

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
LAWRENCE ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL, SANAWAR.

1st April, 1936, to 31st March, 1937.

The many changes which 1936 brought to India and the Empire—a new King Emperor, a new Viceroy, a new Commander-in-Chief, political and international changes—these went on without greatly affecting Sanawar which carried on with its share in the world's greatest task, the up-bringing of the young generation.

Numbers. There were many more applications for admission than places to give; the School will not really accommodate many more than five hundred, and at that figure the strength of the School has remained fairly constant throughout the year. These five hundred are taught, trained, fed, clothed and doctored by the School, contributing towards this fees varying from sixty rupees a month in the case of two or three parents in really good positions to a few rupees only from children whose parents are privates or gunners. Some 47 are entirely free; of these 5 are the orphans of soldiers who died in the service, the rest are ex-service men's children. The number of these free pupils falls steadily and they will soon form only a small proportion of our total. Once they are in the School, no distinction, of course, is made between the various categories of children, few of whom have any idea what category they come under.

Character of School changing. Not many of our parents now look to India as their real home; they come out to do their five years or so in this country and then return to England. The greatest demand for places, therefore, comes from the parents of fairly young children, eight and nine year olds predominating; these youngsters stay till they are perhaps thirteen or fourteen and then leave. We have, of course, children much older and much younger than that but to anyone used to Schools in England, Sanawar on parade would appear (to put it flippantly) to be going thin on top and most unfashionably protruberant about the middle.

This, again, brings many problems.

For instance, an attempt has been made to run Sanawar on public school lines, the system having been introduced in Canon Barnes's

time, I believe; possibly even before that. This, I feel sure, is the best way of bringing out character, building up loyalty and of giving opportunities to the older boys and girls of developing powers of leadership. The system, however, pre-supposes a reasonable proportion of older boys and girls and without them the chain of delegated responsibility—Principal—Housemaster—Prefect—boy—loses a link. Moreover the Staff which was engaged to deal with older pupils is not so suitable now that we have so many younger ones; I have seldom, for instance, found a master who is really successful with boys of under ten and when little girls are added it really is not a man's job.

The educational Problem. The greatest problem is one which is by no means peculiar to this School; it is that of doing justice under one and the same system both to the naturally clever child and to the unintelligent.

We get at least our fair share of the latter class here including a handful who cannot be far removed from mental deficiency. Added to them are the children whose school-life began in Hong-Kong, continued in Aldershot and Malta and has been so broken that they have to begin again with those years younger than themselves; it will be easily understood that the tendency in Sanawar has been to cater for the weaker brother rather than the stronger. The patience and resourcefulness of many of the staff with these backward or dull children amazes me but while the School has tended to become an increasingly pleasant place for the weak I am not sure that it has done enough for the strong. In my opinion you do grave dis-service to an averagely clever child if you make life too easy for him; it is by meeting and overcoming difficulties that personality is formed and the true scholar's character, that of deep and exact thought, is developed.

For it should be remembered that while the backward child in Sanawar has much greater advantages than it would enjoy in England, better teachers, better equipment, more contact with cleverer minds, the forward child is at a disadvantage. In England to-day the course of the clever child is plain and easy and it can sail through School and College to a wide choice of career at little or no expense to the parent; Cambridge and Oxford are half-full of the cream of Secondary Schools, boys whose parents are clerks or common craftsmen. That system does not obtain in India and it is a shame, as I think, that a child should be handicapped simply because his father is a soldier.

The rival claims of these two classes of pupil in one School are not easy to reconcile but I have set myself from the out-set to try and do so. The system of co-education had been begun by Mr. Hunt and was continued by myself (with some hesitation at first, since what

works well enough in England need not necessarily be successful in India). This change-over has been completed this year and has made my task easier. The system known as the "Triple Track", fairly common in England but apparently less so out here, was introduced by myself two years ago and means that the brighter children are less held back by the unintelligent, since Form "A" represents the brighter third of the children of any given age. My insistence that boys and girls who at sixteen are unable to keep abreast of work designed for thirteen year olds shall either leave School or be diverted to utility classes has also helped to clear from the two top forms those obviously incapable of benefitting by further "book learning" and who merely retard these important forms.

These reforms are having a perceptible effect on our examination successes; our results will never bear comparison with the average School out here since we lose many of our brightest children before they arrive at examination age. Never-the-less, out of sixteen presented for School Certificate two boys and three girls passed. We are taking the Junior Cambridge from a form lower than any School in the Punjab (possibly in India) and this is the first year of the experiment so that our getting ten passes only out of seventeen entered (compared with our hundred per cent success last year) is really much more creditable than might at first appear.

Our two candidates for the Royal Air Force both passed into Halton and thirteen boys were successful in the Army Technical Schools examination. We entered two boys for the Punjab Intermediate Science Examination; one passed and began his studies for the Indian Medical Department; the other failed in one subject.

