



Ursuline Convent, Upton, Forest Gate.

1862
1962





TELEPHONE
GATEacre 1233

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
WOOLTON
LIVERPOOL

My first teacher was Brother Vincent O.S.A.
and my first headmistress was Brother Dominic.
That, I think, almost makes me an Ursuline
old girl!

I want to share the joy of all
Browns to-day in celebrating the Centenary
of this grand school. God has abundantly
blessed its work down the years.

I beg God to bless all the pupils and
their parents. May He reward those devoted
lay teachers who have made possible the
glorious work of the Ursulines at Upton
+ John Carroll,
Archbishop of Liverpool

Message from Cardinal Wiseman
to Reverend Mother Crescentia.

Jusqu'à présent, vous
avez semé. Vous reverrez
un jour tous recueillis



Sans le moins point de joie
N. Card. Wiseman

Pour la Rev. Mère
Crescentia

Expton 20 juillet
1861



Ursuline Convent, Library and Chapel Wings.

May 8th Foundation Day

That is a date which will recall pink bows, bell ringing and a haze of happy memories to many a former pupil of the Ursuline Convent, Upton. On that day in 1862, one hundred years ago this year, four Ursulines arrived from Saventhem in Belgium to be, with eight others who came later on, the foundresses of the Ursuline Convent, at Upton, Forest Gate.

First Friends

It was in answer to an appeal from Nicholas, Cardinal Wiseman that Reverend Mother Crescentia and her nuns left Sittard in Holland to work in England. For eleven years they tried unsuccessfully in London, Oxford, Iffley, Walthamstow to establish an English Convent of Ursulines. Compelled by failure to leave, they found a temporary home in the Ursuline Convent, Saventhem, in Belgium, awaiting a more favourable opportunity.

“In the month of February 1862”, according to the Convent Annals, “an old faithful friend, the Reverend James McQuoin, Missionary Rector of Stratford, Essex, came over to Saventhem to see us. He told us that he had never ceased to look out for a place where we could be near himself. I can recall now, after a lapse of 34 years, our eager listening gathered around him in a field at Saventhem while he told us of what might be. He told us of Upton.”

He had found that there was for sale a suitable semi-detached residence in Upton Lane, in the then country village of Upton, with a large garden at the back. This, and the adjoining house which was acquired a few years later, had been built in 1684. Together they formed the house known to generations of Uptonians as the Old House.

There the Upton Community established its first convent home in true missionary style. “An old jug served as a coffee-pot, the corner of a blue apron as a strainer, some old jam-pots for cups. The kitchen did boast of a table sent in by Father McQuoin, the trunks and boxes did for seats. Two days later Cardinal Wiseman came to see them. He would see every corner of the house, told Reverend Mother how to arrange the rooms and gave leave for the Blessed Sacrament to be reserved from the next Sunday, and when the inspection was over, he sat down to rest on a box while he drank a cup of water.”



Nicholas, Cardinal Wiseman.



Reverend Father James McQuoin

The First Community 1865



Left to Right: Sr. Josephine, Sr. Margaret Mary, M. Agatha, M. Ursula, M. Aloysius, Rev. M. Crescentia, M. Stanislaus, M. Magdalen, Sr. Martha, M. Victoire, Sr. Mary.



The Old House, Upton Lane, 1862.

Early Days

These first Uptonians lost no time in setting to work. "On May 28th Mother Agatha and Mother Victoire began to teach the children of the parish in two cottages in Sun Row as Green Street was then called. Nuns had never before been seen in the district. No dame school in the most rural parts of England could have been more quaint and droll. It was no uncommon thing to see Mother Agatha giving a lesson with a baby in her arms."

The following summer Reverend Mother Crescentia had the stable in the convent grounds converted into a school, St. Ursula's, an improvement on the cottage in Sun Row.

Father McQuoin was grieved to see how many stayed from Sunday Mass because the Church at Stratford was too far for the old folk, so it was arranged in 1874 that Mass should be said in the convent poor school on Sundays. In this way the little convent school became the chapel of ease to Stratford and so continued until the Franciscans divided the parish in 1883, and the beautiful Church of St. Antony was built at Upton.

The Boarding school began with one pupil, Nellie Bernard, who afterwards became a Good Shepherd nun, Sister Mary Pelagia.

Some of the pupils have recalled their impressions of Forest Gate and the convent school in those years.

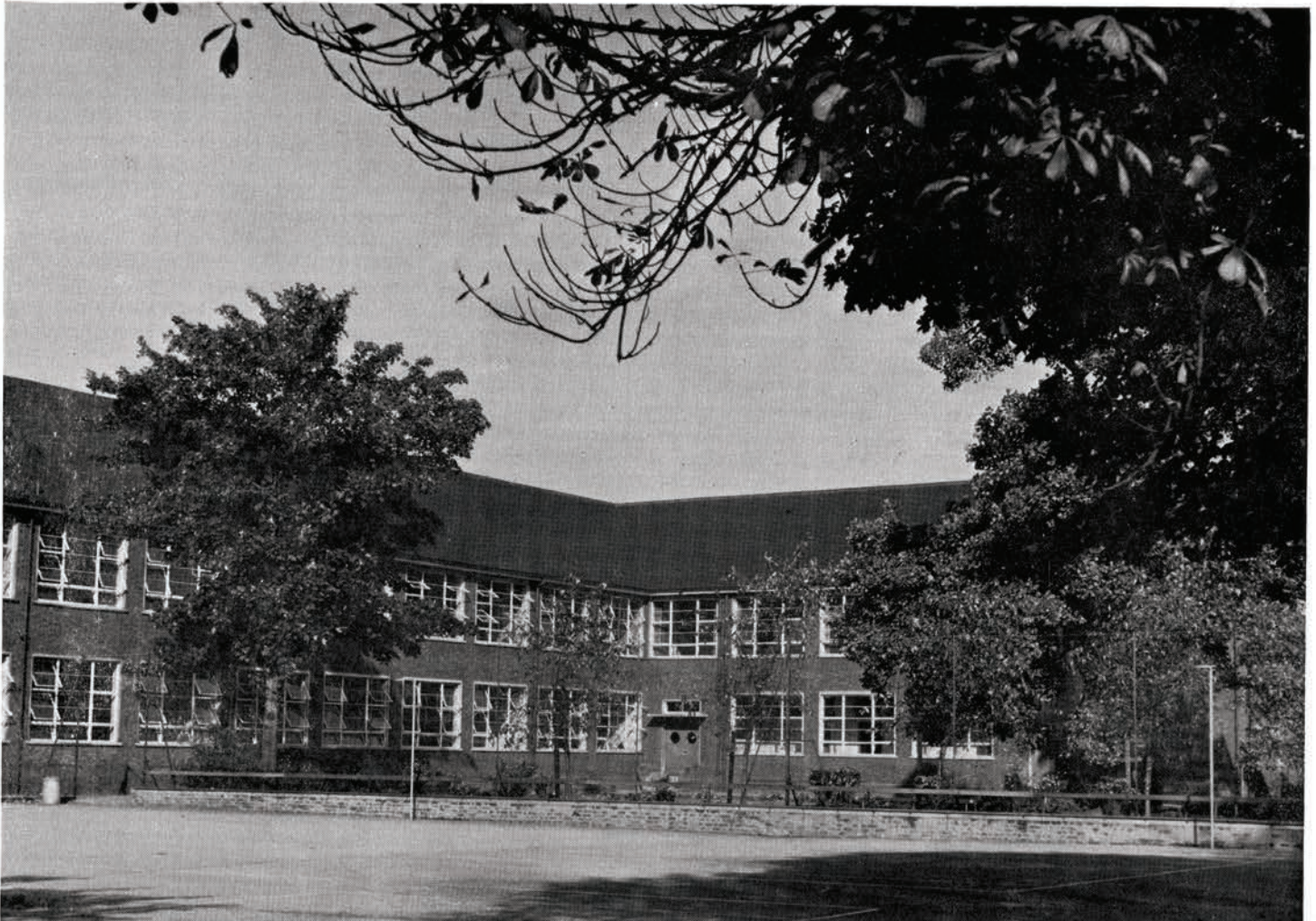
“My first sight of Forest Gate was when the train drew up at a wooden platform backed by a hedge which displayed a placard: FOREST GATE. There was nothing to be seen but trees and fields and a country road. Only one house did we pass on the way to the convent, and everything was still and silent.”

“The school building itself was homelike. The front in Upton Lane, with its steps leading up to the door, had every appearance of a dwelling place; the large ground floor room ran right through the house with one window overlooking Upton Lane and the other the spacious garden at the back. Except when the pupils were arriving in the morning, or departing in the afternoon, there was nothing but the notice board to indicate that it was a school.”



