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Richmond Hill High School Annual Commencement Exercises Largely Attended

The annual exercises of the High School Commencement were held, Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15th, in the evening, of last week, and were attended by a large and appreciative audiences. A play entitled "THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR" was very cleverly acted by the pupils. Musical numbers also added to the programme.

The COMMENCEMENT was opened by the valedictory address given by the past president of the Literary Society, Jacob Koning.

Medals were presented by Mr. Garnet Duncan, chairman of the Board of Education, to the following pupils; for Academic Proficiency:—Miss Dora Anderson, highest standing in Upper School. James Kerswill, highest standing in Middle School; Miss Molly Dyme, highest standing in Lower School. Fred Taylor, highest in Entrance, 1929. Lillian Montgomery, best use of opportunities.

Medals and prizes won at the annual field day held last fall, were presented to the following winners by Mr. James Stewart, Principal;—Miss E. Ellacott, Senior Girls' champ.; Miss L. Armstrong, Junior Girls' champ.; W. Mason, Senior Boys' champ.; B. Ball, Junior Boys' champ.; Miss T. Shields, Youngest girl; I. Burleton, Youngest boy; A. Elliott, North York record; L. Thompson, North York record.

A very pleasing item following the presentation of the prizes was the gift to the Board of Education by the Richmond Hill High School Alumnae of two very beautiful paintings. The paintings a Masterpiece of the Dutch Artist, Vermer and a French Etching by Latenay were presented by Mrs. A. J. Campbell and Mrs. A. J. Hume on behalf of the Alumnae and were accepted by Mr. Duncan on behalf of the Board who heartily thanked the members of the Alumnae for their interest in the school and expressed the hope that it would encourage similar gifts from other public spirited citizens. In making the presentation Mrs. Campbell said:—

"By a happy chance it has fallen to my lot to share in the presentation this evening. Though the Richmond Hill High School Alumnae has been dis-organized for seven years its members have still a real interest in the welfare of the school in which they spent many happy carefree hours. The activities of the Alumnae during the years of the Great War and for a period of four or five years, after make real history, but I shall not bore you with their recital this evening. Suffice to say that when the Alumnae disbanded there was a sufficient sum of money left in the treasury to buy the pictures we are presenting.

In making a selection of pictures for this presentation the purchasing committee followed several ideals. The first, and I suppose the thought always followed in choosing a work of art, was to buy something that possessed attractiveness—beauty that would arrest even the casual eye. We think that, if you consider merely the colouring of the two pictures, you will concede we have reached this ideal. The rich brown-red tones of the masterpiece simply relieved by light lines, and the varied greens of the etching qualify the pictures to the highest degree of beauty in art, and their setting enhances this quality. But a second ideal before the mind of the purchasers was that the gift might have a real educational value beyond the cultural influence exerted by beauty alone.

The masterpiece of Vermer, the Dutch artist will permit of close study by any student of art. Its wonderful perspective, its care in detail, its colouring and much else should prove suggestive to an art student, and in addition, as a study in faithfulness of reproduction a medici print ranks highest. In absolute contrast of subject and type is the French Etching by Latenay copying nature in its delicate tracery and marvellous shading, and displaying in its technique the skillful use of the etcher's tools.

We leave the pictures with you confident that the students of our High School, under the direction of the efficient teachers, will attain to a fuller study. Between acts of the play a piano duet was rendered by the Misses Pauline Angle and Herberta Baker, and a small part of the Operetta, Princess Crysanthemom, under the leadership of Mr. Melecci, was rendered by the Glee Club of R.H.H.S.



Richmond Hill High School Students who were presented prizes at the annual commencement exercises last Friday evening. (1) Stanley Moore, oratorical winner; (2) Evelyn Ellacott, Senior Girls Athletic Champion; (3) Clare Paxton, Junior oratorical prize; (4) Fred Taylor, highest at Entrance Middle School; (5) Walter Mason, Senior Boys Athletic Champion and this year president of Literary Society; (6) Berkeley Ball, Junior Boys Athletic Champion; (7) Lillian Montgomery, best use of opportunities during year. (8) James Kerswill, highest standing in Middle School; (9) Lois Armstrong, Junior girls athletic champion.

A very happy event of the Commencement was the presentation of flowers and gifts to the teachers. The presentation was made by Miss Pauline Angle.

"The House Next Door", is a very amusing story woven around the family of Sir John Cotswold, an English gentleman of noble birth, who has fallen on evil days, and the family of Mr. Jacobsin, a Jew of humble origin who has grown rich and has recently been knighted. Mr. Jacobsin is the son of a humble shoemaker who had lived and died in a cottage on the Cotswold' estate.

After he becomes wealthy, Mr. Jacobsin purchases all the mortgages which the Cotswold family have placed on their property, including one on the house in which the Cotswolds live, and moves into a house next door to them. Immediately the fireworks begin.

Sir John Cotswold, grown sour and surly over his poverty, hates the Jews, particularly the Jacobsins, with all the hatred of which a titled Englishman is capable. He expresses his hatred freely at every opportunity.

The humor of the play is very largely wrapped up in the character of Cotswold, who snaps and snarls at everyone and gets himself and others into some very awkward situations through his unreasoning and cynical hatred, while he makes a brave attempt to maintain the dignity and poise of a titled English gentleman.

The young people of the two families consisting of a son and a daughter in each, do not share their parents' hatred and thus the inevitable happens. They fall in love with each other and plan to marry while the parents seek to prevent the marriages, Mrs. Jacobsin preferring for a son-in-law a titled gentleman who is still in good standing financially to one who is penniless, and Cotswold preferring anything but a Jew or a Jewess.

Many humorous and some tragic situations arise; but in the end the young people win, Cotswold, with a mighty effort controls his pride, bows to the inevitable and capitulates completely.

Mr. Arthur Jared assisted the Literary Society in the production of the play, scoring a notable success as Sir John Cotswold, Vera Morris, delightful Lady Cotswold; William Noble as Cecil Cotswold, the Opera Star, Anna Phipps as Ulrica Cotswold his sister—Jack Henderson as Vining the Cotswold's submerged butler—Stanley Moore as Capt the Hon. Ivor Trevor, a military mistake—Donald Frisby as Sir Isaac Jacobsin—the wealthy and aristocratic Jew—Kathleen Hodgins as Lady Jacobsin, with ambitions—John Bruce as Adrian Jacobsin—Nellie Collins as Esther Jacobsin his sister—Jack Wallis as Maximilian the footman and last but not least John Wilson as Walter Lewis, Unitarian, but doesn't look it, (and didn't) all filled their respective parts with exceptional ability.

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