Local Notes.

[BY OUR LOOKER-ON.]

They have come. I refer to the autumn strawberries. In my notes of last week I remarked that I had not had brought for my inspection any out-of-season strawberries, &c., as indicative of the exceptionally mild weather experienced during the last few weeks. On Thursday morning, however, Mr. Robinson, of Cookham Rise, left at the *Advertiser* Office for my inspection half-a-dozen very fine strawberries, part of a second crop grown in the open air. There were evidences of the partiality of slugs for this particular fruit, for no sooner had the berries commenced to turn colour than these slimy pests commenced to feed upon them. Mr. Robinson also left for my inspection a bunch of coraflowers, which had grown and bloomed from seeds shed by a first crop early in the season. The continued mild weather is a boon to the labouring classes, who find that the saving in fuel materially assists them to replenish the pantry or larder. We *shall* be having severe weather later on, and for this reason I hope the Mayor's Poor Box and other local charitable funds will be generously supported.

The Town Council held a lengthy sitting on Monday, when matters of more than usual importance were considered. The most pressing subject, perhaps, is that of the level-crossing at Bradley Bottom, and all who live in the locality, and are consequently fully acquainted with the great danger to life and limb at this spot, will feel devoutly thankful to Mr. Wilton, Mr. Bidmead and others for their desire and strenuous efforts to comply with the wishes of the residents in the Boyn Hill Ward, deliberately expressed in public meeting and by memorial. The Great Western Railway Company will, if approached in the right spirit, materially modify the conditions to which exception is not unreasonably taken, especially as one of the requirements is such as they themselves would not feel disposed to comply with if the position of the Company and the Council was reversed. Apart from the increasing danger to those using the crossing, the latter must be a source of much anxiety to the engine-drivers employed on the branch, who, especially at night-time, are in constant dread of an accident happening at the spot, while the necessary whistling is a source of annoyance to all who reside near. As was said at Monday's meeting, if the subway be not speedily provided there will most certainly be "a hue and cry" in the Bradley Bottom district, and perhaps something worse. A bridge with forty steps is out of the question, and as to stopping up the path, this would never be submitted to, as was proved years ago when an attempt to close it was made before there was a single house anywhere near the railway! Old and convenient rights of way are not easily closed or diverted, and the only diversion that the people most concerned will sanction in this case will be that which will take the path under rather than over the line. I am satisfied that the interests of those who use the crossing are quite safe in the hands of the gentlemen I have named.

The other subjects dealt with at Monday's meeting that gave rise to discussion almost exclusively related to the Boyn Hill ward. The application by the Salters' Company for sanction to divert the pathway at Bradley Bottom from Boyn-valley to a point not far from the Wycombe branch railway was approved, though not unanimously, Messrs. Thompson, Hobbis, and Upson opposing solely on the ground that the Company should agree to contribute towards the expense of the provision, at a later date, of an outlet under the railway near the Nag's Head, an undertaking which the Company might have entertained if they possessed funds from which they could legally make such a contribution. There was an emphatic declaration that no funds are available, and there was, therefore, nothing to be gained by adopting any course likely to delay the development of the estate which the Company hold in trust. Whether anything may be squeezed out of subsequent owners of eligible plots and sidings, and to whom the suggested Grenfell-road outlet would be a distinct advantage, remains to be seen.

The decision of the Council to include Laburnum-road and to exclude Lower Boyndon-road in the application of the Private Street Works Act to the King's Grove estate will be generally approved, as will also the attempt to prevail upon the G.W.R. Company to improve the early morning train service. Workmen's trains, however, may not prove an unmixed blessing. I am informed that the twopenny return trains to Tottenham, Edmonton, and Enfield, have had the effect of driving good residents out of those places, while Ilford and Romford will not have workmen's fares at any price, and the Councils and residents alike oppose them. They have, however, early and late trains, and up to 8 a.m. passengers are able to book to London at half-return-fare. I question whether Maidenhead comes within the area covered by the Act as to workmen's trains.

Mr. Councillor Inglis had full opportunity on Monday of expressing his views on the necessity or otherwise for a Girls' Secondary School for Maidenhead, and for over half an hour he presented carefully-marshalled facts and figures before the assembled Aldermen and Councillors, who listened with attention and interest to all he had to say. From the point of view from which Mr. Inglis argues, he presented a strong case, and the views he gave expression to will not be lost on those who are to give this now burning question special consideration. All will agree that, under the special circumstances of the case, Mr. Inglis was wise in not pressing his motion to a division.

A correspondent sends me the following poser: Dear Sir,—Can you inform me why the County Council School, in course of erection on the Highway Estate, is named the "Alwyn-road" School? The said school takes up three parts of one side of Fielding-road and does not touch any part of Alwyn-road.—Yours truly, A FIELDING-ROADER.

I hear that a Ladies' Gymnastic Club has been formed at Cookham, and that over a score of the fair sex indulge in and thoroughly enjoy gymnastics on certain days in St. George's Room. I am not clear as to whether "Boxing" and "Singlesticks" are included in the curriculum of the class; if they should be those who seek to oppose ladies bathing at Odney next season they had better in the interval brush the dust off their gloves and do a little practice in attack and defence.

