

COMMEMORATION, JUNE 20TH, 1936.

PROLOGUE, recited by P. H. GEAKE, Head of the School.

Good people all, assembled in this place,
 We hasten to extend to you our greeting :
 We beg of you to hear us with good grace
 And to endure the hardness of the seating.
 Our queer contortions in the courts are ended ;
 The gym. squad has performed 'mid much applause :
 And now we have our energy expended,
 The speakers burn to exercise their jaws.
 But first, this hall, which oft of old hath rung
 With oratory and reasoning profound,
 Shall hear the humble Prologue's halting tongue
 Bid welcome to an O.S. most renowned ;⁽¹⁾
 A worthy branch of this most ancient tree,
 Who once in the Antipodes held sway,
 And now returned therefrom across the sea,
 Has honoured us by coming here to-day.
 And thou, O child of Mars, in panoply arrayed,⁽²⁾
 Whose name, too, figures on Shirburnia's roll,
 We hope the sight of us, on Corps parade,
 Did not cause anguish to thy martial soul.
 And now we bend our gaze, with expectation keen,
 Upon the chairman of our governing board :
 We missed his pink coat on the VIth form green⁽³⁾
 Last term—a fact we bitterly deplored.
 A holiday we lost, because the meet was banned,
 For fear that we should spread our plague of mumps :
 But though the fates with malice dealt the hand,
 We hope, kind sir, that you will turn up trumps.
 And thou, when from this dais, O most eminent divine,
 Thou dost pronounce thine erudite discourse,
 Remember thine own youth spent here,⁽⁴⁾ and so for auld lang syne
 Let thy words lend our pleadings greater force.
 But come, we must not waste the precious minutes, when
 The parents we've not welcomed, most important they of all,
 Worthy British matrons and their plum-duff, British, men,
 Who've come to see their sons receiving prizes in this hall.
 No modern theories have turned your heads ;
 And cranks who strive, publicity to gain,
 With babblings of repressions and "co-eds,"
 Have struggled 'gainst your common-sense in vain.
 Though rum ideas and theories are prevalent to-day,
 You willingly disburse large sums of cash,
 For this sole purpose, that your offspring may
 Submit their dorsal aspects to the lash.
 These methods may seem out of date, but yet you will agree,
 Proof of the pudding in the eating lies :
 And ample proof we'll offer to you, when our play you see ;
 So, Prologue, hence ! and let the curtain rise.

A.G.

(1) The Right Hon. Viscount Bledisloe, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., late Governor-General of New Zealand.

(2) Lt.-Colonel C. E. Hudson, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

(3) The annual Meet of the Blackmore Vale Hunt in the School Courts.

(4) The Right Rev. G. C., M.C., Lord Bishop of Ripon.