Nellie Bernard

Merici, now standing on the site of the Old House.





The Dormitory.

Expansion

In 1872 the nuns began to build. Their first wing included the study hall, now the library, with classrooms and the dormitory above. The Boarders moved in, leaving the Old House reluctantly as they feared to be separated from the nuns who continued to live there and who carried on a small school for about a dozen or so day scholars, the remote beginnings of what is now St. Angela's.

A chance visitor, obviously unfamiliar with convent life, wrote in *The Forest Gate Weekly News* of December 1896 a description of the dormitories. "Each bed in its separate alcove; the alcoves back to back down the centre of the fine room; and the whitest of white dimity curtains partitioning off each sleeper. Opposite the foot of each bed a bijou combined washing-stand and toilet-table. Nothing could be nicer and few things prettier. This is the dormitory of the grown-up girls. In the other, for the younger ones, there are no washing stands, but there is a large and pleasantly arranged general room close at hand, and a feature here that strikes agreeably on the mind is the arrangement of small cupboards, daintily stored, and with the top shelf in each case kept sacred for the young owner's cherished possessions of birthday cards, presents, and such-like mementoes, all as prettily-arranged as you please."

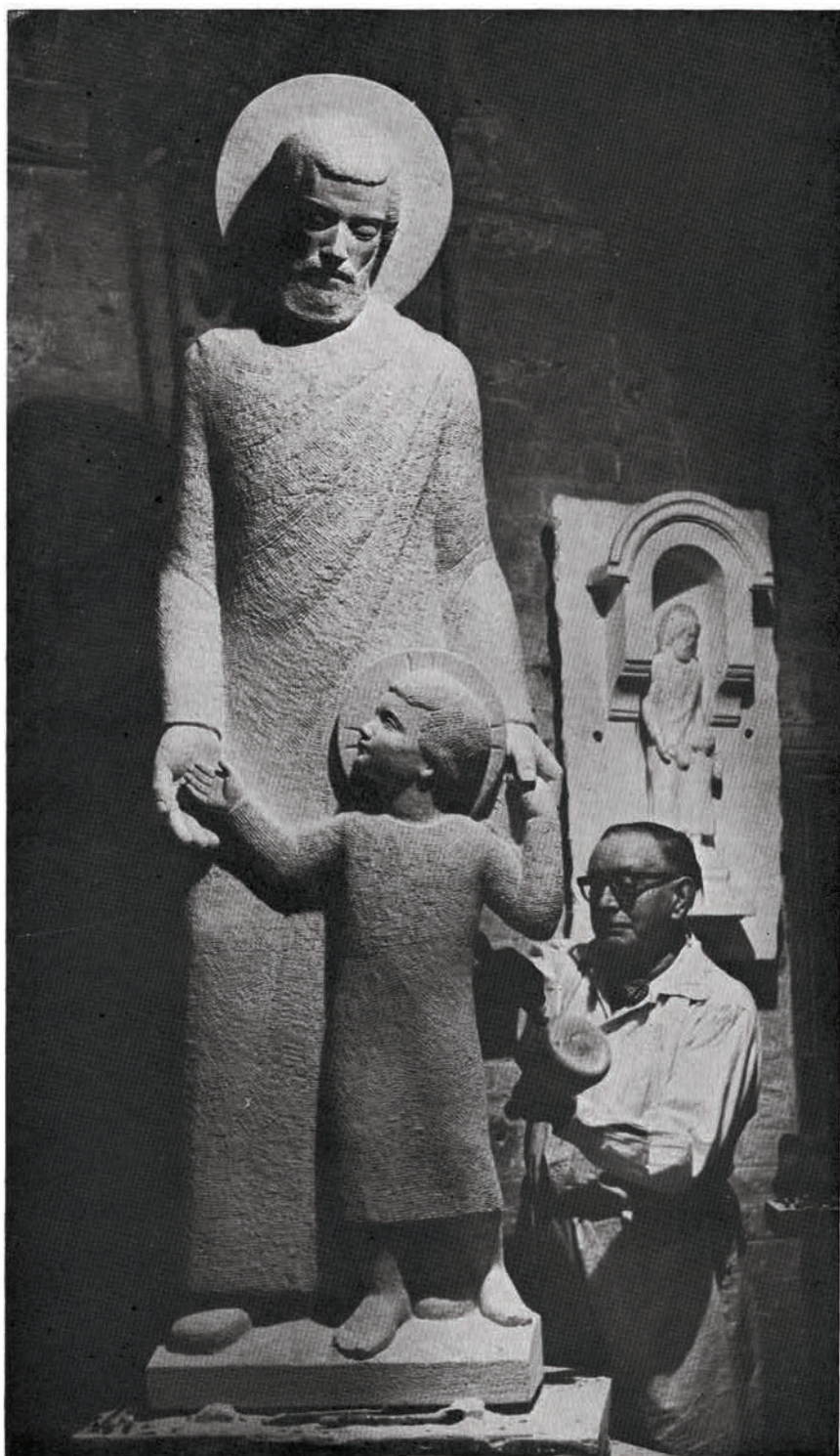


Study Hall

now the Library.