Apropos of the recent correspondence in the *Advertiser* as to the advantages or otherwise of total abstinence, I came across the following story a few days since: "A temperance reformer was justly proud of having converted the biggest drunkard in the little Scotch town, and induced him—he was the local gravedigger—to get up on the platform and testify. This is how he did it: 'My friends,' he said, 'I never thocht to stand upon this platform, with the Provost on one side of me, and the toon clerk on th' ither side of me. I never thocht to tell ye that for a whole month I havena' touched a drap of anything. I've saved enough to buy me a braw oak coffin wi' brass handles and brass nails—and if I'm a teetotaler for anither month I shall be wantin' it!'"

As is well-known, Sir Frederick Bridge edited the new Methodist Hymn Book, which is now used in practically all Wesleyan churches. The organist of Westminster Abbey has explained how, in trying to make the old Methodist tunes "respectable members of society," he had done his best to preserve the traditional melodies. He tells the following story in connection with his work of editing the new Methodist Hymn Book: —"I had one advantage for this work that ought to be mentioned. I have a cook, and she has been with me for 30 years, and she happens to be a Wesleyan. I never stop her from going to her chapel, and she has never tried to take me there. We observe a sort of benevolent neutrality. Sometimes when I have been in a bit of a difficulty I have gone from my study to the lift where the dinner is pulled up from the kitchen, and asked, 'Mrs. Rider, do you know this hymn?' 'Oh, yes, we sing it every Sunday night at our chapel.' 'Well, how does it go? Sing it to me.' And she has sung it up the lift, and the tune is in this book."

Some of the new tunes—especially those set to old, familiar hymns—are not taken kindly to by the Methodists, notwithstanding wise and "otherwise" attempts on the part of ministers and choirmasters to impress them on the memories of their congregations. I heard of a Wesleyan minister who went to a Methodist chapel in a village, not a hundred miles from Maidenhead, and upset his morning congregation by insisting on all five hymns being sung to new tunes! After the service his hostess gave him a warm five minutes, and there was more discord in the drawing-room than in the chapel. But the minister was determined to score. He went to the Sunday School in the afternoon and sought to teach the children the same five tunes, and then had them over again at the evening service! I imagine those hymns and tunes have been barred at that chapel ever since—and the minister also.

"Sir Henry Echlin, Bart., licensed to sell beer, wines, and spirits," &c., may soon be seen inscribed over the portals of the "Rose and Crown," Wooburn. Through the death of Sir Thomas Echlin, Bart., which has just occurred in Ireland, the deceased's brother, Mr. Henry Echlin, who is landlord of the Rose and Crown, at Wooburn, has succeeded to the title. The Echlin family is an ancient one, of Scottish origin, and formerly possessed large and lucrative estates, both in Scotland and Ireland. Very little, however, now remains, except the bare title, which, singular to say, is now assumed by the possessor of the same name as the first baronet — Sir Henry Echlin. Previous to becoming proprietor of the Rose and Crown public-house, the new baronet was a non-commissioned officer in the 2nd Life Guards, and for some time he was also the landlord of a licensed house at High Wycombe. One of the Echlins was Constable and Deputy-Governor of Edinburgh Castle during the siege of 1572; another—the Bishop of Down and Connor—was murdered in 1635; and Sir Henry Echlin, the first baronet, was a Baron of the Court of the Exchequer in Ireland. The fourth baronet dissipated most of the family estates. He was one of the gentlemen before whom Hamilton Ronan knelt in the Court of King's Bench to beg the King's pardon. What the fourth baronet left of the family estates was squandered by his successor and the sixth baronet, until nothing but the bare title has been left.

MISS MARY GORE'S CONCERT.

A large and fashionable audience assembled in the Town Hall on Thursday evening last at Miss Mary Gore's concert, a fact which testified both to the popularity of that lady and the excellence of her musical proficiency. The programme was admirably arranged and diversified to suit all varieties of taste—pianoforte solos of the classical character of a Beethoven sonata to a march from the incidental music from Coleridge-Taylor to "Nero," and on the vocal side from some fine songs by Saint Saëns to vocal quartettes of the coon type. In the "Pathetic Sonata" (Beethoven) — so-called pathetic, for Beethoven did not give it this title—Miss Gore showed her appreciation of this splendid work, and gave an impressive rendering, particularly the Adagio, which excerpt is perhaps the best generally known piece of the whole of Beethoven's works, and therefore much enjoyed by the audience. Chopin's "Ballad in G minor" was also well-played, and the romanticism of the music was exquisitely brought out. The next pianoforte solo, "Staccato Caprice" (Vogrich), is not a very well-known piece, but it readily won over the audience, who demanded an encore. Miss Gore concluded the programme with two short pianoforte solos, both being of a lighter style. It was evidently Miss Gore's desire to submit her abilities as a pianist to the critical judgment of her hearers. In the Beethoven Sonata, besides good technical execution, a deep, strong, earnest, emotional feeling is required to fully bring out the solemnity of this inspired work; in Chopin, romance and sentimentalism are expressed in music, and in the "Caprice" brilliancy of technique is demanded. By the testimony of the audience they were fully convinced of the power and ability of the concert-giver as a pianist, for each of her solos was listened to with rapt attention, and she was the recipient of a plentitude of applause, and was re-called in each part.

It is superfluous to mention anything regarding the tenor songs of Mr. Wilfred Kearton, that singer's capabilities being so well-known here. The Misses Crofton, one a soprano and the other a contralto, sang some duets and solos in excellent style, all of which were highly appreciated by the audience, who re-called and encored them on nearly every appearance; the ladies exhibited signs of good training and sang with excellent taste.

