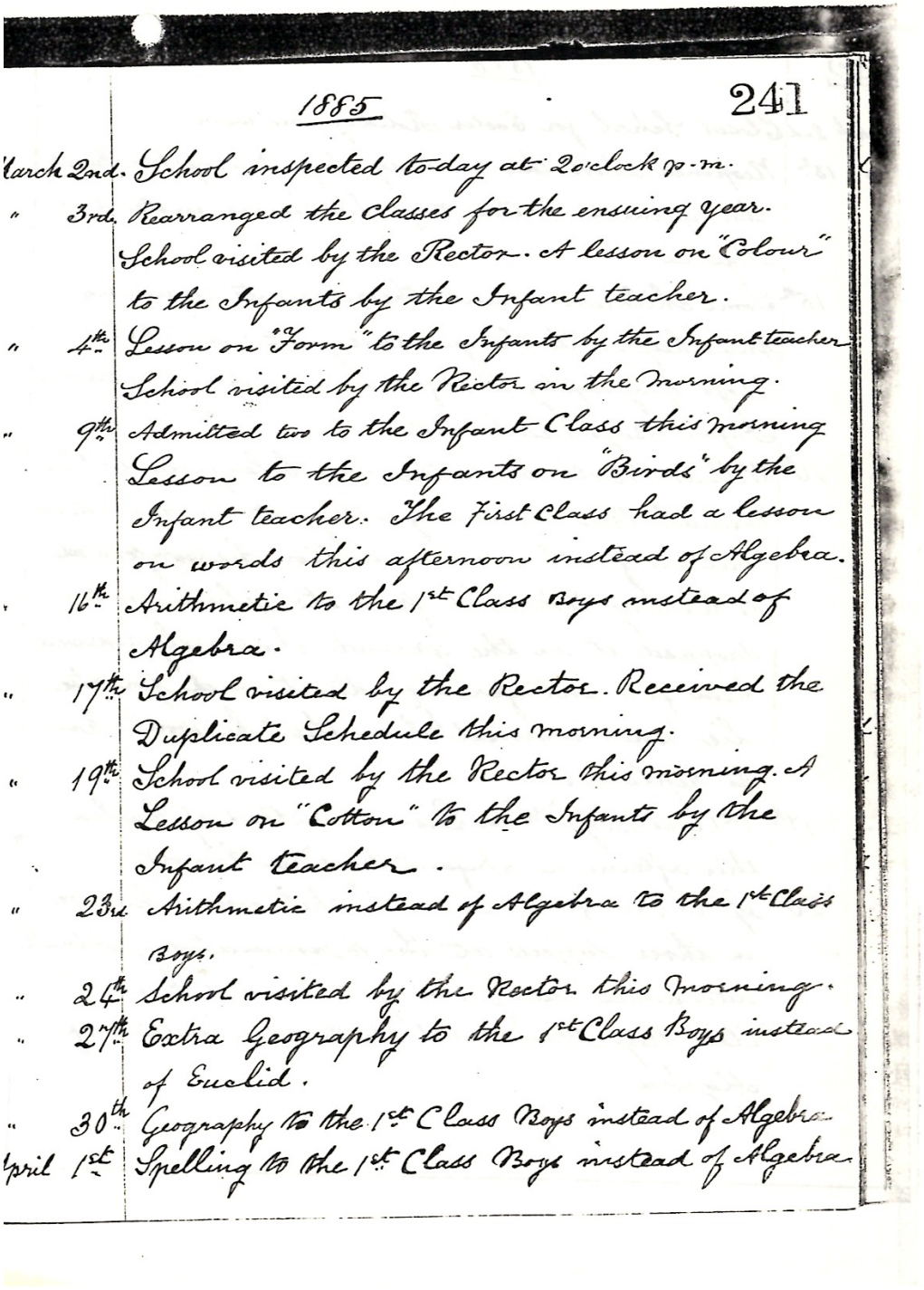
Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1885-86

Volume 1, pages 241-257 (17 pages)

Log book of Poulshot School kept by the headmaster, Hugh Leslie (1880-1915). Given to the Poulshot Village Trust by his granddaughter, with full rights to use and publish. Transcription: AWS Textract OCR corrected by Claude (AI) against the page image; it may contain errors - the page image is the authoritative record.

Produced 22 November 2026.



1885 241

[M]arch 2nd. School inspected to-day at 2o'clock p.m.

" 3rd. Rearranged the classes for the ensuing year. School visited by the Rector. A lesson on "Colour" to the Infants by the Infant teacher.

" 4th. Lesson on "Form" to the Infants by the Infant teacher School visited by the Rector in the morning.

" 9th. Admitted two to the Infant Class this morning Lesson to the Infants on "Birds" by the Infant teacher. The First Class had a lesson on words this afternoon instead of Algebra.

" 16th. Arithmetic to the 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra.

" 17th. School visited by the Rector. Received the Duplicate Schedule this morning.

" 19th. School visited by the Rector this morning. A Lesson on "Cotton" to the Infants by the Infant teacher.

" 23rd. Arithmetic instead of Algebra to the 1st Class Boys.

" 24th. School visited by the Rector this morning.

" 27th. Extra Geography to the 1st Class Boys instead of Euclid.

" 30th. Geography to the 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra

[A]pril 1st. Spelling to the 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra

Page 241

March 2nd. School inspected to-day at 2o'clock p.m.

" **3rd.** Rearranged the classes for the ensuing year. School visited by the Rector. A lesson on "Colour" to the Infants by the Infant teacher.

