

EARDISLAND SCHOOL.

THE HISTORY of education in Eardisland is an interesting one, covering as it does a period of nearly 350 years.

In the year 1603 William Whittington, formerly of Eardisland, died; and he made the following bequest:

"I bequeath and give all that my portion of tythe in Street in the Parish of Kingsland for and towards the erection and maintenance of a Grammar School within the parish of Eardisland... and the same school shall be and for ever remain for the maintenance of a learned, grave, and discreet scholar to be for ever chosen out of one of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge to teach children within the said Parish of Eardisland..."

What happened immediately after William Whittington's death is not quite clear. A Commissioners' decree of 1641 reveals the fact that a schoolmaster did exist in Eardisland, but that "John Hughes, D.D. and Rector of Kingsland Hath received the said profits and hath allowed to the schoolmaster for his maintenance but only £6.13.4d., but hath detained and reserved £4 yearly to his own use for the space of 17 years past and upwards to the prejudice of the School and contrary to the intent of the donor, and hath also received £15 for wood sold in Street aforesaid, two parts whereof do belong to the said schoolmaster, which amounted to £10, amounting in the whole to £78, we further order and decree that the said John Hughes shall before the 3rd of September next pay.....the sum of £78, whereof we order one moiety to be employed for the building of the said school, and that the school be built within one year after the receipt thereof, and the other moiety to be allowed to the prosecutor for his charges spent in the prosecuting and recovering thereof."

There seems, however, to have been some difficulty in procuring a suitable site for the school; and it was not until 1652 that this was achieved, Thomas Leinthall the elder, of Hardwick, giving the necessary ground. The relevant indenture states: "... the said Thomas Leinthall, the elder, moved in charity for the advancement of learning and the virtuous education of youth within the said Parish doth freely and voluntarily give... all that my messuage or tenant with the garden and orchard thereunto belonging... lying and being in the said county between the highway and the River Arrow".

It seems safe to assume, therefore, that the Grammar School was built very soon after 1652, and at a cost of probably around £50. It is an attractive black-and-white house, still distinguished by its Whipping-post, and now converted into two farm workers' cottages. It was, presumably, used as a school continuously till 1825, when the National School was built by voluntary subscription, on land given by the Revd. Canon Evans of Burton Court.

It is rather interesting to note that the education of girls does not seem to have been neglected in Eardisland, and it is said that when Mr. Barker came in 1867 six girls were attending the National School. From 1868 until 1872 the girls

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Whipping Post.



Carlisle, Old School and Whipping Post under window.

Old Grammar School
before Restoration.



Pigeon Cote and Grammar School
about 1930. (Reading Room.)

were educated in a separate building, and by a separate teacher; and it is clear that Mr. Barker made every effort to persuade parents to send their daughters to school. The Girls' School Account of 1870 states that "the number of girls continues to increase steadily, and there are now 28 names on the register, with a fair average attendance both on week-days and Sundays"! The girls paid 1d. a week for their schooling; there was a full-time Schoolmistress, with a salary of £15 per annum; and the balance required for running the School (in 1870, £17.1.7d.) was met entirely by subscriptions from local clergy, landowners and farmers. The Parish Magazine for July, 1872, states: "Our girls now numbering 26 in the Register Book have lately removed to the other School, but are still educated apart from the boys, under Mrs. Leigh's good care, in the new classroom which has been added to the buildings. The usual annual subscriptions will as heretofore be required and thankfully received for the girls' department of Eardisland School."

Note. There is some doubt as to where the girls' school was before 1872. An article in 1900 states that the Pigeon House was fitted up for the girls; and the Parish Magazine for November, 1872, states that "the room lately used as the girls' school has been kindly lent by J. Clowes, Esq., as a Reading Room". Miss Blackmore, too, has heard that the Reading Room was once held at the Pigeon House. The baffling feature, however, is that both the girls' school and - later - the Reading Room has a substantial bill for coal; and there is no fireplace in the Pigeon House. The other possible place is the old Grammar School itself - but a newspaper article of 1900 states that it was let as a cottage for 1/- a week and was in an extremely dilapidated condition; this continued till 1876, when the property was sold to Mr. Clowes and fitted up as a Reading Room.*

It seems, however, that a Dame School for small children was run by Mrs. Parry at the Perch House, the children paying 4d. a week. This school was still in existence in 1875, a month-by-month record of "Minnie's schooling" having been recorded by Mr. Kington, of Riverside, that year in his account book.

