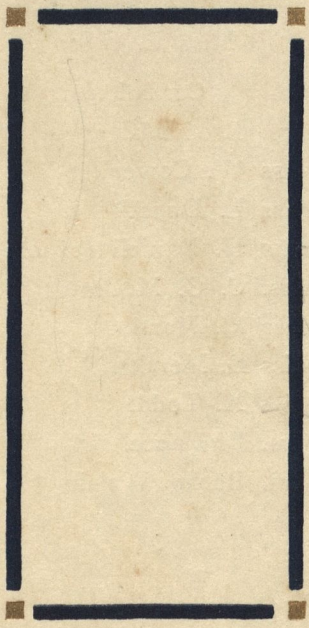


Robt. Smith

**THEO
RUYTON
DIANO**

RECTE ET FIDELITER.



DECEMBER, 1915.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICE-BEARERS OF OLD GIRLS'
ASSOCIATION.

President:

Miss M. Daniell.

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. E. W. Outhwaite. Mrs. A. V. Walker.

Hon. Secretary:

Miss E. Carnegie.

Hon. Treasurer:

Miss E. Gibson.

Committee:

Mrs. Brodribb.

Miss W. Cowen.

Miss L. Dunn.

Miss H. Daniell (ex officio).

Mrs. C. G. McCrae.

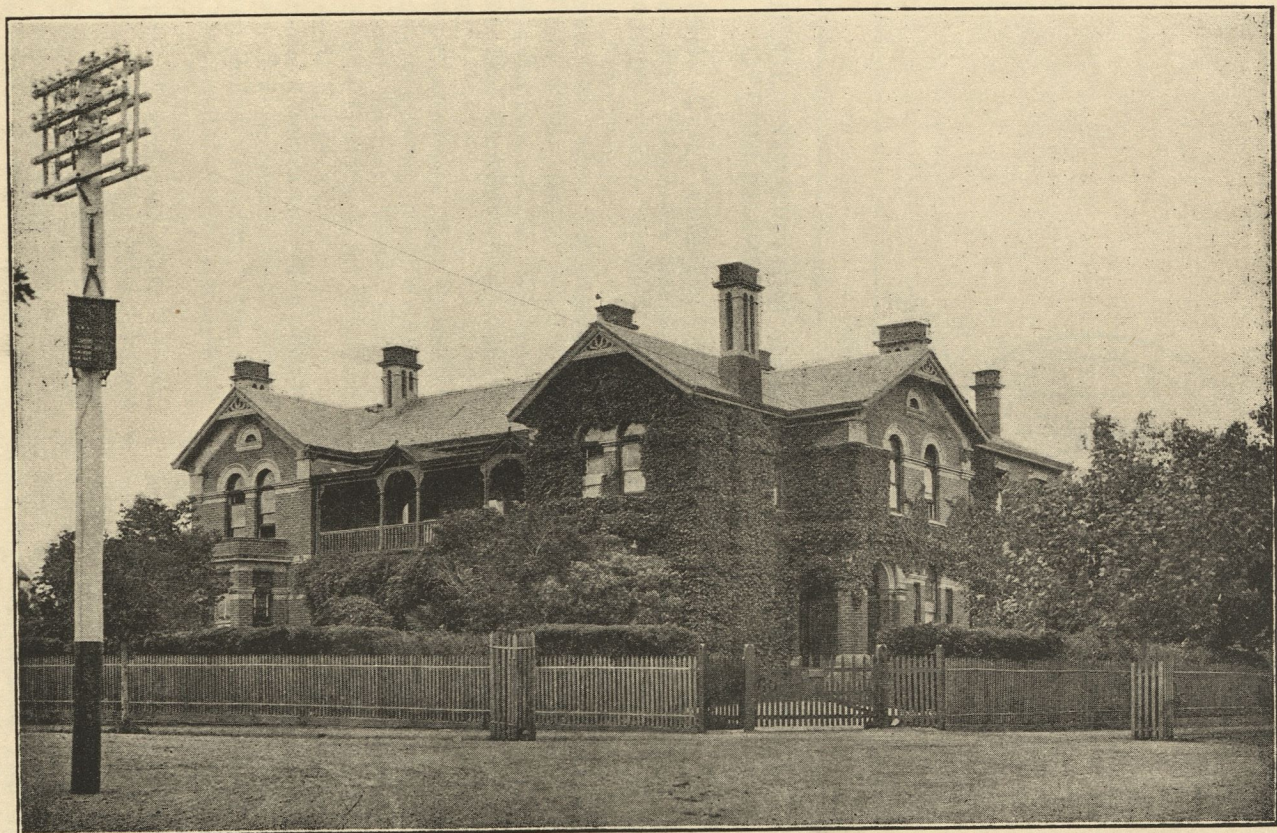
Miss M. Martin.

Miss D. Merritt.

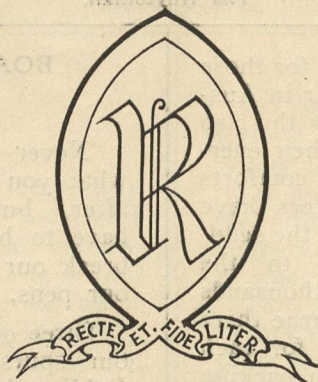
Miss A. Todd.

Mrs. L. Vance.

Mrs. Butler Walsh.



" RUYTON."



DECEMBER, 1915.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND OFFICE-BEARERS.

Prefects.—Veda Carnegie, Kitty Snowball, Gwynneth Sutton.

Librarians.—Kitty Snowball, Dorothy Armstrong.

Editors of the "Ruytonian."—Hilary Blake, Helen Elliot.

Tennis Captain.—Lalla Whybrow.

Basket-ball Captain.—Kitty Snowball.

Sports Committee.—Hon. Secretary, Lalla Whybrow; Hon. Treasurer, Anabel Syme; Maud Hiscock, Adelaide Holmes, Kitty Snowball, Brenda Syme.

Dramatic Committee.—Hon. Secretary, Mavis Smith; Hon. Treasurer, Maud Hiscock; Veda Carnegie, Anabel Syme, Lalla Whybrow, Hilary Blake.

Charity Committee.—Hon. Secretary, Brenda Syme; Hon. Treasurer, Gwynneth Sutton, Dorothy Armstrong; Helen Elliot, Dorothy Webb, Hilary Blake.