Mr. Frederick Walton, the possessor of a robust tenor voice, sang two songs of an impassioned character, both of which he gave with great dramatic fervour; he also merited the goodwill of the audience by gaining an encore. It is no disparagement to the above-mentioned artistes when we say that the Westminster Singers probably obtained the greatest favour of the evening. Taking into consideration that these four gentlemen are all singers of the best rank, that they make in combination a most evenly-balanced quartette, and that they sang quartettes of a very taking character, and you have all the elements for winning popular favour. At all events these gentlemen gave us a treat that is rarely heard in Maidenhead, the refinement of their singing being delightful to listen to, and the humour of the humorous quartettes so delicately depicted that it was no wonder they were encored every time. One of the encores, "Come, let us join the roundelay" (Beale), was worth going many miles to hear, and makes us, as Englishmen, feel proud that the composer was an old English worthy. As long as we have such gentlemen to sing these part-songs as these Westminster Singers do, and as long as we have as many choral bodies in England as we have at the present time, we can retort, when taunted by our musical long-haired foreign brethren—who are not averse to coming and taking our money—that we are not a musical nation, by saying that no other nation can equal our vocal music. During the course of the evening Miss Gore had two bouquets presented to her.

Appended is the full programme:—

PART I.

Glee—The Hunt is Up .... Hatton.
The Westminster Singers.

Songs— { (a) The Sea hath its Pearls .... Cowdell.
{ (b) O, Flower of all the World ... Amy Finden.
Mr. Wilfred Kearton.

Piano solo—Sonata Pathétique .... Beethoven.
Grave. Allegro di Molto e con brio.
Adagio cantabile.
Ronda. Allegro.
Miss Mary Gore.

Plantation melody—De Black Piccaninny ... L. Wilson.
The Westminster Singers.

Vocal duet—The Enchanted hour ...... Franco Leoni.
The Misses Crofton.
(Accompanied by Mrs. Aubrey).

Song—Love Me if I Live .... Cowen.
Mr. Frederick E. M. Walton.

Piano solo—Ballad in G minor (by special request) ... Chopin
Miss Mary Gore.

Song—Mon Cœur s'ouvre a ta Voix .... Saint Saëns.
(From Samson and Delilah).
Miss Alla Crofton.

Glee—Discord .... Webbe.
The Westminster Singers.

PART II.

Song—Richard o' Taunton Deane (Songs of the West).
Mr. W. H. Brereton.

Vocal duet—Pastorale .... Saint Saëns.
The Misses Crofton.

Plantation melody—Old Joe .... L. Wilson.
The Westminster Singers.

Piano solo—Staccato Caprice .... Max Vogrich.
Miss Mary Gore.

Song—If Thou wert Blind .... Noel Johnson.
Mr. Frederick E. M. Walton.

Song—Lovely Spring .... W. Coenen.
Miss Gladys Crofton.

Humorous quartette—Sunday fishing .... Anon.
The Westminster Singers.

Piano solo— { (a) Cracovienne .... Paderewski.
{ (b) March to Nero ... Coleridge-Taylor.
Miss Mary Gore.

The stage was beautifully decorated with flowers and plants by Mr. Broughton, from his nursery, and the Bechstein piano was supplied by Messrs. Goldsmith and Son.

CHESS MATCH.

READING v. MAIDENHEAD.

A match between the above clubs was played at Reading on Thursday, with the following result:—

Reading.		Maidenhead.	
P. Lawrence	0	A. S. Peake	1
L. A. Rumble	1	F. Willett	0
R. G. Stark	1	S. Dobson	0
G. H. Kingham	1	A. D. Cottrell	0
H. Runham	1	T. E. Whitelaw	0
G. W. Smith	1	J. Flint	0
R. J. Allsopp	1	H. Neve	0
M. W. Coleman	1	S. R. Thompson	0
S. G. Chamberlain	1	A. A. Peake	0
Dr. Barker	0	G. A. Kelleen	1
	8		2

PRIVATE GREETING CARDS.—For Exclusive Designs go to W. H. SMITH & SON'S, 81, High-street. See our Illustrated Catalogue of Yuletide Gifts.

PROPOSED DRAMATIC SOCIETY FOR MAIDENHEAD.

Since the last issue of the *Advertiser* we have received a number of letters from ladies and gentlemen desirous of joining an Amateur Dramatic Society or Club, should it be found possible to form either for the town and district. Some of the letters are from members of the late Maidenhead Histrionic Club, and there is evidence in all the communications we have received that the suggestions made in last Wednesday's *Advertiser* were opportune, and that a club or society of the character suggested would meet a felt want in the town. We shall be glad to receive any further letters from or names of persons interested in the project, and a definite announcement will be made in these columns next week as to date and place of meeting, with a view to discussing the proposal.

SUDDEN DEATH IN A WAREHOUSE.

A somewhat tragic death occurred at Maidenhead yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon. At about 3.45, a workman employed by Messrs. Budgen & Co., Ltd., High-street, who was engaged at the firm's warehouse, had occasion to go to a store-room, and on entering he was shocked to find lying on the floor, apparently dead, Joseph Baldwin, who was also in the employ of the firm. He at once communicated his sad discovery to Mr. Budgen, and Inspector Benning, who, in the meantime, had been informed, took the matter up on behalf of the police. Baldwin was found to be lifeless, but apparently death had only taken place a short time. An ambulance was procured and the body was removed to White Hart-street, where deceased lived with his wife. A short time before his death deceased complained to a fellow-workman of internal pains, and remarked that he thought it was indigestion. For some time he had been medically attended by Dr. Edge for a weak heart, and death is attributed to this cause.