But to return to our present School. As stated above, this was found to be inadequate for the requirements of the Elementary Education Act, and certain improvements were carried out in 1871 and 1872. A wooden floor was laid in the boys' room, in place of the stone one; a new classroom for girls was added; and "new offices" were built. (Estimated cost, £70.10.0.) In March, 1872, it was announced in the Parish Magazine that all the necessary improvements had been completed, and the cost met by voluntary subscription, and thus the (Whittington) endowment had been rescued from appropriation by the Government. The notice goes on to state that "the Government requires that every child between the age of 5 and 13 years shall attend school so many times in the year... and for every one on the books who does not make the requisite number of attendances a deduction of 12/- each is made from the Government grant". To ensure satisfactory attendance it was made a rule that "any scholar absenting without having previously obtained such permission will be fined 2d. for each half-day absent". At the same time parents were assured that "they will be allowed to have the services of their children as occasion requires so far as it may not interfere with the requirements of the Act". The Rules end with the information: "Hours of Attendance;

* Since writing the above we have ascertained that at one time there had been a fireplace in the Pigeon House. It seems certain, then, that the Pigeon House did provide accommodation for both the Girls' schoolroom and the village Reading Room.



*Cardisland Schoolhouse and School.
1955.*

Morning, 9 to 12; Afternoon, 2 to 4.15. Children must come cleanly and tidy in person and dress."

The next major operation was the building of a Schoolmaster's House, Mr. Clowes having purchased the old Grammar School at valuation price (£35), and given a piece of land of exactly the same size near the School. He also gave a considerable subscription towards the cost of the new Schoolhouse. This was built in 1875, at a cost of £208.10.0., the bulk of the money having been found by voluntary subscription.

Schooling was at first free to every child. In the Parish Magazine for December, 1874, however, there is the following rather rueful entry: "A certificated Master having been appointed, and great additional expenses thereby incurred, it is necessary that School payments should be made for the future, by both boys and girls... Children to pay one penny a week, or 3d. for a month of 4 weeks if paid punctually in advance... in the case of parents sending 3 or 4 children to school, payment will not be charged on more than 2 children, if the pence be paid punctually in advance." (We do not know for how long the children had to pay, but according to Mrs. Frank Stead it must have gone on till the Nineties.)

In 1893 the small classroom was condemned by the Education Dept. as too small. A voluntary rate was levied and £148 raised; and this sum was spent on rebuilding the classroom and cloakroom. A newspaper article of 1900 says: "The present need of the school is that a lavatory should be provided, and it is to be hoped that this need will soon be met." A wash-basin was in fact installed in 1907, when "a large porch" was erected to serve as a cloakroom and lavatory. Our school is, alas, still without a lavatory in the modern sense, having only earth closets.

Electric lighting was installed in both the School and Schoolhouse in 1931.

The Staff at Eardisland before 1871 consisted nominally of the Headmaster, and an Assistant Master. The Headmaster was licensed by the Bishop, and he did not necessarily reside in Eardisland or perform any teaching duties at the Grammar School. Thus it happened that 100 years ago both the Vicar and the Headmaster resided out of the Parish, and rarely visited it - and one can imagine that Mr. Harte, the Curate-in-sole-charge, and Mr. Bullock, the Headteacher, had a very busy and not very remunerative task.

Mr. Bullock, in addition to being Schoolmaster, was Postmaster, Parish Clerk, and Shopkeeper! It is reported (newspaper cutting, November 16th, 1900) that while he held the office of Headteacher the School was one of the largest and best in the neighbourhood. The average was over 150 scholars (presumably all boys), and the monitorial system had been adopted, the most forward of the scholars taking classes in turn. At one end of the School a furnace and boiler had been erected, and in Mr. Bullock's time, as well as that of his successor (Mr. Leigh), soup was provided free for the scholars twice a week. (It is interesting to note that some of the poorer inhabitants of the Parish were also supplied with soup from the School at this time, at 1d. a pint. This boiler was not removed till the small classroom was enlarged in 1893.)

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Eastland, Schoolchildren.
1902.



On the Departure of - 1917. - the Rev. R.S. Aldridge.



1953

By courtesy of H. Jempest, III.