Miss Daniell is the President of all the clubs.

EDITORIAL.

We are nearing the close of another year, for many the saddest year history has ever known. There will be many gaps in the formerly happy Christmas gatherings, gaps that could only be filled by those who have fallen, fighting for freedom and the right, the men who in 1915 have made Australia a nation. We have thrilled at their courageous deeds, we have felt our pulse quicken at the praise they so justly received from all. And Britain is proud of her colony which has responded so willingly and well to her call. Although the Australians have been fighting so gallantly at the Dardanelles we must not forget they are but a small percentage of the brave Allies fighting there, for there are British, French, Gurkhas, and Serbs all doing their best to force the narrow pass.

This war is not only showing us what splendid men we have in our country, but women also have responded bravely. In England the

women are doing the work for those who are fighting, but so far in Australia there is no need for this; so our women are spending their energies in helping to provide comforts for our soldiers, committees have been formed to arrange for the sending of Christmas gifts to the trenches, and among the thousands of billies sent from Melbourne there were some from Ruyton, for each girl took much pleasure in packing her billy. The Ruyton girls have done their best to respond to the many appeals of the year, but they have worked hard as well for a large percentage of girls are going up for Junior Public this year. To all these we wish the best of luck.

We will be very sorry to say good-bye to some of our senior girls, who are leaving us this year. But we know that how ever far away they may go they will never forget Ruyton, and will sometimes send us articles for this magazine.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

For the public examinations held in November and December the following girls have entered. For the full number of subjects:—D. Armstrong, A. Holmes, M. Jamieson, I. Jones, M. Smith, A. Syme, and L. Whybrow. For some subjects only—M. Hiscock, D. Webb and H. Blake. Gwynneth Sutton hopes to pass in Senior Public Latin and Physiology, and Kitty Snowball in Senior Public Physiology. May success attend them all.

BOARDERS' NOTES.

"Never put off till to-morrow what you can put off till the day after," but as the boarders' notes have to be in to-night, we must break our motto for once, take up our pens, and WRITE!

Three of us are preparing to win our spurs in the field of Junior Public; the others, we hope to see at the top of their respective forms. Four of us are undergoing a fresh-air treatment, and sleep the sleep of the just under a canopy of stars. Although one of the aforesaid four becomes moon-struck at times, her attacks are not lasting.

Several times we have repaired to the river's brink, there to partake of a rustic meal, including ice-cream, cherries, etc., with an occasional spider to flavour the repast. Twice, also, there have been "sounds of revelry by night," the revelry consisting of grab-patience, charades, and dancing. Each boarder invites her bosom friend, and all are happy, as there are no gooseberries.

One of us will appear on the stage at that joyful occasion, the breaking-up. The others sit by and applaud, privately thankful that they are not in her place.

We now must bid you farewell, as both time and ideas are lacking. We hope, in our examinations to uphold the standard of the Ruyton boarders, and to welcome many new recruits next year.

FORM NOTES.

VI.

Once more those incessantly worrying, and untiringly persistent editors have disturbed the equilibrium of this illustrious form, with a request for form notes, so, as it would not be fitting for the notes of this form to be conspicuous by their absence, when the 'Ruytonian' is issued, we have endeavoured to spare a few moments of our ever precious time.

On November 9th we appeared in force at the Old Girls' day, and we were extremely pleased to have an opportunity of seeing Miss Lascelles again. In spite of the fact that the weather was sultry, a very pleasant afternoon was spent, and here we may add, as we consider ourselves rather good judges, that we think it was very well catered for.

As yet we have played no matches for the "Young Shield," but we hope that our form, will at least hold its own, even if we do not become the proud possessors of the shield.

Examinations loom before us, and the Junior Public class, and we here wish everyone who is entering, including ourselves, the very best of luck, and although the war, with all its sadness, still hangs over us, we wish all Ruytonians past and present, the happiest christmas possible.

K. SNOWBALL.
G. SUTTON.

V.

We have just passed through the turmoil of the tests and are now sailing in calm waters, but can see rocks and stormy weather ahead in the form of the Junior Public examinations, through which we hope to steer safely.

Ten girls are entering for this examination in December, though some are not taking the full number of subjects, and we wish them the best of luck in those they are taking.

We have done well in the inter-class basket-ball matches, but were beaten in the finals by Form IVa.

Our tennis four, which consists of Brenda Syme (captain), Melba Bice, Muriel Wynne and Dorothy Webb, has not played any inter-class matches yet, as most of the four are in the Dramatic Club, which is preparing scenes from "Quality Street" for the breaking-up, and the girls have to attend rehearsals constantly.

Two new girls, Melba Bice and Edna Holmes, have joined us this term.

We hope the V. form girls will distinguish themselves in both the dramatic entertainment and the prize giving, and thus set a good example to the rest of the school.

LALLA WHYBROW.
ANABEL SYME.

IVb.

We are still the same number that we were last issue of this magazine. Last term we had a school

room downstairs as our school room, but we were glad to go back to our room upstairs in the middle of this term. We were always being interrupted in the middle of lessons, and one knock we will never forget. There would come a "rat-a-tat-tat" on the door and a subdued whisper "Lalla," and when the door opened, it was "I told you so." This happened several times during the day, but there is no more of it now. We have found our way to peace, and it is by "racing up the stairs."

With regard to the position we hold in the school, we take the highest place (i.e., according to the height of the house).

Last week we had a half-holiday, being Old Girls' day, and some of us went down to the river for a picnic. It was a lovely day, and we enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. We arrived there for lunch, which we appreciated after our walk. We had plenty and it was said that we had "enough to feed a battalion of soldiers for a week." Nothing much more exciting happened than the falling of a hat and some oranges into the river. These were bravely rescued by a gallant member of the party. It was the first picnic we have had this season, and we hope it will not be the last, as the weather is getting hot.

We are in the thick of examinations, but it is a true saying that the darkest hour comes before the dawn, and we have the Christmas holidays before us.

N. BURNIP.
G. OLIVE.

IVa.

Once more the term is drawing to an end, and we are called upon to write the class notes.

At our Gabe Tepe fete on July 30th we held the sweet stall in the kindergarten room, and we represented the Belgian nation, and made £16 clear profit.