A Second Wing

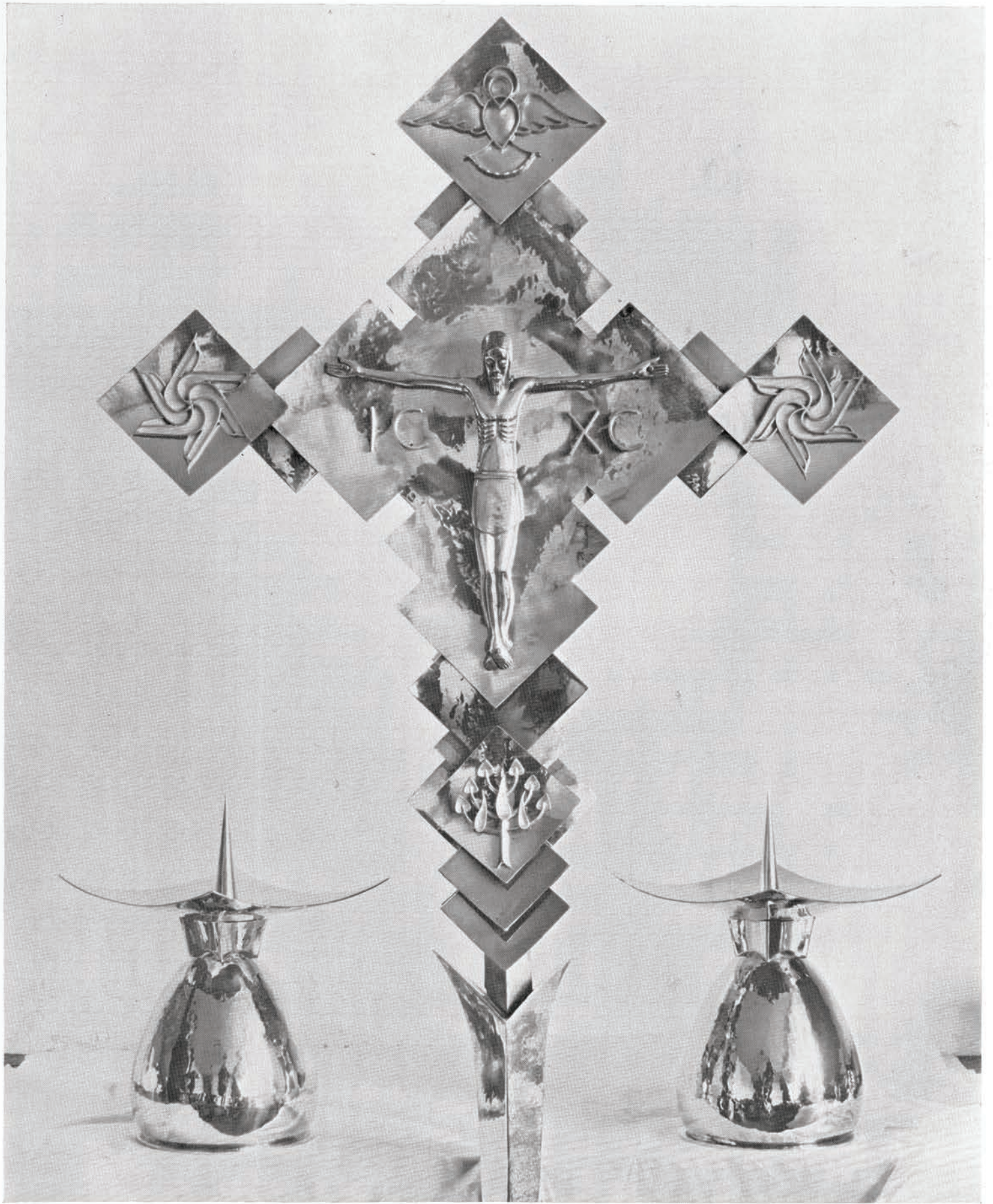


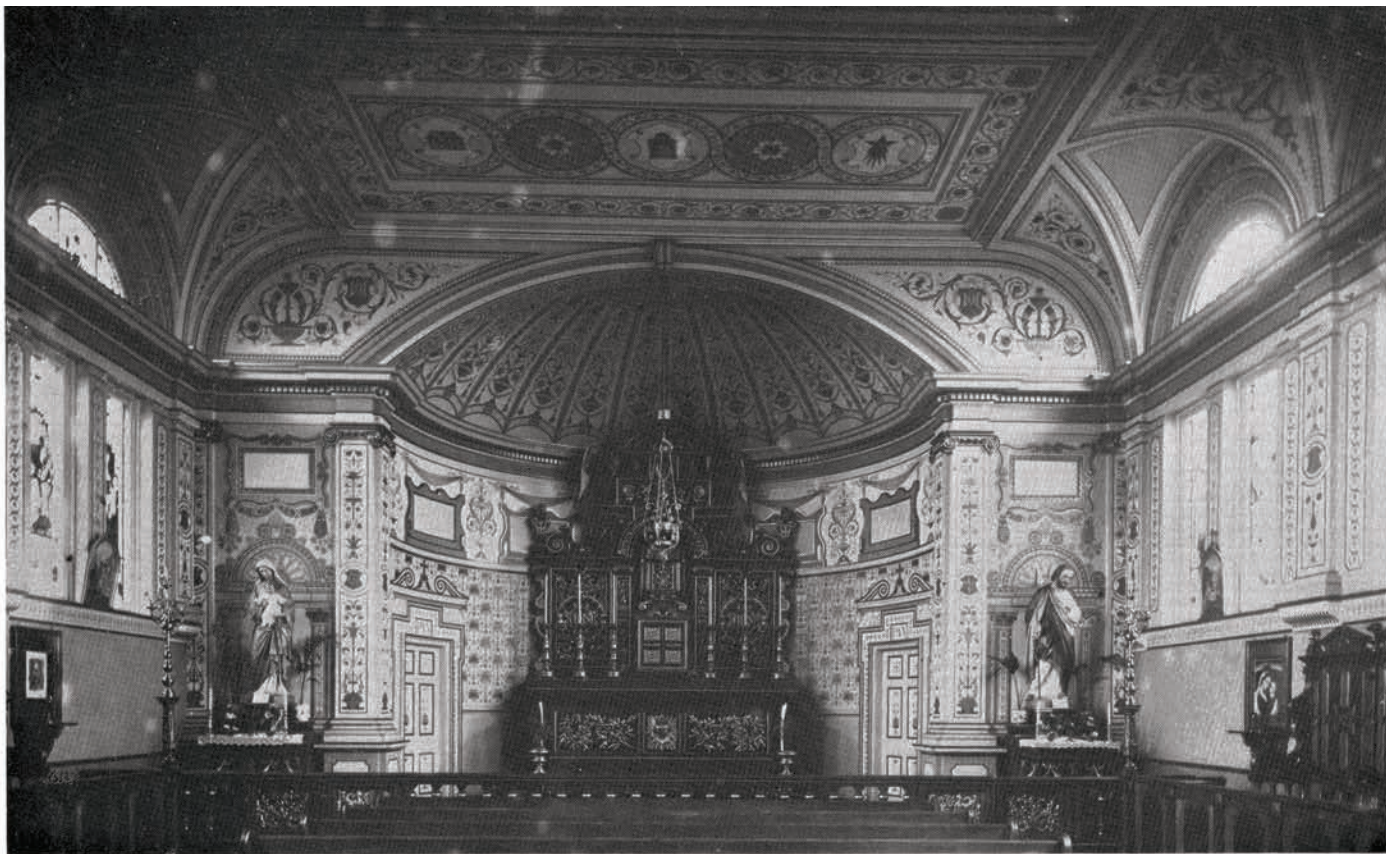
St. Joseph, the great friend of those in need, was invoked when the nuns, becoming aware of the apostolic work opening out before them, determined to make a further extension of their new building, though their resources were completely inadequate.

In 1882 they embarked on a new wing and placed in the turret a stone statue of St. Joseph in testimony of their gratitude and devotion. This wing gave the nuns the chapel, the spacious convent, classrooms, music rooms and the cloister.

War and weather took their toll of the statue and it has been replaced in the centenary year as a memorial to our Foundresses. The new statue is the work of Mr. Lindsey Clark.

The crucifix and candlesticks, designed and made by Mr. Michael Murray, are likewise the centenary gift of Upton's pupils.





The Chapel in 1884 and in 1962.



The chapel has always been the centre of life at Upton. On arrival, as the foundresses themselves tell us,—

“our first care was to choose a suitable place to serve as Chapel, so as not to be deprived too long of the presence of Jesus. But we have only one room and can hardly turn round in it, as it is so small.”

In 1863 when the adjoining house was acquired “necessary alterations were made, and special attention was given to what was to be the future chapel. It was a long, low, narrow room with five windows on one side and one at the end. Holy Mass was said there for the first time on St. Joseph’s day 1864.”

A notable feature of this second wing is the cloister which has also changed with the passing years.

“The long cloister was brown in those days and the look of mystery about its further reaches made it everlastingly attractive. On one day in the year we were allowed to penetrate its last recesses, not, as one would imagine, by walking along it, but by direct descent down the spiral staircase in the tower. The reason for this was that rolls of carpet had to be conveyed out into the garden for the outside Benediction on the Feast of Corpus Christi, and this was the quickest way. How we struggled for the privilege of carrying them!”

The Corpus Christi procession dates from the very early days. Reverend Mother Crescentia, writing to Thildonck in July 1877, says:

“Another favour which we have enjoyed for some years is the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. On the feast of Corpus Christi, the Divine Prisoner of the Tabernacle walks around our garden, meadow and the whole property. The singing attracts many curious people who, like Zaccheus of old climbing the sycamore, climb on roofs to watch this touching sight, and some, like him, are won by the goodness of the Saviour. Today it can truly be said, “He went about doing good.”



The cloister.

The Garden

A beautiful garden it was for those who saw it on May 8th 1862 and it merited special mention in the Annals:—"When the hall door was opened, Reverend Mother, seeing the garden in the distance, walked through the passage and stood in admiration at the view of the lawn, at that time lit by the rays of the summer evening sun. In the centre of this lawn flourished the beautiful tulip tree which bore a wealth of flame coloured tulips, and the grand old cedar under which Cardinal Wiseman himself rehearsed the 'Mystery of St. Ursula' in which he had written

'Where 'neath the spreading cedar we frisked like lambs,
sinless and free as they'."

The garden was loved by the children: "I remember with something like nostalgia those carefree sunny Sunday afternoons when, clad in black pinafores, we took our ease under the trees in the field while the nuns said their Office in the Broad Walk and adjoining garden of the Calvary."