Deceased was employed as a warehouseman by Messrs. Budgen & Co., and was held in much respect as a faithful servant, having been upwards of 30 years in his position. Deceased was a deacon of the Baptist Church, York-road.

It is probable that an inquest will not be considered necessary, as deceased had been under medical treatment.

MAIDENHEAD AND DISTRICT RIFLE CLUB.

Dr. Plumbe has kindly contributed £5 to the long range fund. Nearly all the promised sums have now come in and the committee will shortly have definite plans before them.

Mrs. Mason invited a large number of ladies of her acquaintance to see the range, to partake of afternoon tea, and to try their skill on Tuesday. The invitations were largely accepted and from 15 to 20 new members have resulted, while the day's takings were considerably above the average.

Results for week ending, December 1st, 1906.

Weekly Spoons Handicap.—One spoon given in each class for every ten entries. Number of shots, 7; highest possible score, 35. Previous winners are penalised two points for each win.

	Score.	Hdc'p.	Ttl.
Class A.			
A. Wheeler	33	—	33
G. Battock	32	2	30
Class B.			
F. Pitcher	34	—	34
C. R. Mullings	34	—	34
Miss B. Lee	33	—	33
C. Asplen, jun.	33	—	33
Class C.			
C. W. Gordon	28	—	28
A. D. Hooper	28	—	28
*T. M. Brett	29	2	27

* Goes into Class B.

National Rifle Association Spoons Handicap. Ten shots. Highest possible score, without handicap, 50.

	Score.	Allowed.	Ttl.
F. Pitcher	45	6	50
Miss B. Lee	44	5	49
C. Asplen, jun.	44	5	49
A. Streeter	43	6	49

Lady Competitors for the Matthey Cup, 4th December; No. of shots, 10; highest possible score, 50.

	Points.
Miss Hazel Coghlan	45
Miss A. Hamaton	44
Mrs. F. H. Russel	43
Miss B. Lee	42
Mrs. H. D. Bateman	42
Miss J. W. Headington	40
Miss M. Malet	35
Miss Thomson	24
Miss J. Stanton	19

CLUB NOTICES.

WEEKLY PROGRAMME.

N.B.—Unless otherwise stated, open sights only are allowed in all competitions.

A special programme is being arranged for Boxing Day, of which full particulars will be published shortly.

Weekly Spoons.—Seven shots at N.R.A. Standard Miniature Targets; entrance fee, 6d. One spoon in each class for every ten entries; unlimited entries.

N.R.A. Spoons Handicap.—Ten shots at N.R.A. Standard Miniature Targets; entrance fee, 6d. Open only to winners of club spoons. One spoon for every 14 entries.

Running Man.—Eight shots; entrance fee, 6d. One prize for every ten entries.

Disappearing Target.—Seven shots; entrance fee, 6d. One prize for every ten entries.

Astor Handicap Competition, Series 6.—At targets representing 200, 500, and 600 yards; seven shots at each distance; entrance fee, 9d. One prize for every 16 entries.

"Any Rifle" Spoon Competition.—Open to any rifle firing Morris tube; reduced charge; adaptor or any other class of miniature ammunition other than ·22 and not exceeding ·310; seven shots at N.R.A. Standard Miniature target; competitors to provide their own ammunition; one spoon for every ten entries; entrance fee, 6d. In this competition the *centre* of the bullet-hole will determine the value of the shot.

Scratch Club Team Sweepstakes.—At 7 o'clock on Saturday, 8th December; entrance fee, 6d.

B.S.A. Rifle Competition.—This competition will start on Monday, December 10th; entrance fee, 2s.

Club Badges.—One badge in each class for the highest score made in every 18 entries; entrance fee, 1d. (ammunition not included).

Ladies' Weekly Spoon.—Open to lady members in Class C only; seven shots at N.R.A. Standard Miniature Targets; entrance fee, 6d. One spoon for every ten entries.

Although the full prize-list of the Miniature Bisley has not yet been received, we are in a position to state that valuable money prizes, in several classes, have been won by the following members of the club:—Messrs. A. Headington, G. Battock, F. H. Russel, W. E. Tucker, G. Sanders, and M. Stanton. We understand, too, that the name of the M. & D.R.C. will appear in the prize-list more frequently than that of any other club. A special competition was held for the Staff and Range Officers, Lieut. Battock winning a Service rifle, fitted with Morris tube, presented by the Morris Aiming Tube and Ammunition Co., and Capt. Bateman winning a War Office Miniature rifle, presented by the London Small Arms Co. Capt. Bateman was also the recipient of a silver souvenir, presented by the N.R.A. in recognition of his valuable services during the meeting.

CONFIRMATION SERVICES.