The finals of basket-ball matches have been played and we beat Vb by six goals, and are very proud to have the picture—the Pied Piper, by Maxfield Parrish—hung in our room.

As we have not played any tennis matches yet we cannot write what the result will be; we can only hope for the best.

A prize has been offered to the girl who has shown the greatest improvement during the year, and most of the classes have entered.

We are sorry to hear that Beatrice Griffith has to undergo a second operation, and we are waiting to visit her. Merlyn Alsop has returned after her illness, and we wish to welcome her back again.

On the day of the Old Ruytonians' At Home, we were given a half-holiday, and some of us went down by the river for a picnic. And one of the tiger snakes, which were caught that day, troubled us, and we all enjoyed it immensely.

KATHLEEN TICKELL.
EMMIE WHYBROW.

IV.

We are a class of hard working girls (?), all eager to be removed into IVa next year.

We have a tennis four consisting of Maisie Syme, Marjorie Camm and Audrey Humphries, with Jean Townsend as captain.

Miss Daniell has offered a prize to the girl who makes the greatest improvement in tennis, and we are trying for it.

Our class is too small to have a basket-ball seven, so Maisie Syme plays for IIIb and Jean Townsend for IVa, and we have inter-class matches.

We are now in the "terrible examination period," so we must say farewell till next time, as we are working hard.

A. HUMPHRIES.
M. SYME.

IIIb.

This is the last term of the year and we are all looking forward to the holidays. One of the girls of our form, Lynette Tonge, has been away the whole term, having had an accident in the September holidays. We all miss her very much, and will be very glad when she comes back.

Kathleen and Dorothy decorated the board for Old Girls' day, by putting the Ruyton badge in blue and gold, on it, and we put flowers in the room.

Some of the girls who are now in this class were in the same class as Gertrude Hwang, when she was at school, and say they would like to hear from her sometimes.

MARY ARNOLD.
SHIRLEY MACALISTER.

IIIa.

The Christmas holidays will soon be coming, and we will all be glad when they do.

We are having the examinations now, and we all hope to do well in them.

Miss Daniell has offered a prize for any girl in the school who has made the most improvement in tennis.

We played our tennis match a few weeks ago against IVb, but we were beaten, and we all hope to do better next time.

Miss Hunt, our form mistress, took us to Griffiths Brothers' tea factory, and we saw a great many interesting things. When we were going, we were each given two cakes of chocolate, and we also had a box of sweets between us. We enjoyed ourselves very much.

FLORRIE BOYES.
CARDEN BLAKE.

II.

Three new girls came up from the first class into our class this term. We have a sand tray for geography. We had a nice time in the holidays. We are starting examinations on Tuesday, November 16th, 1915. We have a snake in a bottle for the museum and a bit of a rhinoceros tooth. We have also a cat's eye and a spear. We had a case-moth climbing up the window pane. We have an elephant's tooth. Last Tuesday was the Old Girls' Association day, so we had a half-holiday. Annie Patterson found a

little bird in the play ground and shut it up in a box. We are working very hard for the examinations. Our tennis four is Rothes Smith, Anna Wischer, Winifred Kelly and Alice Paterson. We are all trying to get a prize at the breaking-up. We will be glad when the holidays come.

CARA WATERS.
BETTY BEGG.

I.

Ruyton is a lovely big school. There are ten girls in our class. Marjorie Robertson is a new girl. We are having a nice time at school. Our class is in the open-air room. There are blinds all round it. It is nice and fresh up here. Every day some one brings flowers for Miss Campbell, so our room looks very pretty. In the spring time we made long daisy chains of cape weed, and hung them all round the room. We think drill is fun. Miss Thompson is teaching us some old country dances. We have lots of games too. We play Darby and Joan, and Cat and Mouse, and that makes us all laugh. We all bring story books to school, and read them to each other. Some of them are very funny. We are making raffia baskets, and we have to finish them before Christmas, and Christmas is nearly here.

KINDERGARTEN NOTES.

We have a lot of trees in our play-ground (Nona). There are some apricots on one tree (Basil). Miss Ackroyd has some yellow chickens and some white ones (Margaret Nichol). One chicken is black (Douglas). Mother hen is sitting on fourteen eggs (Helen). She is a brown hen (Margaret Vance). Basil found a bird's nest (Mary Patterson), in the geranium bush (Joe). The nest was made of onion grass and string (Teddy). And had a broken egg in it (Mary Derham). Peter found a dead bird. We buried it near the fence and put cape weed on the grave (Moira). My brother has an ostrich egg (Audrey). There is a tennis club at school (Peter).

LIBRARY NOTES.

Although this is the last term of the year and examinations are imminent, we have had more members during this term than in either of the previous ones. These members, however, were mostly from the Junior School and so we were obliged to take these girls into account when ordering our books. As we arrange our books in alphabetical order according to the names of the authors, we have come to the conclusion that it is waste of time to number them. We have added several new books to our library this term. As they are by very popular authors we see members

rushing up, all excitement, only to find that their cherished worm has been carried off in triumph by some earlier bird.

With the addition of a very few more books our cupboard will be filled to overflowing, and then hooray for a new one! If any girls would like to help us accomplish this end we shall be very grateful.

The following is a list of books added to the Library since last issue:—

“Philip,” Thackeray; “The Virginians,” Thackeray; “Guy Mannering,” Scott; “The Heart of Midlothian,” Scott; “The Prince and the Pauper,” Twain; “The Hunting of the Snark,” Carroll; “Margaret Ogilvy,” Barrie; “Lysbeth,” Haggard; “Peggy D. O.,” Watson; “Peggy S. G.,” Watson; “Pixie O’Shaughnessy,” De Horne Vaizey; “Polly Anna Grows up,” Porter; “Norah of Billabong,” Bruce.

The works of Shakespeare have been added to the Reference Library.

D. ARMSTRONG,
K. SNOWBALL,

Librarians.

DRAMATIC CLUB NOTES.

The Dramatic Club is still flourishing and at every entertainment fresh talent is discovered in the members of our club.

On the 1st of October an entertainment was held at Ruyton. It can easily be said that it was a great success. Five short plays were acted and it would be hard to tell

which was the best, and even harder to select the girl whose acting was superior to that of the others. The curtain, which has the Ruyton badge embroidered on it, is much easier to manage since it has been put on a roller.