The change in the attitude towards work of the whole School is what has so greatly pleased me, however, and not the mere examination results. Neither the climate nor home habits in this country are conducive to industry but there has been little short of a revolution this year.

The Teaching of English. Before leaving the teaching side of the School's life I would like to mention our efforts to improve the standard of spoken and written English. The children in this School do not suffer from that particular country accent which is so insidious but many of them speak very roughly and unpleasingly. English being my own subject, I set great store by its being used properly and prettily but it has been a terrible task here. Among the boys there was some prejudice in favour of rough speech as being more manly but a straight talk on the value of good English for those who aspired to

commissioned rank in the service changed that attitude and with various devices I think we are vastly improved.

We have every variety of dialect to contend with from the Cockney of the "Muvver don't want nuffink to-day, fank you" to Lancashire of the "Eh, ba Goom" variety, (all demanding different treatment, by the way) and though heaven forbid that we should reduce all young England to the B.B.C. level, still there is a reasonable speech they could all attain. We have given what some people might think a disproportionate place to "Dramatics" but I feel it has been fully justified. Our first effort three years ago, the *Tempest*, was so played as to make Shakespeare turn in his grave but *Julius Caesar* this year was nearly faultless in diction, whatever the acting was like.

Music. We hope to put on a Gilbert and Sullivan Opera this year to stimulate another side of the School life which used to be weak. Our music pupils have risen from 33 to 52; singing is now taken in every form up to the Lower Fourth and the House Singing Competition, introduced this year, was one of the greatest successes since I came here. It is only right that I should publicly refer to the enthusiasm and energy of the Staff who rose to my lead in a manner unbelievable.

Inspection. The School was inspected at our invitation by the Inspector of European Schools. His report was encouraging and though not all his suggestions are, I fear, practicable, his visit was helpful and much appreciated.

Time-table. A new time-table was introduced this last year as a result of experience and discussion. We now begin the day with nine o'clock chapel, followed by a morning session of two forty and two thirty-five minute periods. Dinner is at noon and afternoon School, divided in the same way, from one to three-thirty. There is a bun all round then and games follow from four till six. After the evening meal at six-fifteen evening study begins, ending at a quarter to eight for the younger ones, half-past for the older. No one under ten or so does any evening study. The advantage of the new system is the elimination of the morning break which was sheer waste of half an hour, and a longer games period which has been much appreciated.

Visitors. Distinguished visitors to the School include their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Linlithgow; His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Lady Cassels; Lieutenant-General Sir William Bartholomew and Lady Bartholomew; the Lord Bishop of Lahore; Major-General Moberly and Brigadier Majendie.

The diversion staged to show off the School included the Pied Piper by the juniors, a dancing display by the girls and a new Toy Soldier item by the boys; all three were an advance on anything we had attempted before and we received many compliments.

Buildings. The buildings contemplated in 1935 began to take actual shape towards the end of 1936. The block of four form rooms is now in occupation and the class rooms thus released in Parker School have become dining hall kitchen and the like. The old dining hall has been converted to a dormitory and so some measure of relief in overcrowding has already been achieved. The new bath and wash house for the girls has not yet been begun and the girls in the new dormitory have to perform their toilet in most primitive conditions; this will be rectified before long, doubtless.

The larger dining room and kitchen accommodation has made it possible to combine girls and juniors for messing arrangements and this has meant some economy in materials and labour. The late Junior School kitchen has in turn been used for other purposes and has made possible a chain of minor domestic re-organisation not, perhaps, worth recording here but making, I hope, for greater efficiency in working.

Staff. A list of Staff serving in the School on March 31st, 1936, will be found on pages 7 & 8. There have been several changes, mostly among the temporary and junior members, including the Physical Training Mistress and the Choirmaster. Sub-Conductor Harrington, on completing his tour of duty, was relieved by an officer of the Special Unemployed List, Major E. H. P. Mallinson, late 17th Dogra Regiment.

Children. We had a wider range than usual in ages this year, our eldest being over twenty and our youngest barely three. We do not normally accept babies of this age but I felt sure the Governors would wish me to make an exception in this particular case, that of a private of the Cheshires suddenly left with three tiny girls, the mother having died in Kasauli hospital. Now that our own crèche has closed down, there appears to be no place in India for such cases and I have been asked before to take in infants; this particular baby is less trouble than many older children, actually, but I cannot ask my matrons to take more than one such child at a time.

Health. The health record of the School, otherwise very good, was marred by an extremely unpleasant epidemic of ring-worm, brought in by a little girl on her return from the winter vacation; it spread, despite all precautions and persisted in a few of the more obstinate cases to the very

end of the year. It confined itself, except for the original criminal, to boys, twenty-six of whom were at one time in hospital. With due precautions, it was possible to allow these little boys to attend classes but heads throughout the Junior Boys Department had to be cropped short, so that they resembled convicts much to our shame and their parents' indignation.