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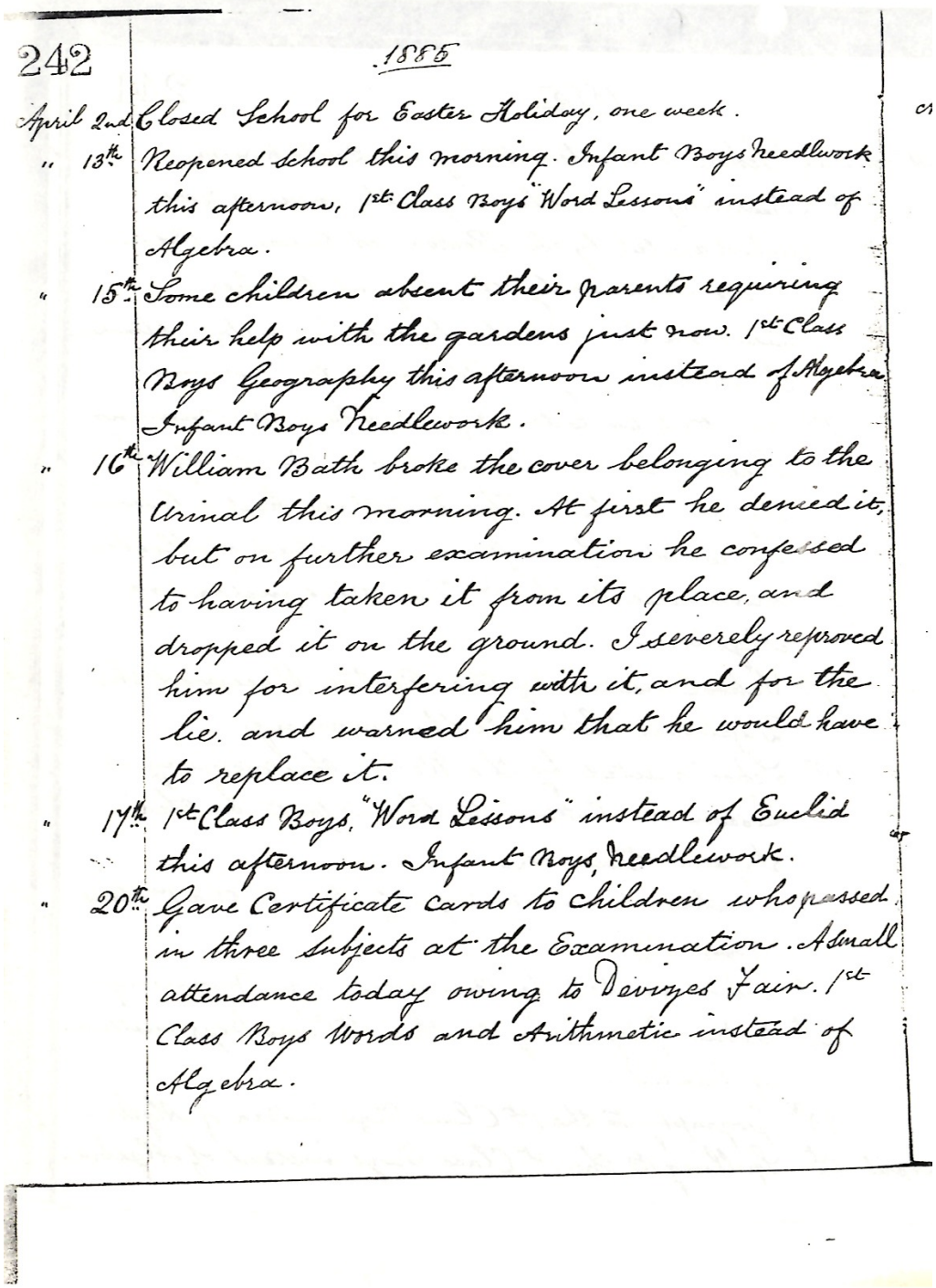
" **24th.** School visited by the Rector this morning.

" **27th.** Extra Geography to the 1st Class Boys instead of Euclid.

" **30th.** Geography to the 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra

April 1st. Spelling to the 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra

Uncertain readings: The left edge of the photograph cuts off the first letter of the margin months, so they are given as '[M]arch' and '[A]pril'.; The OCR has 'Arithmatic' for 23rd, but the page reads 'Arithmetic'.; '2o'clock' is written with no space between the figure and the word.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1885

April 2nd Closed School for Easter Holiday, one week.

" 13th Reopened school this morning. Infant Boys Needlwork this afternoon, 1st Class Boys "Word Lessons" instead of Algebra.

" 15th Some children absent their parents requiring their help with the gardens just now. 1st Class Boys Geography this afternoon instead of Algebra Infant Boys Needlework.

" 16th William Bath broke the cover belonging to the Urinal this morning. At first he denied it, but on further examination he confessed to having taken it from its place, and dropped it on the ground. I severely reproved him for interfering with it, and for the lie. and warned him that he would have to replace it.

" 17th 1st Class Boys, "Word Lessons" instead of Euclid this afternoon. Infant Boys, Needlework.

" 20th Gave Certificate cards to children who passed in three Subjects at the Examination. A small attendance today owing to Devizes Fair. 1st Class Boys Words and Arithmetic instead of Algebra.

Page 242

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Uncertain readings: Header year read as 1885; final digit could be taken for 6, but Easter 1885 (5 April) fits the closure on 2 April and reopening on 13 April; 'Needlwork' in the 13th entry is spelt without the second 'e' on the page

April 10th Summary of the Inspectors Report on the School:-

"The new School room appears to be well built and will undoubtedly prove a great boon to the parish. The scholars are in Satisfactory order and have on the whole passed fairly in the Elementary Subjects: although there are some scattered elements of weakness, among which the spelling of the second and third Standards is prominent. The Recitation is very fair: but the Grammar and Geography are much below par. The children of the second Standard have however done fairly in the latter subject. The Girls' Needlework is another point to which more attention might with advantage be directed. The most successful feature of the work of the school is the singing by note according to the Tonic-Sol-fa System, in which the children of the upper standards display considerable proficiency."