The girls are now working hard at “Quality Street,” that quaint old world little play by Sir James Barrie. It is to be acted at Xmas on speech night. We all feel certain that if the girls go on improving as they have at each entertainment it will be a great success.

We all feel that though the girls do well, the success of our entertainments is due to the patience and careful training of Miss Robson, whom we thank for all her kindness to us throughout the term.

MAVIS SMITH, Hon. Sec.

CONFIRMATION.

At the annual confirmation service at Holy Trinity, which was held this year by Archbishop Clarke on the 11th of August, seven of our girls were confirmed: Melba Bice, Edna Holmes, Phyllis Robinson, Mavis Smith, Kathleen Tickell, Janet Tonge and Hilary Blake.

The total number of confirmees, including girls and boys, was seventy-five. After an opening hymn His Grace the Archbishop gave a short address to the crowded church, and the service began. It lasted about an hour, and was brought to a close with the singing of another hymn.

SPORTS NOTES.

The sports season of 1915 is drawing to a close.

On looking back over the year it can be safely said that both the basket-ball teams and the tennis fours have improved very considerably.

Tennis is, as usual, the chief sport throughout the school; there are some very promising players growing up in the junior and middle school. The first four, which was practically a new one at the beginning of the year, practised steadily and showed great improvement at the end of the season. They were runners-up with Toorak College for the pennant. Most of the four are returning next year, and we hope to regain the cup and win the pennant for 1916.

The second four has made remarkable progress, the result of steady practice, and there should be a hard tussle for the fourth place in the first four next year.

A prize has been offered to the girl who has made the most improvement throughout the year; this will be decided by a tournament which is to be held at the end of term; it is hoped that every girl will enter for it.

The class matches, which are played yearly for the "John Young" Shield, are in full swing and there have been some very exciting matches.

Although we were not victorious in the basket-ball matches, the season was by no means unsuccessful.

The team made great headway and showed much improvement towards the end of the season, thanks to the assiduous coaching of Miss Cousins. We hope that they will distinguish themselves in the basket-ball world next year.

The finals of the class matches were played on Friday, November 19th, and after a very hard tussle IVa were victorious. They will hold the picture which Miss Daniell is giving.

Baseball has been introduced into Ruyton by Miss Thompson, who is teaching us to play the game. We all like it very much, but it will take some time and hard practice before we are able to compete with other schools.

LALLA WHYBROW, Hon. Sec.

CHARITY NOTES.

This term we have been devoting our energies chiefly to supporting home charities, although in July the Ruyton girls held a bazaar in aid of the wounded soldiers. About £117 was realised, and four beds were given to the base hospital, the few pounds over being sent to the Lady Stanley's Fund. The pound money, amounting to 10/-, was given to the Free Kindergarten.

On Wednesday, November 1, Miss Grantham came out to school and recited to the girls in the evening, and by charging 1/- and 6d. as entrance fee, £2 4s. 6d. was collected for the Children's Hospital.

Flowers are collected every week

and taken to St. George's Hospital, and we hope the girls will bring as many flowers every time as they did the first day.

No doubt owing to the warm weather, we notice the girls have stopped their knitting, but we would like to remind them that winter is coming on in France and our troops will be in great need of comforts soon.

B. SYME, Hon. Sec.

THE JUNIOR PUBLIC PICNIC.

The longed-for day dawned bright and clear, much to the joy of everyone concerned, and we all collected on the Kew station, under the charge of Miss Ackroyd, in a state of excited anticipations, of joys to come, to catch the 10.30 train. Upon arriving at Richmond, we all made a wild, but fruitless rush down the steps, as we were already upon the right platform.

We arrived at Mentone without any mishaps, though they might have occurred, as one girl would persist in blocking up the doorway, declaring that she had a relative at each consecutive station.

Upon reaching our destination we went immediately to the beach, and settled down in a comfortable spot to await the arrival of Miss Daniell, who was coming down later with one of the girls. When they appeared on the scene of action, we cheered them as only Australians can cheer. We then had dinner, and for some time the conversation

slackened, and contented munchings were heard.

After dinner we told yarns, and then adjourned to the baths, where we amused ourselves for about an hour, splashing round in a state of satisfied contentment, and creating large appetites. Upon leaving the baths we once more encamped (I suppose entrenched would be the more appropriate word) upon the beach, and refreshed ourselves with afternoon tea, ending up with strawberries and cream. We then packed up the baskets, and departed for the station, arriving home at about 6.30 in an extremely grimy, but by no means perturbed condition.

I am sure that we all had a most enjoyable day, and we here take the opportunity of thanking Miss Daniell for her hospitality.

GWYNNETH SUTTON.

GABA TEPE FETE.

When the news came of the gallant landing of our Australian soldiers at Gaba Tepe and when the heavy casualty lists began to appear, we all felt that we wanted to do something to help our wounded men. We therefore decided to hold a fete in aid of the wounded Australian soldiers, and a committee was formed of the staff and six girls to discuss ways and means; Miss Daniell was the president. It was decided that the fete should be held at Ruyton and that it would be called Gaba Tepe, after the landing

place of the Australian soldiers at Gallipoli. The date was fixed for the 31st of July, and two weeks beforehand printed notices were sent to old girls and to all those whom we thought would be interested.

Our appeal was responded to generously, and donations of money and articles for sale poured in, so that by the time the day arrived all our stalls were very well filled.

There were seven stalls, each representing one of the allied countries. By draping the walls with blue, white, and red and French flags, and by filling the room with little tables and chairs, the big dining room was converted into a French cafe. In the back dining room there was a cake stall representing Italy.

The produce stall was in the IIIb class-room, but by the time a huge advertisement for John Bull oats and various patriotic posters were covering the walls, and Union Jacks were hung round the windows, and the shelves were lined with match-boxes, jars of jam and pickles and bottles of tomato sauce, and tables laden with produce were standing round the room all sign of a class-room had vanished. This stall stood for Great Britain, and carried on a splendid business the whole afternoon.

In the next room, being the big kindergarten, there were two stalls, the Japanese fruit and flower stall and Belgian sweet stall. The fruit and flower stall was arranged right across the far end of the room, built high at the back with bamboos and wattle. There was one table of fruit

and one of flowers, besides boxes of flowers and pot plants on the floor, and a plentiful supply of wild flowers. All the girls on this stall were dressed as Japs in brightly colored kimonas.

