



*"The days gone by return upon me almost from the dawn of life".* So wrote the poet, but my mind goes back to a misty May morning thirty six years ago when I boarded a tramcar from the city and first glimpsed Nether Edge School. The buildings, as a school did not impress me but after being assured that new ones were contemplated I accepted the appointment offered me. One incident on that memorable day stands out clearly. It occurred when Mr. Buchan introduced me to another member of staff with the words, "And this is Fred", adding a few of his own witty comments. Little did I think then that it would be twenty five long though happy years before those new buildings took shape, nor that those two faithful colleagues would live to spend only a very short time in them. Neither did it occur to me that I would move into them as Headmaster.

We had hoped to have transported all our belongings into our new abode in the last week of the summer term 1958 but this proved impossible. As zero hour drew near our anxieties increased. Would the builders ever finish their task, we asked. And when we did finally enter into possession would that warm family spirit engendered in the narrow confines of Nether Edge be dissipated into thin air in our more spacious premises. When, however, in the last week of the holidays a whole army of staff and senior boys turned up, and with coats off set about restoring order out of chaos so that on the very first morning by 10.30 all except the new First years had embarked upon their new term's work I felt that our fears were groundless.

Never has a school been so quiet and subdued as on that first day — overawed by their surroundings and the discovery among many things of a real gymnasium at last and above all a playground where football could be indulged in without let or hindrance. It was all so overwhelming. At the end of that first day I came across a perplexed and somewhat alarmed boy who remarked, "Please sir, I can't get out". So Nether Edge wasn't the only prison after all.

G. W. W.