"The Infants have received a fair share of attention, although the children under

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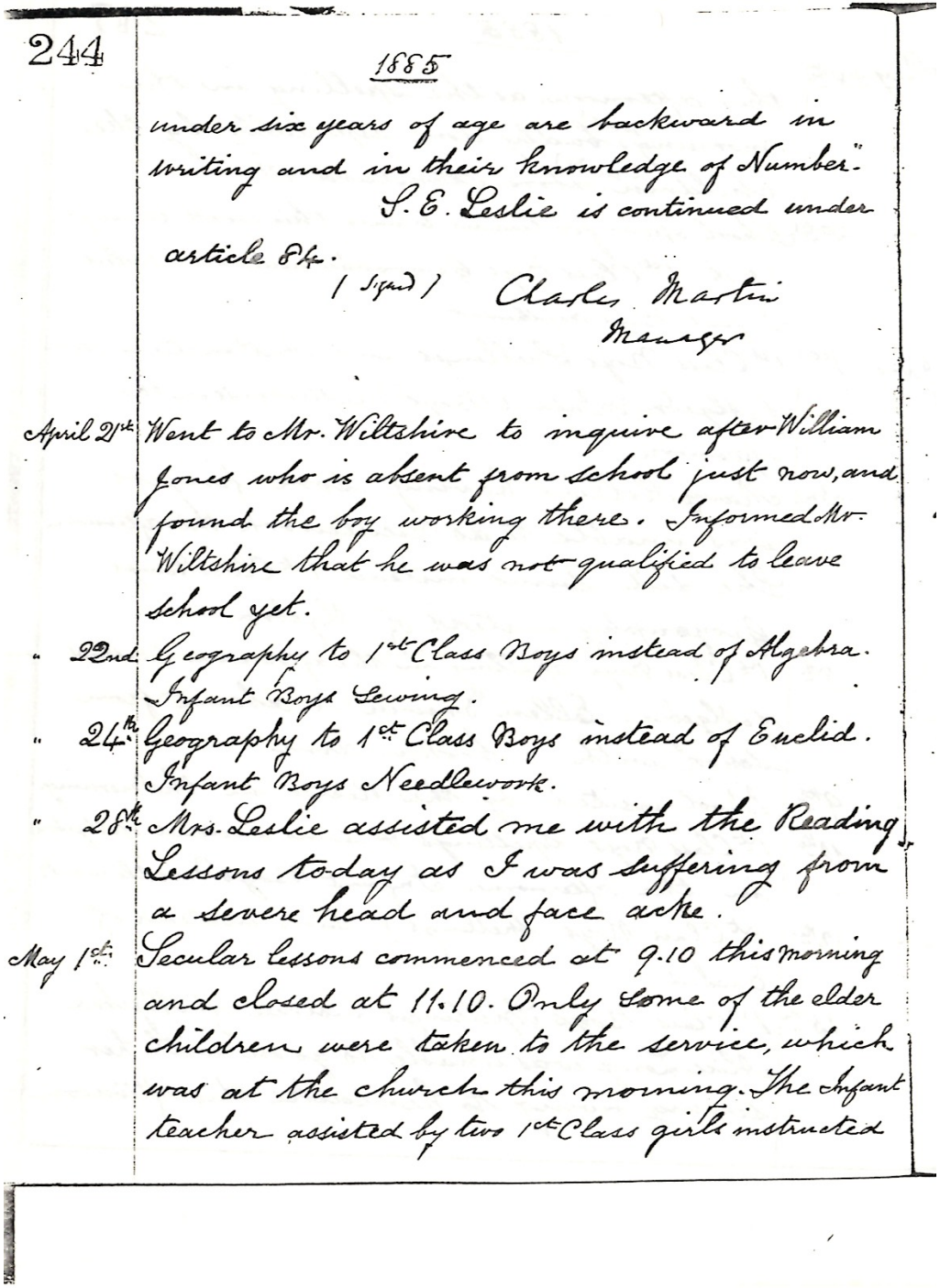
Uncertain readings: Opening and closing quotation marks around the report text are faint; 'Tonic-Sol-fa' is written with a hyphen joining 'Tonic' and 'Sol'; Last word 'under' is a catchword; the entry continues on page 244



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1885

under six years of age are backward in writing and in their knowledge of Number."
S. E. Leslie is continued under article 84.
(Signed) Charles Martin
Manager

April 21st Went to Mr. Wiltshire to inquire after William Jones who is absent from school just now, and found the boy working there. Informed Mr. Wiltshire that he was not qualified to leave school yet.

" 22nd Geography to 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra. Infant Boys Sewing.

" 24th Geography to 1st Class Boys instead of Euclid. Infant Boys Needlework.

" 28th Mrs. Leslie assisted me with the Reading Lessons today as I was suffering from a severe head and face ache.

May 1st Secular lessons commenced at 9.10 this morning and closed at 11.10. Only some of the elder children were taken to the service, which was at the church this morning. The Infant teacher assisted by two 1st Class girls instructed

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(continued from previous page)