None of the stalls were more sensibly arranged than the Belgian sweet stall, built in three tiers, the highest being at the back, so that everything on the stall could be easily seen. It was built forward into the room with a high screen covered in Belgian colours at the back of it. The whole thing was carried out in white and decorated with Belgian flags and streamers of red, yellow, and black.

The fancy stall was in the next room, which was hung round with Russian flags. The way between the two doors was left clear, and the stall, in the form of a cave, covered with pine-needles and "snow" and decorated with Teddy-bears, was over by the window. Another large table and a shelf above it completed the fancy stall.

Two fishponds and a table heaped with toys in the boarders' study composed the toy stall, which stood for Montenegro and Servia.

The fairy-floss machine was well patronised the whole afternoon and so were the hoop-lah tables.

Flags were draped all round the court-yard, and patriotic posters and flags were covering every available space. The liveliness of the afternoon was greatly added to by the Kew band, playing patriotic music up in the open-air room.

The total amount made by the

fete was £117. £100 were sent to the base hospital, where they provided four Ruyton beds. There remained, after expenses were deducted, £13, which were sent to the "Argus" patriotic fund. But for the enthusiastic support of the old girls and of our friends, we could not have made such a success of the fete, and we wish to thank them all for their kind help.

RUYTON STAFF PAST AND PRESENT.

Mrs. Guest is still in England. Old friends who would like to hear the latest news of her should write to Winnifred Guest, whose permanent address while in Australia is Nurse's Club, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Miss Julia Davidson is working very hard for the Red Cross Society in Torquay, England. She lives with her aunt and spends several hours a day with the wounded in a hospital.

Miss Lilian Dunn will again be conducting a drawing class at Ruyton next year.

Mrs. Charles Serpell (Miss Elsie Friend) has a daughter Barbara. Roger and David, Barbara's brothers, are growing into fine big boys.

Miss Ackroyd, who has been ma-

tron at Ruyton for two years, is returning to England to see her brothers who have enlisted for the war. We shall all miss her very much and wish her Bon Voyage.

Miss Julia Young is still in Russia. Her address is care of Madame Rubenstein, Rue de Mars, Petrograd.

Present girls wish to offer their congratulations to Miss Madge Cousins on her engagement to Mr. Graham Pearson, of Burnie, Tasmania.

AN ACCOUNT OF MISS JEFFERSON'S VISIT.

Towards the end of last term we were favoured by a visit from Miss Jefferson, who receives letters from the little children of India.

She told us of the life and customs of Indian girls, illustrating it with little pictures and knick-knacks. She enlarged on the treatment of unhappy girls who, if their husbands happen to die, have to suffer terrible hardships. They are made to fast three or four times a week and only allowed to wear white clothes. But probably the part which they feel most keenly is being forbidden to wear any kind of ornaments, as Indian women are very fond of wearing jewels.

We were also told that schools have been founded to protect these unhappy widows, and to give them

some interest in life by teaching them to read and write.

Girl babies are despised but boy babies are eagerly welcomed. When a woman is married she goes to live in her husband's house and is completely subject to her mother-in-law.

These Indian women lead a terribly monotonous life. They are never allowed out unless shut up in a small palaquin. Their houses are very bare, with little or no furniture.

The children have no toys except those which are given by the mission schools. Even the grown-ups think the world of a doll, as they have no occupations to pass the time.

She showed us some letters which were the work of Indian school girls and which were exceedingly well written.

At the close of the afternoon we accorded Miss Jefferson a very hearty vote of thanks for her interesting lecture.

NEW RUYTONIANS.

At the beginning of this term we were very glad to welcome the following new Ruytonians:—I. and B. Jones, M. Bice, E. Holmes, M. Robertson, M. Nichol, P. Hull, N. Goddard.

GROUP OF OLD RUYTONIANS.

In the June number of the "Ruytonian" there appeared a picture of the younger girls of Old Ruyton. In this number appears a group belonging to the same period. It shows Mrs. Anderson, the founder of the school, surrounded by her senior girls and some of her staff, The Misses Irving and Miss Ruth Varley. The Misses Irving are now the Principals of Lauriston in Malvern, and Miss Varley married a member of the House of Commons.

The photograph was taken at old Ruyton in Studley Park, now the residence of Dr. John Murphy. The long sticks which the girls are holding were used in a game called la Grace, which took the place of the modern basket-ball and hockey. The object of the game, it is understood, was not so much to give pleasure to the player as to impart grace to her bearing.



OLD GROUP.

Back row.—Millicent Howard (Butler), Edith Thornley (Boyd), Miss Lilian Irving, Mabel Box (Schollick), Louis Watson (Matson), Winnie Boucout (Hamilton), Jessie Scott (Todd), Emma Armytage (Paxton), Carrie Armytage, Betty Braim. Two in front.—Nellie Scott, Aimee Dodd (Mrs. Hewison). Row sitting.—Mollie McGillivray, Alice Crespin (Carnegie), Muriel Anderson (Chomley), Rose McCallum, Miss Irving, Mrs. Anderson, Kathleen Anderson (Mrs. Outhwaite), Nellie Nankivell, Miss Varley. Front row.—Ruby Vance (Alsop), Kate Hellicar (Alsop), Polly Crespin (Bedgood), L. McGillivray, Edith Alsop, Helly Wilkinson, Margaret Maine (Mrs. Outhwaite), I. Thornley (Nicholson).

OLD RUYTONIANS.

All old Ruytonians are affected by the war. Some have been touched more closely than others. To all we offer our heartfelt sympathy and especially to **Winnie Ward**, and **Bon Ronald** and **Marjorie Hay**, whose brothers have fallen at the front.

"Qui ante diem periit,
Sed miles sed pro patria."

Norma Tatchell has recently become engaged to Mr. Howard Sinclair, who leaves shortly for the front.

Edith Maxwell was married recently to Mr. Wilkinson in Wangaratta. Her husband has left for the front.

Nea Thwaites was married in October to Mr. Ridge, who has left for the front where he will serve as driver of a motor ambulance.