The Bishop of Reading administered the rite of Confirmation to a large number of candidates at St. Luke's Church on Sunday, the 25th ult. Most of the candidates had been prepared by the clergy of the parish, but members of St. Mary's parish were included. The church was crowded throughout. In addition to the Bishop, the clergy present were: the Rev. H. G. J. Meara (vicar of St. Luke's), the Rev. C. H. Nash (vicar of St. Mary's), the Rev. J. G. B. Hollins (curate of St Mary's), and the following curates of St. Luke's:—Revs. O. S. E. Clarendon, W. H. Johnston, and R. T. Johnson, the last-named acting as Bishop's Chaplain. The Bishop delivered two earnest addresses in the course of the service. The number of those confirmed was as follows:—St. Luke's, 26 males and 51 females; St. Mary's, 7 males and 17 females; Bray, 2 females; Burnham, 1 female; total, 33 males, 71 females.—The Bishop of Reading held a Confirmation on Monday evening week at All Saints' Church, Boyn Hill. The service was impressive and the addresses delivered by the Bishop were listened to with rapt attention by the large congregation. Sixty-one candidates (24 males and 37 females) were presented, and, together with the 75, who received the rite in March last, gives a total of 136 during the year.

SPECIAL FOR CHRISTMAS.—MR. J. R. P. SEWREY, 44, and 45, MARKET-PLACE, READING, is making a Special Show of Dress Shoes, Dancing Pumps, Fancy Slippers, &c., in the most fashionable styles, and suitable for the Xmas season. These goods, although high-class, are all offered at low prices. An up-to-date selection of Walking Boots and Shoes, which are unsurpassed for materials and workmanship, are also on show. Bespoke boots a speciality.

XMAS. PRESENTS FOR EVERYONE.—W. GARDNER, 131, FRIAR-STREET, READING, is showing a grand selection of Fancy Articles specially suitable for Xmas. Presents and New Year Gifts, including Dressing-Cases, Purses, Ebony Hair-Brushes with silver initials, Inkstands, &c., all marked down at very low prices to ensure a speedy sale. Up-to-date picture-postcards a speciality.

MAIDENHEAD HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

MR. COUNCILLOR INGLIS'S VIEWS.

AN IMPORTANT MOTION.

At the Town Council meeting on Monday evening, Mr. Councillor A. Millar Inglis moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Council the needs of the town in Higher Education do not justify the establishment of the new Secondary School for Girls as at present constituted, and that its continuance will add unnecessarily to the burden of the ratepayers."

In moving his resolution, Mr. Inglis said he had had the honour to be appointed one of the five representatives of the Town Council to meet the five representatives of the County Council and five of the Board of Education to deal with the difficulty which had arisen in the matter of the Technical School and the High School for Girls.

It had been arranged that a meeting of the Town Council in committee should be held previous to the joint meeting, in order to consult as to the line of action the town representatives should take, but that committee meeting was cancelled, and in spite of his protest, no other meeting was held, and the five representatives of the town went to the joint meeting no one knowing what the other intended to say.

He had taken a distinct line in reference to the Technical School and High School for Girls, but at the joint meeting he was one of the representatives of the Town Council, from whom, however, he had no brief, but he thought he could best serve their interests by trying to secure better representation on the Board of Governors of the Technical School and the High School for Girls. At present the Town Council nominated, but did not elect, four representatives, who were not responsible to the Town Council, and he claimed that this unsatisfactory representation did not do justice to the Town Council, who should be as well represented as Local Authorities in Middlesex, where the Board of Governors of schools similar to the Technical School was composed of five appointed by the Local Authority and five, together with the Chairman, by the County Authority. If this were done, and the representatives made responsible to the Town Council, the latter would have no reason to complain. To his unbounded astonishment the reply of the County Secretary was that the scheme by which the Town Council nominated four representatives did not come from the County Council, but from the Town Council itself.

In consequence of this he put down his resolution in order that the will of the Town Council might be understood after open discussion. So much in local higher education had recently been done without brief from the Town Council, and without consulting that Council; the present "impasse" was the immediate result of this action, and it reminded him of the recent Slough accident, where the driver of a goods train did not notice a broken coupling till he had, with a few trucks, gone far in advance. Then, turning round to look for the rest they crashed into him.

Mr. Inglis then referred to the Technical School as it was before the High School for Girls interfered with it and changed its condition. He did not need to refer, he said, to the Art School, although that was so interfered with that the Board of Education would only temporarily recognise the Art School as it is.

It was the so-called Science School that had suffered most. It was well-known that this was not a science school properly so called. The late Headmaster, Mr. Evans, was engaged as the headmaster of the Evening Continuation School and Science Classes. The progressive syllabus of each class was submitted to and approved by the Board of Education, and the highest grants gained. His Majesty's Inspector spoke in the highest terms of the science classes, and compared them favourably with those held at Reading College. In 1904 the Evening Continuation School had 176 pupils (including 79 shop-assistants and clerks, and 20 teachers) who were not otherwise provided for, and the Headmaster had every reason to hope that the school might become a centre for pupil-teachers' training, which work he was fully qualified to undertake.

All was going well, when an effort was made to establish a New Girls' School in the Technical School building. Under the Education Act, 1902, it was the duty of the County Authority to supply any deficiency in Higher Education, and there was an impression abroad that the County Authority had been forcing this school upon the town, whereas the county authorities had been carefully considering the wants of each neighbourhood expressed through the local representatives.

At a Town Education Committee meeting the following resolution was sent up by a sub-committee in Sept., 1904: "The committee regrets that no communication has been received from the County Council respecting the proposed Secondary School for Girls, the need of which is most pressing."

The notice he (Councillor Inglis) had given to speak on this did not avail. Speech was refused him on account, it was said, that the Town Education Committee had no power to deal with Higher Education.