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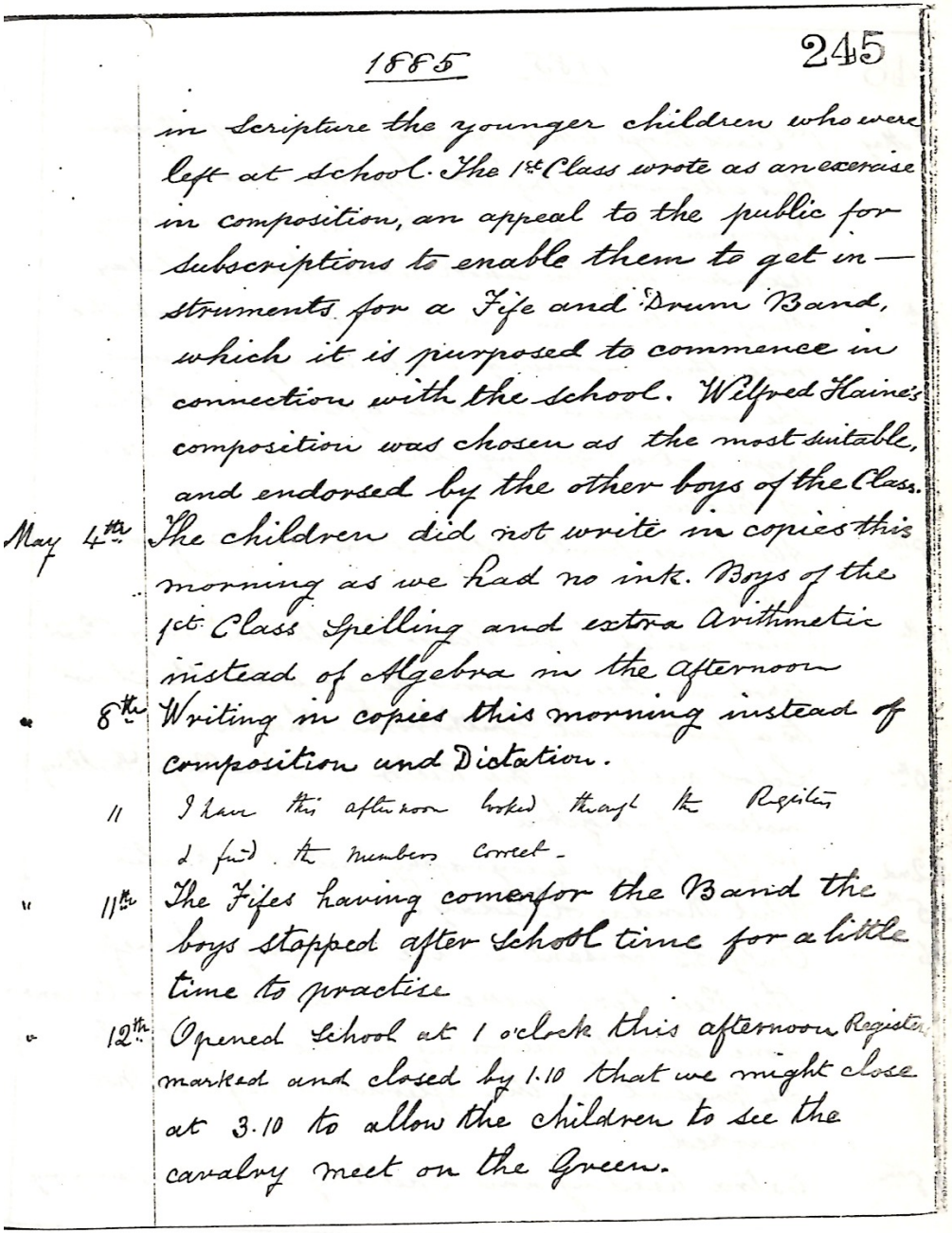
Uncertain readings: 'S. E. Leslie': OCR read 'I.E.'. The first initial looks like a cursive S.; '(Signed)' is written in small, abbreviated script, probably 'Sigd'.; 'Sewing' (22nd): the capital S is the same looped form used in 'Some', so the reading is likely but not certain.



1885 245

in Scripture the younger children who were left at school. The 1st Class wrote as an exercise in composition, an appeal to the public for subscriptions to enable them to get instruments for a Fife and Drum Band, which it is purposed to commence in connection with the school. Wilfred Haine's composition was chosen as the most suitable, and endorsed by the other boys of the Class.

May 4th The children did not write in copies this morning as we had no ink. Boys of the 1st Class Spelling and extra Arithmetic instead of Algebra in the afternoon

" 8th Writing in copies this morning instead of composition and Dictation.

" 11 I have this afternoon looked thro' the Registers & find the numbers Correct-

" 11th The Fifes having comefor the Band the boys stopped after School time for a little time to practise

" 12th Opened School at 1 o'clock this afternoon Register marked and closed by 1.10 that we might close at 3.10 to allow the children to see the cavalry meet on the Green.

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(continued from previous page)

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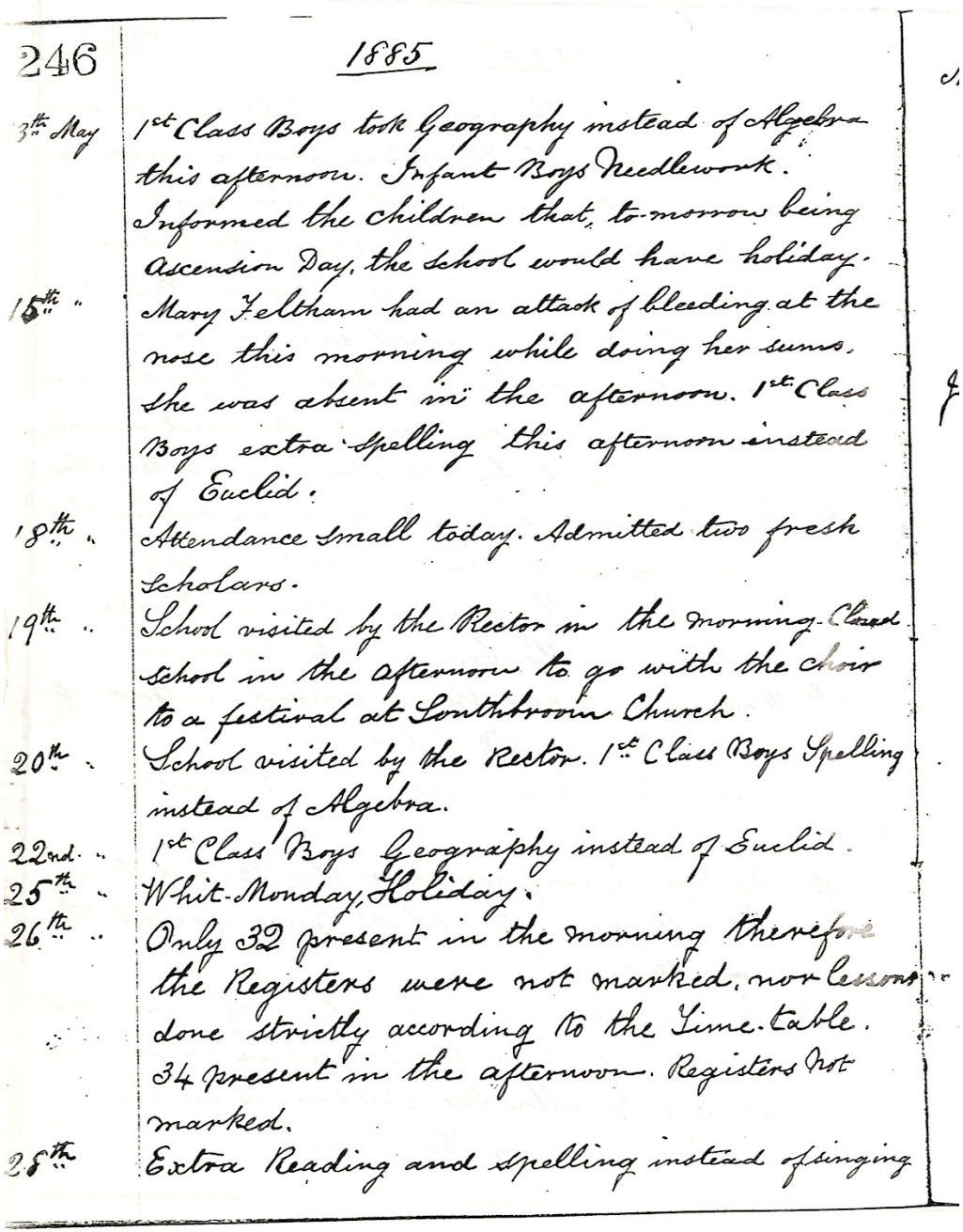
" 11th The Fifes having come for the Band the boys stopped after School time for a little time to practise