Mr. Leigh was Schoolteacher, or Usher, when Mr. Barker came to Eardisland as Headmaster and Vicar in 1867. Mr. Barker, incidentally, did not draw the pay which went with the licence of Headmaster; but one can be sure that he worked very hard for the improvement of the School, and was a real influence for good in the Parish. Mr. Leigh is distinguished as having organised the drum and fife band, to which reference is made in the Church Magazine of 1871. He also started the Cricket Club in 1872, and the School Library.

Mr. Leigh was succeeded by Mr. Wall. Nothing is known of this teacher, and he was here for only 3 years.

The first certificated teacher was Mr. Haynes, a member of a Leominster family, who taught at Eardisland School from 1875 till 1888. We know from a Statement of Accounts in a current Church Magazine that his salary was £80 a year, big money for those days, plus a half-share of the Government grant, which was usually around £40. We know from the Log Book (started in 1875) that there was an Assistant Mistress, and a paid Monitress to teach the infants. The numbers in 1878 were 85; and by May, 1879, they had risen to 105, the highest on record. In November, 1881, they were down to 78.

Mr. Rogers - still remembered by Mrs. T.G. Smith as "terribly hard" - came in 1888 with an excellent reputation, his wife also being appointed as a full-time teacher. For a time - from 1890 till 1892 - we seem to have had 3 teachers and a Monitress, and around 90 children on the register.

Mr. Rogers resigned in 1901, and Mr. and Mrs. Wood were appointed; Mr. Wood was with us right up till the time of his death in 1940. A third teacher was appointed in 1902, and in 1903 we find mention of 100 children at school. Mrs. Davies came to us in 1912, and remained as Infant Teacher till her retirement in 1948.

After Mr. Wood's death we have a series of temporary Heads, (all ladies) or Heads who remained with us only a short time, until Mrs. Powell's appointment in 1945. For a time - when there was a surplus of male teachers coming out of the Emergency Training Colleges - we had Mr. Dewar as our Junior Teacher. Now, however, we have gone back to our normal complement of two teachers, both ladies, our present numbers being 57 children.

Whittington Exhibition Foundation.

As previously stated, William Whittington, under his Will dated 24th December, 1603, founded and endowed a Grammar School in the Ancient Parish of Eardisland. The endowment, which was originally paid to the Headmaster, consisted of Tithe Rent Charge on lands in the Parish of Kingsland. The commuted value of the Tithe Rent Charge is £55 and is payable by the owners of Street Farm, Lyme Farm and Lady Court (or Ledicot) Farm. Under the Tithe Act of 1925 the amounts payable on the respective farms are £52.11.2d.; £4.2.10d.; and £1.1.0d. respectively. The Rateable Value of the Tithe Rent Charge is £39.

Under a Scheme dated 19th July, 1910, the Board of Education applied the endowment in maintaining Exhibitions at a Secondary School or Technical Institution, to be awarded to pupils resident in the Ancient Parish of Eardisland who had for not less than two years at any time attended Public Elementary Schools, and

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as far as possible to boys and girls alternately.

By resolution of the Governors the value of the Exhibition was fixed at 12 guineas per annum for 3 years; the holder to be selected by examination, held annually in July. Later, it was agreed that the examination should be held in June instead of July, and candidates had to be under 12 years of age on August 1st in the year of the examination.

The Bursary is, of course, no longer required, and the money is at present accumulating under the supervision of the Charity Commission and the Ministry of Education.

Children's Treats.

Judging by the reports in the early Church Magazines our children have never been without parties, outings and jollifications generally. Some, of course, were self-made, and Mr. Barker in the Magazine for July, 1883, records the following songs which were sung by the children at Christmas and the New Year:

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
A pocket full of money and a cellar full of beer,
The cock was on the roose, the hen went chuckling by,
If you won't give me a New Year's Gift,
Give me a good mince-pie.

A jug, a jug, a threepenny jog,
And a bottle full of brandy,
A looking-glass to see your face,
I think it might be handy.

The roads are very dirty,
Our shoes are very thin,
I've got a little pocket
To put a penny in."

Talking of brandy and conviviality, we are told (in 1884) that at the School Treat "great amusement was caused by Snap-dragon, which was managed better this time, groups of children taking their turn at snapping for the blazing plums" - with a definite suggestion that brandy was used to make the plums blaze!

