

HEREFORD HOUSE.

REUNION CLUB ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Hereford House Reunion Club was opened at the college yesterday morning. Hereford House at Forest Lodge is the Training College for candidates for teaching in small country schools.

The president of the club, Mr. G. J. Colditz, presided. Mr. G. Fraser, B.A., senior supervisor of Hereford House, extended, on behalf of the staff, a welcome to members of the club. Over 2000 students, he said, had passed through the college, and of this number 181 were on the honour roll for services at the war.

Mr. P. Board, Director of Education, was the chief speaker at the forenoon session. He commended the patriotic services of members. The club, he said, embraced many branches of activity, and was an object lesson to the children who came within the influence of those who had passed through the college. Coming to departmental matters, Mr. Board said that the short course would be extended from six to twelve months, beginning in May next, but how long this would last depended entirely upon "a mysterious person called the Treasurer." He hoped it would continue. Speaking of literature, particularly in relation to those in charge of one-teacher schools in isolated districts, Mr. Board said a certain amount of companionship could be found in books. He did not advocate intensive reading of the classics, but urged teachers to keep in touch with current literature, illustrating the spirit of the present age. He warned them, however, that the great fault with many novel readers was that they were not readers only. There was a lot of good current literature, and one of the teachers' first charges on their monthly cheque should be a subscription to a good city library, because country libraries were very frequently deficient in the intellectual type of book. Though bursaries had been specially set aside for small schools, the examinations had proved that the students were well able to hold their own with those in the city, thus almost doing away with any necessity for special bursaries.

Mr. Board also reverted to a promise made in October that a summer school would, on the representation of the club, be held. This school, he said, would be held this year conditionally on the club sending to Mr. Dawson, Chief Inspector, a satisfactory programme. The department would meet teachers half-way; that was, if the teachers put in a week at the summer school, the department would allow them an additional week's vacation.

The annual report, which was adopted, set out that the membership at the end of December was 330. The programme for the summer school, so far as it had been thought out, would, it was also stated, deal with the solution of many difficulties found in carrying out the work of the small country schools.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, Corporal C. Murphy; vice-presidents, Miss H. Williams and Mr. R. Simon; general secretary and treasurer, Miss Frances Baker.

HONOUR ROLL UNVEILED.

An Honour roll, bearing 181 names, to which seven have to be added, of students of the college, was unveiled in the afternoon by the Minister for Education, Mr. A. H. James. The chair was occupied by Professor Mackie, principal of the Teachers' College.

Mr. James said it was unfortunate that about 25 of the 187 who had undertaken war

service, principal of the Teachers' College. Mr. James said it was unfortunate that about 25 of the 187 who had undertaken war service would never return, but the college could feel proud of having contributed such a number of men—in fact, the Education Department right through could compare very favourably with any other department in this respect. It must have been a surprise to Germany that Australia had done so well. He regretted as much as anyone that there had been a referendum such as that taken recently, because by it Australia had achieved unenviable notoriety when they considered what had been done. New South Wales alone had sent 150,000 men, as against 105,000 sent from Victoria, though on percentages this State was second only to Western Australia. But it was important that 90 per cent. of the soldiers were educated in the Public schools, and that seemed to him to be the best answer to a number of critics who said that the education provided in the Public schools was not of benefit to the State. The schools would not turn out boys like those who had gone to the war if the education and the system were not good. He drew attention to the success of Mr. Chapman, who, coming from Norfolk Island, went away as a private, gained success in the field, and had now been selected to go to the United States to assist in training the soldiers of that country in bayonet work.

Professor Mackie and Mr. Henry gave short addresses.

A welcome home was extended to returned soldier teachers, on the proposition of Mr. Harold Dale, and was acknowledged by Corporal Murphy.