



The 1920s

Founded in 1921

TMDF

The Festival was founded in 1921 as the Thanet Competitive Musical Festival. No documents survive from that year, but it is clear from later references that the Secretary from the start was Miss Olive Raven. She was a person of boundless energy, who continued as secretary for over forty years, and was the life and soul of the Festival.

The first Adjudicator was Geoffrey Shaw, a well-known composer of music for schools, and brother of the better known composer, Martin Shaw. He came as Adjudicator at least three times in the first ten years of the Festival.

Thonet Festival of Music and Drama -

Some memories of the early days.

I have many memories of the early days, when my aunt, Miss Olive Raven was the first organising secretary. I think the first Festival in 1921, was held at Ramsgate in the Winter Garden, and was so enjoyable that after the final concert we went out onto the sands, and sang 'Jerusalem' at the tops of our voices, together with Geoffrey Shaw, the Adjudicator, who helped to launch that joyful occasion. In the early years the Adjudicators usually stayed with my aunt at the Cove, in St Peter's. Geoffrey Shaw came several times and I can remember his grand piano being covered with M.S. paper when he was engaged in writing 'Worship' (O Brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother), which was the Festival Song one year. Another adjudicator, Thomas F. Sherrill, wrote a special song for the Festival, 'Thonet' with words by Alfred Songster. I can sing it now - 'Thonet, Thonet for me!' I wonder if it is still sung? In the early days I was a pupil at a little prep school, St Leonards in Granville Road, Broadstairs, and our Headmistress, Miss Griffiths, enthusiastically entered us for every possible class. I don't suppose that we sang very well, but I remember many of the songs we learnt and have used them in my teaching life. I remember the enormous trouble my aunt took in selecting the songs for the various classes. The Smoking Room at the Cove was littered with new music on approval from various publishers. She herself sang beautifully and always entered for the 'Leader' classes, and had a Female Voice Choir, in which I sang in later years. In the 1930's I was a student at the Royal Academy of Music and with a fellow student, Stanley Sackett, entered in the two-piano classes. When my aunt retired, my sister, Mary Raven helped to run the Festival and it was a great sadness when she died in 1983. It is splendid to hear that the Festival continues to flourish and I should be most interested to see a copy of the current syllabus.

Early memories of the Festival from Olive Raven's niece, Marjorie Raven

I was able to help to start a similar Festival at Eastbourne in 1936, when our first Adjudicator was Herbert Howells, who of course judged at the Thonet Festival. Now that I work in Harare I enter pupils for the National Institute of Allied Arts, founded in 1913, which has music, drama, literary and dancing competitions held throughout the year. We have splendid schools and adult choirs, black and white. In 1963 we celebrated our Golden Jubilee by asking Isobel Baillie and Rendall Taylor to come and adjudicate.

Margaret Raven

Arundel School. Box M.P. 91

Harare. Zimbabwe.

1922

In the second year, the Adjudicator was Harvey Grace, a well-known organist of the time, and editor of the Musical Times.

THANET MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

SOME INTERESTING COMPETITIONS.

On Tuesday and Wednesday there were held at the Margate Pavilion and Winter Gardens some interesting competitions in connection with the second annual Thanet Competitive Musical Festival. It is not easy in these days to expect developments of the art of music in its best expressions; the public taste has been modified, not for the better, in recent years. Nevertheless, there were reasons for encouragement to music-lovers in this week's festival, though all who were present will agree with the able adjudicator, Mr. Harvey Grace, in regretting a certain lack of interest on the part of Margate residents, who do not seem to have learned the lessons suggested by the Municipal Orchestra and the Municipal Choir. Everyone who attended at the Pavilion on Tuesday and Wednesday will agree with Mr. Grace in his commendation of the massed singing, which was quite good.

In another year the results will very likely be better from a musical standpoint. Miss Haven, of St. Peter's, the energetic hon. secretary of the Festival Council, is an enthusiast with a great desire to develop musical taste in Thanet. Associated with her were a keen body of well-known local residents, which included Dr. F. E. Nichol, the Rev. C. Pendock Banks (Westgate-on-Sea), Mr. Curzon Poole, Mr. H. Shallcross, Mr. Vincent Henniker, the Rev. E. B. Heberden, Mrs. Walton, Mr. C. Laming, and others.

The principal results of the competitions are appended.

In the class for private and secondary boys' school choirs, the Chatham House County School obtained the highest number of marks, 161. The selected pieces being Dyson's "Praise" and the two-part song, "Fair Daffodils" (D. M. Stewart). Latham School was second with 160 marks, followed by Wellesley House, St. Peter's, 156 marks, and Wellington House, Broadstairs, 135 marks.

The test pieces in the class for private, secondary, and senior elementary girls' school choirs (competitors under 15 years of age) were H. G. Ley's "Faster than Fairies," and "A Spring Song" by Hilda Grievson. The girls from the Margate Central School were awarded 90 marks for each piece, total 180; the competitors from Bartrum Gables, Broadstairs, came second with a total of 179 marks. The other competitors were allotted marks in the following order—Abbotsford, Broadstairs, 175; Queen's School, Margate, 175; North Foreland Lodge, St. Peter's, 167; Montrose College, Margate, 165. In this class the singing, especially in the unison song—not the most happily chosen piece—was particularly good.

It should be here interposed that the various sessions were opened by the Vicar of Margate (the Rev. David Ralston), Miss Wolsley Lewis, Dr. Nichol, and the Rev. E. L. Hertlet, each making excellent little addresses on the importance of developing in Thanet the real musical spirit.

One of the most interesting competitions was that for private, secondary, and senior elementary girls' school choirs. The test pieces made considerable demands on the singers. They were—Sir Frederick Bridge's "The Nights," and Harold Knight's two-part song, "Twelve by the Clock," an odd selection. All the choirs sang these two rather uninteresting pieces very well, and in the result the adjudicator awarded the palm to the girls from Bartrum Gables, Broadstairs, who secured 186 marks, but whose efforts seemed to reach the 100 per cent. merit. The other awards in this competition—one of the most satisfactory in the festival—were made as under:—St. George's School, Ramsgate, 172; Abbotsford, Broadstairs, 171; North Foreland Lodge, St. Peter's, 165; Eghamere, Westgate-on-Sea, 164; Montrose College, Margate, 163.

The senior sight-reading test for choirs was won by North Foreland Lodge, St. Peter's (80 marks), the competitors from

the senior sight-reading test for choirs was won by North Foreland Lodge, St. Peter's (80 marks), the competitors from Eghamere, Westgate-on-Sea, coming second with 75 marks.

In the class for female voice choirs, the test pieces were the two-part song, "A Lake and a Fairy Boat" (Dunhill), and the three-part song, "Flow Down, Cold River" (Selby). A better selection might easily have been made. The Broadstairs Choir won the competition on a narrow margin of points, but their friendly competitors from Bartrum Gables, St. Peter's, and Ramsgate went through a not very inspiring test with considerable verve.

In the male voice quartette there were no Margate entries. The selected piece was Balfour Gardiner's "Sir Eglamore," and the Ramsgate Orpheus B Party received 90 marks, against the Ramsgate Orpheus A Party's 88. This class revealed one of the few good examples of male voice singing, so rare in Thanet.

In the quartette for mixed voices the difficult composition of Mr. Granville Bantock, "Oh, can you sew cushions?" was selected as the test piece. It is sufficient to say that the marks awarded were as follows:—Broadstairs quartette, 90 marks; Margate quartette, 88 marks; Kingsgate quartette, 78 marks. The adjudicator's decisions were on the generous side.

The competition for girls' club choirs was a bright feature. Happily, one of the test pieces was that most delightful song by Purcell, "Nymphs and Shepherds"; the other was H. A. J. Campbell's "Shadow Dance." The best singing was done by the St. George's Girls' Association Choir from Ramsgate, who got 90 marks for the first piece and 88 for the second, and thoroughly deserved it. The Girls' Choir Club at St. Peter's secured second place with 168 marks, and the Y.W.C.A. Choir, Margate, were third with 163.

Excellent tests were set in the class for church and chapel choirs. The test pieces were the unaccompanied anthem, "Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake" (Parry), and Geoffrey Shaw's "Hail, gladdening light." Some of the work was a little ragged, but the choir of St. Peter's Church deservedly secured the highest number of marks, 169. Holy Trinity Church choir at Broadstairs came next with 168 marks, followed by St. Paul's, Margate, with 163 and the Union-crescent Congregational Church, Margate, with 157.

In the class for piano trios, which was quite uneventful, marks were awarded thus:—Mrs. Murrie's trio, 90 marks; Miss Bell Curr's trio, 77; Miss Kenrick Smith's trio, 76; North Foreland Lodge trio, 74.

The competition for boys' choirs, the contestants coming from local elementary schools, were an interesting feature of the festival. St. George's School, Ramsgate, were awarded first place with 180 marks for a not entirely satisfactory performance, St. Peter's School (172 marks) coming second, and St. Saviour's School, Westgate-on-Sea (167 marks), third.

The junior sight-reading test for choirs was won by St. George's School, Ramsgate, whose representatives secured 85 per cent. of marks.

Girls' choirs sang Dunhill's "Sea Horses" in unison, and the two-part song, "The Rain," a colourless number by Wadeley. The adjudicator decided that the best effort was made by the sweet-voiced little girls from the Lillian-road Council School at Ramsgate, who were awarded 183 marks. St. George's School, Ramsgate, received 180 marks, the Birchington School 168, and Sainstone School, Margate, 156.

The concert by the successful competitors, held at the Pavilion on Wednesday evening, was not very well attended, but the Mayor of Margate (Councillor H. B. Smith) was present to show his interest in the movement. Most of the test pieces were sung, but regret was expressed at the absence of the male voice quartette. Perhaps in the near future there will be developed in Thanet a more intelligent interest in music for music's sake, apart from its possibilities as a commercial proposition. In any event, the ladies and gentlemen who co-operated with such enthusiasm to make Thanet's second musical festival a success deserve encouragement and congratulation.

At this time, all classes seem to have been for choirs and for pianoforte trios ("quite uneventful"!) Chatham House won the school boys' choirs' award, and the award for church choirs went to St. Peter's

1923

Forgive my impertinence
in making suggestions.

32 Stanley Gardens
N.W.3.

Dear Min Raven.

Certainly I'll come - with pleasure.

I'm delighted to hear of the great
success of your last year.

About Date. Late May or early
June - preferably the latter will suit
me. Don't have it before May 20 if you
can help it please. And as soon as
you can settle definitely, please let me
know, as there are one or two things
about that time I shall have to settle.

Yes. Like everything else have gone
up! Can you do 10/- per day and
expenses? If not, say what you can.

In looking through your last year's programme
I don't see anything for combined singing.
I suggest "Jerusalem," Parry for Union
singing - and Holst's "Turn Back O Man"
for the choir. It is such a fine
opportunity all to sing together. Ask all
singers to learn Jerusalem, and choruses
or choir to learn "Turn back O man"
- parts of the latter liable to be included
in the text at the discretion of the Judge.

If you are having pf. duets may I enter
a plea for "Ten Purcell Duets" which
I have just arranged for Joseph Williams.
They are such heavenly tunes. Purcell at his
best.

Could choir have
(a) Psalm
(b) Hymn
(c) short anthem
(d) and (b) to be sung
exactly as choir with - (a) either Anglican or Gregorian tone.

best wishes
Yours
Geoffrey Shaw.

This, I think, is
more useful and
educational than
2 anthems.

Letter from Geoffrey Shaw, accepting the
invitation to adjudicate once more, and
suggesting the mass singing of Jerusalem

1923

FLOW OF MELODY.

1923
THANET'S MUSIC FEAST.

FULL LIST OF AWARDS.

Wonderful success marked the third annual Thanet competitive musical festival held at the West Cliff Concert Hall, Ramsgate, on Wednesday and Thursday. From every point of view the event was, in the matter of excellence as well as in the number of entries and the widening of scope by the addition of extra classes, a distinct advance upon any previous local effort of the kind. There was great keenness in competition, and the brilliant, witty, musically-artistic adjudicator, Mr. Geoffrey Shaw, paid tribute to the ability of the singers and instrumentalists whose collective efforts gave undoubted delight to the large audiences which assembled to listen attentively and to applaud enthusiastically at the close of each number.

An Educational Factor.

At the "cold-blooded hour of eleven" on Wednesday morning, the Vicar of Ramsgate (Rev. E. L. A. Hertslet) officially opened the session and congratulated the organisers on the increased number of competitors. They were grateful, he said, to the festival for the education it was giving the Isle of Thanet of the two great qualities of life which it brought out—discipline and taste. They were learning to use and develop that indefinable influence that music exerts over all.

A departure was made this year in that all competitors who reached the standard of 80 per cent. and over received certificates of merit, in addition to any place honours they secured.

The competitors who underwent the ordeal of commencing the programme received the warm plaudits and the congratulations of their rivals and fellow-competitors. An admirable spirit pervaded the whole of the competition, reflecting the words of Sir H. Walford Davies quoted on the programme, "In musical competition the idea is not to beat each other, but to pace each other on the road to excellence."

A Jolly Adjudicator.

Mr. Geoffrey Shaw's genial personality and obvious interest did much to put some rather nervous songsters at their ease. From his raised dais at the end of the hall he controlled the proceedings and at the close came forward to tell, in a quite friendly manner, the faults noted and good points made.

"It's such a jolly thing to sing," he remarked to one group of very serious young ladies whom he found taking the proceedings too gravely. "Some of you look at me as though I had the power to order you off to instant execution."

The second session of the festival was opened by the Vicar of St. Peter's (the Rev. C. H. S. Matthews) on Wednesday afternoon, the third (on Wednesday evening) by Dr. Nichol, and on Thursday afternoon the ceremony was performed by the Deputy-Mayor of Ramsgate (Alderman T. S. Chayney), in the absence

Private, secondary and senior elementary girls' school choirs (under 15)—two-part song, "In Praise of May" (John Ireland); 1, Abbotshild (85); 2, Bartrum Gables (84); 3, St. George's, Ramsgate, and Queens' School, Margate (83); 4, North Foreland Lodge (82).

Choirs conducted by one their own number: 1, St. George's Boys (86); 2, St. Leonard's and Bartrum Gables (83); 3, North Foreland Lodge B Choir (82). Female voice choirs—three-part song, "Corinna" (Ethel Boyce): 1, Oriana Choir, Broadstairs; 2, Bartrum Gables (85); 3, Broadstairs Choir (82); 4, St. George's (Ramsgate) Girls' Association and St. Peter's Choir (81).

Choirs conducted by one of their own number (adult)—Unison song "April" (Alice Rowley): 1, Oriana Choir (87); 2, Broadstairs (85).

Girls' Club Choirs (under 16)—two-part song, "At Early Dawn" (John Ireland): 1, Broadstairs Girls' School Club (83).

Girls' Club Choirs (any age)—Unison song, "It was a lover and his lass" (Morley), and two-part song, "Urslua Dancing" (Ethel Boyce): 1, St. George's (Ramsgate) Girls' Association (168); 2, Y.W.C.A. Margate (163); 3, St. Peter's (159); 4, Broadstairs (158).

Vocal quartet (mixed)—"Is Love a Boy?" (Byrd), "As Torrents in Summer" (Elgar): 1, St. Peter's (81).