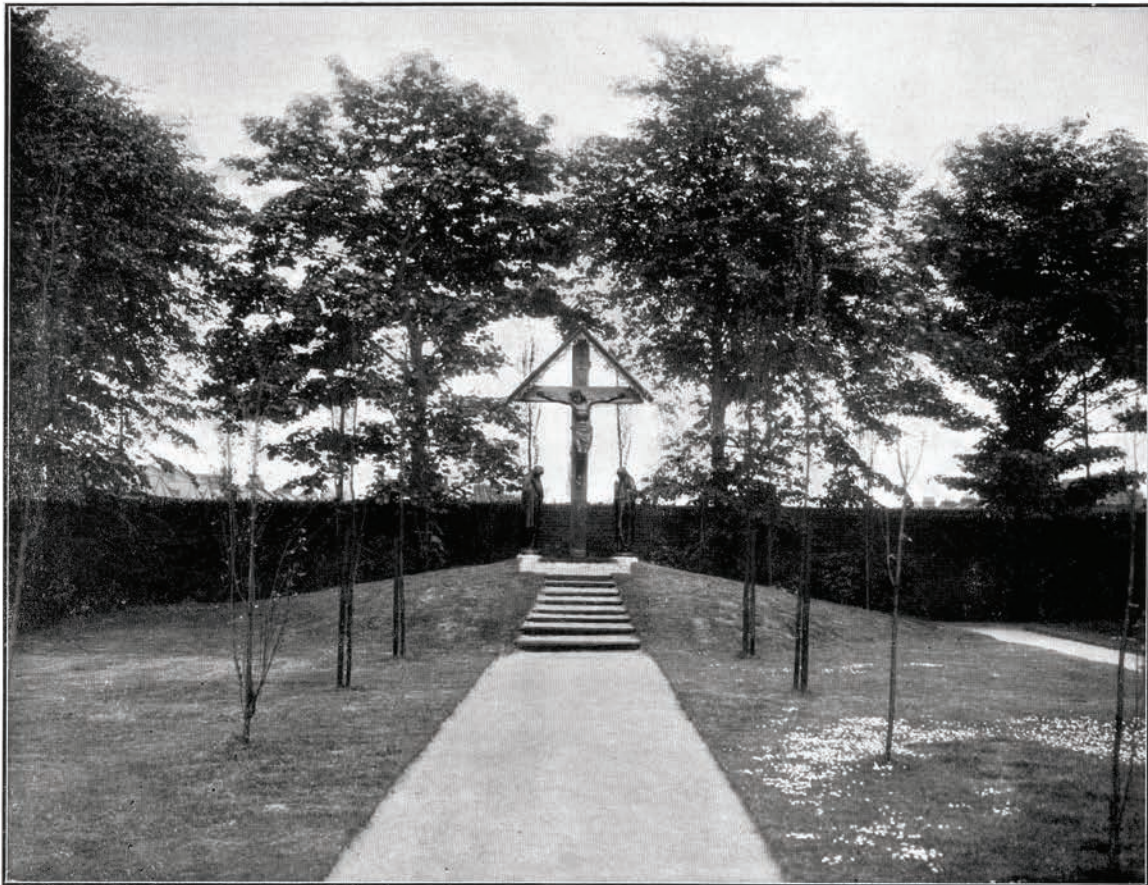
There were many beautiful gardens in Upton. West Ham Park, presented to the Borough in 1874 by its owner, Mr. John Gurney was noted all over Europe for its choice and rare selection of shrubs and trees planted by successive owners of Ham House.

The Garden from the Old House with Tulip Tree and Cedar Tree.





The Broad Walk.

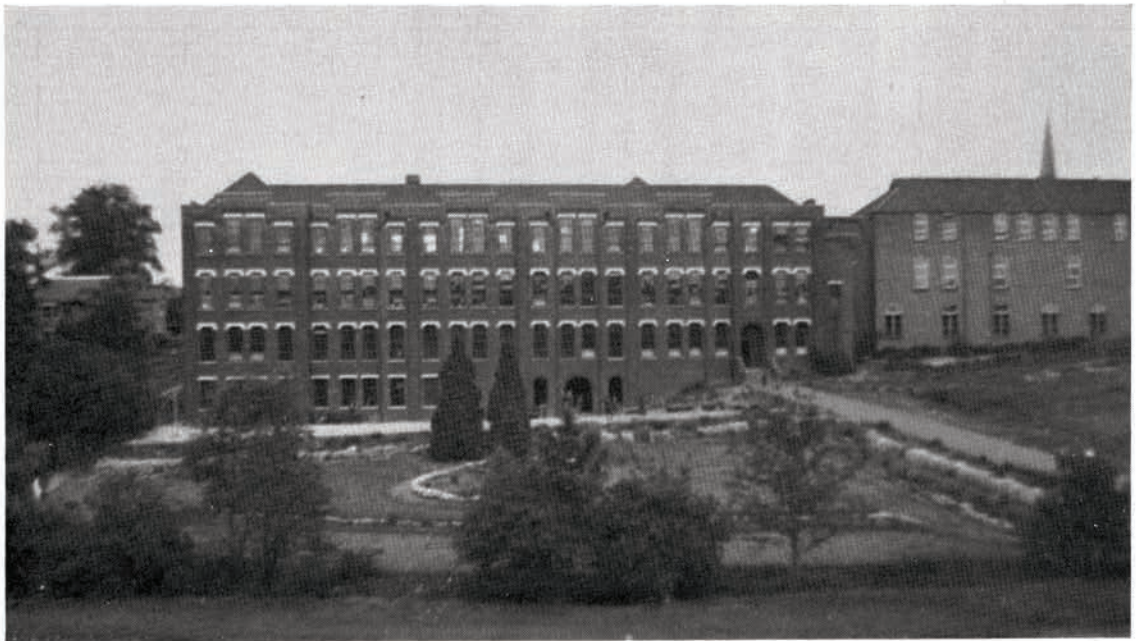


The Calvary Garden.

Foundations



Ursuline Convent, Wimbledon.



Ursuline Convent, Brentwood.



Ursuline High School, Ilford.

Less than thirty years after the foundation of the convent, the nuns were planning to undertake other works of education further afield. In March 1892, Mother Stanislaus Lacey, Mother Aloysius Lacey, Mother Veronica Hammond and Sister Francis Brocklehurst left for Wimbledon and there started a school with two of Upton's boarders, Monica and Ellie Hare, as their first pupils. Today, this school numbers 500 pupils in the Grammar School with 220 in the Preparatory School.

In 1899, at the request of Canon, then Father, Palmer the Upton Community took charge of the parish school of SS. Peter and Paul, Ilford. They withdrew in 1910. The Ursuline High School, Ilford, had been opened seven years previously with Mother Regis Woodlock as headmistress and was developing rapidly. The nuns teaching at Ilford made the journey daily from Upton until, in 1943, the convent was founded and Reverend Mother Joseph Powell became the first Superior. By that time there were 500 pupils in the High School and 150 in the Preparatory School.

Another foundation was made at Brentwood where, in 1900, the nuns bought a house in Queens Road known as "Matlock". Here they opened the school which, under the leadership of Reverend Mother Clare Arthur, was to become the Ursuline Convent School, Brentwood, a school of deservedly high reputation.

Billericay and Palmers Green also saw foundations from Upton. The little convent at Billericay was used for a few years as a Junior Boarding School. This was transferred to Palmers Green with Mother Monica Kearney as Prioress, and soon developed into a flourishing day school. Later, the school, still known as St. Angela's, passed into the care of the Daughters of Providence.

The growth of new housing estates on the outskirts of London, to provide for the growing population, gave rise to an urgent need for more Catholic schools. The nuns, consequently, built an elementary school at Becontree in 1929 and Mother Campion Gibson became its headmistress. The Ursulines continued to teach there until 1946 when they gave the school to the diocese and a headmaster was appointed.

St. Angela's - First Phase



St. Angela's High School had grown with the development of the neighbourhood and in 1889 took possession of the St. George's Road wing. This gave the school its first Assembly Hall.

Mother Xavier Hynes, who had been appointed Headmistress in 1878, while the school was housed in two rooms in the Old House, continued to guide its destinies until 1921 when it numbered 700. She gradually won for it the well earned reputation for efficiency and high standing which it has since maintained. She may well be regarded as a pioneer in convent education, keeping abreast of the times for, thanks to her foresight, St. Angela's was one of the first Catholic secondary schools to obtain, in 1904, the recognition of the Board of Education.

To these years belong

The Uptonian, which began in 1904 as a modest section in Stella Maris.

