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Edited by Ann Phillips
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EDITED BY
ANN PHILLIPS
FELLOW OF NEWNHAM COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



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CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	ix
<i>c.1869</i> FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS H. M. Kempthorne	1
1871 THE FIRST FIVE STUDENTS M. Wright	2
1871 74 REGENT STREET M. Paley Marshall	3
1875 NEWNHAM HALL North Hall Diary	5
1876 INNOCENT GAIETY M. de G. Verrall	5
1878 KING'S COMES ROUND D. Ll. G. Jones	9
1879 AN INCONSPICUOUS STUDENT E. M. Sharpley	10
1880 THE SIDGWICKS IN RESIDENCE M. A. Willcox	13
1881 THE THREE GRACES	16
1881 HURRAH! WE HAVE WON! E. A. Andrews	17
1881 A LETTER TO MR A. J. BUTLER A. J. Clough, E. M. Sidgwick	20
1881 EPIGRAM ON THE PASSING OF THE GRACES R. C. Jebb	20
1881 A COLLEGE WITH STATUS K. M. Rathbone	21
1884 THE MAKING OF SIDGWICK AVENUE B. A. Clough	24
1885 THE KINDEST OF KIND CREATURES W. Seebohm	30
<i>c.1890</i> P. G. FAWCETT Anon.	33
1889–92 COLLEGE FOOD C. D. Dampier	34
<i>c.1892</i> A RAG DANCE Anon.	36
1894 A CHANGE OF FRONT J. Peile	37
1896 WOMEN ON SUFFERANCE C. Crowther	37
1898 AN ENDLESS FOUNTAIN G. M. L. Thomas	40
1899 'STUDENTS MAY RIDE THE BICYCLE' M. A. Quiggin	44
1900 QUEEN ANNE AND MARY ANNE F. M. Brown	47
1901 'TO ESCORT, SIXPENCE' M. W. Balcombe	48
1901 REGULARITY AND MODERATION G.A.P.S. minutes	49
1901 IN NEWNHAM WALK E. G. Brown	50
1901 A REVOLUTIONARY AT HEART M. I. Corbett Ashby	51
1902 SOCIAL CUSTOMS E. Terry	53
1903 TO AN INVIGILATOR K. K. Pinsent	55
1904 'POLITICAL' M. Wolstenholme	56
1904 TO TRINITY UNCHAPERONED D. S. Simon	58
	(v)

Contents

1904–6 LETTERS TO A SISTER M. H. Dodds	<i>page</i> 59
1906 RULES OF NEWNHAM COLLEGE (AS REVISED) E. Radford	65
1906 FRIENDSHIPS F. M. Wilson	65
1906 EVERY TRIPPER ‘The Minor Poets’	69
1907 MISS FREUND H. Wilson	71
1907 INVITATION TO THE PERIODIC TABLE I. Freund	72
1907 THE MAY RACES E. K. Bradfield, G. F. Gabb	73
1907 A DISCREET PERSON A. V. Clarke	75
1908 NEWNHAM SCIENTISTS M. D. Ball	76
1909 WOMEN IN LABORATORIES D. Thacker	78
1909 COLLEGE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS <i>Thersites</i>	80
1903–28 AN UNINTERRUPTED VIEW M. A. Radley	81
1911 THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS M. Deanesly	85
1911 THE SUFFRAGE MARCH M. E. Holland	86
1911 THE RISE OF COMMITTEES North Hall Diary	87
1911 THE HERETICS G. F. Fox	87
1911 £5 PER TERM W. Gascoigne	89
1911 A REMNANT PARTY S.P.I.F. minutes	91
1912 THE GIRTON MATCH M. M. McArthur	91
1912 ALL HALLOWS’ E’EN, 1912 S.P.I.F. minutes	93
1912 LIFE IN PEILE HALL M. R. Levyns	95
1914 WHAT A CHANGE THERE WAS! M. E. Alcock	98
1914 ‘PALEY’S GHOST’ O. J. M. Cusack	100
1915 A RIPPING TIME N. McC. Smith	101
1915 ‘B.A. IS HERE’ M. Butterworth	102
1915 THE GARDENS AND THE HALLS M. E. Waterhouse	103
1916 PROPRIETY BEFORE PUNCTUALITY O. W. Pound	106
1916 A SHORT ACQUAINTANESHIP M. Dawes	106
1916 THE UNEXPECTED S.R.C. minutes	107
1916 A THREE YEARS’ FAST E. M. Riley	107
1916 THE RAINBOW IS DISCOVERED Sister Phyllis, C.S.M.V.	111
1917 TOUJOURS ANGLO-SAXON N. McC. Smith	113
1917 COUNTING ON THE SHEEP North Hall Diary	115
1917 A RESTLESS GENERATION M. G. Wallas	116
1918 ARMISTICE DAY SIEGE D. C. Booth	119
1918 ‘POISONOUS PLACE’ K. B. MacP. Cope	126
1918 FROM THE CHINESE: E.M.M., J.B. J. P. Strachey	131
1919 AN ISOLATED COMMUNITY A. I. Richards	131
1919 A FAMILY R. D. Morton Evans, G. E. Pearse, K. C. Prior, S. E. B. Smale	135