Vocal quartette (two tenors, two basses)—"The Three Knights" (Edward German): 1, Hazlewood Quartette, Ramsgate (84); 2, County School (Ramsgate) Staff (81).

Church and chapel choirs—unaccompanied hymn, "Jesu, Lover of My Soul" (Dr. Joseph Parry): 1, St. Paul's, Margate (164); 2, St. Peter's (154); 3, Christ Church, Westgate-on-Sea (152); 4, Emmanuel Church, Margate (145).

Violin and pianoforte duet—Aquarelles' Legende Naive (Op 59, Yorgen): 1, Miss Bell-Curr and Mrs. Lewis (84); 2, Mrs. Churchill and Miss Garstin (80).

Pianoforte duet—Suite for piano duet (York Bowen): 1, Miss Lewis and Miss Harding (83); 2, Miss Garstin and Miss Ward (78).

Pianoforte trio—Phantasie Trio in A Minor (John Ireland): 1, Miss Bell-Curr's Trio (74).

Orchestra—Intermezzo and Finale from St. Paul's Suite (Gustave Holst): 1, Margate Amateur String Orchestra (82).

Choirs from Women's Associations—folk song, "Blow Away the Morning Dew": 1, Holy Trinity, Broadstairs (82); 2, Holy Trinity, Ramsgate (80).

Elementary schools, girls—folk song, "Dashing away with the smoothing iron," and two-part song, "What the nightingale sang" (Mary Dobson): 1, St. George's, Ramsgate (172); 2, Lillian-road, Ramsgate (170); 3, Thornton-road, Ramsgate (166); 4, Westgate-on-Sea (164); 5, Broadstairs (162); 6, Birchington (160).

Elementary schools, boys—folk song, "The Country Farmer's Boy," and two-part song, "The Ride of the Witch": 1, St. George's, Ramsgate (167); 2, St. Lawrence (165); 3, Birchington (159).

Elementary schools, girls—Lullaby: Unison song, "A Japanese Lullaby": 1, St. George's, Ramsgate (84); 2, Lillian-road, Ramsgate (81); 3, Broadstairs (78).

Elementary schools, boys (under 11)—Unison song, "Who is Sylvia?": 1, St. George's (81).

on official business. Alderman Chayney said the festival had created a position in the Isle of Thanet of which the rest of the country was very jealous, and it must be gratifying to the teachers to see such a happy gathering brought together by the musical co-operation of pupils and those who instructed.

Criticised Church Choirs.

Apropos of the class for church and chapel choirs, Mr. Shaw said he had the greatest sympathy with the competitors in that section. He had been in one way or another a member of a church choir all his life and he knew something of the extraordinary difficulties.

"He thought it a pity that congregations so frequently criticised choirs, so much so that in time the choirs thought they did sing badly. Then they actually began to sing badly. Such was the psychology of the matter."

He expressed deep regret that in many instances congregations did not sympathise with choirs or encourage them as they should. He was not going to say the choir was the best of a very high one, and if he had his way he would make the congregation of a church have congregational practices. That would make them sing and also cause them to appreciate the efforts and the difficulties of the choir. Much more could be made of church singing than was made at present.

A Happy Experiment.

Mr. Shaw was particularly happy in his crisp comments and kindly criticism of the folk-song and two-part song by the girls of the elementary schools. He offered congratulations to all on the measure of musical success attained, but would like folk-song to be sung without the aid of a conductor. "A folk-song is a wild flower of music, and must not have hot-house treatment," he said.

To illustrate his theory, at the close of the competition in this class, he asked all the groups of girls who had sung the folk-song to stand up to a conductor's baton to stand up. They were dotted about the hall in batches. Mr. Shaw went to the organ and to his accompaniment only they sang the folk-song tune fully and in time.

School Choirs' Progress.

A feature of the Class I, for girls' choirs, was the wonderful progress which had been made, especially by Thornton-road. Two years ago, said Mr. Shaw, he had to say some things about tone and a course way of singing by the choirs. "I am simply astounded at the excellent improvement you have made in two years," he remarked.

With regard to the singing, tone was excellent, but the dictation of music cases in for criticism. "A delicious performance," said the adjudicator of the winners, St. George's Girls' School, whose singing he characterised as "perfectly lovely."

The test pieces for the boys' choirs were the folk song "A Country Farmer's Song" and the two-part song "The Ride of the Witch." Here again a high standard had been reached, and the general swing and spirit were good. St. George's Boys were run closely for the honours by Lawrence, but the latter choir unfortunately gave the former a lead of two points for the part song.

Boys Shy of Sylvia.

The adjudicator confessed he had a temptation to award nearly full marks to all of the charming little competitors who entered for girls' choirs (under eleven) for which the test was the folk song "A Japanese Lullaby." The boys' choirs (under eleven) had Schubert's lovely "Who is Sylvia?" as the competitive item. St. George's were the only competitors and secured 81 marks for an even rendering, although Mr. Shaw considered their enquiries for Sylvia lacked enthusiasm.

The festival was admirably organised by a representative council of which Dr. E. B. Nichol is chairman, Miss Raven, hon. secretary, Rev. E. B. Heberden.

"The Wise Men": 1, Westgate (167).

The Most Musical.

The hall was crowded in the evening, when the successful competitors gave a concert, the programme being composed of the festival items.

The Rev. E. B. Heberden, asking Sir Cecil Hertslet to present the certificates, said the third festival gave a record of steady growth. The speaker urged the need of further entries for the mixed quartettes, and emphasised the help that might be given by members of choral societies. He also paid tribute to the work of Miss Raven (the hon. secretary) and to that of the judge.

In the course of his speech, Sir Cecil Hertslet said the organist of Westminster Cathedral, Dr. Nicholson, had expressed the opinion that the English were the most musical people in Europe. He wondered whether Dr. Nicholson had ever been to France and Belgium. So far as his (Sir Cecil's) own experience went, the music interest seemed to be engrained in the hearts and souls of the peoples on the other side of the Channel. He did not agree with Dr. Nicholson. At Antwerp, for instance, the municipality granted a subsidy of £2,400 to the Director of Grand Opera for a six months' season, and a similar amount to the Director of Flemish Grand Opera.

There Would be a Riot.

"Imagine," said Sir Cecil, "what would happen if our Council here were to grant a subsidy to grand opera at the Palace Theatre. (Laughter.) The Mayor and Corporation would faint at the possibility of such a request being made." (Laughter.) The truth was that we had not yet become the most musical people in Europe. But the fact that these musical festivals, not only in Thanet, but in other parts of the country, were being held with such conspicuous success was sufficient proof that ninety-nine out of every hundred English people longed for something more than a thriller they thoroughly knew by heart.

This festival had really attained an enormous amount of success. They would all, he was sure, wish to congratulate the organisers. (Hear, hear.)

To the parents present Sir Cecil advised that if among their children they noted any special musical ability, they should give it every possible encouragement to persevere. One did not know what it might lead to. It would certainly purify their lives, and might lead to an honourable profession. It might even lead to fame. If that fame were attained the child would look back with perpetual gratitude upon the consideration and encouragement it received from its parents.

One word about Mr. Geoffrey Shaw. He could assure him that his criticisms of the way these competitions had been carried through gave as much pleasure to all who listened to him as they did to the actual competitors themselves. (Applause.) He had tempered strength and kindness with mercy and sympathy.

In 1923, for Geoffrey Shaw's second visit, there was massed singing of Parry's Jerusalem, then a comparatively recent composition, as suggested in Shaw's letter. The newspaper report shows that the majority of the classes were for choirs, especially Elementary schools and Girls' Clubs. The only Instrumental classes were violin, and piano duets and trios.

THANET MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

FULL LIST OF WINNERS.

There is no doubt that the holding of competitive musical festivals gives a decided and much to be desired filip to the propagation and success of the art in local circles, especially if the festival is in capable hands and is run on common-sense and attractive lines. In the words of that pastmaster in his profession, Sir H. Walford Davies, "in musical competition the idea is not to beat each other, but to pace each other on the road to excellence."

Never was a more truthful statement made, and truth of it was amply borne out during the highly successful Thanet Competitive Musical Festival, which was held at the West Cliff Concert Hall, Ramsgate, during Wednesday and Thursday of this week. It was at once apparent that the idea had called forth all that was best in local amateur circles, and that the competitors were doing exactly what Sir Walford Davies had said they should do, urging each other on to better and even better efforts, which, although culminating in a triumph for the selected few, reflects all glory and honour to the runners-up and the unsuccessful, because they all did their best. Were it not for the efforts of the latter the winners would not have demonstrated to the full that excellence that won them the laurels of victory, and were it not for the excellence of the winners the losers would not have had the satisfaction of knowing that they had contributed by their pluck to the general glory of the whole.

The name of the adjudicator alone is sufficient to warrant that the standard of the winners will be a high one. Mr. Geoffrey Shaw is too well known in musical circles all over the country to need any introduction here. In addition to an abounding and vast knowledge of the work, he has, to use a colloquialism, "a way with him" that at once put the artists on their mettle, but at the same time placed them completely at their ease.

His criticisms, although always fully deserved and to the point, were never harsh, and couched in terms that could not fail to impress the point in question on the minds of the competitors without leaving them with any sense of injury or injustice.

The syllabus arranged was a wide one and the entries were enormous and representative. A feature of the festival was the singing of the juveniles, conducted in some cases by one of their own party. The part and unison singing of the youngsters was a revelation to many of their elders and the tonal effects obtained were beautiful in the extreme in many cases. The young conductors, too, showed great promise. They had evidently, in most cases, carefully trained their sonsingers to respond to their baton in quite the professional style, and warm indeed was the praise bestowed on them by the adjudicator.

The singing of the girls' club choirs was another most enjoyable feature. It is really remarkable how vocal art has grown in these clubs until now it is almost a necessity. They had two very difficult things to sing, and right bravely did they attack them.

The one weak spot during the two days was the church and chapel choirs singing, but it must in all fairness be said that they had two very difficult things to sing. It takes a well-balanced choir to get successfully through the slow movement of "Jesu, lover of my soul" to

"O God whose nature" (Wesley) is another teaser. The fact remains, however, that church choirs are not up to the standard that should be. They are more to be pitied than blamed, for the apathy which exists in connection with choir work on the part of the congregations of some of our churches is notorious.

WEDNESDAY'S SESSION.

The first session of the festival was opened on Wednesday morning by the Vicar of Ramsgate (Mr. Rev. E. L. A. Hertslet), who referred to the fact that this was the third of these festivals held here in Thanet, and expressed his pleasure that it had come to the town of Ramsgate again. The first one was held in this town, the second, in order to avoid "international complications," was held at Margate, and now it had returned once more to Ramsgate.

The Vicar congratulated the executive committee and the indefatigable chairman, the Rev. E. B. Heberden, not forgetting the secretary, Miss Raven, and went on to refer to the fact that these three days produced two great essentials, a sense of discipline and fellowship.

He wanted the competitors to realise the tremendous interest that was being shown by the public at large. The Mayor, said the Vicar, had been absolutely insufferable for a whole year because of the triumph of the Ramsgate Elementary Schools last year.

It had been decided, concluded the speaker, that all competitors who attained a mark of over 80 per cent. should be presented with a certificate as a mark of appreciation for their efforts.

The morning session on Wednesday opened with a two-part song competition for private, secondary and senior elementary girls' school choirs. The song set was that well-known invocation to the best known rural divinity of the Greeks, entitled "Pan."

The singing was quite good as far as harmony and tone were concerned, but Mr. Shaw was correct when he told the children that their effort was not so brilliant enough, not corybantic at all, as it should be to give proper effect and realise the intention of the composer Bantock.

In the second session of this session a misunderstanding arose, and it was announced that the result would be announced later. This was the section for sight reading tests for senior choirs.

The next session was a competition for school orchestras. A suite of pieces by Giles Farnaby was the test selected and there were only two entrants. The full results of the morning session were as follows:

CLASS III. (A). GIRLS' SCHOOL CHOIRS.—1, Bartram Gables (85); 2, Abbottsford Lodge, St. Peter's (83); 3, North Foreland Lodge, St. Peter's and St. Winifred's, Broadstairs (79); 4, Ethandene, Westgate.

CLASS XVI. (A). SCHOOL ORCHESTRAS.—Bartram Gables, Broadstairs (83); Queen's School, Margate (80).

In the afternoon the session was opened by the Rev. C. H. St. Matthews, who congratulated the competitors of the previous session and remarked that the standard seemed much higher than it was two years ago.

A unison song, "Boot, saddle, to horse and away," was well sung by the private and secondary schools boys' choirs, as was a two-part song "Drake's Drum." There were only two competitors in the section and there were only four marks between them. In a similar competition for boys under twelve the test song was "Rock-a-bye," and in this section, too, the boys sang really well. In the section for choirs conducted by one of their own number, some really remarkable effects were obtained. As stated above, the youthful conductors were zealous and had got the idea very well. The conducting on the part of a member of St. George's Boys' School, Master Croucher, was especially good. Although there was a little unnecessary action, the effect was obtained, and the result all that could be desired.

The results for this session were —
CLASS II. PRIVATE AND SECONDARY BOYS' SCHOOL CHOIRS.—County School, Ramsgate (58); Alexander House School, Broadstairs (52).

CLASS IV. PRIVATE AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS' CHOIRS (UNDER 12).—Queen's School, Margate (84); Bartram Gables, Broadstairs (83); County School, Ramsgate, and St. Leonard's School, Broadstairs (82 each); Alexander House School, Broadstairs (79).

CLASS IX. (B). JUNIOR SIGHT READING FOR CHOIRS.—St. George's Girls' School, Ramsgate (97); St. George's Boys' School, Ramsgate (87); St. Leonard's School, Broadstairs (80); North Foreland Lodge, St. Peter's (75).

CLASS III. (B). GIRLS' SCHOOL CHOIRS (UNDER 15).—Abbottsford, Broadstairs (85); Bartram Gables, Broadstairs (84); St. George's School, Ramsgate, and Queen's School, Margate (83); North Foreland Lodge, St. Peter's (82).

CLASS VIII. (B). CHOIRS CONDUCTED BY ONE OF THEIR OWN NUMBER.—St. George's Boys' School (86); Bartram Gables and St. Leonard's School (83 each); North Foreland Lodge (83).

GIRLS' CLUBS' GOOD WORK.

Referring to the work of the Girls' Club choirs in this section, the adjudicator said that one was very grateful to the people who had trained these girls. Singing was becoming quite a necessity in the girls' clubs, and the standard in this class was going up higher every day.

Class 10 (A) was a vocal quartette competition for soprano, alto, tenor and bass, "Is Love a Boy," being the piece set. There was only one entry and the marks gained will be seen below.

In the competition for church choirs in this session there were four choirs competing, and the adjudicator had quite a lot to say about them, remarking that he knew something of the difficulties that they had to face. "Those brutes, the congregation," said Mr. Shaw, "grumble about the poor choirs, but never dream of taking part of the singing upon themselves." He thought that the pieces set had proved rather too much for the competitors, and expressed the hope that next year something rather less difficult would be selected.

The results for this session were:—
CLASS VI. FEMALE VOICE CHOIR.—The Oriana Choir, Broadstairs (80); Bartram Gables' Choir (85); Broadstairs Choir (82); St. George's Girls' Association, Ramsgate (81); St. Peter's Choir (81).