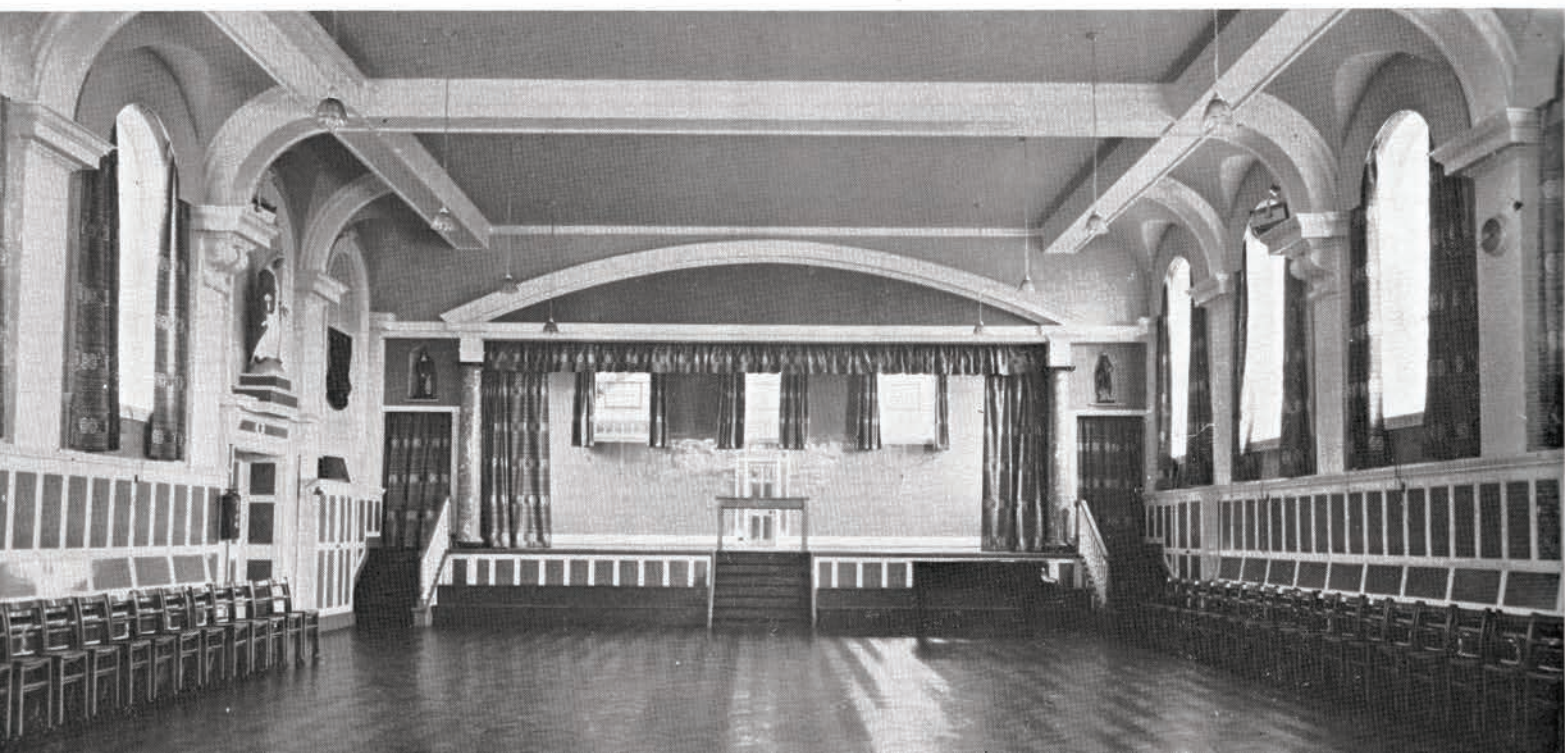
The Golden Jubilee of the Convent, when the 'Mystery of St. Ursula' was performed in the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Bourne and other numerous visitors.

The House System, introduced in 1918 with four Houses, Normans, Plantagenets, Tudors and Stuarts, later to be increased by two, Yorkists and Lancastrians.

The School Song, which was received with enthusiasm; for several years, on public occasions, the girls swayed rhythmically in alternate rows until, as a final emphasis, the whole school stamped in unison. This final stamp is the only movement which has survived.

The Fourth Wing, completed in 1916, the present Assembly Hall block.

Morning School only, ending at 1.30 p.m.



1902. The first Science Laboratory, a temporary erection on the small court, where Miss Gibson began in 1907 her long career as Science Mistress of St. Angela's.



Miss Delahoyde in the present Sixth Form Laboratory.



Do You Remember ?

Robert, the Parrot, who sat on his perch in the corridor clucking out his own name in short staccato jerks and eyeing the crocodiles of Brownies, sometimes with suspicion, sometimes with disapproval, but mostly with contempt, as they filed past to their classrooms. There was great consternation when Robert was taken ill, but he was nursed back to health and all was well.

Sister Lucy, during morning break, appearing at the double doors of the old Assembly Hall carrying a huge tray of large thick breakfast cups of hot milk. Her entry was heralded, usually, by the squawkings of Robert, the parrot. Nevertheless, Sister stood her ground whilst pupils of all sizes rushed at her to buy milk at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a cup.

The visit, in 1914, of Prince Wolugembe of Uganda, who had heard of Upton from an Old Brownie and wanted to see for himself.

Miss Harrington, first secular mistress, appointed in 1903. One of her pupils writes of her, "Miss Harrington you could not forget if she ever taught you, nor will you forget easily what she taught you. The grey hair, meticulously arranged, the bright eyes behind those rather thick glasses, made her appearance memorable. The strong, almost hard, voice and carefully articulated speech commanded and received attention. She had a tremendous zest for life and the keen interest of a lively mind in people and affairs."



Miss Trimen. "As Miss Harrington's hair was docile to the discipline of hair pins, so Miss Trimen's was not. My first memory of her is of a remote personage with a long coil of dark hair escaping over her shoulder and a rather tattered looking gown. She was a woman of deep culture and she left her mark on the school, both by personal contact with the staff and pupils, and also by the enduring work she did in the library. She was a scholar of the kind that schools need to remind them of the heights, although they may for the most part walk along the lower way."





Revv. M. Angela Bowen, M. Bernard Flood, M. Mary Angela Boord,
with Sixth Form 1925-6

Between the Wars

“It was in 1921 that Mother Mary Angela became headmistress and at once gained our strongest loyalties and affections. Her sparkling enthusiasm and energy opened new vistas and opportunities. I remember innovations in studies, in school societies, the opening of the library, Sixth Form discussions, social occasions, and new responsibilities; and with them all a great deal of fun. She had the gift of making us able to do more than our all, better than our best.”

In 1922 the feast of the headmistress was kept in a novel way: the Fair, now traditional, was held for the first time and the proceeds were devoted to the inauguration of a University Scholarship Fund and to the needs of the school. Within the next few years there appeared, as a result, the Calvary in the garden, synchronised clocks in Hall and classrooms, the tar paved netball court, the flagstaff and the weathervane.



Our Lady at Upton

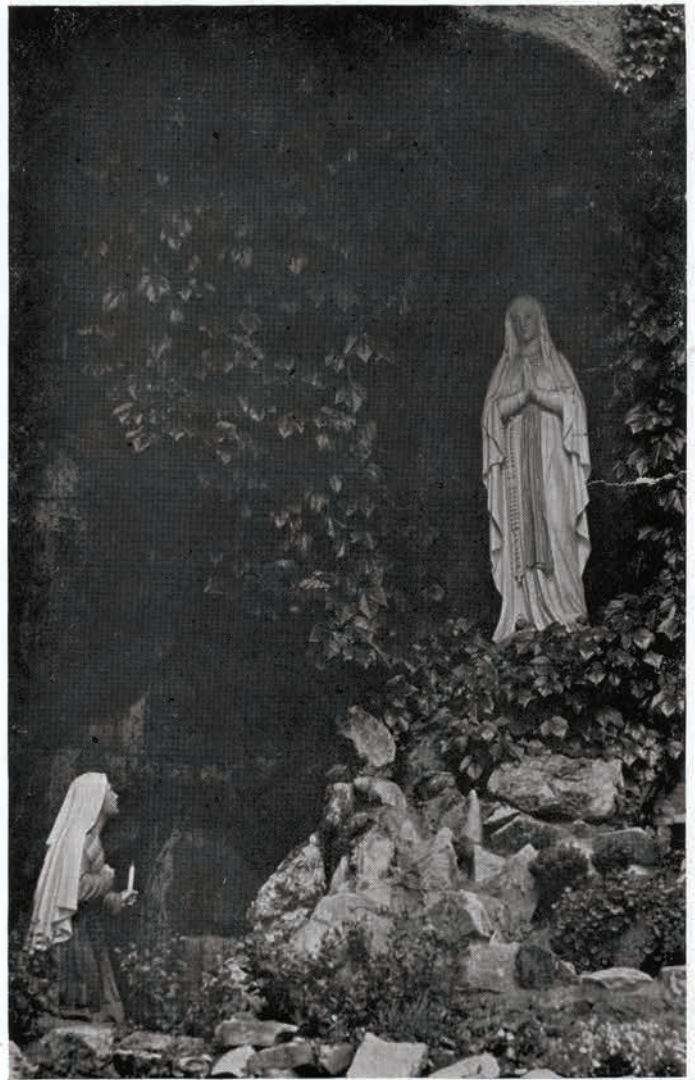
The Sodality of Our Lady has, from the earliest days, been a strong influence in the life of nuns and pupils. The first three Children of Mary were received into the Sodality of Our Lady on the 25th March 1864. Father McQuoin, with his usual kindness, had the first register of names specially made for them. The statue of Mary Immaculate, bought for the occasion, was later placed in a shrine in the cedar tree where, known as Our Lady of the Cedar, it remained until the tree was cut down and a niche for the statue made from its wood.