Yet, in October of the same year, the scheme for the management of the Technical School and High School for Girls was considered by this same committee, and was subsequently passed by the Town Council without a word of introduction, comment or explanation.

Moreover, false issues were placed before the Council (1) in the matter of the election of governors, (2) in the repeated statement that the Town Education Committee had no power to deal with Higher Education, and (3) in the oft-repeated suggestion that the Town Council was powerless, and wholly in the hands of the County Authority.

A close examination of the facts would show that the school was established at the instance of one or two individuals who imposed upon their colleagues and upon the County Authority by declaring, among other things, that 50 or 60 pupils were waiting to come in.

Other reasons adduced were (1) that the people were determined to have a school of their own; (2) that private schools would not take scholarship pupils from Elementary Schools, which was not a true statement of facts; and (3) that pupil teacher training required to be done, neglecting the fact that it might have been done (a) by special class, (b) by establishing a pupil teachers' centre, and (c) by utilising an existing Secondary School.

The reasons for non-development or non-success, for non-success was suggested by a reference to the advertisement for the head-mistress, which stated that the salary offered would not be justified unless there were at least fifty pupils, were to be found (1) in the fact that provision for Girls' Secondary Education was already made, as might be judged from the following comparison:—

Girls receiving Secondary Education per 1,000 inhabitants—

Maidenhead, without new school	5·1	(local pupils only.)
" with new school	7·1	
Essex	5·76	Including non-local pupils, i.e. boarders
Hants	3·38	
Derby	1·54	
Liverpool	3·70	

Mr. Inglis continued: The numbers are not ideal, but the comparison negatived the plea of urgency in providing a new girls' school. (2) There is another already established girls' school competing largely for the same pupils. The new school should not compete with existing schools, but should supply deficiency. (3) There is a deficiency, but it is not covered by the kind of school recently established as the High School for Girls. The deficiency is in Higher Education for the artisan class, who compose two-thirds of the inhabitants of Maidenhead, and who cannot well keep their children at school after 15 years of age.

The Board of Education strongly recommends that provision should be made for these children in the form of a more practical education than is given in a secondary school; to which, declares the Board, pupils should not go unless they remain to the end of their sixteenth year or longer.

People of the artisan class have good reason to complain of the establishment of the new school, which is not a continuation of the elementary school, and is beyond the wants of the majority, and at heavy public expense gives education at less than cost price to those children of those who are well able to pay for it.

He knew a Higher Elementary School would come under the Elementary Education Authority, and not under the County Authority, but he shared the view of Professor Sadler, the greatest authority on the subject, that at an early date Higher Elementary must be included in Secondary Education. In any case, the question of the provision of a Higher Elementary School would soon have to be seriously considered.

It was said that the New School cost the ratepayers nothing. The same was said at first of the Newbury School, but on May the 22nd last the Newbury Town Council met to discuss the proposal of the County Council to levy on the Borough a contribution of £200 for Secondary Education. On May 16th last a meeting of a similar kind was held by the ratepayers of Wallingford, and no doubt Maidenhead would follow suit.

When moving the adoption of the financial report, did not County Alderman Preston say that probably next year there would be no escape from a rate for Higher Education? and this did not include the special rate that might be levied for buildings.

The ratepayers had to provide a large new school at Gordon-road; they would soon be called upon to build a new Modern School; and were they able to accept the responsibility of a new Secondary School for Girls until they had been consulted and the question openly discussed?

It was not just and fair to the ratepayers that the provision of the school had never been discussed, and as a protest against the way in which things had been and were being done in connection with Higher Education he had formulated his resolution.

He would remind the Council that more than two years previously (November 16, 1904) a letter of his had appeared in the *Advertiser*, and in this letter was the following paragraph: "When the Town Council come to realise what they have done—for I am sure the majority do not realise it—they will try to regain control of their Institute, possibly at the cost—rate payers' cost—of finding funds for new buildings, etc., for the Girls' Secondary School, which will be on their hands." He did not regard himself as a prophet, but those were the words he wrote. He would now move the resolution of which he had given notice.

The Mayor asked for a seconder to Mr. Inglis's motion.

There was a pause, and then Mr. Thompson rose and said he would second the motion, for the sake of argument.

Mr. Inglis explained that he had asked no-one to second his motion; he never did ask a member to second any motion that he brought before the Council.

Mr. Hewitt said he did not know if Mr. Inglis intended to push his motion to a division, but he would like to call his attention to the fact that both the County Council and the Town Council would be meeting shortly to discuss the whole question. He was sure they were all very much indebted to Mr. Inglis for the able way in which he had put the matter before them—("hear, hear")—but it would be a bold step to pass the resolution, seeing that a meeting was to be held to see what could be done in regard to the Girls' School and the Technical Institute.

Mr. Porter said that as he drew attention to the illegal position they were in with regard to the Girls' Secondary School at the Technical Institute, he felt that it was right for him to say that he could not vote for the motion moved by Mr. Inglis. He was opposed to the continuance of the School under present conditions as being inimical to the welfare of the School itself and to that technical instruction which had been hitherto carried on at the Institute with so much success.

The Mayor appealed to Mr. Inglis to withdraw his motion, under all the circumstances, and this Mr. Inglis eventually consented to do, though he said he should have liked the whole matter fully gone into.

The Council unanimously agreed to permit the withdrawal of the motion, and there was no further discussion.

SUNDAY-CLOSING.