Soon after Christmas each year the Vicar gave a party for the schoolchildren; this took the form of tea, followed by games. Those - besides the ever-popular Snapdragon - included scrambles for nuts, walnuts and sawdust, suspended from a beam". By 1888, however, more sophisticated forms of entertainment seem to have arrived, and one reads of the children enjoying a Magic Lantern, and an "orange to each child on leaving".

Then, in July or August there was an annual School Feast at Street Court, and another at Burton Court. "Headed by the Drum and Fife Band they arrived at Street Court about half-past three... After tea the Eardisland boys' cricket materials were called into requisition in one field, while races, football and other games found votaries in the other. Before parting each child received some plum-cake, and a small present."

It is recorded, also (August, 1872), that the children played "games of Football, Rounders, French and English, Cat and Mouse, Thread the Needle, and other old English pastimes too numerous to name".

Then, of course, there were the various Coronation Celebrations:-

1902; Mrs. Clowes presented prizes for needlework and drawing, and to all the children buns and sweets... The big races, together with the bicycle, obstacle and sack races, were keenly contested."

1911; "Tea for all the children under 14 (bring your own mugs); sports; fireworks, and a bonfire at Hinton."

In this Century the Treats seem to increase in number, Mrs. Blackmore and Mrs. Riley (Court House) also inviting the children at Christmas or in the Summer.

Nowadays, though Treats at private houses are a thing of the past, the children do not lack entertainment; and we have a School Fund, run largely by the parents, to pay for educational journeys and extra equipment, and for recreational purposes such as parties, pantomimes, etc.

We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Powell, our Schoolmistress, for a most detailed survey which she had prepared for us from the School Log books. Space, unfortunately, does not permit of its being reproduced in full. Here, however, are a few of her findings:

From 1875 (when Log Books were started) we have had frequent epidemics in our School, and very often the School had to be closed. In the last Century the main illnesses seemed to be Scarletina, Mumps, Whooping Cough and Measles. Measles epidemics seemed to be very prolonged, and on one occasion, (in 1887) the School had to be closed for a "thorough cleansing", on doctor's orders, following an epidemic. Influenza does not appear till 1891; however, it reared its ugly head then with a will, for the School had to be closed for some weeks. In 1894 Scarlet Fever put the shutters up from July 2nd till October 14th. Diphtheria is first recorded in 1898; the School was never, however, closed on account of this illness. From 1905 on, it seems to have become more usual to close the School for an epidemic of any illness - probably a wise policy. In 1947 we come up to date with the disinfecting of the School because of a suspected case of Poliomyelitis - fortunately, the diagnosis proved false.

Between 1895 and 1950, so School history tells us, we have had at least 84 floods in Eardisland! - and for 45 of those the School had to be closed. What a thrill for children of all ages! And many can remember the custom of going around on stilts, a custom which seems to have died out, unfortunately. One tragic entry occurs in 1899, when two schoolchildren were drowned in the flood.

We now publish in full Mrs. Powell's notes on the School Year over the period, as shown by the Log Books.

Holidays, Absenteeism, etc.

In Mr. Hayne's time (1875-1888) the Vicar was Headmaster.

The children went to Church, usually at 11.15, on many occasions, e.g., Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, Candlemas, many Saints' days, the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, funerals of local celebrities, or people connected with the School. Mr. Barker frequently visited the School to check registers, examine progress, take lessons, discuss administration, punishments, etc., and to take charge while the Master was absent. His daughters could deputise for him. There were frequent visits also from H.M. Inspector, managers and others.

There was a great deal of truancy. Children stayed away for bad weather, harvesting hay, corn, fruit, acorns, roots; for market and pleasure fairs; for circuses; fetes, (e.g., the Foresters' Fete in Pembridge); hop-picking; errands; to prepare poultry for markets; cold weather; after being punished; illegal employment; to beat covers for the owners of Burton Court or Hinton Manor; to mind younger children; for Butter fairs, leasing, or to keep fowls out of the garden.