CLASS VIII. UNISON SONG CHOIRS CONDUCTED BY ONE OF THEIR OWN NUMBER.—Oriana Choir, Broadstairs (87); Broadstairs Choir (85); CLASS V. (B). GIRLS' CLUB CHOIRS (UNDER 16).—Broadstairs Girls' School Club (83).

CLASS V. (A). GIRLS' CLUB CHOIRS (ANY AGE).—St. George's Girls' Association, Ramsgate (168); Y.W.C.A., Margate (163); St. Peter's-in-Thamet (159); Broadstairs (153).

CLASS X (A). VOCAL QUARTETTE FOR S.A.T.B.—St. Peter's Quartette (81).

CLASS X (B). VOCAL QUARTETTE FOR T.T.B.B.—The Hazelwood Quartette (84); County School Staff, Ramsgate (81).

CLASS XI. CHURCH AND CHAPEL CHOIRS.—St. Paul's, Margate (164); St. Peter's-in-Thamet (154); Christ Church, Westgate (152); Emanuel Church, Margate (145).

THURSDAY'S SESSIONS.

Thursday morning's session was devoted to instrumental work, and some excellent playing was heard. The results were:—
CLASS XIII. VIOLIN AND PIANOFORTE DUET.—Miss Bell-Curt and Mrs. Lewis (84); Mrs. Churchill and Mrs. Garstin (80).

CLASS XV. STRING QUARTETTE.—Miss Warwick

CLASS XII. PIANOFORTE DUET.—Miss Lewis and Miss Harding (83); Miss Garstin and Miss Ward (78).

CLASS XIV. PIANOFORTE TRIO.—Miss Bell-Curt's Trio (74).

CLASS XVI. (B). ORCHESTRA.—Margate Amateur String Orchestra.

In the afternoon some really fine folk songs were heard. What beautiful, happy music our folk songs are, if only they can be preserved from the axe and chopper of some of our modern so-called musicians. Most of the vocalists were children and they seemed to enter right into the fun of the thing, with what a splendid result it will be imagined in the case of a song like "Dashing away with the smoothing iron."

Referring to the work of the choirs from the elementary schools in this session, the adjudicator said that he was astounded at the progress which had been made during the past two years.

It was a wonderful thing and reflected very great credit upon the teachers, for whose splendid work a real debt of gratitude was due.

Following are the results of the session:—
CLASS VII. CHOIRS FROM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.—Holy Trinity, Broadstairs (82); Holy Trinity, Ramsgate (80).

CLASS I. (B). ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GIRLS).—St. George's, Ramsgate (173); Lillian-road, Ramsgate (170); Thornton-road, Ramsgate (166); Birchington and Westgate (160 each); CLASS I. (A). ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (BOYS).—St. George's, Ramsgate (167); St. Lawrence (165); Birchington (159).

CLASS I. (D). GIRLS UNDER 14.—St. George's, Ramsgate (84); Lillian road, Ramsgate (91); Broadstairs (78).

CLASS I. (C). BOYS UNDER 11.—St. George's, Ramsgate (81).

CLASS I. (E). MIXED SCHOOLS.—Westgate (167).

ARE THE ENGLISH MUSICAL?

Yesterday (Thursday) evening was the grand finale. The West Cliff Concert Hall was packed from door to door to hear a concert by the winners—a very splendid concert they heard too. Each item received terrific applause and it was worth paying the small entrance fee to see the pride and joy on the faces of the parents of the children, let alone the children themselves.

During an interval in the programme the certificates were presented to the successful competitors by Sir Cecil Hertslet.

In calling upon Sir Cecil to present the certificates, the Rev. E. B. Heberden, chairman of the committee, said that the festival was going on from strength to strength, and if they continued in this manner the municipal authorities would have to provide them with a larger hall.

There were, however, one or two points in which the festival had not advanced as it should. The first of these was in the quartette work. There was no more charming form of singing to listen to, or take part in, than the quartette, and he hoped there would be more entries on future occasions. They would also like to get more choral societies. There was nothing more inspiring than massed singing and he would like to hear two or three choral societies together at their festivals.

In all the points essential to success they had been very excellently served. Their committee had selected the best possible music, and the secretary, Miss Raven, had been indefatigable. A great essential to success, too, was a good judge. Not the least delightful part of the festival was the criticism of Mr. Geoffrey Shaw. He, the speaker, would rather be criticised by Mr. Shaw than anybody he had ever known.

Sir Cecil Hertslet, who was greeted with loud and prolonged applause, thanked the committee for asking him to present the certificates, remarking that it was an honour of which he was very proud. They were told that doctors differ, and they knew that theologians sometimes found it difficult to agree, but it had come as a surprise to him to find that a divergence of views prevailed in the musical world.

Dame Ethel Smythe, one of the best known composers, had written in *The Times* recently that ninety-nine out of every hundred Englishmen merely looked forward to a familiar thrill from something that they know by heart. On looking round the hall that night he felt that that statement was hardly correct. To go to that extreme, Dr. Nicholson, the organist of Westminster Abbey, had said that the English nation was the most musical in Europe.

Although that statement cheered him, said Sir Cecil, he began to ask himself whether it was true, and to wonder whether its author had ever lived in France or Belgium. In those countries, as far as his experience went, music entered more into the lives and hearts and souls of the people than in this country.

At Antwerp, for instance, the municipality gave a subsidy of £2,400 to the director of the opera for a six months' season, and also gave a similar amount to the Flemish opera. What would they think in Ramsgate if the Town Council said that it was prepared to grant a subsidy for opera at the Palace Theatre. The Mayor and the Town Clerk would faint with astonishment and incredulity.

No, said Sir Cecil, the English are not the most musical people in Europe, but the fact that these musical festivals were being held, not only in Thanet, but in other parts, with such conspicuous success, proved that the people did not look merely for a familiar thrill from something that they knew by heart. This particular festival had met with extraordinary success, and everyone would wish to congratulate the executive committee.

To the parents of the children he would say that if amongst their children they noticed any that had promise of musical ability, give them every possible opportunity to pursue it. It would certainly purify their lives, and might lead to an honourable profession and perhaps to fame (loud applause).

The concert concluded with the mass singing of that magnificent work by Blake "Jerusalem," a wonderful and almost awe-inspiring thing, to hear those words pouring from the lips of hundreds of singers —

"Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land."

Grand words and grandly sung. Nothing but the highest credit is reflected on the organisers, competitors and everybody connected with the festival.

Comparisons are as odious in this case as in any other, but it is pleasant to note that Ramsgate, as represented by the elementary schools, has once again more than held its own. Bravo, St. George's; Bravo, all the schools!

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Three photos appeared in the London Daily Graphic



A "mixed choir" from St. Saviour's School, Westgate-on-Sea. The festival is being held in the West Cliff Concert Hall, Ramsgate, and concludes to-day.

1925

In 1925, the Adjudicator was Thomas F. Dunhill, who presented a shield to the Festival. He seems to have had local connections, as he is quoted as having written his setting of Bunyan's Pilgrim Song while walking on the beach between Margate & Broadstairs. He also composed a song called Thanet, for massed singing at the following festival. The accounts for the year show that receipts from the sale of this song were £4 5s 0d, and that it cost £4 4s 0d to print; the Festival had made a profit of 5d!

YOUNG SINGERS AT THE THANET MUSICAL FESTIVAL



The girls of the Thornton-road School, Ramsgate, singing at the Thanet Competitive Musical Festival.



Some of the boy competitors. They were from the Ellington School, Ramsgate

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THANET'S MUSIC.

CHOIRS COMPETE.

FULL LIST OF AWARDS.

The large number of entries from the elementary schools was a marked feature of the Thanet Competitive Musical Festival which opened at the West Cliff Concert Hall, Ramsgate, on Tuesday.

This was the fifth annual festival in the history of Thanet music, and, owing to the increased number of entries, the competition ranged over three days.

The festival had been organised by a representative committee, Dr. F. E. Nichol being chairman of the general council, the Rev. E. B. Heberden, chairman of the executive committee, Miss Raven, hon. secretary, Mr. M. Miskin, hon. treasurer, and Mrs. H. Davis, the accompanist.

The large attendance of the public at each session testified to the growing interest taken in the festival, and the test pieces, though they presented many pitfalls for the competitors, were particularly pleasing to hear.

At the close of each session the competing choirs joined enthusiastically in massed singing.

Wonderfully helpful and instructive were the competitors.

Thomas F. Dunhill, who adjudicated in the choral classes. Mr. Dunhill is one of the most experienced adjudicators in the country, with a world-wide experience as an examiner, and several of the test pieces sung at the festival were of his own composition. It is interesting to recall that his pianoforte quintet in E Flat Major was composed at Ramsgate, and his cantata, "Tubal Cain," was performed in the hall in which he was now adjudicating, under the direction of Dr. Haigh, about ten years ago.

A Wonderful Work.

Dr. T. Haigh, who opened the festival on Tuesday, said that competitive music festivals, which were operating not only over the length and breadth of the British Isles, but also in a number of centres in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, were doing a wonderful work in raising the standard of performances generally, but particularly in vocal ensemble work from the small school choirs to the big vocal unions to be found in the more thickly populated areas.

The highly developed choral technique of to-day had attained its astonishing virtuosity largely through the stimulus of the competitive festival

movement. There never was a period in musical history when composers could rely on such fine choral technique, and the confidence of composers was such that when called upon to write test pieces for the big festivals, they now wrote almost impossible problems, both technically and aesthetically.

Dr. Haigh's Advice.

Congratulating the Festival Committee upon having secured the services as adjudicator of Mr. Dunhill, whose compositions had been studied by students all over the Empire, Dr. Haigh's advice to the competitors was "come up and do your best, and try not to be nervous about it."

The Secretary of the Federation of Competitive Musical Festivals (Mr. Fairfax Jones) who also spoke, said there were 170 festivals held annually in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The competitions were a means to an end, and not the end in themselves.

The speaker advised the encouragement of singing among the Scouts and Girl Guides, and hoped to see more villages competing. Last year 300,000 people took part in the musical festivals. They were, he concluded, the biggest musical organisation in England or any other country.

Broadstairs contributed the majority of the competitors on Tuesday, and all five entries in the class for female voice choirs came from that town. Mr. Dunhill, while commending the courage shown by all the competitors, particularly praised the imagination and sense of continuity shown by St. Peter's Choir, who were awarded first place.

Children's Shields.

Lillian-road School, Ramsgate, carried off the honours on Wednesday morning at the session opened by the Rev. E. L. A. Hertslet, Vicar of Ramsgate, the girls winning the challenge shield presented by the Executive Committee, and the boys the shield presented by the Margate Rotary Club.

The adjudicator had only one fault to find with the Lillian-road girls, and that was their lack of vowel emphasis. The flow was excellent, the sense of phrasing good, and they were better than any of the other choirs. The boys were not quite together at the start, but they pulled round very well, and their finish was excellent. They were, he concluded, a well-trained choir.

Commenting on the school singing generally, Mr. Dunhill considered it was one of the most important classes in the competition, as the children would form the adult choirs of the future. The singing was beautiful, and the tone generally was very good. It was a great joy to the speaker to hear such delightful tone, vigour and rhythmic tone. Sharpness and flatness were sometimes evident. He did not mind the sharpness, as it was a sign of vigour. Flatness was caused by non-attentiveness on the work. The songs chosen for competition were of a good contrast. Mr. Dunhill stressed the need of the full play of the imagination in the singing, and also the need for smiling, as it relaxed the muscles and caused an easier flow.

Cheerful Choirs.

Although children in the main provided the competitors for the singing on Wednesday afternoon their elders also had their chance, when four choirs of ladies sang happily Shakespeare's "Under the Greenwood Tree," set to music as a unison song by Markham Lee.

Their cheerful singing was commented upon by Mr. Dunhill, who echoed the remarks of the Rev. C. H. S. Matthews, Vicar of St. Peter's, in opening the session, that it did not matter who won prizes as long as they sang with their hearts and enjoyed singing. He added that if there were marks for cheerfulness he would award them more marks than to some of the children's choirs.

The younger boys of St. George's came in for special congratulation for the best tone among the boys' choirs. Awarding them 88 marks, the highest secured by any of the boys during the day, Mr. Dunhill added his congratulations to their conductor, Mr. F. J. White.

Instrumentalists Praised.

Opening the Wednesday evening session, the Mayor of Ramsgate (Aderman W. Coleman) welcomed, on behalf of the town, Messrs. T. F. Dunhill and Arthur Bent, the adjudicators. He congratulated the Festival Committee on securing the services of such capable men. As Chairman of the Education Committee, he was pleased to see so many entries from Ramsgate elementary schools. The musical art, said the Mayor, did not receive the attention that it should, but the musical festivals tended to remedy the defect.

Mr. Arthur Bent, who took his seat on the adjudicating platform for the instrumental classes, considered the standard of music was very high, but was sorry that there were not more entrants for the instrumental trios and quartets. The execution of Mozart's Sonata No. 1 in A Major by Mrs. Bellerby (piano) and Mr. A. Dibbey (violin) was, he said, the best he had heard at any festival he had attended. The ensemble and the balance were excellent.

St. Peter's Choir's Shield.

The Margate Pioneer Society's shield for unison singing by girls' clubs was won by St. Peter's-in-Thanet, whose performance Mr. Dunhill described as excellent in style and good in tone.

THE AWARDS.

TUESDAY.

The results on Tuesday were:—

Quartet for two violins, 'cello, and piano, "Adagio" and "Canzona" from the "Golden Sonata" (Purcell):—Miss Beart's Quartet, 87 marks.

Glee for mixed voices: "Now is the Month of Maying" (Morley):—1, Broadstairs, 86; 2, Port Regis, 81.

Vocal trios: "To Daisies" (Carphin):—1, "M" trio, 82; 2, Thistlewood trio, 80; 3, North Foreland House trio, 78.

Vocal quartette for soprano, alto, tenor and bass: (a), "Who shall win my lady fair" (Pearsall), (b), "Sweet Day",

(Vaughan Williams):—1, Broadstairs, 159; 2, Port Regis, 148.
Female voice choirs, three-part song: "In the Highlands" (Butterworth):—1, St. Peter's, 89; 2, Broadstairs "Oriana" (A), 85; 3, Broadstairs, 84; 4, Broadstairs "Oriana" (B) 83; 5, Bartrum Gables, 80.

WEDNESDAY.

Challenge Shield presented by Executive Committee, Girls (a) unison song "Little lamb, who made thee?" (Geoffrey Shaw), (b), two-part song: "Sweet Kate" (Robert Jones):—1, Lillian-road, Ramsgate, 176; 2, St. Peter's-in-Thanet, 173; 3, Thornton-road, Ramsgate, 168; 4 and 5, Broadstairs Council School and St. George's, Ramsgate, 165.

Award Challenge Shield, presented by the Margate Rotary Club, Boys: (a), unison song, "The Vagabond" (Dunhill), (b), two-part song, "Full fathom five" (John Ireland):—1, Lillian-road, Ramsgate, 171; 2, St. George's, Ramsgate, 168; 3, St. Peter's-in-Thanet, 167; 4, Ellington, Ramsgate, 165; 5, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, 156; 6, Christ Church, Ramsgate, 154.

Mixed Schools: (a), unison song, "Spring" (Dr. Arne), (b), two-part song, "Corn Song" (G. T. Holt):—1, St. Saviour's, Westgate, 158.