Contents

1920 YEARS OF RENAISSANCE D. L. Halliday	<i>page</i> 136
1920 SMOKING J.C.S.S. minutes	143
1920 A CORNER ROOM IN OLD HALL K. D. McKeag	143
1920 INSURANCE AGAINST PROCTORIAL RISK <i>Thersites</i>	147
1921 THE BREAKING OF THE GATES M. E. Henn	148
1921 'IN AND OUT THE WINDOWS' J.C.S.S. minutes	151
c.1921 A YOUNG RESEARCH FELLOW E. E. H. Welsford	151
1922 WITH REST AND REFRESHMENT I. M. Shewell-Cooper	154
1922 THE ART OF THEORISING E. M. R. Russell-Smith	155
1923-5 FIRE-LIGHTERS AND PREMISCONCEPTIONS M. A. Scott	159
1925 MET BY MOONLIGHT K. M. Drabble	161
1925 'SHE SHIMMIES LIKE THE DEUCE' S. Keith-Walters	162
1925 SONGS FROM A PANTOMIME <i>Thersites</i>	164
c.1926 SUNDAY NIGHTS IN KENNEDY M. E. Grimshaw	165
1926 THE NEWNHAM RIDDLE R. L. Cohen	167
1926 WESLEY'S ELDER SISTER D. E. Whitford	168
1928 A BAD EIGHT A. D. Winchcombe	170
1929 MRS WOOLF COMES TO DINE E. E. Duncan-Jones	172
1929 A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN U. K. N. Stevenson	174
c.1929 PLUM STONES RHYME, PEILE HALL Anon	175
1929 THE TABLE IN THE GALLERY A. G. Storrs Fox	176
1929 'I DIDN'T LIKE NEWNHAM' K. A. Rees	177
1930 A ROLL OF HONOUR R. Meares	179
1930 MRS PALMER AND PEILE M. Ingledeew	179
1931 FLYING... Tutors' Committee minutes	181
1932 ...AND RIDING Tutors' Committee minutes	181
1932 TALKING C. Storr	182
1934 SERIOUS TRAINING W. Blayney	185
1935 A GOOD DAY'S WORK B. D. Chapman	186
1935 AN OUTSIDER F. U. M. Dromgoole	188
1938 INVASION, 1938 J. B. Mitchell	194
1939 3 SEPTEMBER 1939: M. Mann Phillips	197
1940 ONE SHORT WAR YEAR D. F. Johnson	198
1940 THE UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL C. M. Leach	200
1940 WARWORK A. C. Dillon	201
1940-I A SIREN AT THE FEAST C. M. Davies	203
1941 FIRE PRACTICE E. Hollingsworth	204
1939-41 A TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE BOAT CLUB I. W. Preston	205
1942 MOCK BLITZ E. M. Hartley	208