On November 3rd **Minna Simpson** was married to the Rev. Frank Johnson. The marriage was celebrated at Kerang at the home of **Nellie Brydges (Simpson)** whose husband performed the ceremony. **Jessie Simpson** was bridesmaid.

Helen Gunn (Ramsay) has a little daughter a few weeks old, who has been christened **Helen Ramsay Gunn**. **Sharlie Henderson (Tickell)** also has a little daughter.

Maisie Brodribb (Anderson) has a son.

Vera Austin left for Egypt but became ill on the way and had to land at Western Australia. **Rene** has gone over to her there.

Lily Whybrow, who has just completed the third year of her Arts course, intends to sail for England to do Red Cross work. Lily has also passed the examinations in First Aid, Home Nursing and Hygiene, so that she is well fitted for the work she means to undertake.

Elvie Carnegie has recently returned from America, where she had a delightful trip. En route she met **Marjorie Fraser**, who spent some time in Honolulu.

Nellie Patterson is studying singing at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. We hope she will prove a second Melba.

Vera and Dorothy Aldom have returned from England and are living in East Melbourne. **Laura Clark** is also back in Australia after a long visit to England.

Miss Daniell has had many visits this year from old girls, who are always very welcome at Ruyton. The prevalent opinion seems to be that Michael is like nothing so much as Tennyson's brook.

Trixie and Gladys Hay sail for Egypt in January.

Madge McCracken was married on November 30th to Mr. R. McCracken.

Mildred Lewis, whose baby son is only a few months old, has returned to Singapore.

The committee of the Old Ruytonians Association regret to hear of the illness of one of their most active members **Mabel Martin**, but

are glad to hear that she is better. **Sallie McInnes** has also been ill lately and has to take things quietly for a time.

Mrs. Walter Butler has returned on the "Niagara."

Mrs. Algernon Hay is living in Brighton for the summer.

Elsie Crowther left in the last week of October with four other girls to work in the hospitals or tea-rooms in Egypt.

Frances Kitchen has recently married Mr. Alexander Morrison.

Annie Grice has married Lieutenant Collins.

Ruby Guest is in a training home in London.

Elsa Anderson went to England to join the Hoddinotts.

President's Speech.

Ladies,—

It is the custom in our Association for the president to make some remarks on the past year. Before doing this I would like to express our great regret that Miss Bromby is this year unable to come to our Old Girls' annual gathering. We have received a letter from Mr. Bromby, in which he says that he regrets very much indeed that Miss Bromby's health will not allow her to be present to-day. It is the first time for many years that she has not been with us, and I know that I am speaking for all of us when I say how greatly we shall miss her this afternoon. We are extremely glad to welcome our other patron-

ess, Miss Lascelles, and feel ourselves greatly honoured that she has made a special journey from Geelong in order to be present at our gathering.

At our last meeting the war, with all its dreadful possibilities, was only three months old, and we in Australia had hardly begun to realise its meaning. Now, after fifteen months it is still pressing upon us and we have had brought home to us, only too sadly, its awful reality. We take this opportunity of offering our deepest sympathy to those of our members who have suffered loss during the past year.

In old boys' associations rolls of honour testify to the splendid work their members are doing. Because of our sex our work is of a less conspicuous nature, but we can and do help to achieve something of value by means of our Red Cross work and other activities. I think I may safely say that every one in our association is engaged in some war work. Indeed, several of our members have regretted that they are unable to be here to-day because of various Red Cross meetings which they felt they should attend.

In spite of the anxiety and disturbance caused by the war our association has not suffered. We have had an active committee, which has held five meetings, the attendance at each being very good, and a great deal of necessary business being accomplished.

It was felt this year that the rules of the Constitution should be revised and added to, as from time to

time questions came up as to what course should be followed in a particular instance, and we had no rule to refer to. The committee spent a great deal of time and thought in preparing suggestive rules for a Constitution. These were duly presented to a general meeting of the association on October 7th, and after some alterations were agreed to in the form contained in the minutes. Copies of these rules have been printed and can be procured to-day from the treasurer. Will you kindly give your name when you ask for one, so that the secretary will know not to post you a copy when she is sending them to absent members.

With regard to the fourteen rules which have been drawn up, there is one upon which I would like to make some remark. That is No. 13, which provides for the election of office-bearers and committee. We have hitherto held the election of our committee on the Old Girls' day in November. This was not found to be altogether satisfactory, as members had no opportunity of considering the nominations, and moreover, some time was occupied by the actual voting. The association has now decided that members shall first of all receive a paper asking for nominations for the various members of committee. This gives every member an opportunity of suggesting a member of committee. Then each member shall receive a ballot paper on which she may record her vote, and return to the secretary. It was felt that

those members who were not able to attend the Old Girls' meeting in November should not thereby be debarred from voting. They could still show their ballot papers, whereas if the voting took place on the day of the meeting, only those present could take part in the election. The present method has worked very smoothly and old girls have shown that they are interested by registering their votes. We have received a large number of ballot papers and the result of the election you already know.

To come to my last point, one which, though disagreeable, is a most essential part of all associations—finance. The person who could invent a means by which subscriptions could be automatically collected would, I believe, receive a golden crown—and life membership of every association, club, and society in the world. There is no problem that associations find so difficult to deal with as this one. In any association there is a certain proportion of members who, through pure forgetfulness, I believe, omit to forward their subscriptions. It may be that the subscription is too small and therefore troublesome to send, but so it is, and the Ruytonian is, unfortunately, no exception to the rule.

It seems hardly fair that non-paying members should continue to receive "Ruytonians" and notices in the same way as those whose subscriptions enable the association to continue. We decided, therefore, with great reluctance, that those

members who had been in arrears for over three years should be regarded as having ceased to be members.

We shall, however, be very glad to welcome back any of these members who may wish to continue. A number of members have this year preferred to become life members by paying the sum of £2 2s., and so saving themselves the trouble of paying the small yearly subscription.

I do not, however, wish to convey the idea that the association is in any way in want of funds. Our expenses are very small, and as the treasurer's report showed we have a good balance, but had all our members paid regularly we would have then been able—as I am sure all would have wished—to send a contribution to one of the war funds, which, as it is, we are unable to do without touching the money paid by life members.