I would like to conclude by quoting the views
Parents of parents as given in their letters or expressed
opinions. when visiting the School.

There is no doubt that the remission of January's fees has been extremely popular and has removed what used to be something of a grievance. The childrens' rosy cheeks and healthy appearance often brings us congratulatory letters when they arrive home for the holidays and parents think our messing a wonderful achievement on eight annas a day. They do not think much of the dormitories, which is understandable, but love the attractive new uniform of the girls and junior boys.

Some parents think us a bit "military"; only one has criticised the co-educational policy. I have often been asked to be much stricter with this or that child and only once accused of severity. The chapel services are always loved and the freedom of access by children to the Principal (part of Lawrence's charter) appreciated. Parents have also appreciated the greater courtesy of our correspondence on which the Secretary prides himself.

The system of reporting which I introduced and which substitutes for the bald "fair" "average" etcetera, a frank opinion of the boys progress by the master who teaches him has been well received. I have always believed in encouraging rather than scolding but at the same time I feel that between masters and parents there should be frankness and honest exchange of opinions.

I have always made it a point of honour to know every child in the School and all about it; there has thus been gradually built up an intimacy between parents and the School authorities which has made our relations most happy.

It is with great gratification that I am able to
Patron. conclude this report by putting on record that His
 Majesty King George Vith has graciously consented
 to become Patron of this School.

(Signed) E. A. EVANS,

M.A.,

Principal.

APPENDIX I.

Staff on the 31st March, 1937.

Principal	..	The Reverend E. A. Evans, M.A., (Christ's College, Cambridge).
Resident Medical Officer and Vice-Principal	and ...	Captain W.H.G. Reed, M.A., (Cambridge) M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., I.M.S.
Secretary	...	Mr. C. Burge.
Quartermaster	..	Major E. H. P. Mallinson.
Educational Staff.		
Senior Master	...	Mr. B. Wiles, B.Sc. (London) (on leave). Mr. J. R. Coombes, B.A., (Madras), B.Sc., (London) (Officiating).
Senior Mistress	..	Miss B. M. Tait, B.A. (Liverpool).
Mistress In charge, Junior School	...	Miss K. B. deGruyther.
Second Master	...	Mr. W. E. Teal, B.A. (Punjab) (Officiating).
Second Mistress	...	Miss K. B. Robinson, B.A. (Birmingham), A.L.C.M.
Third Master	...	Mr. E. G. Carter, B.A. (Punjab), (on leave). Mr. F. E. Eccleston, B.A., (Punjab) (Officiating).
Third Mistress	...	Miss C. Tod, (Temporary).
Fourth Master	..	Mr. B. Angwin, Mus. B., (London) G.R.S.M., A.R.C.M., F.R.G.S. (on special leave until 14th April, 1937).
Assistant Masters	...	Mr. H. Fernandes. Mr. R. H. Brendish, B.A., (Punjab). Mr. S. C. Cowell. Captain A. Butcher. Reverend R. Roe, M.A., (Durham) (temporary). Mr. M. M. Hodgkinson, L.C.P., (temporary).
Assistant Mistresses	...	Miss N. A. McGuire. Miss M. Farrell. Mrs. V. M. Tilley, B.A., (Punjab). Miss C. M. Allen. Miss K. Bleach. Miss N. Wheeler. Miss D. Slaytor, (temporary). Miss W. Parr, (temporary).
Domestic Economy Mistress		Mrs. E. M. Howis.

Business Methods Instructor	Miss E. M. Pell.
Music Mistresses	... Mrs. A. E. Pearson (on leave). Miss G. M. Steventon, L.R.A.M., L.T.C.L.
Music Mistress & Organist	... Miss D. Jones, L.R.A.M., (temporary).

Hospital Staff.

Nursing Sister	.. Miss M. A. Bessent, S.R.N., S.R.M.
Sub-Assistant Surgeon	.. Jemadar Kripa Ram Channa, I. M. D.
Assistant Matron	.. Miss B. Payne.

Domestic Staff.

Headmatron Girls' School	... Miss E. Beard, (on leave). Miss I. J. Hooper, (Officiating).
Headmatron Junior School	Miss P. Buckley (temporary).
Headmatron Boys' School	... Miss D. M. Padgett (temporary).
Assistant Matrons	... Miss C. Glancey. Miss F. Law. Miss B. Platten. Mrs. M. J. Woon (temporary). Miss E. Hopkinson " Miss D. B. Harvey " Miss B. Garrett " Miss V. Watters "

Military Staff.