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-13395-1 - A Newnham Anthology
 Edited by Ann Phillips
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

1942 RESOLUTION ABOUT THE CALL-UP S.R.C. minutes	<i>page</i> 210
1945 VE AND VJ G. B. Treacy	210
1945 DOMESTIC WORK M. Wood	214
1945 AN EXCESS OF GOWNS A. M. McEwen	217
1947 WAR AND WEATHER E. G. Capel	218
1947 MISS CHRYSTAL'S BLESSING N. S. Rinsler	223
c.1947 EDITH AND ENID D. Krook	224
1947 A SEQUEL Audrey Hulme	234
1948 ACADEMIC DRESS J.C.F.S. minutes	238
1948 THIRTEEN AND FOUR TO PAY J. K. Bowker	239
1949 'HOW DIFFICULT EDUCATION IS' F. M. Aitken	240
1949 MORNING A. L. Laski	243
1952 SIDNEYS V. M. Middleton	243
1954 HIGH MORAL TONE J. MacNaughton	244
1956 MEN IN HALL S. R. I. Babbage	256
c.1958 AN AMBIANCE OF PEACE N. J. R. Crompton	257
1960 FEATURES OF COLLEGE LIFE M. R. M. Handurukande	258
1963 THE KITCHEN SUGGESTIONS BOOK R. M. Willatts	259
1965 RETURN FROM MINNESOTA M. Matthews	262
1966 THE QUALITIES OF PEOPLE V. W. Grosvenor Myer	264
1969 <i>In loco parentis</i> J.C.F.S. minutes	267
1969 THE ASCENT OF STRACHEY TOWER B. Harriss	267
1971 LEARNING AND INVENTION J. M. Sprince	269

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-13395-1 - A Newnham Anthology
 Edited by Ann Phillips
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

ILLUSTRATIONS

Henry Sidgwick lecturing to Newnham students (M. Wright)	<i>page</i> 2
Map of the Newnham area, 1888 (Cambridgeshire Collection, Cambridgeshire Libraries)	26 and 27
Armistice night, 1918 (D. M. Field)	124

Between pp. 50 and 51

Newnham Tripos candidates, 1885	
The hockey team, 1891	
The 'staff', about 1890	
Four Principals	
Newnham Hall, 1875	
North Hall, about 1890	
Tea in South Hall, about 1890	
A student's room in Clough Hall, about 1900	
The damaged gates at Pfeiffer Building, 1921	
Warwork in the College gardens, 1941	
Fire-fighting drill on Old Hall roof, 1941	
In the Library	
Dinner in Clough Hall (Central Office of Information photograph: Crown copyright reserved)	

INTRODUCTION

The idea of an anthology mainly made up of reminiscences of former students of Newnham arose when the College was discussing the commemorative side of its centenary celebrations. Although it was realized that the Anthology would not be completed in time for the centenary itself (in 1971), the Governing Body gave its approval to the idea and the collecting of material was begun. It took some years for all the material to come in, and the editing of it has been a slow process: nevertheless, this volume is a part of the College's celebration of a hundred years of its own history.

It was always our intention that the Anthology should present a student's-eye view of the College. There is little here, accordingly, of the kind of history which is made in meetings of the Council and Governing Body; and I have made very little use of the writings of any non-members of Newnham, although there were one or two items I could not resist.

I have in every case tried to let the contributors speak for themselves. Where two people have made the same point in different ways, I have kept both; where two accounts of an event or a period differ in ways it would be impossible, or improper, to reconcile, I have left them to do so. Editing has been restricted to cutting the uninformatively repetitious and adding occasional notes. In particular, contemporary material, such as letters, diaries and minutes, has been left with its idiosyncratic spelling and punctuation, and not subjected to the mild degree of standardization used for later writing.

