

The Warden lived in Bertram House, an old upstairs building facing the sea and the house behind it was the Divinity School with Rev. Dr. G. B. Ekanayake in charge. These houses were rented out.

The boarders were accommodated in the existing houses in the premises and in a few private houses in the vicinity rented out for the purpose.

Claughton House was an old residential bungalow north of the cadjan roofed Hall, with Mr. E. Navaratnam as House Master.

Winchester House was a fairly spacious building with a number of large out-houses. It was the small boys' dormitory and a part of it was the sick room. Here Miss Hunter mothered the little fellows, while the late Dr. Gerald de Saram saw the patients in the sick room once a week. He was a very loyal old boy who was conspicuous on the big match days—the annual cricket encounter with Royal College—for leading the cheering squad and shouting himself hoarse. Miss Hunter's unfailing remedy for all ills, even a tooth ache, was a dose of castor oil, while Dr. Gerald specialised in Epsom Salts.

The out-houses of Winchester were used as the kitchen and servants quarters and close by to the east was the belfry which was later demolished and erected near the Science Lab. but the bell is the same original one and is just as loved today as it was in 1918.

The Book cupboard was a small room close to the present Matron's Quarters and the old temporary belfry and just opposite the road coming down from Hotel road. Here the late Mr. C. V. Pereira reigned supreme, issued the weekly stationery and sold books. Later it was shifted to a room at the West end of the present dining hall.

The tuck shop was a small shanty near the southern boundary wall of the big club. It was run by Willie who was short and fat. I have a recollection that his girth round the stomach was only a couple of inches less than his height but he was a very amiable person and extremely popular with the boys, especially the boarders because he catered for their periodical feasts, the menu invariably being string-hoppers, chicken curry and the famous Thomian "*Pol Kudu Sambol*", washed down with a very tasty and refreshing glass of lime juice. I am told that the quality of this beverage is the same today as it was then.

Immediately south of these buildings was the southern boundary of the College property. This extended, as shown in the rough plan, between the dotted lines and from the Galle Road down to the railway lines. The houses outside this boundary shown in the plan were rented out.

When the College came into possession of Thalassa, Claughton House was demolished and the boarders were accommodated upstairs with Mr. Doyne Gunatilake as House Master, Mr. E. Navaratnam having left by then to enrol himself as an advocate of the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

Copleston House was a rented house on the other side of College Avenue where the late Mr. H. J. Wijesinghe was House Master. When he left, early in 1918, to join Royal College as Chief Science Master and later become Vice-Principal, I succeeded him as House Master, and, as a matter of interest, I wish to mention that at one period I had Mr. Charles Davidson as my prefect.

Read House was another rented house further north of Copleston House where Mr. Harold Jansz was the House Master.

The late Rev. P. L. Jansz was the Sub Warden and the Master-in-charge of Miller House, a rambling old house in a coconut grove a short distance away south of the Big Club grounds. The out houses of this building were the orphanage, with Mr. Edrisinghe in charge, and west of it was the tennis court.

The present Dining Hall consisted of two attached Houses where the boarders between 9 and 14 years of age were accommodated. The eastern

portion was called Claughton House Junior, where the late Mr. Percy Cooke was the House Master, while the western portion was called Chapman House Junior, with the late Mr. Charlie Jayatilake as House Master.

5. Prevailing Conditions

In those days Mt. Lavinia was a village where electric lights, water service and drainage were not even thought of. In fact even some of the large towns in Ceylon could not boast of these amenities at that time.

Lighting

Because of the proximity to the sea this was a real problem especially during the southwest monsoon when we often had to face stormy weather—strong gales and even hurricanes with heavy rain—but somehow we managed with kerosene oil lamps. In the hall we had a number of hanging hurricane lamps because the breeze from the sea hit the hall broadside. Although there were bamboo mats backed with jute as a protection from the wind and rain, during the S. W. Monsoon it became more than a problem to keep the lamps alight and it was not unusual to find ourselves in total darkness during a meal or when the boys were doing their preparation. At such times it was a strict rule that no boy was to leave his seat until the servants came and relit the lamps.

Water Service

There was no such thing as water on tap except in the Science Lab. and the common latrine, and it was usual to see the boys of each dormitory around the wells after games in the evening or on Saturdays and Sundays having baths in the open. The sea was our swimming pool and Sunday morning after service was the usual time for sea baths for which one master went in charge of about 50 to 60 boys to the rock at Dehiwela, where we had our dip in the sea because it was supposed to be safe there. Invariably the list was brought to me and I had to be responsible for the safety of the boys. Thank God there were no incidents during my time.

Conservancy

With the bucket system in the latrines, conservancy was another problem, but we managed somehow. The College, of course, had to employ a number of conservancy labourers to attend to this part of the business, and with frequent emptying of buckets, constant washing of floors and generous use of disinfectants the large common latrine and small private W.Cs in the dormitories were kept clean and free from odours. Thank God there were no serious epidemics. Of course, the usual juvenile ailments such as mumps, measles and chicken pox would break out occasionally. At such times the patients were not segregated but sent to the common sick room because Warden Stone acted on the principle that it was a good thing for the boys to get over these hurdles when they were young.

6. Rev. G. M. Withers

Rev. G. M. Withers succeeded Rev. P. L. Jansz as Sub-Warden and before I conclude I must pay a tribute to him. Poor man, he had fought in the First World War and was suffering from shell shock. Before his time, even during the Mutwal days it was the custom to have Holy Communion only once a week on Sunday and of course on Saints' days but being a very devout Christian he was not satisfied and introduced daily Holy Communion and now Mass is said in the Chapel every morning, thanks to him. He was keen to promote the religious life of the school and in fact he told me that the first building that should have been put up was the Chapel. So he organised a Chapel Building Fund and set about collecting money. At first he had a motor cycle and sun or rain he was out on collecting trips and I have often seen him return soaking wet. It was much later that he invested in a motor car. I remember him going round the Island with a list of old boys in the out-stations, collecting subscriptions for the Chapel. Before starting off he would