

REPORT ABOUT ONE OF THE LAST SPEECH DAYS

ATTACKS SPONSORED TELEVISION

"Menace to Cultural Standards"

PARENTS, officialdom, comprehensive schools, and the 11-plus examination were all criticised at Kilburn Grammar School speech day on Wednesday last week. Critics were Dr. Eric James, High Master of Manchester Grammar School, and Mr. D. F. Williams, headmaster at Kilburn.

Chairman was Cty. Ald. Archer Hoare, chairman of Middlesex Education Committee. The large audience included the Mayor of Willesden, Ald. Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, parents, and a number of prominent educationalists.

Dr. James said that moves to give people greater equality of opportunity and income had resulted in the "Age of the Common man." It was right that the common man should come into his inheritance but grammar schools should not accept without question the standards of values of the majority.

"We must be prepared to stand for the tastes of the minority. We must not accept majority decisions as being right in every field," he said.

Grammar schools aimed at producing pupils who had an appreciation for the Arts. Often the high standards instilled at school were undone at home.

He referred to the "lamentable" decision to allow private enterprise to present Television shows. It was a grave menace to the cultural standards of the country. The reading of good books had become a lost art through the radio.

Football Coupons

Often parents were responsible for lowering standards.

"It is no good a school like this trying to raise standards if the only way parents can fill in time is by filling in football coupons," he added.

Dr. James looked down at the audience—the Mayor was in the front row—and said "I understand Willesden is a hot-house of comprehensive schools. I would like to say some very hard things about them—but I won't."

Grammar schools stood for what could simply be described as "the educated attitude." The encouragement of such schools was more vital to-day than ever before, because of the particular responsibilities the world was putting on the shoulders of young people leaving them.

Occupational Disease

Mr. Williams, a former master at Manchester, complained that in recent years

P. Holmes, C. R. Symons, D. J. W. Gustafson, J. S. H. Cohen, P. Chattwell, D. I. Cutting, J. J. Strauss, M. Cohen.

Second prizes: S. C. Melsom, G. I. E. Cole, D. T. Fitzwilliam, M. B. Elster, B. J. Pilcher, G. J. Bowden, K. S. B. Rose, S. H. Israel, B. J. Miller, M. J. Hiscock, R. J. I. Taylor, B. M. Orkin, P. I. Wilson, P. B. Stead, F. A. J. Parker, H. I. Stern, K. J. Boutell, R. I. McLeod, A. J. Fairbrother.

Special Prizes

Lupton Kitchener Memorial Prize: F. Snook.

Headmaster's Prize to Head Boy: W. W. J. Barratt.

Hicks Bolton Shakespeare Prize: M. Carne, J. P. Payne, T. H. Ellis.

English: T. W. Hawthorne.

History: S. Brittan.

Geography: F. C. Evans.

Latin: F. S. Evans.

French: S. Brittan.

Science: S. A. Tanton.

Mathematics: G. H. Doiman.

Reader's: B. W. S. Francis.

Art: B. W. Radley.

Organist's Prize: G. L. Barnes.

Head Boy's Cap (1952/3): G. G. Tomkins.

Examination Successes

Open Exhibition in History at Jesus College, Cambridge, and State Scholarship: S. Brittan.

Major County Awards: M. Carne, J. A. Kosky, J. H. Tanton, R. L. White, A. J. Gardner, P. Gough, W. G. Hopkin, F. C. Evans, G. Barker, C. M. Beaver.

General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level): W. W. J. Barratt, S. Brittan, B. Dawkins, T. H. Ellis, F. C. Evans, A. M. Geller, T. W. Hawthorne, W. G. Hopkin, J. A. Kosky, R. L. White, M. Carne, G. H. Doiman, A. J. Gardner, D. E. Peacock, P. L. Tanton, N. Soar, J. T. Tanton, D. J. Tyerman.

General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level): J. G. Archibald, J. L. E. Ashby, R. R. Bain, A. Bass, V. I. Bendall, R. A. Bentall, A. D. Bliss, K. J. Boutell, N. E. L. Brewster, G. W. Bryant, R. A. Buckland, L.

among educationalists. There had been some slight changes but no radical reorganisation. The changes there had been however, would be welcomed.

His next criticism was that the Welfare State took too much care of the tender feelings of the mediocrities and tended too much to take the view that to have a first class brain was in some way rather deplorable and smacked too much of taking an unfair advantage.

The 11-plus examination, he said, was a selection and not a knock out competition. The majority of pupils could be considered the "hum-drum and average" and a numerical mark should not be taken as the final arbiter of the destinies of this large group. The differences between was often slight. Fuller consideration should be given to questions of character and attitude and background.

Selection Boards

"Let us set up competent and experienced area selection boards and let us do some in-
... let us see what the candidate looks like and what their parents feel about things," concluded Mr. Williams.

The chairman replied to the headmaster's criticism regarding lack of playing fields.

He said: "Playing fields are impossible to obtain in Willesden but I am attending a conference next week to discuss the possibility of obtaining them outside the borough."

There was some land which Willesden schools would be able to use, but it was unlikely to be available next year.

Form Prizes

First prizes: M. E. Edgington, T. J. P. McMahon, I. R. Gucklhorn, H. M. Coleman, S. Gunn, J. K. Gladden, D. H. Hunt, N.

Cohen, D. J. Cutting, G. J. J. Davies, A. J. Fairbrother, C. E. Ford, P. E. V. Frost, M. J. Fuller, S. E. Gander, S. L. Gavurin, P. F. Gayler, J. F. Griffiths, B. E. Hall, M. J. Harper, R. R. Harper, B. G. Humblestone, B. J. Hyman, G. Jarrold, G. A. King, J. G. Kovler, L. J. Lockett, N. P. Lyons, R. P. Marchant, D. C. Martin, S. B. McIntoch, J. McC. McKay, R. I. McLeod, J. M. Morgan, D. Nelson, J. N. Nice, C. J. Opperman, R. O'Shaughnessy, P. A. J. Parker, R. Paxton, J. P. H. D. Payne, G. S. Pinnegar, J. F. Quin, B. W. Radley, B. Ratcliffe, D. W. Reynolds, D. T. Ricks, W. Schwarzbard, P. M. Snillingford, V. W. Silk, J. Simmonds, J. H. Smith, P. E. Stead, J. A. Stephens, H. I. Stern, J. I. Strauss, W. Tsao, P. I. Wilson, E. Winter, H. J. Wood, H. E. Woolf.

Endorsements in Special Subjects in G.C.E. (Ord. Level): J. Adams, M. J. Esten, A. J. Gardner, M. H. Green, J. A. W. Hennessy, M. C. Pargiter, D. C. Sellman, N. Soloff, D. I. Spivey, D. W. Taylor, G. G. Tomkins, M. A. Whitehead.

Trophies

Champion House: Saxby.
"Crone" Rugby Cup: Keith.
House Athletics Shield: Saxby.
House Swimming Cup: Ratcliff.
"McAuliffe" House Tennis Cup: Ellis.
House Hockey Cup: Keith.
Senior Athletics Cup: M. H. Green.
Intermediate Athletics Cup: K. S. B. Rose.
"Temple Cole" Junior Athletics Cup: D. W. F. Horsman.
Senior Cross Country Cup: M. C. Pargiter.
Junior Cross Country Cup: B. J. Humblestone.
"Mullen" Senior Swimming (Continued at foot of next col.)

This report is incomplete