

FINAL SPEECH DAY FOR THORNBURY'S 366 YEAR OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE THORNBURY Grammar School's traditions of learning and academic ability and their tremendous range of opportunities will be carried on into the new school, Marlwood, in the autumn, declared Lt. Col. Stephen Jenkins, Chairman of the Gloucestershire Education Committee. He was the guest speaker at the Grammar School's last Speech Day in the 366th year of the school's existence.

In September the school moves to completely new premises at Alveston, takes the name 'Marlwood' and becomes a 'Comprehensive' school.

On May 17 a nostalgic looking back on the past was combined with glimpses of a future with a wider range of opportunity made possible by improved facilities and growth, a better system of pastoral care through the new houses and careers department and close contact with the parents, to quote the Headmaster (Mr. T. Fazey.)

PRIZES

Lt. Col. Jenkins after congratulating the prizewinners said that one heard so often these days that having prize is not the right thing to do. He didn't agree with that. He was sure it was a good thing to have prizes and it was a good thing to have occasions like this when they could get their prizes and feel they had achieved something and had the reward from it. The element of competition in everyday life and in school life was good so long as it was honest, clean competition.

He commented that the prizes indicated the very wide range of interests they had. Nowadays they had in their school a tremendous range of opportunities but they had also a tradition of learning and academic ability.

"This is the tremendous thing you will carry with you into your new school," he said, "And above all you will carry the traditions of this school—the will to learn, the will to have an enquiring mind and to think for yourselves.

"People are so inclined these days to sit back and wait for somebody else to do something for them and if they don't do exactly what they think, then people sit back and start to grumble. There is an old saying "God helps those who help themselves." This is one of the things you must learn at school—to think for yourselves, have an enquiring mind and make up your own mind what you are going to do."

Col. Jenkins said a lot was heard about leisure. As working hours got shorter there would be more leisure and it was important while they had the opportunity at a school like this to learn to do things and to learn to travel. They must not forget that behind leisure was a jolly good day's work. That was often forgotten. One heard all about leisure and very little about the day's work which was essential before they started their leisure.

"The greatest satisfaction

you will get is from a decent job of work or a decent day's work well done," he declared.

EXCITING

This was a very exciting time in education when new methods were coming forward and teachers were asking themselves what they were doing, why they were doing it and how they were going to teach. There had been tremendous activity from the teachers centres they had started up in the county.

Col. Jenkins said very few people realised how much this county had expanded in the last six or seven years. The number of children coming into schools at primary age had been increasing at the rate of 3,000-4,000 a year and every year for the past four or five years they had been opening 11-14 new primary schools or new extensions. This meant that some new school had to open somewhere once a month to keep pace with the additional children coming in. The increase was now passing over into the secondary schools range and this expansion in Thornbury and the move to Alveston was part of it.

It had cost a great deal of money and involved a tremendous programme. The majority of this expansion had taken place in this part of the county. The only sad thing about this was that under the local government reorganisation Thornbury would go into Avon, but he was sure the Gloucestershire characteristics would not be lost in the new county.

Mr. L. J. Hawkins, chairman of the Governors, who presided, said: "These buildings and the old school buildings, mean a great deal to me and to many thousands of pupils whose future lives have been moulded by the education that they have received here, and some have returned to this school at Staff. Governors and Parents in their later lives but growth and change are I suppose two major factors in our present age and I am convinced that the Working Party when considering Secondary Education for the future of the Thornbury area, made an exceedingly wise and forward looking decision to move to new buildings at Alveston and its vision has much to commend it.

GLORIOUS GROUNDS

"Much as we have come to love the beauty of these buildings, the glorious grounds, its marvellous turf and the beautiful trees in the grounds, I have a profound belief that Marlwood School with its much greater size, the fine facilities it offers and its wider horizon will

"Whether a school grows in numbers or not, it is constantly outgrowing its facilities because of changing methods and curriculum and because it reflects to some extent changes in society as a whole. In 1869 the early school near the church solved a problem by turning a stable into a classroom. Though its curriculum, like other schools, was classics-based, it does not seem to have been as exclusively so as most schools. A new room was built in 1906 and science introduced. In 1909 Woodwork was taught in a small shed. Expansion of its range of studies has proceeded continually since.

"In the 17th century learning was more leisurely: lessons lasted, even in winter, from 7 to 11 in the morning and from 1 to 5 in the afternoon. For working in the dark hours pupils brought their own candles. No doubt that will bring a

smile to certain Old Thornburians present because a few weeks ago in a fuel crisis we too brought our own candles. There was about one half-day off a week and holidays were much rarer—they were called "remedies." Not much room was left for what we would call out-of-school activities even if numbers had permitted them. It was Ross who really gave the school a start here, as he introduced the uniform and Attwells crest, with sports day, organised games, and amongst others an early example of one of this school's most attractive features—charity work. Why one of the new houses carries his name must by now be obvious, but he would be astonished at the extent of our recent activities.

"Things are obviously far from static. The main move is towards a wider range of opportunity, made possible by improved facilities and growth, and a better system of pastoral care through the new houses and careers department, and close contact with parents. It is not new nor will the process, or problems, end in September.

PRIZE LIST

Form prizes: S. Collins M. Johnson, Jane Browning, Patricia Bossons, C. Williams, N. Dyer, C. Windsor, J. Butler, D. Nicholls, S. Watts, N. Denning.

Merit prizes: M. Gay, Suzanne Niblett, Alison Gould, Karen Skirrow, C. Efford, Lorraine Moore, N. Holt, D. Johnson, Ann Saunders, Rae Candy, A. Holtom, Susan Trotman, Sara Hall, Daryl Birkett, Helen Loe, N. Evans, J. Moore, Gay Morris, P. Appleby, Susan Harrison, J. Sargent.

Subject prizes: Sally Bateman, J. Kirk, Mary Leigh, Pamela Blackmore, Jane Powell, Jennifer Willis, Cathryn Britton, Carol James, J. Kirk, P. Appleby, G. Howell, T. Riccomini, Jacqueline Anderson, J. Hill, G. Howell, Janis Diffeey, Delia Sheward, Robert Exon, K. Potter, T. Cole, Alison Creene, Valerie Payze, A. Hook, Nicola Green.

School prizes: Boy Captain B. Thomas; Girl Captain Valerie Sewell; Drama Jane Short, L. Rummens; Rabley prize for service to the school Elaine Hackett; David Hamilton prize for prowess as sport G. Gossedge; Academic Shield 1970-71 Howard House.