Editorial conventions are simple. The few interpolations in square brackets in the text, and notes in small type at the foot of some items, are editorial. Dates at the head of pages are those most appropriate to the subject-matter, as are those in the contents list; dates following the names of authors at the foot of individual items are those of their coming up to Newnham.

Besides the contributions especially written for the Anthology, material composed for earlier occasions and stored in the College archives was combed through and drawn upon: so that the 'present day' referred to by the writers of reminiscences may not always be the nineteen-seventies or even the nineteen-sixties, as is apparent from the text itself.

Introduction

I drew also upon *Thersites*, the Newnham students' magazine (running from 1909 to 1938) and the North Hall Diary, a handwritten account of the main events of each term (running from the beginning of the College to 1919).

A general note on the nomenclature may be helpful. The original College building was Newnham Hall (1875); with the opening of North Hall in 1880 Newnham Hall became South (see the map, pages 26 and 27). When the third building was completed in 1888 a new procedure was adopted: South became Old Hall, North took on the name of Sidgwick (after the College's prime founder and his wife, later to be Principal), and the name of the new Hall, Clough, honoured the College's first Principal. Thereafter naming proceeded sedately with the names of founders, benefactors and Principals – Pfeiffer, Kennedy, Peile, Fawcett and Strachey in due order. The other point of confusion is over the titles 'Vice-Principal' and 'Tutor'. Each Hall not resided in by the Principal herself had in the early days a resident Vice-Principal (few institutions can boast a Principal and four Vice-Principals, but Newnham for years had this distinction). In 1918, when the College received its Charter, the title of these officers became Tutor. Before that date, and occasionally thereafter, 'tutor' generally means 'supervisor'; I have tried to separate this usage by giving it a lower-case 't'.

Many people have helped with the work. At the outset, most of the impetus for the planning of the book came from Rosemary McCabe, and it was her enthusiasm which roused the interest of many of the contributors. The organization of the early stages was presided over by Elisabeth Brown, who kept a check on the correspondence and let nothing escape unfiled and uncatalogued. Margaret Grimshaw and Barbara White, with their great knowledge of the College's living history, answered a great many questions beginning 'Who was' and 'When did' and (perhaps most usefully of all) 'Where can I find'.

I am grateful to all these people: to the many contributors who made the book by sitting down to write, by dictating tapes, and by hunting out letters, diaries and photographs; to the College Council, who relieved me of part of my normal duties for a term to give me time to get the editorial work going; to Jane Heal, who took on those duties in my place; to the University Press for its care of the book, and especially to my indefatigable subeditor, Clare Ballantyne; and to all the well-wishers who have written about the Anthology from time to time, remaining patient and hopeful in spite of the length of time the book has taken to come to completion.

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Introduction

I have tried to trace the owners of copyrights, but realize that there is a danger that I have not found them all: if so, I offer my apologies for the failure. Cambridge University Press kindly allowed me to reprint extracts from Mary Paley Marshall's *What I Remember*; George Allen and Unwin and the author's daughter, Mrs J. I. Kellett Carding, gave permission for quotation from Josephine Kellett's *That Friend of Mine*; and Routledge and Kegan Paul and the author, Victoria Glendinning, gave permission for quotation from *A Suppressed Cry*. Dr M. D. Glynne permitted me to use her mother's letter, called here "King's Comes Round". I should like to thank all of these benefactors.

I am grateful too to the people who sent material which for some reason I was unable to use. Even the unpublished has fed our archives, which have been much enriched by the spate not only of writing but of attic-searching which the news of the Anthology provoked. The archives remain open, though the Anthology is closed: new contributions, reminiscences, afterthoughts, and new discoveries made while turning out will all be welcome and will find their place in our records. It would be pleasant if the material were to continue its growth over the next hundred years and produce another volume then.

Ann Phillips

Newnham College