

“The Theorshian,”

VOL. III. No. 2.

JULY, 1925.

VALETTE.

TO THE SCHOOL.

When I came in to take Prayers on the first morning of this Term I told you that it was for the last time, but that I hoped to have an opportunity later of saying farewell to you and your parents. My intention then was to have a Speech Day or some other form of gathering at the end of Term. But events have made this impossible and so I have to try to write what I should have tried to say.

On the first day of the Autumn Term, 1917, when 39 boys were present, I told them that their first duty, after their duty to their parents, was their duty to their School. And on other occasions since then I have reminded you that you are members of a body, and not selfish individuals thinking solely of your own comfort or profit. I have no hesitation in saying that those who come to a school merely to get something, and do not feel that they owe something, are not likely to become useful members of the community. But there are signs that these are in a minority, and that most of you do and will take pride in any success achieved by the School or any of its past or present members.

Thinking of you now as individuals, and not as a body, my first feeling is that the history of the last eight years is as plain a proof as can be wanted that no boy knows what he can do till he tries. This may seem a very commonplace remark, but there is nothing more important for each of you to remember. It applies to games and to general usefulness, as well as to work, and is a part of that tradition which I once told you you had to create. In former days it was said that a boy of this School could be recognised by his beautiful handwriting. Make it your business that now and in days to come the boys of Tewkesbury Grammar



O. H. LACE, Esq., M.A., L-ès-L.

School may be known for their sense of duty to their parents, to the places where they live and work and to their School.
O. H. LACE.

TO PARENTS AND OLD BOYS.

Circumstances prevent me from doing more than expressing my deepest thanks to you all for the help and encouragement you have given to the School and to myself and Mrs Lace during the past eight years. While it may be embarrassing sometimes to be told by parents that they leave a boy entirely in his hands and rely completely on his judgment, yet a Headmaster cannot but be grateful for such signs of confidence. And it is superfluous to enumerate the many ways in which Old Boys either can help or have helped the School. Every Headmaster desires and is most grateful for their co-operation: by their mere presence on Speech Day, Sports Day, or other similar occasions they encourage him to "stick it" in spite of all difficulties.
O. H. LACE.

**Mr. O. H. LACE, M.A., Oxon., L. ès L. (Paris).
Headmaster 1917—1925.**

Roughly eight years ago the charge of this School passed into the hands of Mr. O. H. Lace. On the opening morning of the Autumn Term, 1917, less than forty boys assembled before the new Head; to-day there are nearly a hundred and twenty. True, the measure of a school's progress cannot be given in mere numbers, but alike in all its aspects and activities the School has developed since that September morning when Mr. Lace began his uphill task.

The years which followed were full of steadfast work for the most part his efforts were rewarded with success, but times there were when he knew the disappointment of defeat. The School soon gained ground and in 1920 the numbers had been raised to 100. Throughout, there was abundant evidence of progress, both spiritual and material, and numbers still continued to increase. But the years of toil had left their mark upon the Head; signs of a failing health began to make themselves apparent. In spite of this he carried on with that indomitable courage and unflagging zeal so characteristic of him. After a year's rest

in Switzerland he intimated his intention of resigning. This news brought the deepest disappointment to all who are interested in the School, and who have watched its steady growth during the past eight years. It had been their earnest hope that Mr. Lace would be able to resume and carry on the work so splendidly begun.

All whom he taught, all who came into touch with him in School affairs, all who worked with him could not fail to discover that, with him, thoroughness was more than a mere name. Into his pupils he instilled the sound doctrine of hard work, while to his colleagues he set an example of indefatigable industry and unflinching self-sacrifice. His quiet and unassuming manner won him instant obedience. Discipline he desired but there was no trace of tyranny in his methods of ensuring it.

As one holding such a responsible post he strove to keep the broader issues in sight. Examinations, as such, he did not consider the be-all and end-all of a school career. He aimed at a result which should bear the mark of true culture and he fashioned the School activities accordingly.

Constant association with him revealed a depth of character that impressed most forcibly. Sincere, just and fair in all that he did he won the confidence alike of pupils, parents and colleagues. Magnanimous and generous and possessed of a keen sense of humour he was able to view things without prejudice and accept things without a grudge.

His leaving will be an immeasurable loss to the School. He will indeed be greatly missed but his influence will remain, the seed of his sowing will bear rich fruit in the future.

APPOINTMENT OF HEADMASTER.

On June 26th the Governors elected Mr. W. H. Struthers, B.Sc., to the Headmastership of the School. The fact that Mr. Struthers has been a member of the Staff, and Second Master, for three and a half years, makes it unnecessary for us to "introduce" him; but we may mention that Mr. Struthers is a graduate of the Victoria University of Manchester, where he took 2nd Class Honours in Physics in 1913 and Diploma in Education in 1914, and that before coming to Tewkesbury he held posts at Oldham and Ashton