Schools entering for the first time: unison song, "A wet sheet and a flowing sea" (Dunhill):—1, Ellington, 82.

Women's Fellowships: unison song, "Under the Greenwood Tree" (Markham Lee):—1, Broadstairs, 85; 2, St. George's Mother's Union, Ramsgate, 83; 3, St. Peter's-in-Thanet, 82; 4, St. Andrew's Reading Street, 80.

Elementary Schools (girls under 11): folk song, "Flowers in the valley":—1, St. George's, Ramsgate, 87; 2, Broadstairs Council School, 78.

Elementary Schools (boys under 11): unison song, "The Rover" (Charles Mc Pherson):—1, St. George's, Ramsgate, 88; 2, Lillian-road, Ramsgate, 84; 3, Ellington Ramsgate, 78.

Pianoforte duet: 1st movement from Unfinished Symphony (Schubert):—1, Mrs. Gardener and Mrs. Bellerby, 85; 2, Mr. S. Baring and Mr. E. Boileau, 84; 3, Miss Harding and Miss Mould, 82; 4, Miss Kathie Sinclair and Miss Norah Lewis, 78; 5, Miss Irene Marriner and Mr. Herbert Evans, 75; 6, Miss M. Price and Miss M. Knight, 72; 7, Mrs. Moscow and Mrs. Lewis.

Choirs conducted and accompanied by one of their own number: unison song, "Orpheus with his lute" (Sullivan)—1, County School Girls, Ramsgate, 88; 2, Broadstairs, 81.

Trio for violin, 'cello and piano: Nocturne Op. 36 (Edmond Laurens):—1, Miss Beart's trio, 85.

Quartette for two tenors and two basses: (a), "The Miller's Daughter" (Hugh Robertson), (b), "Marching Along" (Granville Bantock):—1, Hazlewood Quartette, 173.

Violin and pianoforte duet: Sonata No. 1 in A Major (Mozart):—1, Mrs. Bellerby and Mr. A. Dibbey, 92; 2, Miss Agnes Horne and Mr. Jack Horne, 70.

Girls' Clubs (Margate Pioneer Shield): (a) unison song, "Pilgrim Song" (Dunhill), (b), two-part song, "Spring" (Armstrong Gibbs):—1, St. Peter's-in-Thanet, 177; 2, Holy Trinity, Broadstairs, 175; 3 and 4, St. George's Girls' Association and Holy Trinity, Ramsgate, 164; 5, Holy Trinity, Margate, 158.

Thursday's proceedings are reported on another page.

the singing. The
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etitors as on previous

1925

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occasions. The reason was that one of Margate's musical leaders who was preparing entrants for at least three classes (Mr. Nixey) met with an accident so serious that for a time his life was in danger. He was therefore quite unable to complete the training of the entrants under his care. Mr. Nixey was now much improved in health, and it was hoped that at the next festival Margate would be properly represented.

Councillor S. Dowling, acting for the president of the Margate Rotary Club, the donors of one of the trophies, explained that as soon as the matter was suggested at the club it was taken up instantly, and he was very glad to see there had been such keen competition for the shield.

The next speaker was the hard-worked adjudicator, Mr. Dunhill, who was received with great enthusiasm. He remarked that it had been a singular pleasure for him to act in the capacity of adjudicator at the Thanet festival, as his earliest recollections were of this district. He complimented Thanet on having a real live festival and he would like to impress upon the gathering the enormous amount of work which had been put in by Miss Raven and the members of the committee. (Applause.) Miss Raven was a most wonderful secretary for the festival, for not only was she splendid in her secretarial capacity, but she also managed to secure a large proportion of the prizes. (Loud applause.)

Referring to the question of community singing which had been touched on by the previous speaker, Mr. Dunhill said that the suggestion appealed strongly to him, and he recalled that there had been some remarkably fine massed singing during the progress of the competition.

Speaking of the festival generally, Mr. Dunhill said that he had heard better singing by children during the three days than he had ever heard in any part of the country before, even in Yorkshire, which was famed for its choirs. However, Thanet could not touch Yorkshire yet in the matter of adult choirs, and he appealed that this section of the festival should be developed to a bigger degree.

Votes of thanks to the adjudicators and to Miss Raven concluded the formal proceedings, after which the concert was proceeded with.

THANET'S MUSIC

FINISH OF THE FESTIVAL.

The Thanet music festival, the earlier phases of which are reported on page 2, concluded on Thursday evening with a fine flourish at a concert given by the successful competitors. The West Cliff Hall, Ramsgate, was crowded, many people having to stand.

At the morning session on that day Mr. Dunhill, the adjudicator, gave unstinted praise to the girl guides of Derwent House School, Margate, for their rendering of his "Pilgrim Song," and mentioned that he conceived the idea of setting Bunyan's poem to music while walking on the sands between Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

At the afternoon session the hall was packed with young people with smiling faces, and Mr. Dunhill said the general singing by the school choirs was very good. He especially complimented St. George's, Ramsgate, on the singing of "O'er the smooth enamelled green" and "When, lo, by break of morning." Their tone and flexibility of style were good, and the words could not possibly have been given better expression.

Queen's School, Margate, secured the challenge picture, "The Singing Boys," presented by Mrs. Raven. The test piece was "Little Boy Blue" (Allan Briggs).

The adjudicator described their singing as "delightful." The few entries for sight-singing was the subject of comment by Mr. Dunhill, and he congratulated St. Leonard's School (Broadstairs) and Queen's School (Margate) on their attempts.

St. George's Success.

In connection with the Rotary Club shield, the winners were St. George's, Ramsgate, and not Lillian-road, as at first reported.

THURSDAY'S AWARDS.

The awards at the final sessions were: Violin and piano solo: "Bereuse" (Cesar Cui) —1, Miss M. Crawshaw and Miss Lock, 85; 2, Miss H. L. and Miss A. Montmorency, 80; 3, Miss V. Dyer and Miss W. Nason, 76; 4, Miss S. Parker and Miss K. Beckl, 73; 5, Miss B. Eccles and Miss A. Marjorie, 71; 6, Mr. A. Rolfe and Miss B. Rolfe, 68.

School Orchestras: (a) Minuet (Puccini) (b) Ballet (Bach) (c) Swedish Dance —1, Abbot'sford, Broadstairs, 90; 2, Queen's School, Margate, 83.

Piano-forte duet: Oriental Pictures, Nos. 2 and 3 (Schumann) —1, Miss M. Woolfs and Miss R. Webb, 175; 2, Miss E. Nash and Miss M. Watson, 164; 3, Miss A. Pairandean and Miss G. Williams, 161; 4, Miss K. Stewart and Miss B. Eccles, 160.

Private, Secondary, and Senior Elementary Girls' School Choirs (under 15): (a) unison song, "Best Sweet Nymphs" (Peter Warlock) (b) two-part song, "The Gentle Sounding Fute" (Lathorne) —1, Central School, Margate, 171; 2, Queen's School, Margate, 165; 3, St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 163; 4, County School, Ramsgate, 160.

Girl Guides: (a) unison song, "Pilgrim Song" (Dunhill) (b) two-part song "Spring" (Armstrong Gibbs) —1, Derwent House School, 170.

Private, Secondary, and Senior Elementary School Choirs: (a) unison song, "O'er the smooth enamelled green" (Bach) (b) two-part song, "When, lo, by break of morning" (Morley) —1, St. George's, Ramsgate, 175; 2, County School, Ramsgate, 173; 3, Stonar House, Sandwich, 167; 4, Worcester Park School Westgate, 165; 5, St. Leonards, Broadstairs, 161; 6, Queen's School, Margate, 160; 7, Derwent House, Margate, 155.

Private and Secondary Boys' School Choirs: (a) unison song, "Nymphs and Shepherds" (Puccini) (b) two-part song, "Go to my Canons" (Morley) —1, Port Regis, Broadstairs, 174; 2, County School, Ramsgate, 169.

Private and Secondary School Choirs (under 13): Award Challenge Picture, "The Singing Boys" (unison song) —1, "Little Boy Blue" (Allan Briggs) —1, Queen's School, Margate, 175.

Boy Blue (Allan Briggs) —1, Queen's School, Margate, 91; 2, County School, Ramsgate (girls), 88; 3, County School, Ramsgate (boys), 85; 4, Stonar House, Sandwich, 84; 5, St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 83.

Sight-singing (Junior): 1, St. Leonard's School, Broadstairs, and Queen's School, Margate, 190.

Sight-singing (senior): Queen's School, Margate, 75.

A Real Live Festival.

"A real live festival," was the summing up of Mr. Dunhill at the final concert.

Prior to the presentation of the certificates and awards, Dr. F. E. Nichol, the chairman, said the complete absence of the "East Kent accent" following the criticism of Sir Richard Terry at last year's festival, was very remarkable.

Dr. Nichol added that he had failed in every attempt to master a musical instrument of any kind, but he had, in the attempt, learned to appreciate good music. He had never heard anything more delightful than the singing by the children. There was perfect intonation, time, and sympathy with the conductor. This reflected great credit on the children and also on the trainers. It was very nice to see a lot of naughty little boys singing like seraphims. The sweet, simple singing of the little girls was very delightful, and, if anything could be more delightful, it was the singing of the older ladies.

Dr. Nichol paid a compliment to Miss Raven for the way in which she conducted her choirs, and considered she deserved great credit for her work as secretary.

He was sorry that there were not more entries from Margate, but the illness of Mr. Nixey, who met with a serious accident, was partly the cause of this, as he was training competitors for several classes.

In training for the festivals, the competitors were laying up tremendous treasure for after life, as it was very pleasant to recall one's younger, musical days. Music was a splendid training for the mind and intellect, and was the finest form of recreation in the home.

Presenting the shield given by the Rotary Club to St. George's School, Ramsgate, Councillor G. S. Dowling said he was deputising for the Chairman of the Club, Mr. Kerbey Cleveland, who was unable to be present. The suggestion of presenting a shield was made by Mr. Curzon Poole, and they did so for two reasons, the first that Rotarians all over the world were interested in the work of boys, and, secondly, that they were fond of singing.

"Set Britain Singing."

The speaker considered there should be all possible to foster community singing. A society of Community Singers had been formed locally, and their slogan was "Set Britain Singing."

Mr. Dunhill assured Mr. Dowling that community singing had started in Thanet. He was struck by the way the audiences had joined in the mass singing at the end of each session. It had been a great pleasure to him to adjudicate at the festival, as his earliest recollections were of Thanet. The first music he ever heard outside his own home was that of the niggers on Broadstairs Sands.

Mr. Dunhill added that the chief work was put in before the festival began, and the Committee and Miss Raven were heartily to be congratulated. Ruskin once said that it was the efforts that deserved praise and not the success. All could not be prize-winners, but the object was to encourage people to come forward and do their best.

The speaker had heard better singing by the children at that festival than

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he had heard at the last two festivals he had attended in Yorkshire, and that was saying a lot.

There was a lack of adult choirs, but he hoped that more would come forward, and in time they would be able to beat the Yorkshire choirs. The standard of the singing among the children was well ahead of that heard at bigger musical festivals.

The Adjudicator ascertained that community singing had started in Thanet. He was struck by the way the audiences had joined in the mass singing at the end of each session.

THANET MUSICAL
FESTIVAL.

FULL LIST OF AWARDS.

The fifth annual Thanet Competitive Musical Festival took place at West Cliff Concert Hall, Ramsgate, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. There was a large attendance to give the Festival a good start on Tuesday night, when Dr. T. Haigh declared the first session open. In the course of his remarks Dr. Haigh said that he thought competitive musical festivals were doing a wonderful work in raising the standard of performers generally. The organisers of the Festival were to be congratulated on securing the services as one of the judges of Mr. T. F. Dunhill, who was one of the most experienced adjudicators in the country, and whose compositions were known by students all over the Empire. He was no stranger to Ramsgate, and had, in fact, composed some of his music at a house not 100 yards from that hall. In conclusion, Dr. Haigh urged the competitors not to be nervous, but to go on the platform and try to do their best.

Mr. Fairfax Jones, secretary of the Federation of Musical Festivals and Competitions, said that he thought there should be more competitions for elementary school children. It was very important to make children feel that music was a really beautiful thing and not a lesson. The competitors were not to end in themselves, but a means to an end. It was the music they should think of, not the competitions. He also missed Girl Guide choirs, and said that he hoped

would do all they could to encourage music among the boys and girls. Last year about 300,000 people competed in musical festivals connected with the Federation, so he thought they could claim to be one of the biggest musical organisations in this or any other country. They tried to encourage interest in music among people who otherwise would not be brought into touch with it.

The Wednesday morning session was opened by the Rev. E. L. A. Hertslet, M.A. (Vicar of Ramsgate), and in the afternoon the ceremony was performed by the Rev. C. H. S. Matthews, M.A. (Vicar of St. Peter's), in the absence of Mrs. Randall Davidson. In the evening the session was opened by the Mayor of Ramsgate (Alderman W. Coleman), and the Rev. C. H. S. Matthews declared the final session open on Thursday afternoon. The adjudicators were: Choral, Mr. T. F. Dunhill; instrumental, Mr. Arthur Bent.

Prize giving took place on Thursday evening, when the large hall was crowded and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. The first prize-winner in each class rendered over again for the pleasure of the audience the piece, either vocal or instrumental, which had secured the prize. It was a great treat, and the audience in several instances did their best to secure an encore, but this was not allowed owing to the fact that some of the competitors were little children and came from long distances.

Dr. F. E. Nichol (chairman of the General Council) presided, and was supported by the Rev. E. B. Heberden (chairman of the Executive Committee), Mr. F. F. Dunhill, Councillor G. S. Dowling (representing Margate Rotary Club in the absence of the President, Mr. Kerbey Cleveland), Mrs. Dowling, Miss Raven (hon. secretary), Mr. M. M. Missin (hon. treasurer), Mrs. H. Davis (Festival accompanist), Mrs. Raven, Miss Webb, Miss Crittall (General Council), Mrs. Amos (Margate Pioneer Society), and others.

Dr. Nichol, before presenting the prizes, said that he had never heard anything more delightful than the singing of the children, who were a great credit to their teachers. He regretted that Margate

unfortunate accident sustained by Mr. Nixey, who had entered to send competitors in three classes. Next year, Margate, he hoped, would be successful in bringing away a few prizes. Dr. Nichol, in closing, paid a fine tribute to the influence of the Festival. It would always dwell in the remembrances of the competitors as among the happiest hours they had ever spent, not only in the Festival itself, but in the preparations they had made for it. He hoped that the competitors would stick to music, for it was the finest recreation and the most refining influence they could have in their homes.

Councillor Dowling presented the challenge shield awarded by the Margate Rotary Club, and in doing so made a special appeal for community singing.

Mr. Dunhill (choral adjudicator) very cordially congratulated all concerned in the Festival on the splendid results which reflected great credit on the Committee and the energetic and hard-working Secretary, Miss Raven. Touching on Councillor Dowling's reference to community singing, he said that one of the most delightful parts of the Festival was the massed singing of the competitors, and during the evening he hoped that they would be able to prove to Mr. Dowling that they were already doing something on the lines which he advocated. In regard to the question as to whether the competitive spirit in musical festivals was desirable, he said that it was not the success in competition which was of importance, but the effort which the competitors made. If they came to the Festival in the spirit of putting forward their best effort they would derive great benefit from it, and also help to the success of the Festival. Mr. Dunhill closed in terms of high praise of the quality of the work that had been done by the competitors.