Holidays were short. The children had one month in the Summer, called the Harvest Holiday, and only one or two days at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. Often the School remained open on Easter Monday and Whit Monday. But, there were frequent closures all the year for bad weather; to prepare for entertainments and clear up afterwards; epidemics; Harvest Festival; cleaning; fairs - market and pleasure - in Leominster, Kington, Presteigne, etc.; choir trips; after Inspection by H.M. Inspector; for low attendance; for the Master to attend Choral Festivals in Kington, Leominster, Ludlow, Hereford, etc.; when the Master was away on business.; to see the Meet of the foxhounds; to see a Battery of Artillery pass through the village; for annual Treats given by the owners of Burton Court, Street Court, and the Vicar; when the Master and children required a rest; when the Master had to see a doctor; for General and Local Elections; after the Diocesan Examination; for teachers to attend lectures; for Pembridge Club Walk; Oratorio; Volunteer Manœuvres. Later there were holidays for Royal weddings, Jubilees, birthdays, ploughing and hedging competitions, and visits and funerals.

In Mr. Rogers' day (1888-1901) there were still frequent closures for odd days, but we find him cutting them down almost at once, so, instead of days for fairs, harvest, concerts, etc., School was closed for half-days, or earlier than usual (3.10 p.m. instead of 4.0.)

He introduced straightaway the giving of Certificates of Merit for good attendance and good work, so that he gradually eliminated the "gross unpunctuality and bad attendance" of former times. It was uphill work, but by the end of his years of service he had gained his object - a School where the attendance was usually above 70% and not below 50% as formerly.

Certificates, gifts and prizes were given by the Vicar, Mrs. Spencer (Glan Arrow), Mrs. Clowes, Col. Clowes, Mrs. Tebb, and others, for good behaviour, punctuality, good attendance (half-yearly) and good work.

As the odd holidays were eliminated, the main holidays were very gradually lengthened, until the present time when we have only 5 odd days in the year, and the main holidays amount to 12 weeks.

Subjects Taught.

- 1875. Scripture, Arithmetic, Reading, Spelling (including Dictation), Geography, Singing, Needlework.
- 1878. February 25th. Parents object to home lessons.
- 1879. First mention of Drill (older boys only).
- 1883. Scripture becomes Religious Knowledge.
- 1888. Drill becomes Manual Exercise.
- 1891. Manual Exercise becomes Musical Drill.
- 1892. First mention of Drawing. (Certificates awarded yearly as the result of an examination.)
- 1893. First mention of History.
- 1894. 4 girls allowed to attend lectures on Sick Nursing at the Reading Room.
First mention of Recitation.
- 1896. First mention of Kindergarten materials.
- 1897. Religious Knowledge becomes Divinity.
- 1898. New set of "Physical Exercises" started.
- 1900. A Nature Study walk instead of Drill.
Lantern slides to illustrate Geography, Nature Study, Virtues.
- 1901. Recreative lessons. Guessing games.
- 1902. First mention of a game - Col. Clowes gave a Cricket set and permission to play in the field.
- 1903. Swimming lessons. Col. Clowes provided bathing drawers and promised 5/- to the first boy to learn to swim.
- 1904. Mosaic Tiling by Infants.
- 1907. Organised Games.
- 1910. Plasticene Modelling.
- 1912. Hygiene.
- 1917. School gardening.
- 1919. Boys collected 35/- for a football.
- 1920. 14 girls begin Cookery in the Reading Room.
- 1922. Individual Private Study - Seniors.
- 1930. Older boys attend nearest Handwork Centre (Leominster.)
- 1933. Mrs. Clowes gave Netball apparatus.
- 1941. Head Teacher's wireless used for certain lessons.

- 1942. Children presented a play - first mention of Drama.
- 1943. Dancing introduced.
- 1945. Rounders sticks bought. School wireless set bought.

So that now we have all the above subjects, with a County Organiser for several, and yearly Festivals for Music, Poetry, and Choral Speaking, a Carol Festival, District and County Sports. (Music includes Singing, Percussion band, Recorder playing, listening to "Adventures in Music" Broadcast.)

We make frequent visits in school time to various places. For example:

- 1947. To the Three Counties' Show.
The Royal Wedding Film (in Leominster).
 - 1949. Scott of the Antarctic (Film).
The Snow Queen (The Young Vic Production)
 - 1948. Journey to Birkenhead and Liverpool (Seniors).
 - 1951. The Festival of Britain (8 Seniors).
 - 1953. The Coronation Film.
 - 1954. The Conquest of Everest.
Carl Dolmetsch Recital.
 - 1955. The Virtuoso Chamber Ensemble.
- And) The County Music Festival.
Yearly } The County Drama Festival.
) District Sports, County Sports.

