

## **Happy Children of Christchurch Senior Central School's "At Home"**

C.T. Nov. 30th. 1935

On Wednesday last, the Senior Central School is a hive of industry and a generating station of enthusiasm. Bright-eyed children bustled and hustled over tasks that brought the glow of pride to many a parental cheek. Little housewives and diminutive householders of the Borough to-be, demonstrated how well they will manage their domestic affairs in years to come.

It was the school's annual " at home " to parents and friends, and the yearly explanation as to why " playing truant " is not understood nowadays, and why the youngsters love school days—and why they should.

A wistful-eyed father of two sturdy youngsters, one of whom was cavorting in singlet, shorts and gym. shoes as one of a gymnastic team, displaying muscular prowess to the admiring audience, whilst the other made the school's turning lathe hum, as he, by aid of template and chisel, made school croquet balls from firewood logs, murmured, "If only school had been like this when I was a boy!"

Literally, the Senior Central Schools on Wednesday last were a hive of industry, and it was estimated that approximately 400 parents and friends of scholars inspected the various departments and saw the children engaged in their daily tasks.

Amongst those present were the Mayoress Mrs. D. Galton, (the Mayor was unfortunately prevented from being present), Sir Stuart Fraser, C.C., Mr. F. E. Abbott, C.C., the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Norman Barnes), Councillor W. Spickernell, Councillor and Mrs. A. E. Shave, Alderman and Mrs. J. W. Tucker, Mrs. D. Llewellyn, Mrs. Croucher, Mrs. E. J. Slinn and Miss M. A. Orton, County Instructress in Physical Training.

Lord Manners and Mr. D. Llewellyn sent regrets and apologies at their inability to be present.

### **ENTHUSIASM.**

Of all that the parents and visitors saw, easily the most pleasing quality displayed (and there are many) was the general atmosphere of enthusiasm and not only were tasks attacked with an inspiring gusto, but with skill and sure-handed knowledge.

In laundry, kitchen, still-room, workshop or class room was this all-essential keenness to "get on with the job" outstanding, and if it will only last after the youngsters leave their happy school, then Mr. E. J. Slinn and his masters and mistresses are doing incalculable good to the Christchurch Borough of to-morrow. They are manufacturing just the type of citizens we need. Sailors talk of a "happy ship" and surely the scholars of the Central Senior School must refer to it as a "happy school," and all connected with the directional and instructional departments should be immensely satisfied with the well-marked note of intelligence and quick understanding they have roused and settled on the children.

### THE MARTYRS.

Just a word of appreciation for the little martyrs; for indeed they were self-offered sacrifices to duty. Whilst the glamour of the day was collared by the lathe-turning, planeing, cabinet-making, cooking, bed-making, ironing and washing youngsters—all to the delight of their audiences, there were tucked away in class rooms little squads of sturdy scholars carrying on with a tight-lipped determination to choke down the sin of envy in their little hearts. Theirs not the glory of the chisel, plane, pastry bowl or electric iron, but in the spirit of the Six Hundred "theirs not to reason why," but to carry on with dictation, maths, and grammar! They did it well and let them take consolation in the fact that if they can apply themselves to lesson books as they did under the eyes of the passing curious, then when they are in normal session they must be exemplary scholars.

### HOUSEWIFERY.

Perhaps the girls with their cookery and housewifery departments made the biggest appeal, and many a maternal head nodded in proud agreement as a tiny cook peeped into a saucepan to see how the steamed pudding was going on, or tucked up a bed with that final pat indicating that the bed is made fit for a princess. The washing and ironing girls are chirping this year for their equipment now runs to electric irons, and the kitchen has now the equipment of electric ovens.

Washing was snowy in its whiteness, starching was just as stiff as a man likes it, and the various dishes ranging from cokernut "rings" to a straightforward and no-nonsense-about-it steak and kidney pudding, sent one along for the rest of the afternoon with a raging appetite. The girls are taught all the connecting links, such as table-laying and the practical aspect of planning and purchasing their meals. They have a sound knowledge, too, of the names of joints and their relative values (and that's one for the butchers of to-morrow).

Miss D. A. Slowe is the instructress, who in a few years no end of married men will bless. Indigestion will probably be unknown in Christchurch.

### THE HANDY MEN.

The stern stuff was imparted by the youngsters who "made things." If the girls department require any fixtures, such as shelves, cupboards, all they have to do is mention it to the handy men, and voila! a bit of bustle, some sawing, a little hammering, planing, and the job is done, and done, too, as well as any professional worker could execute it.

One marvels at their new shed for the storage of plants and general purposes. It stands on concrete foundations, and has potting and seed growing appliances and a unique ventilation method, They win praise for the neat sturdiness of all the school apparatus they make. Anything from ladders to flag staffs. Craftsmanship and pride of work mark this department, and the wives of to-morrow who will delight in their husbands' facility to erect or make essential aids to housework should couple with their thanks the name of the instructor, Mr. Dance.

### ATHLETES.

A new and highly desirable departure in the activities of the school is the introduction of gymnastics and drill and physical training. On Wednesday Miss Bow Mr. Morgan put girls and boys through their drills and paces, and truthfully the large audience glowed as happily as the youngsters to see such muscle creating, lung expanding, health giving exercises. Quite spectacular, too, some of it and bordering on the acrobatic. All the scholars enjoy the requisite grades the benefit of daily drill and physical training.

In addition to these few items selected for detailing, much was shown that was excellent in needlework, book-binding and garment making, whilst the scholastic output was admirably high.

A school that will figure very largely in the fond memories of the future.