Special mention he referred to the singing of the children, which he said was delightful and quite up to, if not better than singing he had heard at bigger festivals in the North. After urging that more adults should enter into the competitions, he said that any criticism he had made during the course of the Festival had been made solely in the spirit of helping the competitors, and must not be regarded in any way as a discouragement.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Dunhill by the Rev. E. B. Heberden, seconded by Councillor Dowling, and carried by acclamation.

The results of the competition are given below. Only one prize was given in competitions with less than five entrants, and two prizes were the maximum in any competition, except that in the pianoforte duet competition a prize was given to the first three duettists; while a prize each was given to St. Leonard's School and Queen's School, who received the same number of marks for sight-singing.

A beautiful bouquet was presented to Miss Raven as an appreciation of her valuable work in connection with the Festival.

PROGRAMME.

Quartet for two violins.—Adagio and Canzona from "The Golden Sonata" (Purcell). Miss Beart's Quartet, 87.

Glee for mixed voices.—"Now is the month of Maying" (Morley), Broadstairs, 86; Port Regis, 81.

Vocal Trios.—"To Daisies" (Carphin), M. Trio, 82; Thistlewood Trio, 80; North Foreland House Trio, 78.

Vocal Quartette for S.A.T.B.—(a), "Who shall win my Lady Fair" (Pearsall) and (b), "Sweet Day" (Vaughan Williams), Broadstairs, 80, 79; Port Regis, 75, 73.

Female Voice Choirs.—Three-part song, "In the Highlands" (Butterworth), St. Peter's, 80; Broadstairs "Orion" (a), 85; Broadstairs, 84; Broadstairs "Orion" (b), 83; Bartrum Gables, 80.

Elementary Schools, Girls (award, challenge shield, presented by the Executive Committee, 1925).—(a), Unison song, "Little Lamb, who made thee?" (Geoffrey Shaw) and (b), two-part song, "Sweet Kate" (Robert Jones, 1600), Lillian Road, Ramsgate, 87, 89; St.

Peter's-in-Thamet, 85, 88; Thornton Road, Ramsgate, 83, 85; Broadstairs Council School, 81, 84; St. George's, Ramsgate, 84, 81; Christ Church, Ramsgate, 76, 78; Elementary Schools, Mixed.—(a), Unison song, "Spring" (Dr. Arne) and (b), two-part song, "Corn Song" (G. T. Holst), St. Saviour's, Westgate-on-Sea, 80, 78.

Elementary Schools, Boys (award, challenge shield, presented by the Margate Rotary Club).—(a), Unison song, "The Vagabond" (Dunhill) and (b), two-part song, "Full forthem five" (John Ireland), Lillian Road, Ramsgate, 85, 86; St. George's, Ramsgate, 86, 82; St. Peter's-in-Thamet, 85, 82; Ellington, Ramsgate, 84, 81; St. Lawrence, 82, 75. Schools first entry.—Singing, Ellington Girls' School, 82.

Women's fellowships.—Unison song, "Under the Greenwood Tree" (Marshall Lee), Broadstairs, 85; St. George's Mothers' Union, Ramsgate, 83; St. Peter's-in-Thamet, 82; St. Andrew's, Reading Street, 80.

Elementary Schools, Girls (under 11).—Unison song, "The Rover" (Charles MacPherson), St. George's, Ramsgate, 88; Lillian Road, Ramsgate, 84; Ellington, Ramsgate, 78.

Elementary Schools, Boys under 11.—Unison song, "The Rover" (Charles MacPherson), St. George's, Ramsgate, 88; Lillian Road, Ramsgate, 84; Ellington, Ramsgate, 78.

Pianoforte duet.—1st movement, from (Unfinished Symphony (Schubert), Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Bellerby, 85; Mr. S. Bang and Mr. E. Bollean, 84; Miss Harding and Miss Maud, 82; Miss Price and Miss M. Knight, 82; Miss Kathie Sinclair and Miss Norah Lewis, 78; Miss Irene Marriner and Mr. Herbert Evans, 75; Mrs. Moscow and Mrs. Lewis, 69.

Choirs conducted and accompanied by one of their own number.—Unison song, "Orpheus with his Lute" (Sullivan), County School Girls, Ramsgate, 88; Broadstairs, 81.

Trio for violin, cello, and piano.—Nocturne Op. 26 (Edmond Laurens), Miss Beart's Trio, 85.

Quartet for T.T.B.B.—(a), "The Miller's Daughter" (Hugh Robertson) and (b), "Marching Along" (Granville Bantock), Hazlewood Quartet, 86, 87. Violin and piano duet.—Sonata No. 1 in A major (Mozart), Mrs. Bellerby and Mr. A. Dibley, 92; Miss Agnes Horne and Mr. Jack Horne, 70.

Girls' Clubs.—(a), Unison song, "Pilgrim Song" (Dunhill) and (b), two-part song, "Spring" (Armstrong Gibbs), St. Peter's-in-Thamet, 88, 89; (holders of shield presented by Pioneer Club, Margate), Holy Trinity, Broadstairs, 87, 88; Holy Trinity, Ramsgate, 81, 83; St. George's Girls' Association, 85, 79; Holy Trinity, Margate, 78, 80.

Violin and pianoforte duet.—"Berceuse" (Cesar Cui), Miss M. Crawshaw and Miss Locke, 85; Miss B. Lee and Miss A. Montmorency, 80; Miss V. Dyer and Miss N. Huson, 76; Miss S. Parlor and Miss K. Beckl, 73; Miss B. Ede, and Miss A. Mackenzie, 71; Mr. A. Rolfe and Miss B. Rolfe, 68.

School Orchestras.—(a), Minuet (Purcell), (b), Ballet (Bach), and (c), Swedish Dance (Traditional), Abbotford, Broadstairs, 90; Queen's School, Margate, 83.

Pianoforte duet.—Oriental Pictures Nos. 2 and 3 (Schumann), Miss M. Woods and Miss K. Webb, 86, 89; Miss E. Nash and Miss M. Watson, 83, 81; Miss A. Pafandean and Miss G. Williams, 80, 81; Miss K. Stewart and Miss B. Eccles, 83, 77.

Private, Secondary, and Senior Elementary Girls' School Choirs (under 15).—(a), Unison song, "Rest, Sweet Nymphs" (Peter Warlock) and (b), two-part song, "The gentle sounding Flute" (Rathbone), Central Schools, Margate, 84, 87; Queen's School, Margate, 81, 84; St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 92, 71; County School, Ramsgate, 79, 80.

Girl Guides.—(a), Unison song, "O'er the smooth enamelled Green" (Bach) and (b), two-part song, "When, lo, by break of Morning" (Morley), St. George's, Ramsgate, 88, 90; County School, Ramsgate, 84, 89; Stonar House, Sandwich, 83, 84; Worcester Park School, Westgate-on-Sea, 80, 85; St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 81, 80; Queen's School, Margate, 82, 78; Derwent House, Margate, 78, 77.

Private and Secondary Boys' School Choirs.—(a), Unison song, "Nymphs and Shepherds" (Purcell) and (b), two-part song, "Go, ye, my Canonets" (Morley), Port Regis, Broadstairs, 90, 84; County School, Ramsgate, 84, 85.

Private and Secondary School Choirs (under 13).—Unison song, "Little Boy Blue" (Allan Biggs), (award, challenge picture, "The Singing Boys," presented by Mrs. Raven), Queen's School, Margate, 91; County School, Ramsgate (Girls), 88; County School, Ramsgate (Boys), 85; Stonar House, Sandwich, 84; St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 83.

Sight-singing.—St. Leonard's School, Broadstairs, 90; Queen's School, Margate, 90. Sight-singing.—Queen's School, Margate, 75.

1926

THE MAGIC OF MUSIC

Thanet's Sixth Festival

COMPETITION AWARDS

Cause for Celebration.

Year by year the Thanet Competitive Musical Festival has advanced in popularity and success. So much so that the sixth festival, held at Westbrook Pavilion, Margate, this week, has excelled all previous efforts.

Originally the festival was arranged for Wednesday and Thursday, but the number of entries made it necessary to hold an additional session on Tuesday evening.

Widespread interest was taken in the festival, a fact demonstrated by the large number of the public who attended and warmly applauded the efforts of the competitors, the majority of whom were school children.

Dr. Whittaker, Mus.Doc., of New-castle-on-Tyne, was the judge, and in making his awards at the conclusion of each competition he offered helpful criticism and encouragement in a cheery, pleasing manner, and readily gave commendation where it was deserved.

Dr. F. E. Nichol was chairman of the general council and the representative committee which organised the festival; Miss Raven, of St. Peter's, being the energetic hon. secretary; Mrs. Kenrick Smith, the festival accompanist; and Mr. M. Miskin, hon. treasurer.

It was regretted that Abbotsford School, Broadstairs, were unable to compete owing to illness.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. H. Iles, the festival was opened on Tuesday evening by Dr. F. E. Nichol, chairman of the general council.

Dr. Nichol said there was some doubt as to whether it would be possible to hold the festival while England was experiencing a strike, but they decided to do so whether there was a strike or not. It was felt that if anything could cheer up Thanet in the difficulties in which it found itself it would be a musical festival. Although then, perhaps, "festival" was an inappropriate term it was not now, and they would be celebrating "Deliverance from bondage" by singing and playing.

Music, he continued, did not appear so popular in his young days as it did now. Then they had no gatherings like that, and there was nothing to encourage it. He did not know of anything better than those festivals to remove the reproach levelled against England that it was not a musical nation. Such a suggestion was absurd, especially when they looked at the name after name of English composers on the programme.

The committee, he added, hoped and believed that the festival would be a tremendous success, as each had been before.

The festival was then opened with the massed singing of the festival song, "Jerusalem" (Sir J. Parry).

A Wider Outlook.

The Vicar of Margate (Rev. A. B. Ritchie) opened the session on Wednesday morning, although he confessed he knew very little about music. Referring to Dr. Whittaker, he said it was well to have someone from outside to examine their singing and playing and tell them how they could do better, for they were inclined to get a slightly local outlook and be satisfied with their local achievements.

The mass singing of "Thanet" (T. F. Dunhill) preceded the session.

The Rev. C. H. S. Matthews, Vicar of St. Peter's, opened the Wednesday evening session, and said he felt more and more thankful that there was a musical festival in Thanet, for it was splendid for all sorts of people—schools, clubs, and bodies—to meet together and give real good music once a year. He trusted the festival would go on from strength to strength each year. Music was going ahead in this country in an astonishing way, and he only wished he had been born thirty years later, for he might then have been a musician himself.

THE AWARDS.

The awards were:—

Tuesday.

School Orchestras: Prelude and Romance from Suite in C (Carse)—1, Queen's School, Margate, 169 marks; 2, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, 166.

Instrumental Quartette: Andante and Minuet from Quartet in D major (Mozart)—Miss Warwick Brown's Quartette and Miss Beart's Quartette, 168 marks each.

Vocal Trio: Lullaby (Brahms)—1, Broadstairs Oriana C, 84; 2, Miss Faver's Trio, 83; 3, Miss Evans' Trio and Broadstairs Oriana A, 82 each; 4, Miss Cooper's Trio, 81; 5, East Cliff Trio, 80; 6, Broadstairs Oriana B, 79; 7, Miss Blower's Trio, 78.

Vocal Quartette for soprano, alto, tenor and bass: "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day" (Sullivan)—1, The Craggs Quartette, 84; 2, Tettenthal Quartette, 82; 3, Broadstairs Quartette, 80.

Wednesday.

Private, Secondary, and Senior Elementary Girls' Schools, any age: "A Spring Song" (Frank Bridge) and "The Windmill" (Dr. Buck)—1, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, 177; 2, Ramsgate County School, 170; 3, Margate Central School, 169; 4, Queen's School, Margate, and St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 168; 5, Stonar House, Sandwich, 165; 6, Ethandene, Westgate-on-Sea, 163.

Private, Secondary and Senior Elementary Girls' Schools, under 15: "Satyr's Song" (Stanford) and "A Golden Lul-

laby" (Howells)—1, Queen's School, Margate, 172; 2, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, 168; 3, Ramsgate County School, 167; 4, Margate Central School, 166; 5, St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 165.

Girls' School Choirs, conducted and accompanied by one of their own number: "An Old Carol" (Quilter)—1, Ramsgate County School, 90; 2, Stonar House, Sandwich, 88; 3, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, and Queen's School, Margate, 87.

Private and Secondary Schools, sight singing: Senior—1, Ramsgate County School B, 94 marks; 2, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, 88; 3, Ramsgate County School, 87; 4, Queen's School, Margate, 83; 5, St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 77. Junior—1, St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 85; 2, Ramsgate County School A, 70; 3, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, and Ramsgate County School B, 65 each; 4, Queen's School, Margate, 60.

Private and Secondary Schools, under 13: "The Owl" (Sir H. Parry)—1, Ramsgate County School, 88; 2, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, 87; 3, Stonar House, Sandwich, and St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 85; 4, Chatham House, Ramsgate, Queen's School, Margate, and Port Regis, Broadstairs, 84.

Private and Secondary Boys' Schools: "Whither Runneth My Sweetheart" (Bartlet) and "Cavalier" (Balfour Gardiner)—Chatham House, Ramsgate, and Port Regis, Broadstairs, 165 marks each.

Pianoforte Accompanying at Sight—1, Miss G. Johnson, 85; 2, Miss Beeching, 84; 3, Mrs. Gardner and Miss Mould, 83; 4, Miss Phillips and Miss E. Bailey, 82; 5, Mrs. Port, 81; 6, Miss K. Stewart and Miss E. Faver, 73; 7, Miss Woots, 70; 8, Miss E. Nash, 65.

Female Voice Choirs: "Pack Clouds Away" (Somerville) and "How Merrily We Live" (Michael East)—1, Bartram Gables, Broadstairs, 169; 2, St. Peter-in-Thanet and Broadstairs, 166 each.

Violin and Piano Duet (Senior): First Movement from Sonata in F major (Grieg)—1, Miss Perry and Mr. J. L. Thicke, 82 marks; 2, Mrs. Pearce and Miss Thompson, 81.

Choirs conducted and accompanied by two of their own number: "A Croon" (Howells)—1, Broadstairs Oriana, 85; 2, St. Peter's-in-Thanet, 84.

Vocal Quartette for two tenors and two basses: "Bushes and Briars" (arr. Vaughan Williams)—Hazlewood Quartette, 86 marks.

Male Voice Choirs from Clubs, etc.: "The Seekers" (Dyson)—St. Luke's Athletic Club, Ramsgate, 84.

Instrumental Trio: Romance and Saltarello (Frank Bridge)—1, Cliftonville Trio, 179; 2, Tettenthal Trio, 176; 3, East Cliff Trio, 169.

Girls' Clubs and Guides: Round, and "The Search" (Purcell)—1, St. George's Girls' Association, Ramsgate, 169; 2, St. Peter's-in-Thanet, 167; 3, Y.W.C.A., Margate, 166; 4, Holy Trinity, Ramsgate, 162; 5, St. Mary's Guild Margate, 161.

The awards at the later sessions appear on Page 5.

