

H.O.B.A.

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DINNER

OVER a cup of tea served in King's College china, Mr. R. F. Trevett was told by the Old Man, Arnold Goodliffe, that he had a job as a master at the School. That was in July, 1927. At the Old Boys Association's annual dinner, at the Co-operative Café on Saturday, December 1st, Mr. Trevett, the Guest, recalled his 29 years on the teaching staff.

Mr. Michael Some, a leading member of the Sadler's Wells Ballet, was to have been the Guest, but had to decline the invitation. He has promised to be the Guest next year.

Mr. Trevett said that during his many years at the School he had learned that a schoolmaster was most likely to be exposed to cynicism and disillusionment, but he was a person who must be dedicated to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

He felt that Grammar Schools throughout the country were facing the greatest crisis and, at the same time, the greatest opportunity that it had ever been their lot to meet in the long centuries of their existence. If they were fighting for their souls, it was because modern man everywhere was involved in that same apocalyptic struggle. The Grammar School should not expect to be a peaceful backwater when the floods were rising over the whole world.

Mr. E. B. Mitford, proposing the toast of the Guest, said that his colleague was a devout churchman, an eminent scholar, gifted with a great knowledge of languages, music and philosophy, and a wise counsellor. He also recalled a number of amusing and embarrassing experiences to which the beard and cloak had been subjected.

Proposing "The School", Mr. G. R. C. Ridgely said it was a short-sighted policy that the School had been made to wait so long for new buildings.

The head boy, P. Symons, outlined the School's outside activities. He felt the School's 7-1 win in the soccer match with the Old Boys that afternoon was a "fair result".

Mr. C. H. Rutt, the President of the Association, said he was horrified to learn that someone in the town was organising baby-sitting. When he was young he had to do it himself. On a serious note, he said parents' responsibilities did not weigh so heavily on their shoulders as they had in the past. As a result, some children were not getting a proper home life and nothing the state had devised or would devise, would ever compensate for a poor home.

Results of the General Certificate of Education had been well above national average. The percentage of passes at advanced level was above that of last year and nine pupils had gained University Scholarships.

Mr. Rutt said that when he first came to the School in 1923 he promised Mr. Goodliffe that he would stay three years while the new school was being built and would not leave until it had been. Whenever Huish's was mentioned it gave rise to a national crisis. He felt that a petition organised by the Old Boys Association had done much to change the minds of the County Education Committee in favour of a three-form entry school when the new buildings were erected at South Road.