12th Opened School at 1 o'clock this afternoon Register marked and closed by 1.10 that we might close at 3.10 to allow the children to see the cavalry meet on the Green.

Uncertain readings: 'Wilfred Haine's' - surname could be Haine or Haines (apostrophe placement ambiguous); 'come for' - written run together, OCR read 'comenfor'; Entry for the 11th about the Registers is in a different, smaller hand (probably a manager), unsigned; 'stopped' - OCR read 'stapped'



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1885

3th May 1st Class Boys took Geography instead of Algebra this afternoon. Infant Boys Needlework. Informed the children that, to-morrow being Ascension Day, the school would have holiday.

15th " Mary Feltham had an attack of bleeding at the nose this morning while doing her sums. She was absent in the afternoon. 1st Class Boys extra Spelling this afternoon instead of Euclid.

18th " Attendance Small today. Admitted two fresh Scholars.

19th " School visited by the Rector in the morning. Closed school in the afternoon to go with the choir to a festival at Southbroom Church.

20th " School visited by the Rector. 1st Class Boys Spelling instead of Algebra.

22nd " 1st Class Boys Geography instead of Euclid.

25th " Whit-Monday, Holiday.

26th " Only 32 present in the morning therefore the Registers were not marked, nor lessons done strictly according to the Time-table. 34 present in the afternoon. Registers Not marked.

28th " Extra Reading and Spelling instead of singing

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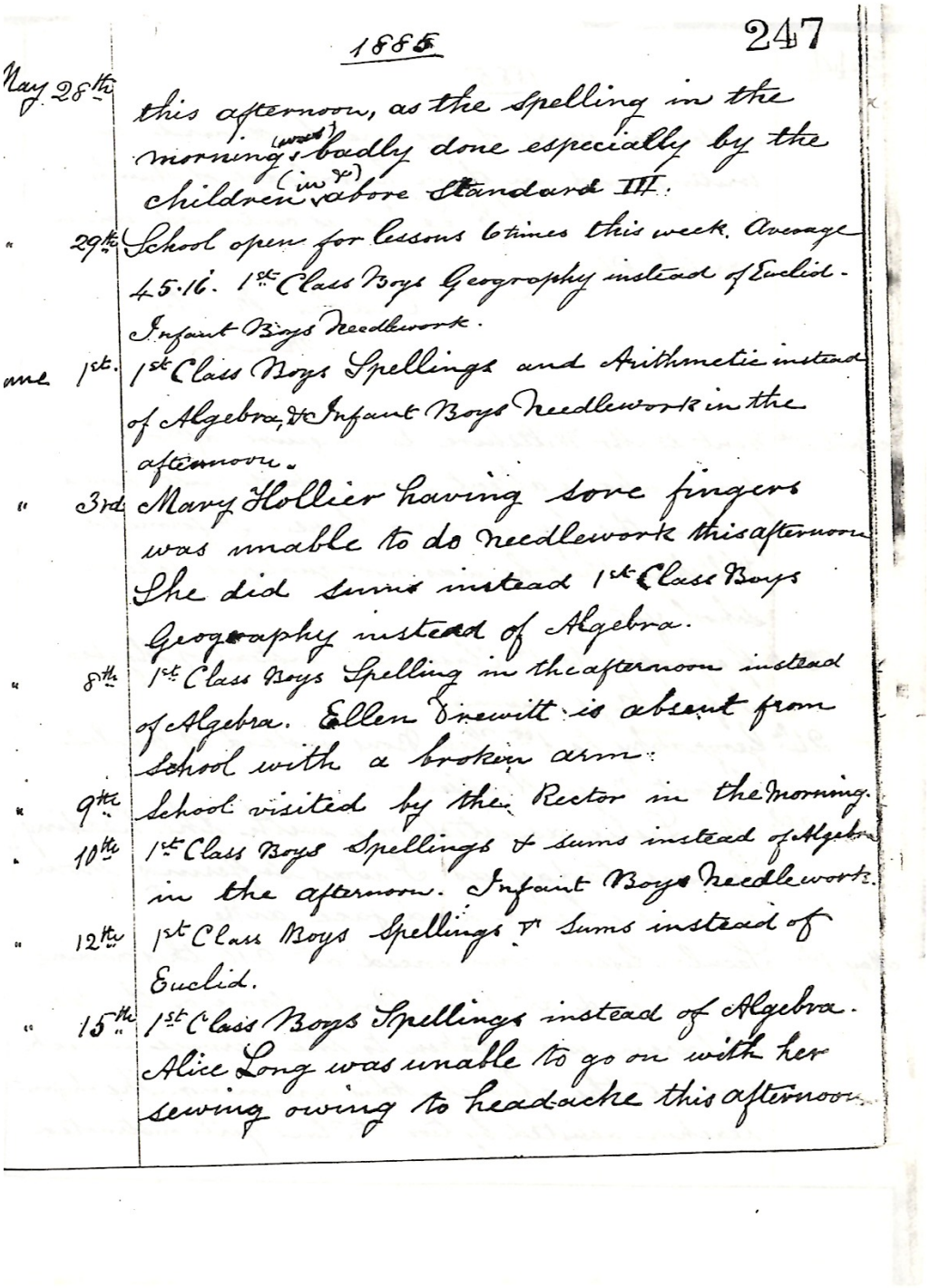
28th " Extra Reading and Spelling instead of singing