Under the auspices of the Maidenhead United Temperance Council a meeting was held last (Tuesday) evening to advocate the Sunday closing of public-houses. The meeting, held at the Town Hall, was largely attended, and was most enthusiastic. Earnest addresses were delivered by several gentlemen, among whom were the Rev. H. Bickersteth Ottley, M.A., Vicar of South Norwood, and Mr. J. Woodford Causer, general secretary of the Sunday Closing Association. The chair was taken by the Rev. H. G. J. Meara, Vicar of St. Luke's. A resolution was unanimously passed urging a measure for the Sunday closing of public-houses.

COOKHAM.

THE RIFLE CLUB.

The recently-formed Rifle Club for Cookham will commence operations on Saturday next, when the Miniature Rifle Range, at "The Maltings," will be formally opened at 3.30 by Colonel F. C. Ricardo, C.V.O. The proceedings are likely to be of an interesting character. Application for membership should be made either to Mr. H. Pinder-Brown or Mr. T. Wheeler, joint hon. secretaries, or to Mr. J. W. Rixon, the treasurer.

Correspondence.

[We allow our correspondents all reasonable latitude in the discussion of questions of public interest, but we do not necessarily endorse any of the opinions they express.]

THE "BREACH OF FAITH."

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of to-day I read a report of the speech of Mr. Mansfield, the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Technical School and High School for Girls.

I have been associated with Mr. Mansfield in non-local educational work for the last ten years and I heartily share in the respect which is deservedly paid to him by all who know him.

I am sorry, therefore, to find that many people have thought there was reference to me in his remarks about the "breach of faith" in communicating to you the report of the private meeting of the representatives of the Board of Education, the County Council, and the Maidenhead Town Council.

I wish to say that I made no communication whatever, direct or indirect, to you respecting what was done at that meeting and, further, that I do not know how you obtained your information.

I am, yours faithfully,
A. MILLAR INGLIS.

Nov. 27th, 1906.

MAIDENHEAD TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND THE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

To the Editor.

SIR,—Mr. Mansfield is quite in error in stating that at the recent Conference "the Senior Inspector particularly requested at the opening of the proceedings that no reporter should be present," and in inferring from this premise that a "breach of faith" was committed when I gave your representative certain facts and figures on which your report was based. No such request was ever made in my hearing, and I never understood that everything laid before the Conference was never more to be referred to. I quite recognised that it was better to meet without reporters, so that we might speak freely, and it is well that it was so. I scrupulously refrained from dealing with the speeches made by the County representatives, which gave ample opportunity for a "one-sided" report that would probably have raised strong feeling. Now, sir, what are the facts? The Conference was the outcome of my resolution passed by the Council on 23rd July last. More than four months have elapsed since then, and the ratepayers have been anxious to know the position of the Institute of which they have always been so proud. Great concern has been felt at the changes for the worse and the decline of valuable science teaching. Many parents and former pupils have approached me, and, if I had thought the policy of secrecy was to extend to the suppressing of the results of the Conference, I should have moved the Council to petition the Government for an open public inquiry. Every figure you gave was laid before the Conference, and not challenged. Mr. Mansfield now says there are 39 pupils instead of 38. What a terrible blunder. The only other point he takes is that all the 39 pay fees. No one ever denied it. Your article analysed the pupils, and showed that there were 30 girls who paid for themselves, and 7 pupil-teachers and scholarship-pupils, who, of course, as everyone knows, are paid for by the ratepayers of Maidenhead. Mr. Mansfield is also incorrectly informed when he says "the covenant was never produced until a week ago; the County Authority was never aware of its existence." So far back as the 20th of April last the County Secretary was officially dealing with this covenant. No importance appears to have been attached to it by the county officials, but we now know that its observance is necessary to secure the Art School grant.

As to the genesis of the Girls' School. On the 4th Jan., 1904, the Education Committee reported that Councillor Walker had fully submitted the position of Maidenhead with regard to Technical Instruction, and had obtained an assurance from the Chairman of the County Technical Instruction Committee that "there is no fear of the work as now carried on being interfered with next year; such work will be continued on lines similar to those obtaining at present." On the 7th March, 1904, two months later, the committee reported that "the Education Secretary had interviewed Mr. Anderson, who was preparing a scheme for establishing a Secondary Girls' School at the Technical Institute, which he hoped would be opened in August."

I repeat what I have before stated, that I am not opposed to the Girls' School. I believe its prospects would improve under other conditions. My action has been to save the Technical Institute. Every point taken by me has been upheld, and the town and county prevented from signing an illegal lease and getting into serious trouble. Perhaps now we shall find a way to restore the prosperity of the Science teaching, and strengthen the Girls' Secondary School.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK W. PORTER.

[A letter from Mr. Chas. Smith (Temperance League) is held over until next week.—ED.]

HOLYPORT.

SALE OF WORK.

A sale of work, the proceeds of which were devoted to the Bray Parish Nurse Fund and other charities, was held on Thursday last at the Gymnasium, the Philberds, Holyport. There was no formal opening ceremony, but when business commenced at 2.30 a brisk sale followed at the various stalls, there being a satisfactory attendance. The sale was continued on Friday, but was scarcely so well patronised as on the previous day. Miss Sankey and Miss Adams, who were responsible for the arrangements, desire to express their gratitude to those who gave their kind patronage and also to those who helped with donations. The room was kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs. Lupton. The proceeds of the two days' sale amounted approximately to £27, and it is hoped to make the sale an annual affair. Those ladies who gave their kind services at the various stalls were: Fancy stall, Mrs. Coath, Miss Sankey, and the Misses Coath; Refreshment stall, Mrs. Patterson; China and Basket stall, Miss Adams, Mrs. Pitman, and Miss Rouquette; Miscellaneous stall, Miss Chambers (Maidenhead); "Tuppenny" stall, Miss Lupton, and Miss Tennant. There was also a candle-lighting competition, which was arranged by Mrs. Webb.