In 1926 someone began a song catalogue... all the songs sung as set works in each Festival, but, written in a notebook, without any organisation beyond chronological, it must have been very hard to maintain!

Kind of Song.	Song.	Composer	Publisher	Price	Years in which it was sung. & by wh.
U.	m. Dashing away with the swirling rain.	O E	N.	2 ^d .	1926 (EL) 1936 (EL) 1923 (EL)
U.	m.d. Care flies from the heart --	Arne	Cur.	3 ^d .	1928 (Sec) 1933 (Ad.)
U	m.d. Who is Sylvia	Schubert.	IV.	2 ^d .	1928 (Sec) 1923 (EL)
U	m. The Tolly Carter	Moeran	Ch.P.	3 ^d .	1928 (Sec)
U	m. Tell me where is fancy bred	Beasley	B.	4 ^d .	1928 (EL)
U	m. Rich Spence.	Graham Peck	Cra.	4 ^d .	1928 (EL)
U	m.d. Wherever you walk.	Handel	N.	3 ^d .	1928 (EL) 1933 (Boy's Solo)
U.	m. Saylor's Song	Ley	Ch.P.	3 ^d .	1928 (EL) 1939 (Sec)
U.	m. Thanksgiving Praise	Dyson.			Manel. 1922 (Sec)
U.	m. Thaxst	Dunhill.	A.	4 ^d .	1928 (EL) 1937 (EL)
U	Jerusalem.	Parr.			every year.
U	d. Carols.	M. Shaw	Cra.		1928 (EL) 1934 (Ad.)
U	m.d. Come see where golden hearted Spring	Handel	Ch.P.		1928 (EL)
U	d. When riches is but lasting day	Warlock.	Ch.P.		1928 (EL)
U.	m. You spotted Snakes.	Franklin Gibbs	A.		1928 (EL) 1924 (EL)
U	d. Reveille	Dyson	A.	3 ^d .	1928, 1931 (EL)
U.	e. Billy Boy.	G.E.	Cur.		1928 (Sec)
U	d. My soul rejoices.	Bach.			1928 (Sec.)
U	m. The Country lad	Dyson.	A.	4 ^d .	1929 (Sec)

1927 syllabus

3

GENERAL RULES.

*The Competition is open to Residents & Schools in Thanet
(Parliamentary Area.)*

1. Entries must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than May 1st, 1927. Late entries will be accepted up to May 5th if accompanied by an extra fee of 2/- per entry. Each entry must be accompanied by the entrance fee. The Committee reserve the right to refuse any entry.
2. The winners in every competition are expected to perform their respective test pieces in the final concert, if required.
3. A Festival Accompanist will be provided, but competitors may provide their own.
4. Notice as to the time at which each competition will be held will be sent to each Conductor or Competitor.
5. There must be at least two entries in every competition.
6. Competitors not answering to their names when called upon to compete, will forfeit their right to do so unless a good reason be brought before the Judge.
7. No Competitor may take part more than once in any one class, with the exception of Viola players.
8. Objections, whether against any competitor or otherwise on the competition day, to be sent to the Hon. Sec. in writing, to be considered by the Executive Committee.
9. The decision of the Judge shall be final. He shall also have full power to withhold any certificate if the standard is not high enough.
10. Ballot for order of competing in all the competitions will be conducted by the Committee.
11. Conductors of the School Competitions must be one of the staff of the competing school.
12. Professional musicians (i.e. those who derive a large part of their income from the performance or teaching of music) and Diploma Holders, may not take part in the competitions in their own professional subjects except as Conductors or Accompanists. Professionals and Amateurs resident in Thanet may enter for OPEN CLASSES.
13. All Competitors in Choirs from Clubs and Associations and from Church and Chapel Choirs must be bona fide members, having attended at least half the rehearsals of the competition music.

SHIELDS AND AWARDS.

Challenge Shield for Boys' Elementary Schools, Grades I. and II.
Presented by the Rotary Club, Margate.

Holders, 1926, St. Peter's-in-Thanet.

Challenge Shield for Girls' Elementary Schools, Grades I. and II.
Presented by the Executive Committee, 1925.

Holders, 1926, Thornton Road School, Ramsgate.

Challenge Shield for Girls' Clubs and Guides (non-School).
Presented by the Pioneer Club, Margate.

Holders, 1926, St. George's Girls' Association, Ramsgate.

Challenge Shield for Male Voice Choirs.
Presented by St. Luke's Athletic Club, Ramsgate.

Holders 1926, St. Luke's Athletic Club, Ramsgate.

Challenge Picture for Secondary Schools (under 13).
Presented by Mrs. Raven.

Holders, 1926, Girls' County School, Ramsgate.

Certificate for every competition with two or more entries.
2nd Certificate for every competition with five or more entries.

*Holders of Shields and Picture are asked to deliver them to the Hon.
Sec. at the Hall before the opening Session of the Festival.*

4

REPORT OF THE SIXTH FESTIVAL.

THE Festival of 1926 was marked by a large increase of entries for the twenty-one Classes in the Syllabus. In 1925 there were 92 entries; in 1926, 134. All the School Classes show an increase, particularly in the Secondary School Sight Singing. The new class for Pianoforte Sight Reading was popular, as were also those for Vocal Trios and Instrumental Duets, Trios and Quartets. The Girls' Club Choirs again attained a satisfactory standard and the Women's Fellowship Choirs had a keen and increased entry.

Adult Mixed Voice Singing is disappointing. In other festivals throughout the country Mixed Voice Choirs take a prominent place in the competitions, and also give fine scope for Massed Singing in parts. The Committee has hitherto considered that Choral Societies in the towns in our area have provided opportunity for 4-part singing on a large scale, but they have always included in the syllabus competitions in Glee and Quartet Singing suitable for small numbers of people. It seems a pity that so little enterprise is shown in this very pleasant form of music.

We were glad to welcome ten new choirs, especially three Margate Elementary School Choirs, who are to be congratulated upon making a start in a particularly busy Spring in Margate school life.

The appointment of Sub-Committees in each town has proved of great value, in increasing local interest and in assisting the smooth running of the Festival. To the members of these Committees and to other willing helpers hearty thanks are due. The Executive Committee regret to announce the departure from the neighbourhood of Mrs. Bellerby, whose help has been invaluable. It is very much hoped that the Rev. E. B. Heberden may be sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to resume after Xmas his Chairmanship of the Executive Committee.

It was a great pleasure to have Mrs. Powell Cotton with us to present the Awards at the Concert. The Mayor of Margate, Revs. E. Ritchie and C. H. S. Matthews, Mr. J. H. Iles and our Chairman, Dr. Nichol, very kindly opened the various Sessions.

We were again fortunate in our Judge, Dr. Whittaker, who gave

Curwen, 4d. S-F, 2d.

Mixed Schools.**Grade I.**

Unison Song "A Chieftain's Lullaby" *Dyson*
Arnold 3d.

Grade II.

Two-Part Song "Song of the Lumbermen" *Holst*
Arnold, 3d.

Schools entering for first time.

Unison Song "When icicles hang by the wall" *Dyson*
Arnold, 3d.

CLASS II. Boys. Private & Secondary School Choirs.

15 to 20 voices.

Unison Song "Windy Nights" *Stanford*
Curwen 4d.

Two-Part Song "In Summer Woods" *John Ireland*
Curwen, 4d.

CLASS III. Girls Private, Secondary & Senior Elementary School Choirs.**1. Any Age.**

Unison Song "O sleep" *Handel*
Oxford University Press, 3d.

Two-Part Song "Five Eyes" *Armstrong Gibbs*
Curwen 4d.

2. Under 15.

Unison Song "In praise of Neptune" *John Ireland*
Year Book Press, 4d.

Two-Part Song "Carol of S. Brigit" *Dr. Buck*
Arnold, 4d.

*These Elementary Schools may not also enter for Class I.

CLASS IV. Private & Secondary School Choirs. under 13, mixed or not.

Unison Song "Speedwell" *Stanford*
Stainer & Bell, 4d.

CLASS V. Schools entering for the first time or at an interval of 4 years.

Unison Song "Pilgrim Song" *Dunhill*
Arnold 3d.

CLASS VI. School Choirs, conducted and accompanied by two of their own number.

Two-Part Song "At early dawn" *John Ireland*
Curwen, 4d.

CLASS VII. Easy Sight Singing Test for Choirs

Any of the above complete Choirs are recommended to enter.

A Senior, over 15 on day of entry.

B Junior, under 15 on day of entry.

Suitable tests in Keys C, G and F will be set by the Judge.

No entrance fee.

ADULT CLASSES.**CLASS VIII. Girls' Clubs and Guides (not Schools).**

Not less than 12 Voices.

Unison Song "Balulalow" *Peter Warlock*
Oxford University Press, 3d.

Two-Part Song "Dame Hickory" *Armstrong Gibbs*
Curwen 4d.

CLASS IX. Choirs from Women's Fellowships, etc.

Not less than 12 Voices.

Unison Song "Truth" *Geoffrey Shaw*
Novello, 2d.

CLASS X. Male Voice Choirs from Clubs, etc.

Not less than 12 Voices.

Unison Song "Lonely Woods" *Lully*
S.M.R. 342, Novello, 2d.

CLASS XI. Female Voice Choirs.

Three-Part Song "The Snow" *Elgar*
Novello 6d.

CLASS XII. Choirs conducted and accompanied by two of their own number.

Two-Part Song "County Guy" *Alan Gray*
Year Book Press, 4d.

CLASS XIII. Glee for Mixed Voices.

1. "In youth is pleasure." *Holst*
Stainer & Bell, 3d.

2. "The Keelrow" *arr. Dunhill*
Novello, 3d.

CLASS XIV. Church and Chapel Choirs.

1. Hymn 197, A. & M., 1st and 3rd verses
and Anthem, "Lead me, Lord" *Wesley*
Novello, 2d.

or

2. Anthem, "Awake, awake" *Dr. Charles Wood*
Year Book Press, 3½d.

CLASS XV. Vocal Quartets (unaccompanied).**OPEN CLASS.**

- a. S.A.T.B. "Our Market Day" *arr. Alan Gray*
Stainer & Bell, 6d.
- b. A.T.T.B. "To his flocks" *Stanford*
Stainer & Bell, 3d.

CLASS XVI. Vocal Trio for female voices.

- "The Flowering Manger" *Dr. Buck*
Year Book Press, 4d.

SOLO SINGING, 13 and over.

- A** Soprano and Mezzo Soprano.
"A Song of the Virgin Mother" *Bainton*
Key D. Novello, 2/-
- B** Contralto.
"The Ballad of Semmerwater" *Graham Peel*
Key E flat. Boosey, 2/-
- C** Tenor.
"Linden Lea" *Vaughan Williams*
Key A flat. Boosey, 2/-
- D** Baritone and Bass.
"Drake's Drum" *Stanford*
Key D Minor. Boosey, 2/-

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES.**CLASS XVIII. Pianoforte Accompaniment at sight of a song.**

The same singer and test will be provided for each competitor.

CLASS XIX. Pianoforte Duet.

- A** Senior (any age).
"Enigma" Variations, Nos. 1, 3, 4, 8 & 11 *Elgar*
arr. for Pianoforte Duet.
Novello, 6/-

- B** Junior (under 18).
Norwegian Dances for 4 hands, Nos. 2 & 3 *Grieg*
Peter's Ed. Augener, 4/-

CLASS XX. Violin and Pianoforte Duet.

- A** Senior (any age).
English Dance *B. J. Dale*
Anglo-French Music Co., 3/-
- B** Under 18.
Alman *16th Century, arr. Craxton*
Anglo-French Music Co., 1/6
- C** Under 15.
"Four Fancies," No. 3 *Rowsby Woof*
Anglo-French Music Co., 3/-

CLASS XXI. Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano.

- A** Senior. **OPEN.**
Siesta from "Country Magic" *Armstrong Gibbs*
Curwen 3/-
- B** Junior.
Minuet *Shield Moffat*
Trio Album, Book II.
Augener, 3/-

CLASS XXII. String Quartet. Open.

- 1st Movement from Quartet II., Op. 18 *Beethoven*
Augener, 5/-

CLASS XXIII. Orchestras for Strings & Piano.

- A** Schools.
"Selections from Faust" *Gounod.*
Curwen, 1/-
- B** **OPEN** (Other than Schools).
"Solemn Melody" *Walford Davies.*
Novello 1/6. Extra parts 3d.

ENTRANCE FEES.

CLASSES II. to VI. inclusive, & XI., XIII. & XXIII., 7/6, each Choir & Orchestra.

CLASSES I., VIII., IX., X., XII. & XIV., 3/6 each Choir.

CLASS XVII., 3/6 each competitor.

CLASSES XV., XVI. & XVIII. to XXII. inclusive, 1/- each competitor.

1928

In 1928,
new
classes
were
introduced
for
elocution,
and there
were four
judges.

FEAST OF MUSIC. 1928 THANET COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL.

COMPLETE LIST OF AWARDS.

The eighth annual Thanet competitive musical festival was held on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Margate Pavilion and Winter Gardens and the Westbrook Pavilion. Musically the programme of the competition was largely similar to that in previous festivals, but new classes were introduced for elocution.

The judges were: Dr. J. Staton, of Chesterfield, choral and instrumental; Mr. Granville Humphries, of London (who took the place of Mr. Alan Stephenson), vocal solos and trios and accompaniments; and Miss Brettell, of the Albert Hall School of Verse-speaking, elocution.

The festival committee and officials were: Chairman of General Committee, Dr. F. E. Nichol; Executive Committee and representatives of local committees, Rev. E. B. Heberden (chairman), Mr. G. C. Beall, Miss Beart, Miss Bentwich, Mr. Allan Burr, Miss Cain, Mr. R. H. Cox, Mrs. H. Davis, Mr. A. H. Evans, Mr. F. E. Fisher, Miss Hamper, Mr. A. G. Hiscoke, Mr. F. Gower Smith, Mrs. Jepps, Mr. C. Laming, Miss May, Mr. H. C. Nixey, Miss Parker Gray, Mr. E. E. Perry, Miss Simms, Mrs. Wanstall, Miss Wellard and Mr. F. J. White; hon. secretary, Miss Raven; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. Miskin. Mrs. Kendrick Smith was the festival accompanist.

Opening by Countess Beauchamp.

The festival was opened on Tuesday morning by Countess Beauchamp.

In the absence of the chairman of the General Committee (Dr. Nichol), who is away on holiday, the Rev. A. B. Ridd, vicar of Margate, presided, and in introducing Lady Beauchamp said it was beyond question that enormously greater interest was aroused in music than was the case comparatively few years ago largely as the result of such musical festivals.

Countess Beauchamp, who was cordially received, thanked the audience for their kind welcome, and said that it gave her great pleasure to perform the ceremony. She had at different times opened many bazaars and homes, but that was the first musical festival she had had the honour of opening, so it would always be remembered by her.

The Countess congratulated the organisers on the success of the festival in the past, and in reminding the audience that the motto of the Worcestershire musical festival was "From harmony to harmony," said she hoped they would go forward in that inspiration which meant so much. William Byrd wrote that "Since singing is a fine thing, I wish all men would learn to sing," and she was sure that wish would be fulfilled in the best possible way during the festival. (Applause.)

"Emulation, not Competition."