The Rosary Chapel was built in 1925 in thanksgiving for protection during the First World War; its completion was largely due to the efforts of Mother Bernard Flood. The Chapel proved a great incentive to the Children of Mary. There they recited the Little Office of Our Lady each week. They held also a weekly Dorcas Meeting to provide altar linen for poor parishes. Our Lady's Ramblers met in groups of fifteen with three nuns on Saturday afternoons to visit some shrine of Our Lady. Our Lady's Catechists were trained and taught by Mother Xavier Rowntree.

The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes was erected in 1930 when Mother Angela Bowen, at one time Mistress of the Boarders and later a beloved Superior, kept her Golden Jubilee.

During recent years members of the Sodality have answered with enthusiasm the invitation of the late Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, to return to the Sodality way of life in its original form. In common with Sodalities throughout the world they have entered upon the more intense spiritual training proposed to them. This includes Gospel Enquiries, Sodality Training Days and Leadership Courses. As a result they have become alert to the influence of secular propaganda by press and radio, and, according to their measure, play a part in the movement to exert a Christian influence on their fellow countrymen. Their zeal finds expression in pilgrimages, in organising Live Cribs, in giving active support to the Christmas Poster Campaign and in many kinds of social service.





1887. Before the days
of Uniform.



1895. Stiff Eton collars
and leather belts.



1902. Summer Uniform
— Straw Hats.



1913. Pleated brown dresses, stiffly plaited hair.



1933. Mortar board, thick woollen stockings.



1962. Summer Uniform.

Uniform

Uniform looms large in the memories of Old Brownies. One who can go back to the time before uniform was worn writes:

"I am now eighty and, I expect, one of the oldest Brownies. I went to St. Angela's in 1889 and left in 1896. The brown uniform had just started, very different from the present day: a very plain dress of serge or alpacca with a leather belt, a wide stiff collar and brown bow."

Another saw the beginning of the era of the Mortar Board, the distinguishing characteristic of the Brownies for about half a century.

"In the far off days of 1910 or thereabouts, the stiff white collar was replaced by one of the same material as our pleated brown dresses and cuffs were no longer worn. Stiff brown mortar boards, stiffish straw hats with brown bow in front, hair stiffly plaited — this was the fashion."

Further changes were welcomed.

"To our great joy this dress was replaced by a separate blouse and tunic, a brown blouse for everyday and a white one for special occasions. Even so, the tunic reaching well below the knees, the thick black woollen stockings and the opera shoes—hoppers — had not been designed with sports in mind." Concessions to fashion soon shortened the tunics.

Today's uniform retains the traditional brown tunic and white blouse, but the mortar-board has given way to the more practical beret.

Brownies of the nineteen forties will recall the delight with which they greeted the introduction of a summer uniform during the 1939 war. The present dress of a green design on a white ground has a fresh and attractive appearance.

Love and Truth, Honor et Virtus, were the mottoes of the badges worn with these changing uniforms until the green and silver badge of the schools of the Roman Union, interpreted for Ursuline pupils all the world over by His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, was adopted, with the motto **SERVIAM**.



Out of School Activities in the 1880's.



Tennis 1895.



The Hockey Team with Miss Barrington. 1927-28.

Games
throughout
the
Century

Modern Netball.





St. Angela's Hall 1937-1961.

From Boarding to Day School

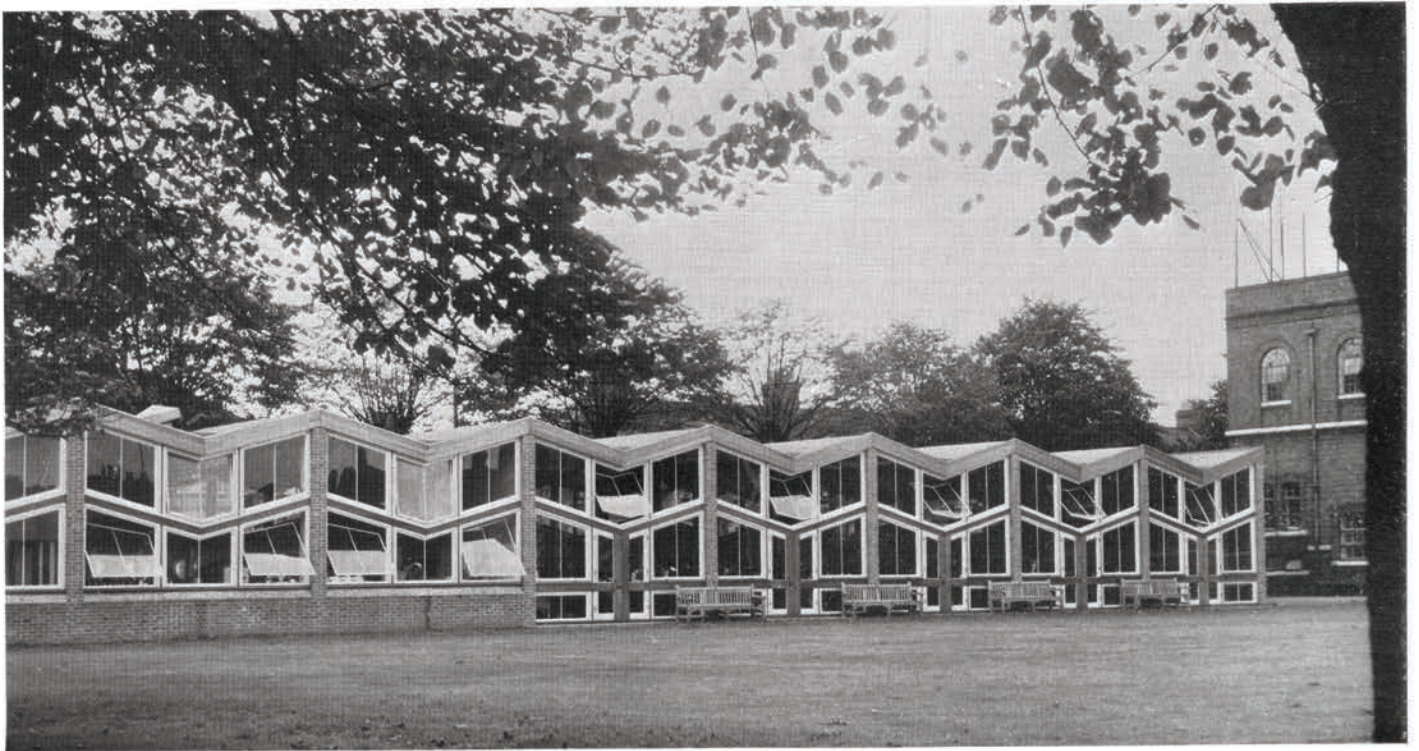
Customs change, and perhaps nowhere more than in the dining room. In the boarders' dining room the custom, originally, was for "each girl to turn and curtsy to the nun on duty". This nun was, for many years, Mother Ignatius Hammond of the firm face and kind heart. When she went to Westgate in 1931 no more boarders were accepted. Their dining room, together with the adjoining library, was converted into the nuns' refectory, and their study hall became the library. By this date Upton had long ceased to be a country village and the Boroughs of West Ham and East Ham had developed into busy London suburbs. The effect on the convent had been a large increase in the number of day pupils.

By 1937 it had therefore become necessary to provide a dining hall. In consequence St. Angela's Hall was designed and built by Mr. J. Roof, a devoted friend of the community, and was opened on the first day of the Summer Term by His Lordship, Bishop Doubleday of Brentwood.

Present day Brownies take their meals in two sittings of about 300 each in the dining hall on the St. George's Road side of the field. At small tables for eight they enjoy "family service". This building has been greatly admired and is the work of Mr. H. Cullerne Pratt, architect, and Messrs. J. & R. Roof, contractors.



The Boarders' Dining Room 1882-1931.



The present Dining Hall.

The Roman Union



At work in the Sacristy.



Novices at Westgate.



A Final Profession at Upton.



Recreation in the Juniorate.

The Roman Union of Ursulines was formed at the invitation of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, to Ursuline Communities throughout the world. In response to his call the Upton Community took the decisive step in 1927 of becoming a member of this international union with its centre at Rome,— a step which has brought them countless blessings of every kind.

The immediate and most obvious effect was the change of costume which caused much comment — not always suppressed — among the Brownies on the morning of January 27th.

A more important and far-reaching consequence was the linking together of Ursuline Communities in England into a Vice-Province under a Reverend Mother Provincial with the Provincialate House at Westgate-on-Sea. To this convent the novices from Upton were transferred.