Methods of Teaching.

- 1875. "Schooling" a matter of learning by rote - rules, definitions and facts.
No talking, no moving about the room.
- 1890. H.M. Inspector wrote in his report "Some of the children are inclined to talk whilst working their Arithmetic Exercises."

Mr. Rogers begins to depart from these formal methods, but very tentatively, e.g.:
- 1893. Conversational lessons!!!
- 1894. He allows 4 girls to attend a lecture on Sick Nursing in the Reading Room.
On the last afternoon of the Autumn Term he had a special programme of Musical Drill, Recitations and songs. Also a Spelling Bee.
- 1896. He brings kindergarten materials into the Infant Room. He exhibited in the Classroom some beautiful pictures which were loaned to him.
- 1897. He introduces simple scientific experiments.

1898. He allows the top Standards to go out to see the swarming and hiving of his bees.
1899. He illustrated lessons on the power of steam by a working model locomotive.
1900. He allows some boys to study the eclipse of the sun through smoked glass.
He began to take children out to study Nature at first hand - an innovation indeed!
He began to illustrate Geography and Nature Study with lantern slides.

Mr. Wood continued thus:-

1903. He began to give the older boys swimming lessons.
1907. He introduced organised games.
1910. He brought clay modelling into the Infant Room.
1911. He included Hygiene in the Curriculum.
1917. He included Gardening in the Curriculum.

The Education Department begins to broaden its conception of education.

1920. The older girls take Cookery in the Reading Room, with Miss Griffiths as teacher.
1930. Handwork Centres established for boys.
1922. The introduction of individual private study by Mr. Wood is another innovation.

But there was still a great deal of learning rules, facts and definitions by rote, even right up to about 1940. Since then, a complete revolution in the conception of education has taken place, and it is now regarded as the development of the whole person, mind, body and spirit, and methods have changed to meet this broader and more intelligent view.

Thus: the timetable is elastic. It is thought good to allow children to discuss their work together, to help each other, to move freely about the room to get and put away necessary equipment. The teacher may take her children on school journeys to places of educational interest in school time - journeys which may take a few hours, a day, or longer. There are various Festivals - Music, Carol and Drama - in connection with school work.

The revolution in Physical Training is amazing; from the "military" drill of 1875 to the Physical Education to-day, including study of and training in Movement.

Examinations.

1875. A yearly Internal Examination, conducted by H.M. Inspector, usually in July.
A yearly Diocesan Examination.

1892. In addition a Drawing Examination was started. Drawings went to the Education Department for judging yearly. Sometimes a Manager would be present.
1900. An examination at Pembridge, Kingsland or Leominster, for Labour Certificates for those wishing to leave.
1904. Agricultural Scholarship, yearly until 1915.
1911. The Whittington Scholarship Examination. and yearly thereafter.
1916. Bible and Prayer Book Examination.
1922. Rural Entrance Scholarship Examination; thereafter yearly.
1944. The County Entrance Examination for free Secondary onwards. Education.
(It is interesting to note that since 1945 more than 50% of the children sitting the Entrance Examination have in fact passed - an excellent record.)

Opening and Closing Times.

- 1875-1908. It appears that the Master could alter the times of opening and closing as he pleased.
Times recorded are:

Morning Session:

Opening	..	8.30	..	9.0	..	9.30
Closing	..	11.0	..	11.5	..	11.30 .. 12.15
		1.15	..	1.35		

Afternoon Session:

Opening	..	1.30	..	2.0
Closing	..	2.0	..	2.20 .. 2.40 .. 2.45
		3.0	..	3.10 .. 4.0 (usual)
				and even 5.0

This last to give extra time to improve work, or to do again work badly done, or for homework!
Or to make up time lost through bad weather.

And yet the Timetable of Lessons was rigid and every departure from it had to be recorded.

Now the times of opening and closing sessions are fixed and rigid, but the timetable entirely flexible.

Interesting Entries.

1877. A mother asked if her sons could come at 9.30, as she could not get them ready for 9 o'clock.
A mother complained that the work was too hard for her son.
1878. A mistress reproved for impertinence and neglect of duties.
Children allowed to go to the village to see a Battery of Artillery passing through. Many followed it to Pembridge, and so there was no school in the afternoon.