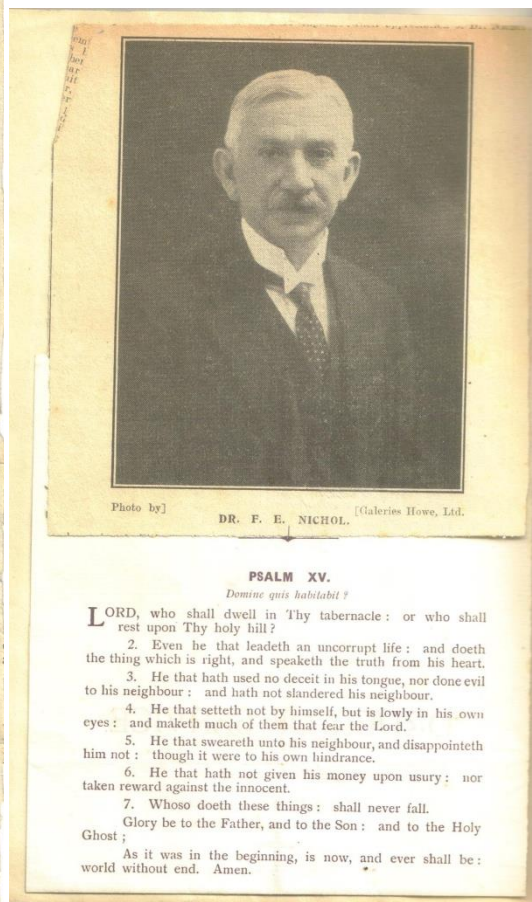
Dr. Staton (the judge of the choral and instrumental classes) expressed the hope that the festival would not be conducted so much in the spirit of competition but rather in the spirit of emulation, and that they would make that the motto of the festival. As judges their object would be to criticise, but in addition to that they would try to help them by constructive remarks.

Under Dr. Staton's direction the competitors joined in singing the festival song "Jerusalem" with real festival tone.

The trophies were won by the following: Elementary school choirs—Boys (Rotary Club shield), St. Peter's-in-Thanet, girls (shield presented by Executive Committee), St. Peter's-in-Thanet. Challenge shield (presented by Margate Pioneer Society) for girls' clubs and associations, St. George's Girls' Association, Ramsgate (the holders), shield (presented by St. Luke's Athletic Club) for male voice choirs, R.A.F., Margate. Picture (presented by Miss Raven), St. George's Boys', Ramsgate.

1929

The first minute book I can find for the festival begins in 1929 with these pages...



PSALM XV.

Domine quis habitabit?

LORD, who shall dwell in Thy tabernacle: or who shall rest upon Thy holy hill?

2. Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life: and doeth the thing which is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.

3. He that hath used no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbour: and hath not slandered his neighbour.

4. He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes: and maketh much of them that fear the Lord.

5. He that sweareth unto his neighbour, and disappointeth him not: though it were to his own hindrance.

6. He that hath not given his money upon usury: nor taken reward against the innocent.

7. Whoso doeth these things: shall never fail.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The 9th Annual Council Meeting was held at The Gros
S.Peter's on Saturday July 6th 1929 at 3.30. pm
The Chairman of the Council Dr. Nichol was unfortunately
unable to present. In his absence & that of the Rev. E. B.
Heberden, Mr. Hiscoke kindly took the Chair

Present: Mr. Catt, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Willis, Mr. Wanstall, Mr. Min

Made Mr. Davis Mr. Pettman Mr. Boyan. The Minutes

Randall Hamper Teape Rackham Llew Tuckett

Bondfield, Parker Gray, Lippitt, Doughty, The Minutes

Mr. D. Wiles Mr. Miller Mr. Webb Mr. Caldicott

Newman Harding Martin. Mills & Mr. Ray.

News - Hiscoke Gower Smith & Willis & Miskin.

Letters of regret for non attendance were received from
25 members

The Minutes of last year's meeting were read & passed
Date place of festival 1930. Margate was decided
upon the date May 21st & ensuing days or preferably
June 4th etc. The Hon. Sec. was asked to write to the
Manager of Margate Pavilion & Winter Gardens.

Choral & Instrumental
Trophy. Several names were submitted - Dr. Baird's

Mr. Selton Harrison Mr. Allen Fagg. Mr. Dunhill,

Mr. Robertson Mr. Arundling Gibbs Mr. Herbert Savells.

Mr. Stanley Marchant.

1929

FINE FINISH TO MUSIC FESTIVAL

Last night Capt. H. H. Balfour, M.C., M.P., fulfilled his first social engagement since his election to the House of Commons, when, in the absence of Earl Beauchamp, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, he presented the shields and certificates to the winners of the Thanet Competitive Musical Festival, the earlier phases of which are reported on Page 9.

St. George's Central Schools, Ramsgate, took most of the honours, the boys gaining no fewer than five firsts and one third, and the girls, who gained one first in singing, carried off the certificates for first place in both sections of the folk dancing. The boys, by winning the class for boys or girls under thirteen, held the picture, "The Singing Boys," they won last year. They are also to be congratulated upon gaining the two highest marks awarded in the whole festival. The members of St. George's Mothers' Union also upheld the tradition by gaining first place among the women's fellowship choirs. They thus hold for a year the new shield presented by the girls of St. George's Central Schools.

The Pioneer shield for girls' clubs went this year to St. Peter's Girls' Club. St. George's Girls' Association, who have held the shield for several years, were unable to compete for it this year, being graded into a higher class for female voices. The Hawley choir, Margate, gained the Perry shield for male voice singing.

The award of the shields for competition among elementary school choirs was decided yesterday afternoon at the West Cliff Concert Hall, when one session was given up completely to the children's classes. As usual, this session attracted a large number of the general public, who showed great interest and enthusiasm in the proceedings.

"I really am astounded at the progress made since I last heard you all," said Mr. Shaw to the children. "You have sprung up in a most wonderful way. There has been nothing but what is pleasant and very delightful to listen to. But don't run away with the idea that you are perfect; far from it, but it does show what the festival movement will do."

Four choirs entered the festival for the first time, and competed in a special class for newcomers. They all sang well, not one gaining less than 80 per cent. marks. The adjudicator remarked that they had proved, by a splendid first appearance, to be a great acquisition to the festival.

Ellington, Ramsgate, wrested the boys' inter-elementary shield from last year's holders, St. Peter's Boys, and Lillian-road, Ramsgate, gained the girls' inter-elementary schools shield with a splendid performance.

M.P.'s Congratulations.

The West Cliff Concert Hall was barely large enough to accommodate the great number of people who attended the final concert and every crook and cranny in the hall was utilised.

Capt. Balfour received a great ovation as he went on to the platform to make the awards.

Seeing the rows of happy faces around said the Member, reminded him of a meeting held in that same hall just over a week ago, when, instead of the note of harmony that prevailed that evening, there was a slight discord. Still, that was over and he was there with them to celebrate the well-deserved victories in the festival. If it was possible for people to be able to spend, as he had done the previous evening, a quiet half-hour listening at future festivals, he was sure the movement as a whole in Thanet would continue to be a rising success, both for competitors and also for the listeners. To the competitors he said, "I only envy and admire your talent." He was not musical, but if they would go on practising and rehearsing they would be

able in future years, to teach him even more of the art than he had learnt at this year's event.

Capt. Balfour was thanked by the Vicar of Ramsgate (the Rev. W. A. R. Ball), who remarked that he also had not the slightest idea about music. "I hope," he said, "Mr. Henniker, who taught me, is not here to-night."

Dr. F. E. Nichol, chairman of the festival committee, expressed on behalf of all concerned, appreciation of the work done by the honorary secretary, Miss Raven, and her assistants, Mrs. Gardener (honorary assistant secretary), Mr. H. E. Wyatt (honorary auditor), Mr. M. Miskin (honorary treasurer), Mrs. Jepps and Miss Barnard (official accompanists), Capt. Paul Irvén, R.N. (Rtd.), and the members of the committee and stewards, who had worked so well towards the success of the event.

School Successes.

The results at the final session were: Elementary school choirs (girls); unison song, "Where riches is everlasting" (Warlock); round, "Hey, ho, to the greenwood" (Byrd).

1. Lillian-road, 86 and 80—176.
2. Thornton-road, 83 and 85—168.
3. Broadstairs Council School, 84 and 82—166.
4. St. Peter's, 85 and 81—166.

Mixed schools; unison song, "Mothering Sunday" (Warrell).

1. Princess Mary's Hospital, Margate, 81.

Ditto, two-part song, "Before the paling of the stars" (Marjorie Harrison).

1. St. Saviour's, Westgate, 80.
- Infants' action song, "My Shadow" (Stanford).

1. Lillian-road, 84.
2. Minster Infants, 81.
3. St. Peter's and Princess Mary's Hospital, 80.

Boys' choirs, under 11; unison song, "The Moon is up" (O'Neill).

1. Ellington, Ramsgate, 78.
2. St. Saviour's, Westgate, 77.
3. St. Peter's, 74.

Girls' choirs, under 11; unison song, "You spotted snakes" (Armstrong Gibbs).

1. Broadstairs Council School, 86.
2. St. Luke's, Ramsgate, 83.
3. St. Saviour's, Westgate, 82.
4. St. Peter's, 80.
5. Thornton-road, 72.

Boys' choirs; unison song, "A poet's hymn" (Dyson); canon, "Song of the shipbuilders" (Holst).

1. Ellington, 81 and 83—164.
2. St. Peter's, 85 and 82—167.

Schools entering for the first time; unison song, "Stars dotted all over the sky" (Evelyn Sharpe).

1. Fairfield House, St. Peter's, B, 86.
2. Reculver School, 85.
3. Fairfield House A, 84.
4. Catholic School of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Joseph, 83.

Boys' choirs; unison song, "Cargoes" (Martin Shaw).

1. St. Saviour's, Westgate, 81.

Girls' choirs; unison song, "Come see where golden-hearted spring" (Handel).

1. St. Saviour's, 85.
2. St. Luke's, 83.

In 1929 Geoffrey Shaw came yet again, and commented "I am really astounded at the progress made since I last heard you all" New MP for Thanet, HH Balfour presented the prizes as his first public duty

1929

JUNE 7TH, 1929.

THANET'S MUSICAL RECORD

SUCCESS OF NINTH FESTIVAL

WINNING COMPETITORS: SPECIAL REPORT

The Thanet Competitive Musical Festival, regarded as one of the most important and interesting annual events in the musical, educational, and social life of the island, opened at the West Cliff Concert Hall, Ramsgate, on Wednesday, and concluded with the final concert last night.

This is the ninth successive year that the festival has been held, and it is gratifying that year by year further progress is made. This year there was a rather unexpected but pleasing addition of over a hundred in the number of entries, necessitating the use of two extra halls, Christ Church Hall and Christ Church gymnasium, for the decision of the various classes.

The overlapping of classes in different halls in which the same competitors were entering was rather unfortunate, and caused much nervousness on the part of those concerned, and it is sincerely hoped that next year the festival will be further extended to at least three days to obviate this.

A pleasant feature was the inclusion of classes for folk dancing, and the number of entries received from both juvenile and adult dancing teams was excellent proof of the appreciation of this very delightful inclusion in the festival programme. The almost overwhelming number of competitors in the verse speaking was very encouraging, and has firmly established this class, which was only introduced last year. The instrumental classes were wholly delightful. The absence of adult male competitors was to be regretted, but the inclusion another year of four-part song, instead of unison, might be a greater incentive to male voice choirs.

Godfather of the Festival.

The adjudicators were Mr. Geoffrey Shaw (choral and orchestral), Mr. Geoffrey O'Connor Morris (solo and pianoforte), Miss Brettell (verse speaking), and Miss Valon (folk dancing). Their criticisms, which were exceedingly kindly, were listened to with considerable interest, and their awards were received with general satisfaction. Opening the first session at the West Cliff Concert Hall on Wednesday morning, Miss R. Weigall referred to the adjudicator, Mr. Geoffrey Shaw, as the "godfather of the festival," for he adjudicated at the first festival held, and had shown his appreciation of the promoters' efforts by coming yet a second and now a third time to adjudicate.

Miss Weigall confessed to having no gift or knowledge of music, and wondered what she would say to the boys and girls, but she remembered something her father, the late Mr. Henry Weigall, had said in reference to children painting, and that was "I hope they have got the seeing eye." The "seeing eye" and the "hearing ear" were exactly the same thing. It was

the power to see and hear something of the beauty in the world, and once seen or heard people wanted to express it, if not in an original way, by copying or joining in the arts of the great artists and musicians.

Ten O'clock Courage.

Criticising the singing of the school choirs, Mr. Shaw said one thing the children had was that good ten o'clock in the morning courage. "The tone of one choir," he remarked jocularly, "was like him," very satisfactory round the middle, but a little thin on top." The performance of St. George's Central School in Schubert's "Miller's Song" and Morley's madrigal, "Sweet Nymph," he described as capital. They had a crystal clear tone and wonderful unity of intonation—"a remarkably good performance," which reflected credit on both singers and the teacher (Mr. F. J. White). Many of the girls were "a dashed sight too polite." The girls would have to give up all idea of being young ladies when they sang. "If you are merely a young lady," he added, "and not a human being, you are singing."

Miss Brettell gave some excellent criticism to the competitors in the verse speaking classes, held at Christ Church Hall, and emphasised the importance of practising exercises in diction the same as they might in piano playing, singing, etc.

The afternoon session at the West Cliff Concert Hall was a most enjoyable one, and included classes for self-conducted choirs, women's fellowships, and school orchestras. The class for self-conducted and self-trained choirs was a very good one, contended Mr. Shaw. In all the choirs there was an absence of fuss in conducting, which, in these days, was very welcome. The winning choir, St. George's Boys' Central School, conducted by Master Clapp, was particularly well conducted and trained.

At Christ Church gymnasium in the afternoon and early evening Mr. O'Connor Morris adjudicated classes for accompanying at sight, solo and vocal trios, while in the main hall Miss Brettell concluded the classes in verse speaking.

Budding Accompanists.

Commenting on the accompanying at sight, Mr. O'Connor Morris said he was inclined to think that accompanists were like poets—"born and not made." From hearing the junior competitors he could say that the area had a number of budding good accompanists. He emphasised the fact that the piano part of a vocal solo was as important as the voice part. The accompanist should take his share of responsibility and honours. "The soloist is not everything," he added.

The solo singing appealed greatly to the public listening to the various

classes, and the adjudicator remarked that there had been "some very nice singing."

At the conclusion of the session for verse speaking, Miss Brettell said she was simply delighted with the number of entries in the final class for children under ten years of age. Although this year there were twenty-four in the class, she appealed for still more, especially boy competitors. "The contest," she said, "shows you are doing splendid work in this area."

She closed the session by leading the children in mass diction, which was very pleasing to listen to, and which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

The evening session at the West Cliff Hall was opened by the Mayor of Ramsgate (Alderman T. H. Prestidge, C.C.), who expressed the hope that the songsters would benefit by the Ramsgate air.

A Delightful Beginning.

Mr. Shaw remarked that the opening class for female voices was a delightful beginning to the evening. In the first piece—a beautiful slumber song by Delius—all the choirs produced that gentle fading of tone which women could get. "We men cannot get that fading, we are as 'fools rushing in where—' I leave you to finish it."

