

RIDGEWAY,
November, 1938.

Dear Friends,

For a third time I am privileged to write to you through our School Magazine—"Ridge-Ways."

Only a few short weeks ago, when the country was face to face with war, the publishing of our third number seemed a very remote possibility. The storm clouds gathered, they passed, and that they may never again darken our horizon is, I am sure, the sincere hope of each one of us.

The past twelve months have also been a time of special difficulty as far as the School is concerned. Increasing numbers from the Gleadless housing estates are beginning to tax our accommodation. When I came to Ridgeway, less than thirty children were admitted yearly. During the last two years a hundred and thirty have been admitted, and we are only on the fringe of their influx. This increase has meant many alterations to school organisation, including the transfer of the woodwork room to the Church Schoolroom, the old woodwork room being converted into a classroom.

Ninety children stay at School daily for their mid-day meal. As yet, facilities only allow for the provision of the necessary crockery, cutlery, tablecloths and hot drinks for these children, but the provision of hot meals in a suitable canteen is being arranged. It is proposed to serve a complete dinner of meat, potatoes and vegetables, followed by pudding at a cost not exceeding 3½d. per head, or 2½d. if the first course only is taken.

Over a hundred children now come to School in the special 'buses of the Sheffield Omnibus Services. I am hopeful of cheaper fares for these children and understand double decked 'buses are to be introduced on the service.

I am pleased to record continued progress in our Evening Institute. This session we have a record number of students, and the classes in Woodwork and Art Stitchery have had to be duplicated. Owing to accommodation difficulties, resulting from increasing numbers, it was not possible to stage our Annual Exhibition, as usual, in the spring, but the Annual Dinner took place as usual. I am hopeful, this year, that suitable arrangements can be made for both exhibition and dinner to take place.

Jottings.

Oxo Painting Competition:—

The fountain pen was won by James Taylor. Other prizes were awarded to:—Hugh Nicholson, Std. VII.; John Fidler, Std. V.; Jean Massey, Std. III., and Brenda Carr, Std. I. School Caps and Berets:—

A stock of these is now kept at School, and they may be obtained by the children at any time. Caps 1/11 each, Berets 2/3 each.

Gleadless Children:—

We realise that any child may miss the School 'bus once in a while, but ask parents to see that the children then walk or come to School on the next 'bus. Missing the 'bus should not necessitate a holiday.

Annual Exhibition, 1939:—

The Annual Exhibition of Day and Evening School work will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 17th and 18th, 1939.

Evening Institute Dinner:—

This will be held on Saturday, March 25th, 1939, 6.30 p.m. to 12 midnight. One hundred and twenty tickets only, at 2/6 each, will be available, and can only be obtained through Evening Institute students. It is hoped that the proceedings will include a dinner, concert, whist drive and dance.

The County Library:—

The adult branch is open on alternate Fridays from 6.30 to 7.0 p.m. Books are issued free of charge and all residents are invited to use the facilities the library offers. Approximately 5,000 books per year are issued from the Juvenile and Adult Sections. This is an increase of 1,500 on last year's figures.

Milk:—

A cup of Horlick's Malted Milk, hot, can be obtained for one halfpenny at playtime on schooldays. Apart from its nutritive content, we believe that the fact of its being hot makes it specially valuable during the winter months.

Mid-day Meals:—

Crockery, cutlery, tablecloths and hot cocoa are provided for those staying at School for dinner. Our present facilities make it impossible for us to offer an alternative drink, but each child can have as much cocoa as he or she likes for one halfpenny daily.