I expected to have had to-day a very pleasant duty—that of welcoming the new president for the coming year, but you have done me the honour of electing me president a second time, and I appreciate very much the compliment you have paid me, and can only hope that I will be of some service to the association.

I would like to thank the secretary for the prompt and energetic manner in which she has carried out all her secretarial duties, and the treasurer and members of committee for their help during the past year.

In conclusion, on behalf of the association, I would like to congratulate the school on the past year, and to wish it a very prosperous and successful year in 1916.

THE OLD RUYTONIAN PARTY.

By Gwen Serjeant Whyte.

Not even the raging north wind, and persistent clouds of dust, which rioted joyously on the 9th of November, kept the Old Ruytonians away from the yearly reunion at Ruyton. With true loyalty, and a grit which defied grit, old girls raved the untoward elements, knowing the warmth with which they would be welcomed would make even the weather seem cool in comparison! Nor were they disappointed. Mabel Daniell, the president of the Old Ruytonian Association, received her old friends with a spontaneity, only second to the pleasure with which Hilda Daniell—for on Old Ruytonian day, the august Principal of Ruyton, descends from her High estate, and becomes merely one of us—greeted all the old comers.

The babel of talk, which gathered volume every second, rose even above the lilt of the orchestra, cunningly placed where it could be heard, but not seen; and quickly the party divided itself into groups, from which an astute observer could pretty well calculate the very age of the old school.

How we old girls have changed! How Ruyton itself has changed! How everything has changed—with the exception of an intensely amused group of flappers, who would be quite ready—were we willing to learn again—to teach their grandmothers to suck eggs!

I wonder what the flavour would be to our vitiated palates were we to take the lesson? Probably we should say, "Ah, these eggs lack the richness of those laid in our time. Ours were ducky little eggs—these are goose!"

But, never the less, we Old Ruytonians recognise their golden value with something, very like a sigh of envy.

The one regret of the afternoon—and it is a poignant one—is that, for the first time in the history of the Old Ruytonian Association, dear Miss Bromby is unable to be present. And as the presidential address dwells with sincere sorrow upon the fact, one's mind circles around the figure of our well beloved mistress in a whirl of memories.

Without any effort—just by the lowering of the eyelids, and the gentle raising of a mental window that bids fair to crash, so pressing is the flood of reminiscence—one sees her again in her black dress, white collar, and pretty lace cap, with its lavender bow. She is standing at the head of the table, peering down the room and calling the roll in the clear concise voice we all know so well. Crushed in the corner, as close to the door as possible,

with anxious eyes still scanning the ill-conned lesson, girls answer their challenge shrilly. "Muriel Anderson?" Adsum. "Ida Garrard?" Adsum. "Elsie Gubbins?" Adsum. "Mabel Daniell?" Adsum. "Enid Harlin?" Adsum. "Janie Mollison?" Adsum. "Hilda Daniell?" Adsum. "Marion Kennedy?" Adsum. "Amy Hornabrook?" Adsum. "Dorothy Howard?" Adsum. "May Gubbins?" Adsum. "Betty Alsop?" Adsum. "Molly Anderson?" Adsum. "Phyllis Vance?" Adsum. "Annie Todd?" Adsum. "Edith Colclough?" Adsum. "Lillie Oxenbould?" Adsum. "Birdie Brodribb?" Adsum. "Jean Aitken?" Adsum. "Blanche Blayney?" Adsum. "Gretchen Kleversahl?" Adsum.

Where are they now, these girls who once answered so glibly their old mistress, who, though ever present, is actually absent to-day?

Looking around one sees but few! But as the eye wanders, it is arrested by some more lasting concrete evidence of the past, and one is forcibly reminded of an incident which happened, so many years ago, one feign would forget it.

"By that window over there." memory whispers, "poor little Nellie Aitken—Nellie who died in the prime of her married youth—sat, the morning after the midnight supper. There was so much to eat that the fear was upon us lest our perfidy should be discovered by the proof of superfluous scraps. In those days you hadn't realised that the eyes of your teachers are frequently

kindly blind. So you ate, and ate, and ate. When morning came with heavy heads, but still light hearts, you—the majority of you faced breakfast. Nellie couldn't. The very sight of food produced pallor.

"Aren't you well Nellie?" the question came short, and sharp, and Miss Bromby's mouth closed with the quick decision you all remember vividly.

"No Miss Bromby!" answered Nellie in doleful veracity.

"Well you better leave the room!"

And as I sit listening to Mabel thanking Miss Lascelles for journeying up from Geelong, to be present with her old girls, I see the meek, subdued, shade of pretty little Nell pass by her tittering and more fortunate companions in revellery, until she, and they, too, are effaced with the tide of further recollections.

Ah Life, and Chance! What have you done to us? To us, the Old Ruytonians, who once were as blithe, and irresponsible, as that group of flappers over there, who are laughing at us out of the corners of their merry, bright, eyes? May you long continue to laugh, my little ones! And may the hand of time rest gently upon your glossy heads, so that the silver be carressed, instead of forced harshly into your rippling hair!

For, flappers mine—little flappers whom I love so dearly, because of one, who looks into my eyes, and calls me "Mother"—you, too, will come to be an Old Ruytonian. And some day—quite soon!—you, too, will year after year attend the an-

nual reunion, and will look around the old class room with recalling eyes. So let your thoughts, my little ones, deal as gently with the Old Girls, as they pray Life will deal with you.

A PICNIC ON MT. KOSCIUSKO.

One day last February a party of fifteen started out for a picnic to Mount Kosciusko, or "Kosy" as it is familiarly called in its vicinity. There were three car loads of us and we all met at Berridale—a very pretty little village with lovely hawthorn hedges and tall poplar trees—twenty miles from Cooma.

The next township was Jindabyne where we crossed the Snowy River, a clear sparkling stream, an eldorado for fishermen. Five miles further on we came to the Creel, another famous fishing spot, on the Thread-bow. In winter this is as far as cars can come, so visitors to the hotel have to continue their journey by coach or on horseback.

So far the scenery was very monotonous, mainly straggly gums, with here and there a few wattles. In some of the gullies were mountain ash trees with their white, straight trunks rising to eighty feet and more. After the Creel the country becomes stony and rocky and the vegetation scarce. The road is splendid for motoring though in parts very narrow with very sharp turns. Most of the way it is cut on the side of a hill with the hill rising high on one side and a

steep gully on the other. It would take a very slight accident to send a car topling down a few hundred feet or so, as the road is not always fenced. At intervals there are posts to mark out the road when it is covered in snow.