Uncertain readings: First margin date: the leading digit is cut off at the page edge, so only '3th May' shows. It is read as 13th because Ascension Day 1885 fell on 14 May, the 'to-morrow' the entry mentions.; Last margin date: read as '28th', but the second digit is faint.; Capital or lower-case S in 'Small', 'Scholars' and 'Spelling': the writer's initial S looks the same either way, so these follow how the page appears.; 'Registers Not marked': the N looks like a capital.



1885 247

May 28th this afternoon, as the spelling in the morning was badly done especially by the children in & above Standard III.

" 29th School open for lessons 6 times this week. Average 45.16. 1st Class Boys Geography instead of Euclid. Infant Boys needlework.

June 1st. 1st Class Boys Spellings and Arithmetic instead of Algebra, & Infant Boys needlework in the afternoon.

" 3rd Mary Hollier having sore fingers was unable to do needlework this afternoon She did sums instead 1st Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra.

" 8th 1st Class Boys Spelling in the afternoon instead of Algebra. Ellen Drewitt is absent from School with a broken arm.

" 9th School visited by the Rector in the morning.

" 10th 1st Class Boys Spellings & sums instead of Algebra in the afternoon. Infant Boys Needlework.

" 12th 1st Class Boys Spellings & Sums instead of Euclid.

" 15th 1st Class Boys Spellings instead of Algebra. Alice Long was unable to go on with her sewing owing to headache this afternoon.

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(continued from previous page)

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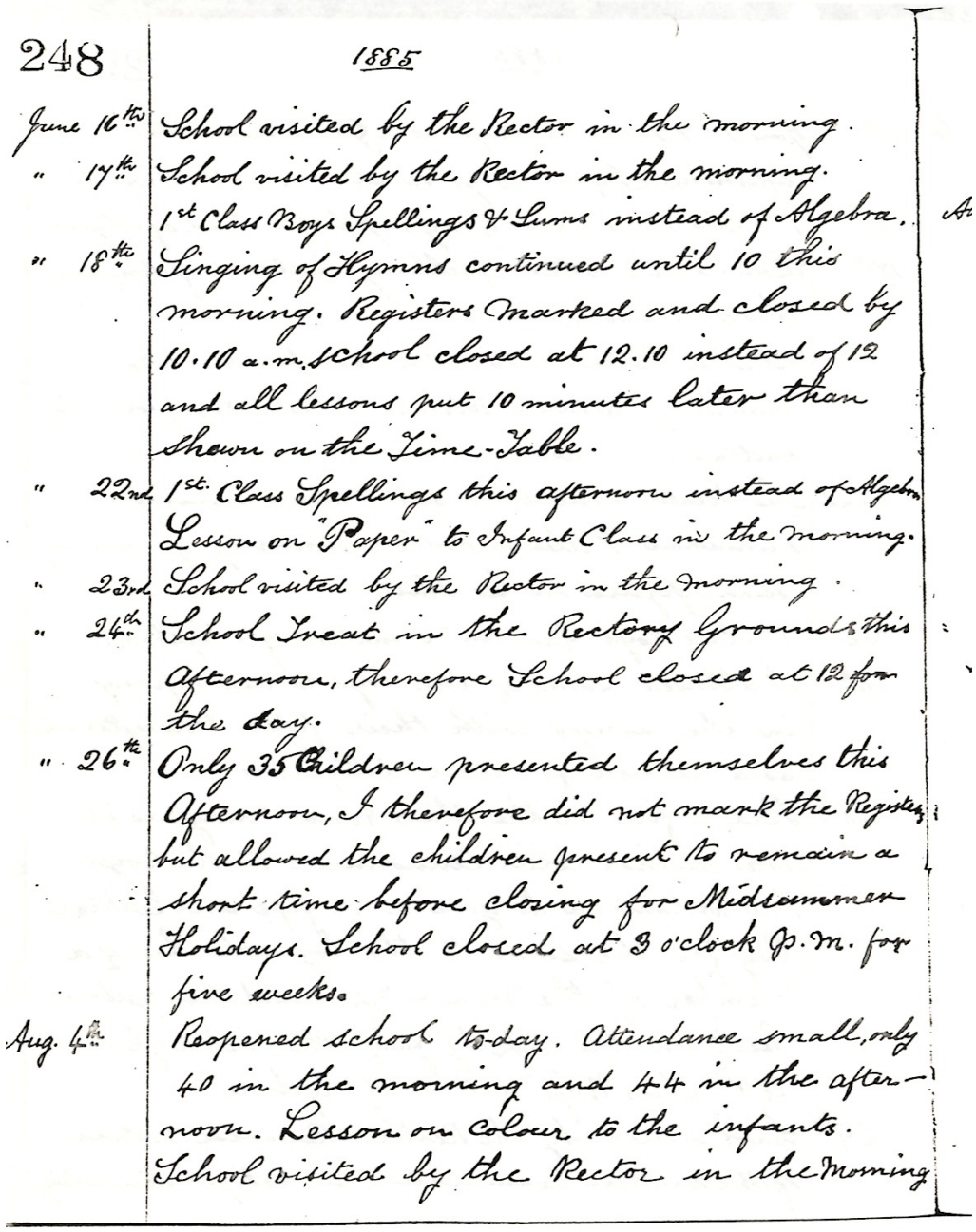
9th School visited by the Rector in the morning.

