...	...	G. Swanton
Writing and Neatness	...	...	...	D. Walsh
Competition Drawing	...	...	...	N. Cowen

CLASS IIIB.

First	...	...	...	K. Edwards
Second	...	...	...	M. Hoddinott
Scripture	...	...	...	L. Tickell
Writing and Neatness	...	...	...	M. Hoddinott
Senior Sewing	...	...	...	M. Hoddinott
Junior Essay (gift of Mrs. Hawkes)	...	...	...	I. Argyle
French and Mathematics (gift of Miss Young)	...	...	...	B. Stevenson

CLASS IIIA.

First, over 75 per cent.	...	...	...	N. Hornemann
Second „ „	...	...	...	B. Argyle
Third „ „	...	...	...	K. Snowball
Scripture	...	...	...	B. Argyle
Writing and Neatness	...	...	...	V. Carnegie
Junior Sewing	...	...	...	R. Snowball

CLASS IIB.

First, over 80 per cent.	...	...	M. Hiscock
Second " "	...	...	S. MacNeil
Writing and Neatness	M. Hiscock
Scripture	S. MacNeil

CLASS IIA.

First, over 80 per cent.	M. Carnegie
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EXTRA PRIZES.

Music (Herr Schrader)	M. Young
" " "	L. Pearson
" " "	A. Lascelles
" (Miss Sutherland)	F. Moffatt
" (Miss Sadlier Foster)	...	...	K. Hunter
" (Miss Lascelles)	...	...	V. Taverner
Singing (Miss Row) ...	...	...	V. Ronald
Elocution (Miss Mackay)	...	...	M. MacDougall
" (Miss Godwin Smith)	...	...	M. Young
" " "	...	...	V. Ronald
" " "	...	...	A. Lascelles
Mrs. Hoddinott's Prize	...	...	G. Tadjell
Drawing (Miss Dunn)	...	...	G. Grey-Smith
Fancy Work (Miss Evans)	...	...	M. MacDougall
Fencing (Miss Gordon)	...	...	F. Hawker
Sewing (Miss Walter)...	...	...	A. Lascelles
Perspective (Miss Hester)	...	...	H. Ramsay
Dancing (Mr. Williamson)	...	...	M. Young
" " "	...	...	V. Ronald





THE TENNIS FOUR.—Lily Whybrow, Marjorie Young, Mabel Fitzgerald, Bon Ronald.

17A