
ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Chairman, Dean Barrett, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I have the honour to present to you the report of S. Catharine's School for the year ending 1933.

NUMBERS: Our numbers this year have been much smaller. During the first half-year, we had 39 boarders and 16 day pupils; after the Midwinter vacation 36 boarders and 18 day pupils, making a total of 54. Three girls have been coming for Commercial Work only, and two for Music.

HEALTH: In common with all other Schools, we shared the measles epidemic. One of our little girls returning from the Easter vacation, brought a measles germ back with her, and, before we knew of it, she had spread the infection. A number of day pupils first contracted the disease, and then the boarders started. We had fourteen cases in all, and only managed to get the last child fit to travel the day before we closed the School for the holidays. After the vacation we hoped to be as free from illness as we usually are, but alas! one of our boarders actually travelled back to School with influenza, and so again we were infected. This time we were fortunate for we had only three cases of 'flu, though a number of girls had bad colds. We shall all be thankful to make a new start in the next year. As a result of this sickness, class work was greatly interfered with, for it seemed impossible ever to get a complete class. The Mistresses are to be commended on the way they faced this difficulty in bringing absent pupils up to the mark of the others.

CURRICULUM: The Curriculum remains the same. In spite of the various hindrances, good work has been done in all forms. I should like to say a word here about the standard of the School. People are apt to think that the standard of a small school is not equal to that of a larger one. That is not so. The classes are much smaller and therefore, possibly, the stupid and uninterested children, of whom there are always some in every school, are more noticeable than they are in a larger class. Competition is good but, at the same time, a keen and interested child can do as well in the small class; and backward children can receive more individual attention. Five of our children left at the end of last year—three of them unexpectedly. They are now attending very good State Schools in various parts of Brisbane, and, in each case, the girl was placed in a higher grade than the one she was in while here. Three of them were backward in Arithmetic, but in other subjects they were ahead, especially in English. One child, at the