

SCHOOL PERSONALITIES

Mr W H Williams [KGS 1925-1958]

Mr W H Williams retired at the end of the summer term 1958 after thirty-five years' teaching, all but one at Kilburn Grammar School.

He was at Haberdashers Askes' School at Hatcham as a boy and, after some years service in the Royal Fusiliers and later in the Army Pay Corps in the 1914-18 war, he studied at King's College, London, where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours in French, and also the Associateship of King's College.

After coming down from college in 1923, he taught for a short time, first at Battersea Grammar School and then at Whitgift Middle School, Croydon. He joined KGS in September 1924 as an Assistant Master to teach modern languages. He became Head of Department in 1942 and has held the post ever since. He has been for many years a Member of the Modern Languages Association.

Mr Williams has by no means confined his energies to the academic side of his schoolmastering. He was Housemaster of Saxby House from 1931 to 1955 when the division of the school into four houses took place. He played regularly for the masters against the School at Cricket, Tennis and Badminton. It was he who was responsible for starting Badminton as a regular School game in 1944. He was also prominent in other fields of activity, for he took a leading part in organizing tours abroad before the 1939-45 war. He successfully carried out the job of being Business Manager for the Annual School Play from 1925-38.

These paragraphs will have shown that Mr Williams has indeed served the School well, and that we owe him a great debt. We have, so far, however, made no mention of the most senior post which he has held – that of Deputy Headmaster, which position has been his since 1951. In this post, one of great importance and considerable responsibility, he has shown to masters and boys, wisdom, patience, and perhaps above all, a never-failing kindness.

Mr Williams' height earned him the nicknames of "Lofty" amongst the masters and as "Wee Willie" with the boys. It was on one never-

to-be-forgotten occasion on a School trip to the Black Forest, that his “loftiness” served as a rallying point for the School party on the railway platform at Cologne, when it was necessary to collect the boys quickly from the massed holiday crowds in order to catch a train due to leave in a few minutes.

Boys who have passed through his hands during the many years he has been at Kilburn will testify to his sterling worth as a teacher and the never-failing soundness of his advice. They, and all the present members of the School, both masters and boys, wish him many years of health and happiness in his retirement.

Written by **Mr A A Warner** and published in *Kilburnian* 141, Summer Term 1958