Both men's choirs gained good marks for the unison songs. The winning choir from Hawley-square, Margate, gave a really jolly interpretation of "The Three Merry Men of Kent." Following the class for choirs of mixed voices, Mr. Shaw led the combined choirs in singing in harmony the Bach chorale, "Jesu, joy of man's desiring."

In the absence of Mrs. W. A. R. Ball, the folk dancing session at Christ Church Hall was opened by Mrs. N. S. Lerke, wife of the Vicar of St. Luke's Church, Ramsgate.

Miss Valon expressed pleasure at the fact that at last Thanet had included folk dancing in its musical festival. "I cannot think why you have not done so before, for you have so many good teams here, and the standard of dancing is very high," she remarked.

The first of the classes for pianoforte duets was held in the evening at Christ Church gymnasium, when the senior competitors played.

The class, said Mr. O'Connor Morris, was the finest he had heard so far in the festival, and he congratulated the players on their really tip-top and simply magnificent playing. The test piece, "Suite No. 2" (York Bowen) was not easy, and it was a splendid thing that the class had produced such brilliant playing. Any criticism of his must seem almost invidious.

Human Cussedness.

"Most people do not realise that the right notes are just as easy to play as the wrong ones. Mistakes in note-playing generally are not made because of technical difficulties, but because of human cussedness," said Mr. Shaw, criticising the class in pianoforte duets for competitors under fifteen, held at Christ Church gymnasium, yesterday morning.

On the whole the class was very good. One of the most important things in duet playing was to play together—ensemble, to make it seem as if it were one person with four hands. Sometimes it seemed difficult to keep two hands together, so of course four hands were even more difficult.

The adjudicator emphasised the use of the pedals. "It is most important," he said, "to be able to play with your feet." Many people had the idea that players should not use the pedals until they came to years of discretion—until they were confirmed, so to speak—but he did not agree with that. Children should be taught to use the whole of the piano.

A delightful composition of Mozart's, "Symphony No. 2," was chosen for the pianoforte duet contest for players under eighteen, which was adjudicated at the West Cliff Concert Hall by Mr. O'Connor Morris. He complained of a slight bustle of movement. "I wish people would only give themselves up to the quietness of some of these old masters," he added. "It is the same in our modern music halls, there is that lack of repose. People cannot play slow movements nowadays." The competitors, he said, were all jolly good players, but he advised them to listen a little more to their own playing and be their own critics.

At the conclusion of the morning session, the last at which Mr. O'Connor Morris was adjudicating, he expressed his pleasure at having been able to adjudicate. The instrumental work, he said, showed great promise.

The folk dancing session was concluded at Christ Church Hall yesterday morning, when the junior teams competed. The standard, Miss Valon remarked, was exceptionally high, and even better than that of the senior teams who had competed the previous evening.

THE FULL RESULTS.

The detailed results were:

School Choirs.

Private, secondary and elementary school choirs, girls (under 15): unison song, "Tell me, where is fancy bred?" (Mackenzie), and three-part Canon "Summer-a-quinn in (Old English)."
1. St. George's Central School, Ramsgate, 85 and 83-168.
2. Abbotsford, Broadstairs, 84 and 83-167.
3. Queen's School, Margate, 84 and 82-166.
4. Ramsgate County School, 83 and 82-165.
5. St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 83 and 82-164.

School choirs, mixed (under 13): unison song, "When the cows come home" (E. Bullock).
1. St. George's Boys A, 84.
2. Ramsgate County School Girls, 83.
3. St. George's Boys B, 82.
4. Queen's School, Margate, 81, and St. Leonard's, Broadstairs, 81.
5. Godwin College, Margate, 79.

School choirs (boys): unison song, "The Miller's Song" (Schubert), and two-part song, "Sweet Nymph" (Morley).
1. St. George's Boys, 90 and 90-180.
2. Central School, Margate, 87 and 84-171.
3. Godwin College, 82 and 72-154.

School choirs (girls): unison aria, "My soul rejoices" (Bach), and two-part song, "It was a lover" (Vaughan-Williams).
1. Abbotsford, 84 and 87-171.
2. Queen's School, 82 and 84-166.
3. Ramsgate County School, 78 and 83-161.
4. St. Leonard's, 77 and 83-159.

School choirs, eight singing (senior).
1. St. George's Boys, 99.
2. Central County School, 97.
3. St. Leonard's, 95.
School choirs, eight singing (junior).
1. St. George's Boys, 89.
2. St. Leonard's, 88.
3. Girls' County School, 85.

School choirs (without professional aid and conducted by one of their own number): two-part song, "Evening Song" (Darlke).
1. St. George's Boys, 79.
2. Girls' County School, 77.
3. Abbotsford, 76.
4. Queen's School, 74.

Verse Speaking.

Verse speaking, under 18: lines from "L'Allegro" (Milton) and "On Malvern Hill (Macaulay)."
1. G. Cornish, 86.
2. B. Sutcliffe, 85.
3. P. Ainsworth, 84 and M. Le Bontillier, 84.
4. E. Butten, 84.
5. Lutywiche, 82.
6. M. Head, 81.
7. B. Whaley, 77.
8. G. Golder, 76.
9. M. de Clerck, 75.
and A. Finch-Hutton, 73.
10. M. Winkill, 72.
11. A. Winkworth, 71.
12. M. Catt and M. Harcourt Clapp, 70.
13. S. Miller, 67.
14. J. Mason, 65.

Ditto, under 14: "Piping down the alleys wild" (Blake) and "Tartary" (W. de la Mare).
1. E. Ginneth, 90.
2. D. Parks, 86.
3. M. Anderson, 82.
4. M. Bruce and J. Barnes, 81.
5. J. Brooks and J. Matheson, 71.
6. P. Fehen, 70.
7. J. Goldsworthy, 68.
8. J. Treasurer and Frank Price, 67.
9. D. Griggs, 65.
10. N. Brewer, 64.
11. D. Pettyfer and D. Dunn, 63.

Ditto, under 10: "There was an old woman (Anon) and "Little Trotty Wagtail" (John Clare).
1. R. Lambert, 75.
2. S. Starmer, 74.

Ditto, under 14: "Ridoro" (Edgar Allen Poe) and "Tired Tim" (W. de la Mare).
1. R. Beadon, 80.
2. G. Benfield, 78.
3. M. Horton, 76.
4. E. Wilson, 75.
5. E. Brown, 74.
6. P. Litchner, M. Leese, I. Lilley and M. Goldsmith, 70.
7. Roy McLaren and J. Spratling, 69.
8. N. Bell, 68.
9. J. Spicer, 67.

10. Cami Gaguine and V. Eastman, 65.
11. G. Hollands, M. Spain and N. Rawlinson, 63.
12. P. Whitehouse, 62.
Ditto, under 10: "Duck's Ditty" (Kenneth Graham) and "The Lady Moon" (Lord Houghton).
1. G. May, 79.
2. Harry Brown, 77.
3. P. Wilson and M. Bird, 76.
4. R. Phillips, A. Terrington, G. Davies, M. Seath and G. Richards, 75.
5. J. Keeling and E. Styles, 69.
6. J. Stone, 68.
7. A. Darby, O. Bing and D. Tanton, 67.
8. P. Foreman, 66.
9. N. McAuliffe, J. Sladden, P. Lee, I. Mazon and I. Gabriel, 65.
10. S. Burns, 64.
11. D. Medhurst, 63.

Adult Choirs.

Women's Fellowship choirs: unison, Revellie (Dyson) and round, "Come, blow me."
1. St. George's Mothers' Union, 82 and 80-162.
2. Mothers' Union, Westgate, 79 and 74-159.
3. St. Luke's Women's Fellowship, Ramsgate, 79 and 79-158; and St. John's Women Workers, Margate, 79 and 79-158.
4. Broadstairs Women's Fellowship, 80 and 77-157.
5. St. Peter's Women's Fellowship, 75 and 81-156.
6. Delisle and Ebbsfleet Mission, 70 and 74-144.

Female voice choirs: two-part song, "The Streamlet's Slumber Song" (Delius), and three-part (unaccompanied) "Though Philomela lost her love" (Morley).
1. Sunar House Ex-girls, Sandwich, 87 and 84-171.
2. St. Peter's-in-Thanet, 87 and 83-170.
3. Ramsgate Ladies, 87 and 82-169.
4. Queen's School Old Girls, Margate, 86 and 82-168.
5. St. George's Girls' Association, Ramsgate, 84 and 81-165; and Broadstairs choir, 83 and 82-163.
6. Hawley-square Wesleyan Church, Margate, 84 and 80-164.

Girls' Clubs: two-part song, "Evening Song" (Treland).
1. St. Peter's Girls, 82.
2. Margate Central School Association, 80.

Male voice choirs: unison songs, "Ye three merry men of Kent" (Old English) and "Windlass Song" (Rowley).
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2. Margate Central School Association, 80.

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2. Margate Central School Association, 80.

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1929

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previous slide

THANET FOLK DANCERS A FEATURE OF THE FESTIVAL

TIP-TOP PIANISTS: VERSE SPEAKERS PRAISED

1. Hawley choir, 89 and 85-174.
2. St. Peter's, 80 and 82-162.
Mixed voice choirs; unaccompanied,
"Take my heart into your care
(Orlando di Lasso), accompanied,
"Evening" (Dyson).
1. Emmanuel Church, Margate, 86 and
82-168.
2. Hardres-street Wesleyan Church,
Ramsgate, 86 and 81-167; and Broad-
stairs choir, 84 and 83-167.
3. St. Peter's, 85 and 81-166.
4. Hawley-square Wesleyan Church,
Margate, 82 and 80-162.
5. Kinnaird Glee Party, 83 and 78-161.
**Accompaniments at Sight, Solos and
Vocal Trios**
Accompaniments at sight, under 15.
1. J. Goodson, 80.
2. M. Adam, 78.
3. J. White, 77.
4. M. Hoare, 76.
5. D. Cantrell, 75.
6. D. Parks, 74.
7. D. Hall-Jones, 72.
Ditto, senior.
1. Miss Mould, 80.
2. Miss G. Johnson, 76.
3. Miss A. N. Other, 75.
Ditto, under 18.
1. M. Hoare.
2. N. Feast.
3. P. Robins.
4. G. Knott.
Soprano and mezzo-soprano solo,
"Dream Valley" (Quilter).
1. Miss G. Harding, 84.
2. Miss I. Webb, 80.
3. Miss W. Barber and Miss M. Evans,
78.
4. Miss H. G. Kennett and Miss
Coombe, 77.
5. Miss D. Richardson, 76.
Contralto solo, "Sapphic Ode"
(Brahms).
1. Miss P. Chapman, 82.
2. Mrs. Wallace, 80.
3. Miss D. Ewell and Mrs. Campbell.
4. Miss O. Alexander.
Vocal trios, "O can ye sew cushions"
(Granville Bantock).
1. Miss Alexander's trio, 80.
2. Miss Evan's trio and Hawley, Mar-
gate trio, 77.
3. M.M.M. trio, 76.
Tenor solo, "Fair House of Joy"
(Quilter).
1. Mr. J. W. Scarlett, 84.
2. Mr. L. Sawyer, 82.
3. Mr. C. E. Davis, 81.
Baritone and bass solo, "Ethiopia
saluting the colours" (Sir C. Wood).
1. Mr. F. J. White, 83.
Vocal quartet, T.T.B.B., "Here's to
the maiden" (Old English).
1. Hazlewood Quartet, 80.
2. Hawley Quartet II., 79.
3. Hawley Quartet I., 77.
Vocal quartet, S.S.T.B., "My love's an
arbutus" (Old Irish).
1. Hawley Quartet I., 82.
2. Broadstairs Quartet, 81.
3. Hawley Quartet II., 78.
Folk Dancing.
Senior, "Merry Milkmaids" and own
choice.
1. St. George's Girls' A, 85 and 90-175.
2. Ramsgate Congregational Girls'
Club, 85 and 85-170.
3. St. George's Girls B, 75 and 85-160.
4. Thanet E.F.D.S., Ramsgate, 75 and
80-155.

5. Girls' County School B, 65 and 75-
140; and Girls' County School A, 70
and 70-140.
6. Thanet E.F.D.S., Margate, 70 and
65-135.
7. Y.M.C.A., Ramsgate, 65 and 65-130.
8. 4th Ramsgate Rangers and Queen's
School, Margate, B, 65 and 60-125.
9. Queen's School, Margate, A, 60 and
60-120.
Ditto, juniors under 14; "Goddesses"
and own choice.
1. St. George's Girls B, 90 and 95-185.
2. St. George's Girls A, 85 and 90-175.
3. Broadstairs Girls' Council School
C, 80 and 75-155.
4. Broadstairs Girls' Council School
A, 78 and 75-153.
5. Lillian-road Girls' School, 73 and
75-148; and St. Peter's School, 68 and
80-148.
6. Broadstairs Girls' Council School
B, 80 and 65-145.
7. 1st St. Peter's Brownies, 75 and 65-
140.
8. Ramsgate County School Girls, 65
and 70-135.
Music Successes.
School Orchestras; "Folk Tune"
(Fletcher).
1. St. Margaret's, Westgate, 81.
2. Queen's School, Margate, 78.
Violin and pianoforte duets, senior;
"Sonata No. 1" (Beethoven).
1. Mr. W. Page and Mr. C. Robins, 74.
Pianoforte duet, senior; "Suite No.
2" (York Bowen).
1. Miss H. Bright and Miss K. Sim-
monds, 91.
2. Miss J. Marriner and Miss M. Ben-
nett.
3. Miss Mould and Miss Johnson, 88.
4. Miss F. Hall and Miss E. Bayley, 84.
Pianoforte duet, under 15; "Suite in
C Major" (Purcell-Hurlstone).
1. D. Cantrell and D. Parks, 91.
2. A. Smith and P. Mortleman, 88.
3. D. Hall-Jones and A. Johnson, 87.
4. E. Dankes and E. Heaton, 83.
5. L. Port and H. Harman, 82.
6. E. Browne and D. Williams, 78.
7. M. Adams and E. Barney, 77.
8. Peter Baker and S. Cooper, F. and
A. O'Keefe, L. Prall and M. de Clerq,
and V. Alexander and D. Griffiths, 76.
Pianoforte duet, under 18; "Symphony
No. 2" (Mozart).
1. G. Feast and N. Feast, 86.
2. P. Boyle and B. Pettit and S. Bil-
lows and V. Sandwith, 83.
3. P. Robins and D. Hall-Jones, 82.
4. J. White and R. Garrett, 81.
5. M. Watson and P. Russell, 79.
6. D. Bishop and D. Bakers, 78.
7. H. Rowe and C. Emptage, 76.
8. M. Rowan and M. Goodman, 73.
Violin and pianoforte, under 15;
"Rondino" (Beethoven, arr. Kreisler).
1. Edward Shepherd and Kathleen
Hawkins, 86.
2. D. Cantrell and D. Parks, 83.
3. Reginald Steed and Alice Offen, 77.
4. H. Lawson and P. Dallas, 76.
Pianoforte and violin duet, under 18;
"Berceuse" (Faure).
1. L. Bradley and V. Sandwith, 78.
2. P. Russell and D. Cantrell, 76.
Trio for violin, 'cello and piano;
"Entr'acte Rosamund" (Schubert).
1. St. Margaret's B, 78.
2. St. Margaret's A, 76.
3. Queen's School, Margate, 74.
4. Homewood School, Ramsgate, 70.