

*'Dear Mr. Editor,*

*You ask me to write my recollections of the first term of the Sutton County School, Throwley Road, Sutton. After fifty years I am afraid my memory is not too good, and having no data to help me you must forgive me if I include in the first term's events others that happened during my stay at School.*

*As far as I remember, it was September 12th, 1899, when my father drove Trevor Duncan and me to the new School. We were both ten years of age, and after meeting Mr. Hensley - who, by the way, with his beard, looked as old then as he did when I called and saw him at Farnham in 1943 - and my father had paid his cheque, £2 10s., for the fees, I, in company with the other boys, was introduced to Mr. Horn and the caretaker, Mr. Surridge. We were then shown the classrooms, including Domestic Science 1 and 2, which, with the Art Room, we shared with members of the Technical Classes, for in those days the School was also a Technical College, and a great deal of interest was taken in those students - especially in two sisters, one very dark and the other very fair.*

*The Headmaster's Room was at the end of the passage on the first floor. Several of us were to know that room very well. Later we were taken into the Physics Lab. and given an entrance exam to determine which form we were to enter.*

*The School caps were black with red seams and S.C.S. in a monogram on the front panel. Mr. Hensley wore the same cap with a much more elaborate badge instead of the monogram, and we found that by losing or mislaying our caps we were lent a similar one to that which Mr. Hensley wore. Needless to say, everyone managed to lose his cap at some time.*

*Mr. Hensley took Mathematics, including Geometry and Euclid, French and Art; Mr. Horn English, History, Geography, etc.; Mr. Bennett Chemistry and Physics. All wore their black gowns. Mr. Dawson was the Carpentry Instructor.*

*There was no playground, and Manor Park was a Private School, so we had to play during the interval and luncheon hour on a fairly high chalk bank opposite, or in the road. Luncheon was not provided, and so a number of us used to lunch at a restaurant nearby, or spend a few pennies on Lipton's biscuits and save the remainder of our lunch money to buy something more intriguing.*

*Punishment was always detention, and during detention we had to add very long £ s. d. items copied off a card, and when a correct total was reached we were allowed to leave. At first they were a headache, but after a time someone found the masters' answers to these sums and a crib was taken which was handed round to anyone having detention, and I believe the duty master was quite as glad to getaway as we were.*

*Three detentions in a week meant the cane, given by the Headmaster, at first in his room on Friday afternoons but later in front of the School after prayers in the Lecture Room. Various schemes were made to lessen the hurt. Caps were put inside the pants, and one boy got his grandmother to make him a pair of*

*cotton-wool drawers which he always wore on Fridays. Visits were regularly made to the Head's room, and the cane split. Mr. Hensley was a most patient, kind and just man, and I am sure the canings hurt him much more than they did us.*

*No doubt Mr Horn will be giving his recollections and I hope he will confirm my memories and, where necessary, correct my English as he so often had occasion to do.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*PERCY J. GARDNER.'*