10th 1st Class Boys Spellings & sums instead of Algebra in the afternoon. Infant Boys needlework.

12th 1st Class Boys Spellings & Sums instead of Euclid.

15th 1st Class Boys Spellings instead of Algebra. Alice Long was unable to go on with her sewing owing to headache this afternoon.

Uncertain readings: Margin 'June' is cut off at the edge of the scan; only 'une' is visible; 'was' and 'in &' are written above the line as insertions; Average '45.16' could also be read '45.6'; 'Drewitt' starts with an unusual capital D that could be read as 'Irewitt'



248 1885

June 16th School visited by the Rector in the morning.

" 17th School visited by the Rector in the morning. 1st Class Boys Spellings & Sums instead of Algebra.

" 18th Singing of Hymns continued until 10 this morning. Registers marked and closed by 10.10 a.m. School closed at 12.10 instead of 12 and all lessons put 10 minutes later than shown on the Time-Table.

" 22nd 1st. Class Spellings this afternoon instead of Algeb Lesson on "Paper" to Infant Class in the morning.

" 23rd School visited by the Rector in the morning.

" 24th School Treat in the Rectory Grounds this afternoon, therefore School closed at 12 for the day.

" 26th Only 35 Children presented themselves this Afternoon, I therefore did not mark the Register but allowed the children present to remain a short time before closing for Midsummer Holidays. School closed at 3 o'clock p.m. for five weeks.

Aug. 4th Reopened school to-day. Attendance small, only 40 in the morning and 44 in the afternoon. Lesson on Colour to the infants.

School visited by the Rector in the Morning

Page 248

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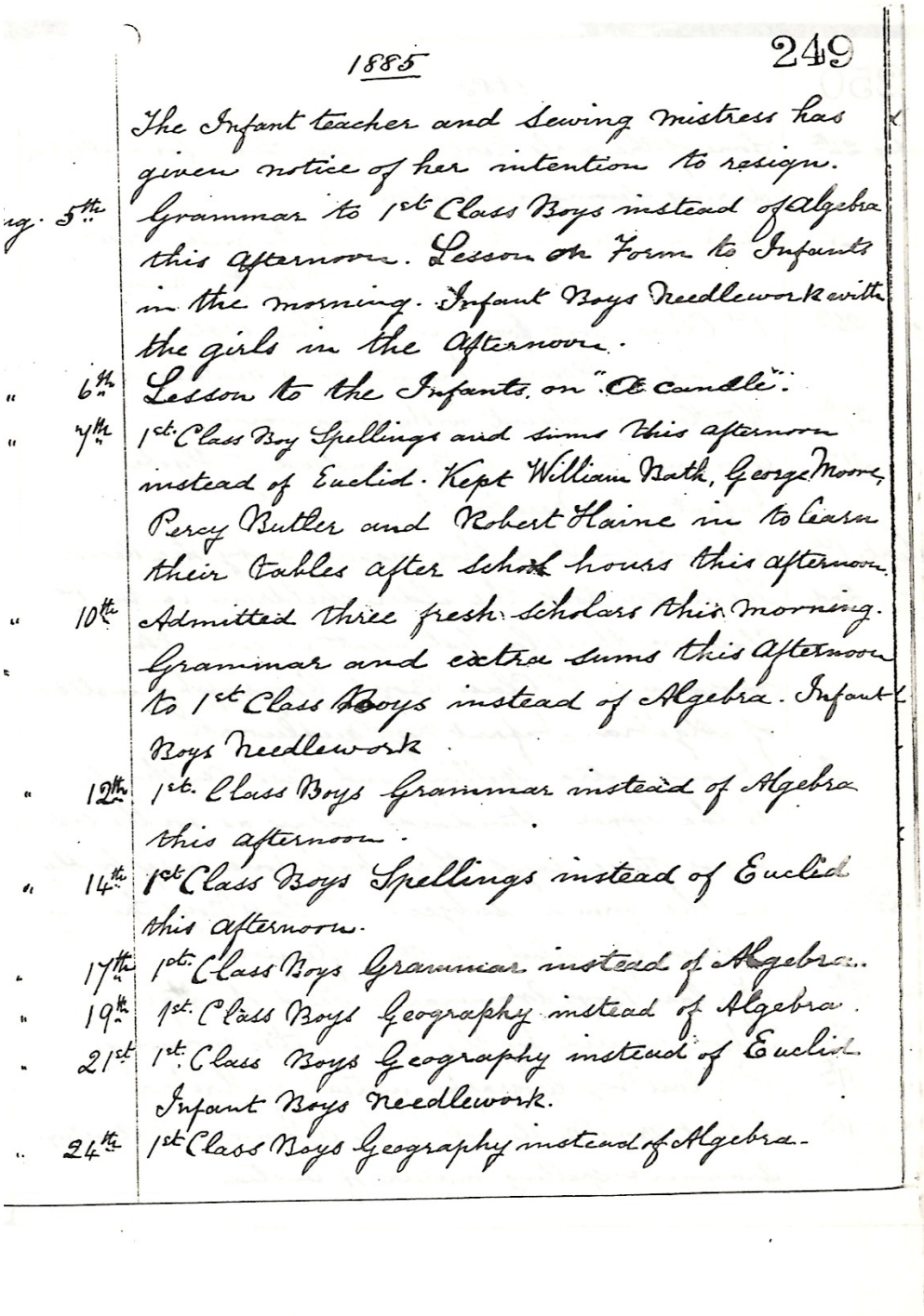
Uncertain readings: 22nd: last word runs into the margin and appears as 'Algeb...'; read as 'Algebra'; 26th: 'Register' is cut off at the right edge; 24th: 'Grounds this' are written close together; the ending may be read as 'Grounds&'; The 'A' in the right margin beside the 17th belongs to the facing page and is not transcribed



1885 249

The Infant teacher and Sewing mistress has given notice of her intention to resign.