Upton made its contribution to the development of the English Vice-Province. Here the Juniorate and House of Studies were first established. The newly professed nuns came to spend their next three years of training before Final Profession and also the years of intellectual and professional preparation for their work of education. Mother Mary Angela Board, as Prioress, was largely responsible for this development and later, as Provincial, she guided the destinies of the Province through the difficult war years.

Membership of a world-wide organisation brought Upton into close contact with the Missions. British Guiana and South Africa were included in the English Vice-Province and, in consequence, the community frequently witnessed the departure of missionaries for these countries. Student nuns from South America, Thailand and several countries of Europe, as well as those destined for South Africa, joined the students at Upton. This development, coinciding with the expansion undertaken in consequence of the Education Act of 1944, made further changes desirable. The work at Upton had outgrown its premises. Reverend Mother Joseph Powell, herself an Old Brownie, became Provincial in 1952 and transferred the House of Studies and the Juniorate to their present home in Parkside, Wimbledon.



The Dispensary



The Parlour



The Linen Room.



The Kitchen.

The End of the Old House



Preparatory School.

The Montessori class.



A cookery class in the Old House 1936.



The withdrawal of St. Angela's High School to the main building left the Old House to be occupied by the Preparatory School until 1950, with the exception of the war years when the cellars were used as public shelters. The happy and homelike atmosphere of the first days at Upton continues throughout these years and is expressed in the words of a former pupil:

"The pupils approached their teachers in the confident and uninhibited way usual in family circles. At recreation time they would gather round the Sister in charge and chatter away to her as freely as to each other."

Within the same walls of the Old House a room was set apart which saw the modest beginning of the teaching of housecraft, a subject which was to develop in post war years to an extent unforeseen at the time.

"I remember how pleased we were when it was decided to include domestic science in the curriculum and how our excitement was dimmed a little when we were told to scrub a table or clean a dirty oven. Needlework was also very interesting for those girls who were skilled. Unfortunately I was not, and, having accidentally cut a hole in a garment I was making, I was taught patching a year earlier than anyone else".

An even earlier generation has a different memory. "During the embroidery lesson we each in turn held a pole under our arms for five minutes to keep us straight. There was no gym or strenuous games as there are to-day".

The end of the Old House was, however, in sight. The outbreak of hostilities marked the end of an epoch and the Old House did not long survive the upheaval of World War II.

A class in
Merici



A cookery class
in Brescia 1960.



The War Years



Cliffdene.



An excursion to Bedruthan Steps.



A Newquay group.

The year 1939 is marked in the annals as the year of the evacuation of the schools. After being scattered throughout ten villages in Suffolk, St. Angela's settled in Thetford where the sharing of a school with its lawful occupants called for great tact and forbearance.

The longer exile at Newquay offered a far more memorable episode in the history of the school. To transport, feed and guard two or three hundred children in wartime, to keep them happy and healthy in cramped quarters, far away from home, and to maintain a normal standard of education was the challenge met by Mother Angela Mary Reidy, as headmistress, with the staff of St. Angela's. Once again the Upton Community turned their energies to the running of a boarding school, but Cliffdene was to be, for the Brownies, a wartime home rather than a boarding school.

The settling-in is described by one who experienced its trials. "Our stay in Cornwall did not have a very promising beginning. I do not remember struggling from the station at Newquay, or even going through the glass doors of Cliffdene for the first time. I only remember sitting in the dining room with the remaining 150 of the school, looking out over the sea, which was blue, and desperately wanting a cup of tea, which never arrived. Upstairs, in bedrooms and corridors, ceilings dripped and buckets stood about all over the place. Not a drop of water was to be had — nor very much cold — other than that from the ceilings. Girls slept three in a single bed or one in a double bed.



Potato picking in Cornwall.

The next morning, groups of these bedraggled little orphans appeared in the dining rooms of the various plush hotels of that well-known seaside resort for breakfast. The residents, all paying handsomely for the privilege, must have been charmed. Not that we were impressed. The hotel food was not as good as at home. For the next fortnight or so, the major occupation was finding which hotel served the best food, and manoeuvring one-self into the group that went there. This involved forgetting which group one was with, or missing it because one was somewhere else. The staff must have had a lot of fun.

Somehow or other — I shudder to think of the problem — the 159 little horrors were bedded down more equably. The Sisters came down from London to cook more wholesome food than that provided by hotel chefs. Classrooms were allocated and gradually we turned into a boarding school proper. While the adults among us were pre-occupied with this work we were discovering the joys of sand, sea and sky. Magpie like, we began to collect seaweed, shells and sea gulls' feathers. I would have collected fish if I could have persuaded Sister Martha to let me have a jam-jar — and the great business of teaching us to be tidy began."



The Opening of the Merici Block by His Lordship, Bishop Doubleday.

Left to right: Very Rev. Mgr. O'Grady, Rev. Dr. Heenan, now Archbishop of Liverpool, Mr. Hammond, Mr. M. Hudson, Rev. Mother Magdalen Bellasis, Rt. Rev. Bishop Doubleday, Mr. J. Roof, Mr. H. Horn, Rev. Fr. Adrian, O.F.M.

New Developments

The return from Cornwall and the end of the war brought problems of development following on the Education Act of 1944. The Governors of St. Angela's, under the chairmanship of Reverend Mother Mary Angela Boord and with the sympathy and support of the Education Committees of East Ham and West Ham, conceived a scheme which, with its breadth of vision, enterprise and audacity, meant a greater change, nay, an even more violent reversal, than any event in the history of Upton. Reverend Mother Angela Mary Reidy, after steering the course of St. Angela's through war-time conditions, was now called upon to meet another challenge. St. Angela's would be a multilateral school comprising Grammar, Technical and Modern streams; it would sacrifice its exclusiveness and double its size; the nuns would give up some of their garden; and the Convent would show its trust in Providence by shouldering an enormous debt.



Reverend Mother Angela
Mary Reidy, Provincial. 1962.

In that way, the dignity, the culture, the self discipline, the spiritual opportunities of St. Angela's would be offered to all Catholic girls from more than twenty parishes on the east side of London.

To meet the needs of this extension the Merici block was built along Upton Lane and was completed by 1954. Its attractive classrooms now house the Modern Department of the school. The Old House which stood on this site for nearly 300 years has gone and only its ancient cellars, concealed beneath the trim facade, remain to serve a new generation.

The assurance that this bold experiment was succeeding, in spite of the complexity of the problems inherent in such an undertaking, was given at the General Inspection of 1949.



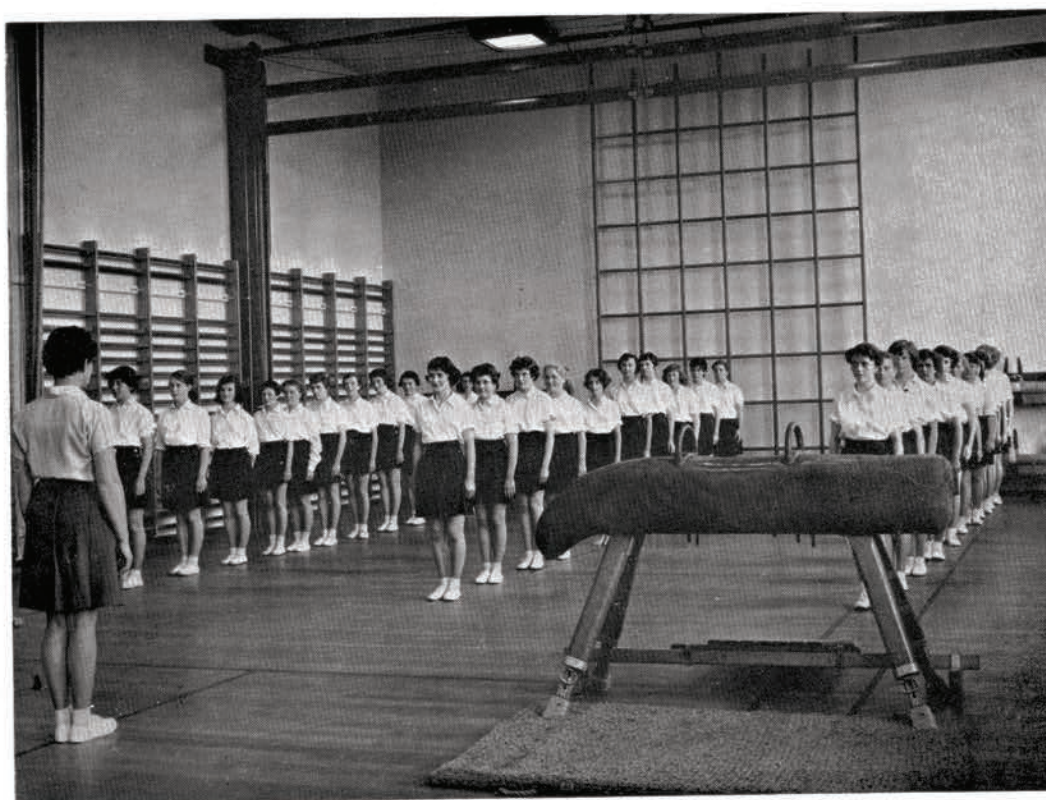
At the pottery wheel.