Chief Instructor	... C.S.M., E. Greenough, 1st Bn. The Cheshire Regiment.
Assistant Instructor	... L/Serjeant (A/Serjeant) J. Watson, 1st Bn. The East Surrey Regiment.
Band Instructor	... Corporal (A/Serjeant) W. T. Harrison, 1st Bn. North Staffordshire Regiment.
Gymnastic Instructor	... Corporal (A/Serjeant) J. Flagg, 2nd Bn. Suffolk Regiment.

APPENDIX II.

**Statistics with regard to admissions, removals,
strength, cost of maintenance, etc.**

1. *Admissions and removals.*—The following changes took place during the year :—

		<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Admitted	...	86	74	160
Removed	...	109	60	169

The admissions include 150 children of serving soldiers. The particulars of removals are :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>
Direct enlistment into British units	... 6	
Enlistments for training as Army apprentice tradesmen	... ..	10
For training as R. A. F. aircraft apprentices		2
Enrolled into the R. I. A. S. C. for training at Chaklala	... ..	2
Withdrawn by parents proceeding to England or to distant stations	... 47	27
Withdrawn by parents for other reasons	... 34	19
Completion of education or not likely to benefit from further education	... 11	6
To situations	... 1	2
For Hospital Training	... ..	1
Non-payment of fees	... 1	1
Transfers to other schools	... 1	4
Unsatisfactory conduct	... 4	

2. *Strength on 31st March, 1937.*

Children of serving soldiers	...	...	284
Children of ex-soldiers	...	...	217
		<hr/>	
Total	...	...	501

3. *Cost of maintenance*—The following table shows the average cost for the year and per month of maintaining a child in the school, based on an average strength of 472 :—

Serial No.	Particulars.	Total amount.	Yearly average per head.	Monthly average per head.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Medical Officer	9,600 0 0	20 5 0	1 11 0
2	British Soldiers	8,154 0 0	17 4 0	1 7 0
3	Other Establishments	61,387 0 0	130 1 0	10 13 0
4	Principal & other Instructional Staff	99,979 0 0	211 13 0	17 10 0
5	Food	85,098 0 0	180 5 0	15 0 0
6	Miscellaneous	1,00,902 0 0	213 12 0	17 13 0
	Total	3,65,120 0 0	773 8 0	64 6 0

APPENDIX III.

Medical Report.

General. During the year the health of the School continued to be satisfactory. There were no epidemics of zymotic disease (measles etc.) but during the month of June there occurred among the boys a number of cases of fever associated with sore throat. None were serious or of long duration. There seems small doubt that insufficient space in barrack rooms is responsible for such outbreaks.

There was also an outbreak of ringworm of the scalp among the boys of the junior school. It is certain that the infection arrived from without and was introduced from some child returning after the holidays. Practically every case is now free of infection.

The dental officer visited the School weekly during the summer months, but was unable in the time at his disposal to treat more than half of those children needing attention. Every year fifty per cent. of the new admissions are found to have defective teeth, and many of these require extensive extractions under a general anaesthetic.

Under the new arrangements just sanctioned by the Government of India, the Army Dental officer will visit the School for ten days in April as soon as the Dental Centre moves to Kasauli and once during the winter in November or December. He will also pay occasional visits during the summer. We welcome these new arrangements which are a vast improvement and will enable much more to be done towards improving the dental condition of children in the school.

Early in the year the Eye Specialist visited the School, but the eye-sight of new arrivals is exceptionally good.

Statistics of admissions, infectious diseases, etc.

(a) School Children.

1. Hospital Admissions.

	1935-36.	1936-37.
(a) Average strength ..	417	424
(b) Total admissions to hospital ..	611	431
(c) Average daily sick in hospital ..	8.74	18.17*
(d) Percentage of total strength admitted to hospital ..	12.23	8.35

*A high figure due to ringworm cases constantly in Hospital.

2. *Infectious diseases of childhood.*

1936-37.

(1) Whooping Cough	..	11
(2) Typhus Fever	..	1
(3) Measles	...	1
(4) Chicken Pox	...	1

3. *Cases of special interest.*

(1) Tonsillitis	...	24
(2) Diarrhœa	..	11
(3) Influenza	..	18
(4) Malaria	..	2
(5) Dysentery Bacillary	..	1
(6) Appendicitis subacute	..	1
(7) Ringworm of scalp	..	32 All junior school children except 4 from Sparrowhawks.
(8) Fractures		
Humerus	..	2 All simple with perfect functioning after treatment.
Radius	..	2 }

(b) *Indian personnel (including M. E. S. employees).*1. *Strength.*

Government servants	..	170
Families and private servants	..	580

2. *Number of cases treated.*

(1) Out patients—total for the year	...	2,610
(2) Average number of out-patients treated daily	..	12
(3) In-patients—total admissions to hospital	..	45
(4) Number of confinements in hospital	..	13

3. *Death during the year.*

Chronic Peritonitis	...	1 (school sweeper).
---------------------	-----	---------------------