1879. The Master was absent, searching for a truant.
The Master absent in search of Register of Births.
1881. First Class boys allowed to go after hounds which met
in the village.
Mention of some children attending half time.
Two girls, appointed to sweep the School, rewarded by
Col. Clowes.
1882. A number of children absent to receive Charity flour.
A deduction of one-tenth in the Grant, for faults in
instruction in Spelling and Arithmetic.
1884. Mother complained of amount of work and threatened to
withdraw children.
1885. "If the School were kept open longer and a higher fee
charged, the attendance would probably be better."
H.M. Inspector.
1886. Col. Clowes invited all present to a Conjuring Enter-
tainment.
1888. Several children in arrears with payment.
1889. (February) Tomorrow being Candlemas Day, many families
are leaving the parish.
(October) Several ladies see drill and hear songs.
1890. Many older boys illegally employed.
1891. Whit Monday. Dismissed 11.30 to see Volunteer
Manœuvres.
Call Bell provided. New desks from proceeds Children's
School Bank started. 13 members. Concert.
1893. Wedding of Prince George and Princess May. Children
celebrated after 4 o'clock. Tea at Monk's Court,
given by the Vicar.
1896. Washed a boy at the pump; neck, ears, face, hands.
Kept at home in the afternoon.
(February 28th) No school. Funeral of Vicar's son.
Exhibited beautiful pictures - loaned.
1897. Holiday to commemorate Queen Victoria's Sixty Years'
Reign.
Letter from Education Department saying larger subscrip-
tions expected.
1898. Parents object to compulsory attendance.
First mention of Local Agricultural Society.
1899. Two girls drowned in floods. Master organised dragging
operations.
1900. Two children withdrawn and are being instructed at home
under the tuition of Ruth Parry.
(May 31st) News of surrender of Pretoria received here
at 1.30 p.m. Hoisted Union Jack and sang the
National Anthem on the bridge.
Working experimental timetable to suit changes in New
Code.

1901. (January) Announced the death of the Queen.
 (March) Presentation to the Vicar and Correspondent.
 Six boys and seven girls received Maundy Money.
 (November) Col. Clowes returned from the War.
 Entertainment. Proceeds for School Funds.
 (December) Mr. Barker died.
1902. Proclamation of Peace.
1903. Girl left at 13. Bye-law permitted if she had made 350 attendances a year for 5 years.
1904. Mrs. Spencer arranged that all who brought dinners should have a cup of hot cocoa. (In after years they had to pay ¼d. a cup, and later still the School Fund provided it.)
1905. Boy awarded an Agricultural Scholarship, value £15 a year for 2 years, given by the County Council on the result of an examination held in the Shirehall.
1907. 2 swings erected. Paid for by proceeds of children's Concert.
1908. Dismissed at 11.15 for children to receive charity flour
 Incandescent lamps provided.
 Magazines given to members of Band of Mercy.
1909. First record of visit of Medical Officer of Health.
 Vicar and Churchwardens gave a football.
1910. First consignment of books in connection with the Herefordshire School and Village Libraries.
1911. First mention of Whittington Scholarship - £12 a year for 3 years.
1912. H.M. Inspector - use of slates should be discontinued.
1914. Boy eligible for Silver Medal given by Sir James Rankin, for 5 years' perfect attendance.
1916. First mention of Bible and Prayer Book Examination.
1917. War Savings Association started.
 3,603 eggs collected for wounded soldiers.
 Gardening started as War work.
 Knitting started as War work.
 Half-holiday to pick blackberries for Army and Navy.
 Mrs. Clowes loaned piano for school work, and entertainments.
 First mention of visit by nurse.
1918. Boy Scouts and choir attended Memorial Service for Lieut. Clowes.
1919. Boys collected 35/- for a football.
1921. First mention of visit of School dentist.
1922. First mention of children gaining Rural Entrance Scholarships.
1925. Some attended funeral Service of Col. Clowes.