A typing class.



The Missions Corner
and part of the
Middle School Library.



A Gymnastic Class
with Miss Willsheer.

It was then recognised that there had been a conspicuous measure of success and that many children whose schooldays might have been vastly different were being given a formative and appropriate education. "Here girls learn to exercise that self-control, to acquire those good manners which are part and parcel of the tradition of the gentlewoman. They are happy, friendly, modest girls, who seem, in the light of the spiritual values reflected in the School, to have already gained a sense of service and of purpose in their lives." This measure of success was to a large degree due to the devoted and competent co-operation of the secular staff and the nuns.

Building continued after 1949. The practical wing known as Brescia, was added to provide a fine Gymnasium, Science, Craft and Cookery rooms. The Community are shouldering the burden of the debt incurred, with the generous support of the parents who contribute regularly to the Building Fund.

Now that the building scheme has been completed we hope for the result foreseen at the Inspection:—"Here will be a school which, by the Christian influence it is able to exert, will play a major role in the civilisation of the wide neighbourhood it serves."

His Lordship, Bishop Beck with Mgr. O'Grady and Mr. Richard Stokes at the opening of Brescia.





Mother Benedict at the Fair.

The Last Decade

The last ten of these hundred years have been spent under the headship of Mother Benedict Davies. A five stream entry each year embarks on life at St. Angela's under the patronage of the English Cardinals, Wiseman, Manning, Newman, Hinsley and Fisher.

These 800 to 900 Brownies have maintained the traditional high standards of the Brownies of earlier days, distinguishing themselves in games, drama and music.

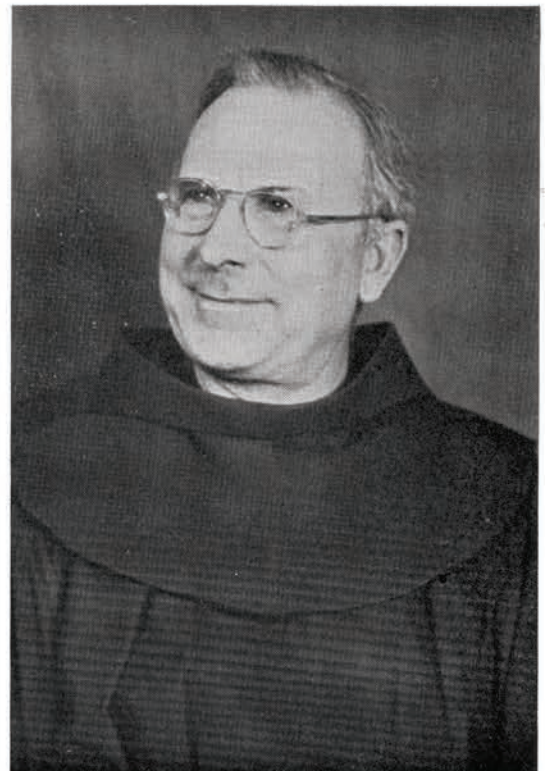
The Staff Common Room.





Prize giving 1949. Les cloches de Corneville.

Beginning with the little school in Sun Row, transferred to the convent as St. Ursula's, where the fee was a penny a week, the Ursulines of Upton have carried on their work of education successively in the small St. Philomena's day school, in the Boarding School, in St. Angela's High School, and now, at the close of their first hundred years, in St. Angela's Multilateral School. This was the legacy of their Foundress, St. Angela Merici, that they should change according to the needs of the times.





Sister Lawrence, at 91, feeds the birds. She is the link between the first community, of whom she knew Rev. M. Victoire and Mother Magdalen Beckers, and the present community.



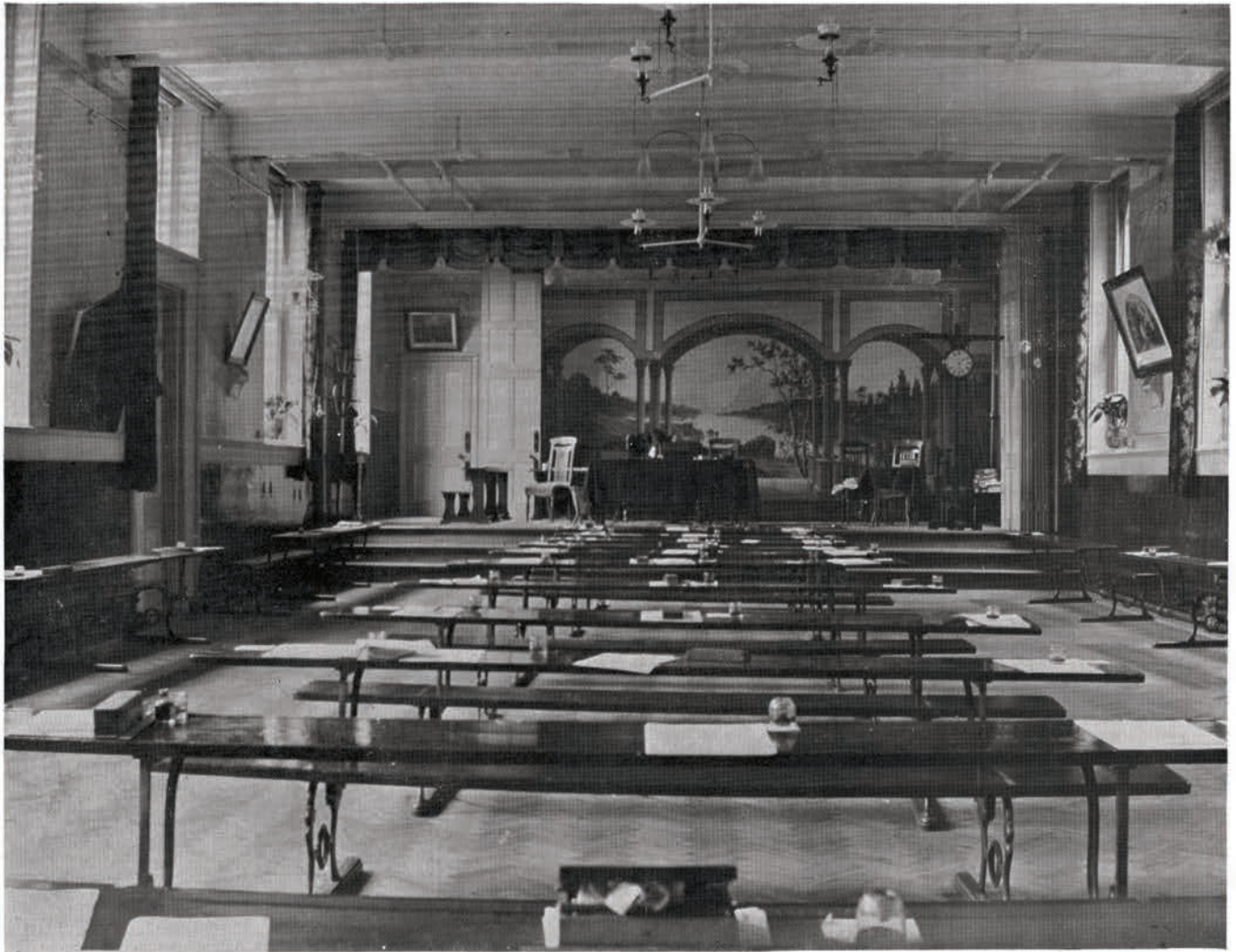
The Centenary Committee
in the Entrance Hall.

The End of a Century

8th May 1962 brings to a close the first hundred years of the Ursuline Community at Upton and as each of their days ends, and looks towards the next, with the prayer of Compline, so ends this record of the century.

We beg of Thee, O Lord, to visit this House of Thine and drive away from it the snares of our enemy, the devil; may Thy holy angels dwell herein to guard us in peace and may your blessing remain always with us.





A photograph, recently discovered, of the first Assembly Hall, as it was from 1889 to 1914, known to present Brownies as three classrooms, one of which is still called the stage classroom.