St. Mary's, Maidenhead.

"PENITENCE, PARDON AND PEACE"

(Advent Cantata by J. H. Maunder),
Will be sung by the Choir

THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING,
At Eight.

Copies of the Words will be provided in the Church.
Offertory for the Choir and Organ Fund.

IN AID OF THE
Teachers' Benevolent & Orphan Funds.

DRILL HALL,
Maidenhead.

ON THURSDAY, DEC. 6.

PART I.
A Yachting Cruise to Norway.
ILLUSTRATED BY ANIMATED PICTURES.

PART II.
At the conclusion of the Cruise,
Some of the Latest Animated Films,
Gay, Humorous and Hilarious, will be exhibited.

The Entertainment is under the patronage of the Right Hon. Lord Desborough, Lady Desborough, His Worshipful the Mayor, and other Distinguished Residents in the Town and neighbourhood.

Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s.; Balconies Reserved, 3s.
Plan, &c., at W. H. Smith and Son's, High-street.

WESLEYAN CHURCH,
MAIDENHEAD.

The Annual
Sale of Work
Will be Opened
On THURSDAY, DEC. 6,
BY
LADY YOUNG, of Formosa, Cookham,
At 2.30 p.m.,
IN THE LARGE SCHOOLROOM
(Castle Hill Entrance).

STALLS — Refreshments, Needlework, General Articles, Vegetables, &c., &c.
ENTERTAINMENTS—Concerts, Doll Dressing and other Competitions, Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks, &c.
Admission, 3d.

ALL SAINTS, BOYNE HILL.
HOME MISSIONS.

The ANNUAL SERMONS will be preached on SUNDAY, 9th inst. next,
On behalf of this important object, by the
REV. J. JERVIS, Organising Sec. for the District.

THE ANNUAL MEETING
Will be held on MONDAY, December 10th, in the BOYS' SCHOOLROOM, at 8 p.m.
The Speakers will be—
REV. G. D. SHAW, Vicar of Wycombe.
REV. J. JERVIS.
A. H. DRUMMOND.

Maidenhead
WORKING MEN'S CLUB,
NORFOLK PARK.

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT,
(Under the direction of Mr. A. OALLEY)
Monday, 5th December,
At 8 o'clock p.m.
DR. E. C. MONTGOMERY in the Chair.
Admission, 6d. & 3d.
Tickets can be obtained at 124, High-street.

MAIDENHEAD
Conservative Working Men's Club.

A SMOKING CONCERT
Will be held in the CLUB HOUSE on
Tuesday next, Dec. 11.
E. O. PRESTON, Esq., will take the Chair at 8 p.m.,
supported by E. Gardner, Esq., M.P.,
His Worship the Mayor (C. W. Cox, Esq.),
and other Gentlemen.
J. GIBSON, Secretary.
Members are invited to bring a Friend.

Town Hall, Maidenhead.

MR. ST. QUINTIN DOWNER
Will give a
GRAND AFTERNOON CONCERT
(Under Distinguished Patronage)
On Thursday, December 13th,
At the Popular & Successful Time of FIVE o'clock.

Artistes:
MISS ALICE CHARTRES (Mezzo Soprano).
MISS MAY FUSSELL (Violoncello).
MADAME VANNE (Dramatic Reciter).
MR. OWEN MORGAN (Tenor).
MR. GEORGE BRYANT (Baritone).
MR. ST. QUINTIN DOWNER (Solo Pianoforte).
Accompanist—MISS MARY GORE.

Reserved Seats (Numbered), 5s.; Second Seats (Reserved), 3s.; Admission, 1s.
Tickets to be obtained of Mr. Marsh, Printer, 55, High-street, Maidenhead, where a Plan of the Hall may be seen.

The Pavilion
(Seating accommodation 350)
IS AVAILABLE during the Winter Months for
CONCERTS, BALLS, DINNERS, &c.
For Terms, apply at 7, High-street

SPECIAL NOTICE.
As the Pavilion is Let for Next Week, there will be No Dance on Monday, but a Special Dance will take place on Friday next, at the usual time.

MAIDENHEAD COLLEGE,
CASTLE HILL, MAIDENHEAD.
Inspected by the University of Oxford, & recognised by the Berkshire County Council.
HEAD MASTER—MR. A. MILLAR INGLIS.

Resident Staff—
MODERN LANGUAGES (Reform Method). — The HEAD MASTER.
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.—MR. W. H. CLAYPOOLE, B.A. Oxon (Mathematical Honours); formerly Open Scholar of Merton College, Oxford.
CLASSICS.—MR. E. O. WILLIAMS, B.A. (Classical Honours); late Exhibitioner, and Scholar of the Secondary Training Department, of University College of N. Wales.
JUNIOR SCHOOL AND DRAWING. — MR. W. E. GIFFEN, Lond. Univ.
Prospectus may be obtained on application.

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