1930. First mention of visit of Domestic Science Organiser.
1933. School Outing to Aberystwyth.
1935. First mention of visit of Physical Training Instructor.
1936. First mention of milk in Schools. Supplier: Mr. Edgar Griffiths.
(July) Queen Mary passed through the village at 3.30.
Children allowed out early.
1939. (September) Closed indefinitely - International situation.
1941. National Savings Group formed.
First mention of wireless lessons in School.
First mention of a Football Match against another school (Kingsland), strangely enough arranged by a woman Head!
1942. Mrs. Clowes and the Vicar visited the School to discuss the starting of School dinners.
First mention of children acting.
1943. Canteen Committee formed (now administered direct).
First hot dinners served; 35 in number.
Electric boiler and hot cupboard installed.
1944. Electric equipment wired.
Mrs. Atkins appointed Parents' representative on the Canteen Committee.
Wellington boots brought by the nurse, for which she collected money and coupons.
First mention of leavers being interviewed by a Ministry of Labour official.
1945. First mention of visit of County Music Organiser.
School wireless set delivered.
1946. Sewing Machine delivered.
Mrs. Clowes distributed King George Commemoration cards.
1947. From February 6th - 24th the School was closed - no fuel.
From March 17th - April 14th the School was closed - no fuel and floods.
First mention of visit of Drama Organiser.
First mention of County Music Festival.
First mention of Percussion Band.
First mention of County Drama Festival.
1948. First mention of Recorder Band.
First visit of County Youth Organiser.
1949. First mention of diphtheria immunisation at School.
First mention of District Sports.
(September) Gramophone delivered.
1950. First mention of Choral Speech.
1952. Visit of County Psychologist.

We feel we cannot do better than end this section on our School and School life with a cutting from a newspaper article of 1900, entitled

"Recollections of Eardisland Grammar School, by an Old Scholar."

It would be about the year 1857 when I commenced going to Eardisland School. A very old schoolmaster, Mr. Bullock, who at one time kept the Post Office as well, was my first teacher. He was, however, only about 3 years my schoolmaster as, owing to his advanced age, some of the bigger boys got to some extent the best of him. I well remember him chastising a boy called Parker, when two of the older brothers joined the younger in a scuffle with the poor old man. (Parker's was always a fighting family: Will died in a skirmish with natives somewhere abroad; Jim was also in the British Army and I think died a soldier.) Shortly after this a change was made, and I think Mr. Bullock received a part of his salary until his death.

The school desks in his time used to be where the platform now is, but rose in tiers one above the other, one row of desks on each rise. The whole of the scholars in the writing lesson were plainly visible to our old chief, who for any little misconduct on our part used to spank us well on the head, or anywhere, with a long ruler he used for the large blackboard. The school at this time, and later, was free to boys only; the girls paid something per week for their education. The whole of the boys and girls able to write at all paid 3d. per month for pens and ink. Mr. Bullock made the quill pens we used, Wigmore Common supplying the needful goose-quill, which used to be gathered in that part by some of the scholars living there.

Mr. Plwell, Rector of Welwyn, was Headmaster of the School for many years. This seemed curious to us, as the Curate-in-charge (the Revd. J.H. Bluck) seemed to have no power to act; but this is probably explained by the fact that the Vicar, the Revd. F. Rudge, did not live in the Parish and took no active part to earn his stipend which, however, he did not fail to collect (per deputy) twice yearly. Some very quaint stories used to be told about this old Vicar, some of which I well remember, but to repeat them would not serve any useful purpose in this letter.

I remember the new schoolmaster, Mr. John Leigh, for whom I had the greatest respect. He was a mere stripling, but we soon found a great change in our School. He was a thorough worker. The desks were shifted from the platform and put to the side of the School, and soon there were Penny Reading "Concerts"; and last, but not least, the library was started. Mr. Leigh started too, the first Cricket Club in Eardisland; and it was no trouble to get an Eleven together to play home and away matches during the season. Most of the old Eleven are now dead, or have left the neighbourhood. However, there was still one left when I was over and saw Mr. Chas. Griffiths, of the Cot. Mr. Leigh had also a boys' club (Cricket) which he helped with money, as well as training them to become cricketers, and from the boys' club he got his "recruits" to fill up gaps in the men's club. I have, when quite a boy, gone with them to many village cricket matches, when Mr. Leigh generally found the cash.

Visitors to Eardisland School in my time were few and far between: amongst them the earliest I remember was Canon Evans and Miss Evans. Mr. Powell used to pay irregular visits, varying from a fortnight to a month. It was quite a sight to the children to see a lady or gentleman enter the school, and as soon as one entered the order was given to "stand". The copy books would be shown to all visitors, and I have had a few encouraging words from the Revd. Powell on more than one occasion. This is only a small matter, but it is long remembered, and I do not forget the many kindnesses to me from Mr. Barker."