We called at the Kosciusko hotel for a few minutes. It is run by the Government at a great loss, and is eighteen miles from the Mount. We passed Bett's Camp and Charlotte's Pass, crossed a few streams and climbed a few hills. Before we got out of the tree line we had to stop and gather our firewood to take up with us as there is not a stick on the Mount. Kosciusko does not strike one as very awe inspiring, as it does not tower above the surrounding mounts, but is approached gradually. Unluckily the day was not very clear and the view from the top was not what it ought to have been. A haze hung everywhere and we couldn't see Victoria at all. We had our lunch right on the top and, of course, several snaps were taken.

We arrived back at the hotel about 6 o'clock, had afternoon tea looked over everything. It is a beautiful building fitted with every comfort and convenience. There is a glorious ball room, billiard room, tennis courts, golf course, a lake which is frozen for skating in winter, and behind the hotel is a hill called the Grand Slam, used for tobogganing. We also saw the dogs which went to the Antarctic with Mawson. The poor animals didn't look at all happy in their new home.

Coming home one of the cars did not behave itself nicely and we didn't get to Cooma till 11 p.m. We sat down to our dinner at 11.20! very tired and hungry, but happy after our very enjoyable day which we will long remember.

A. Stevenson Benduck.

THE WAR.

In the past Australians have always been regarded as pleasure-loving and irresponsible people living in a wealthy country they did not fully utilize and whose possibilities they did not realize. It was generally supposed that no one in Australia was poverty-stricken and that it was merely a matter of buying a large area of cheap land, which would always prove of great value to the new owner, to make a huge fortune. The wealth so easily gained was as easily spent, for Australians were fond of life and movement, of travelling, theatre-going, dancing and sport of all kinds, at which they undoubtedly excelled. Britain knew that Australia was a rich asset to her Empire, but she looked to the future for the Continent's greatness.

On the outbreak of war, and the appeal of the Mother country for troops from her dominions over the sea, Australia began to feel, for the first time, that she had a responsibility, and that she must play her part in the Empire's struggle for freedom. It was Australia's hour. The chance had come for her to prove herself worthy of nobler things. than. winning football

matches; to show England that she was prepared to do her duty when the call came. From all sides gathered volunteers, and in the first expeditionary force Australia sent thirty thousand of her finest men. They were bound for an unknown destination, but that they were ready for any service their country demanded, was proved by their famous landing at Gallipoli. The glory of their wonderful feat spread all over the world, and London became wildly enthusiastic over the gallant Australians. The world is also being shown another side of the Australian character. It was one thing to have the daring courage to fight a way up rugged cliffs amid the shell and fire of Turkish guns, but it was another matter to fight steadily on, gaining little ground and few victories, with the tenacity and patience the Australian soldiers have shown at the Dardanelles.

Writing from the front, an Australian officer said: "If I go out, that is merely a shortening of the span to an inevitable end — but to fail when the test comes, is the only disaster a man need fear."

This is the spirit which has come over Australia since the war began. She is not only fighting for the establishment of universal freedom, and for the freedom of the Empire, but for the freedom of her own shores, and the safety of her own homes. The war is binding Australia into a nation, and she is paying the inevitable price in lives. In

money also she is doing her utmost. At Ruyton we are glad to feel that we have done something to add to Australia's gift of money.

Soon after returning from the Christmas holidays, we gave a small dramatic entertainment. No admittance was charged but we made several pounds by selling sweets and Belgian flags. We were given the care of the ice-cream stall at an "Allies Tea" at the Studley Park courts, and the money what we made that day, together with the weekly collections, selling flags, buttons, and roses, was sent to the Belgian Relief Fund.

In July our Gaba Tepe fete realised £113, most of which was spent in providing the four Ruyton beds at the base hospital, but the remainder, with the proceeds from a ten minutes' tennis tournament, was sent to the general patriotic funds.

Next Saturday week a fete is to be held at Mrs. Rutter Clarke's house in Toorak, where we are to manage the bag and basket stall, which we hope will be a great success. The fete is in aid of thirty-seven thousand French babies.

We have subscribed £140 up to date to the many calls of the present year, and we hope in the future to prove that we shall not be found wanting in any effort needed to keep the grand old flag flying.

HILARY BLAKE.

THE LITTLE BELGIAN GIRL.

Near Brussels, the capital city of Belgium, there lived with her father and mother, a little golden-haired girl of about 10 years of age, named Marie.

One day, when they were sitting in the garden, a shell from a distant German gun, burst close by: it was then they knew the Germans were really coming to conquer Belgium.

Soon, other shells began to fall, making a great noise, and Marie, with her parents, began rushing about to get away from the danger.

In terror the father led the mother and Marie to the little gate, opening on to the high road.

There they saw a great many people all hurrying down the hill away from that side of the town where the Germans were firing the guns.

Without waiting or turning back Marie and her parents commenced to walk in the same direction.

They walked quickly and Marie's mother became so tired that they had to stop and rest: they were still sitting by the roadside when they were startled by the cry that the German soldiers were coming, and in the distance the soldiers were to be seen on horseback.

Marie and her parents began to run. Marie ran, and ran until she was stopped by a German soldier

on horseback. Presently other soldiers came along, who, after asking her some questions which she did not understand, put her into a shed with some other Belgium children.

They were given nothing to eat, and when it became dark she went into a corner of the shed and lay down and soon fell fast asleep.

In the middle of the night she awakened with a start, not knowing where she was; looking around she saw a light, it was the light of the moon shining through an opening in the wall. She moved towards the light and found a small hole.

She crawled through and when outside she started running. She was so tired that every now and again, she was forced to stop and rest; but she kept on until she felt she could go no further. Just then a motor car came by and almost ran over her; she called out and the driver stopped and picked her up and put her in the car.

When she was taken out again, she found she was amongst a lot of strange people, who very kindly put her on board a ship which was crowded with Belgian people escaping to England.

She reached England, and a few weeks later she was taken to where her father and mother, who had also escaped, were staying.

They were overjoyed to see her and she was a most fortunate little girl to find them once more.

GWEN CARNEGIE.



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