[Au]g. 5th Grammar to 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra this afternoon. Lesson on Form to Infants in the morning. Infant Boys Needlework with the girls in the Afternoon.

" 6th Lesson to the Infants. on "A candle".

" 7th 1st Class Boy Spellings and sums this afternoon instead of Euclid. Kept William Bath, George Moore, Percy Butler and Robert Haine in to learn their Tables after school hours this afternoon.

" 10th Admitted three fresh scholars this morning. Grammar and extra sums this Afternoon to 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra. Infant Boys Needlework

" 12th 1st. Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra this afternoon.

" 14th 1st Class Boys Spellings instead of Euclid this afternoon.

" 17th 1st. Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra.

" 19th 1st. Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra.

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" 24th 1st Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra.

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" 14th 1st Class Boys Spellings instead of Euclid this afternoon.

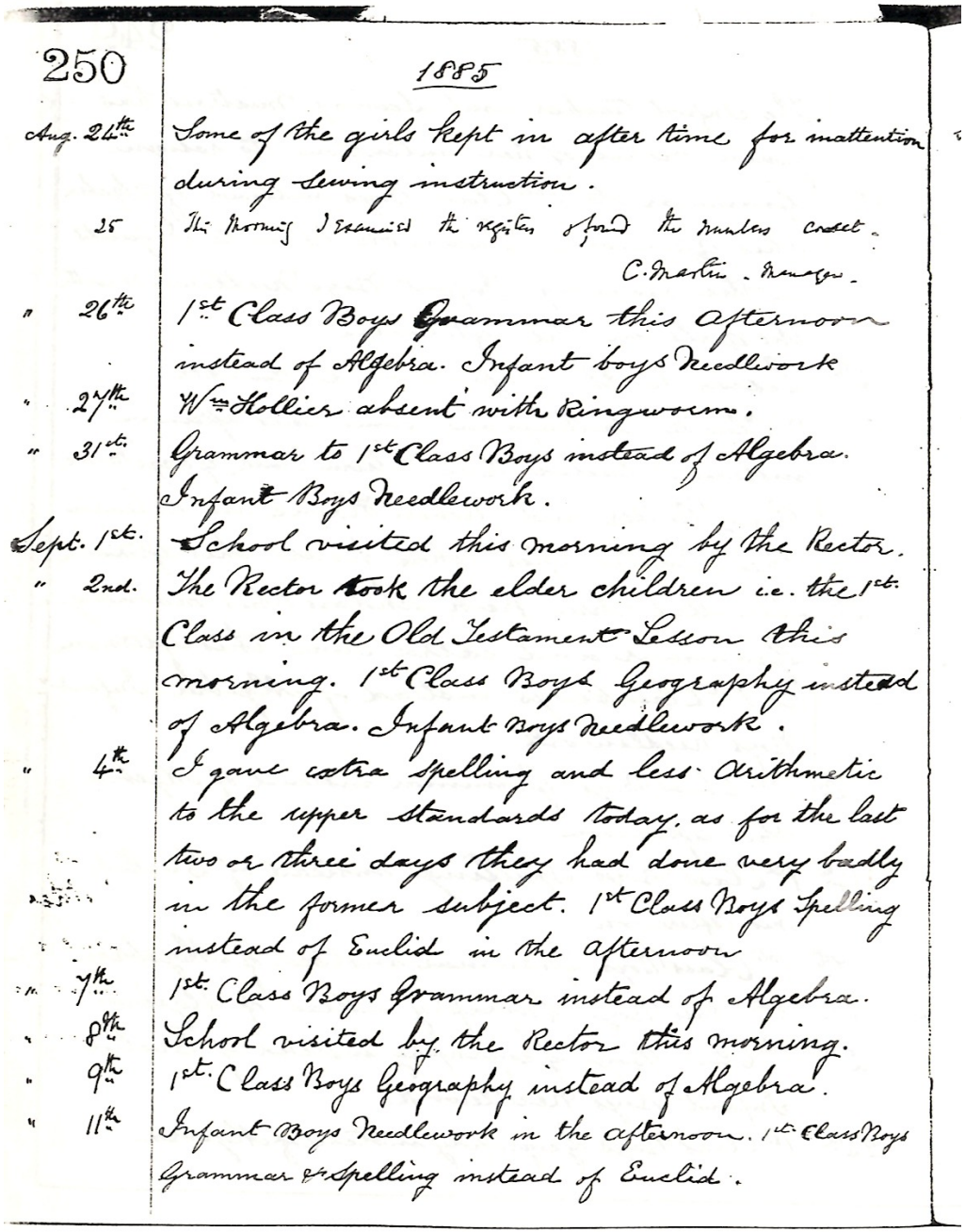
" 17th 1st. Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra.

" 19th 1st. Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra.

" 21st 1st. Class Boys Geography instead of Euclid Infant Boys Needlework.

" 24th 1st Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra.

Uncertain readings: Margin date for 5th is partly cut off at the edge; read as 'Aug.' from the visible '..g.'; Object lesson title on the 6th: '"A candle"'; the first letter is an odd form and the OCR gave 'OE'; 'Robert Haine': the surname could also be 'Haines' or 'Hains'; 'after school hours': the word 'school' looks overwritten or corrected; '1st. Class Boy Spellings' on the 7th: 'Boy' is singular as written; 'Lesson on Form': 'on' is written oddly



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1885

Aug. 24th Some of the girls kept in after time for inattention during Sewing instruction.

25 This Morning I Examined the register & found the numbers correct.
C. Martin. Manager.

" 26th 1st Class Boys Grammar this afternoon instead of Algebra. Infant boys Needlework

" 27th Wm Hollier absent with Ringworm.

" 31st Grammar to 1st Class Boys instead of Algebra. Infant Boys Needlework.

Sept. 1st. School visited this morning by the Rector.

" 2nd. The Rector took the elder children i.e. the 1st. Class in the Old Testament Lesson this morning. 1st Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra. Infant Boys Needlework.

" 4th I gave extra Spelling and less Arithmetic to the upper standards today. as for the last two or three days they had done very badly in the former subject. 1st Class Boys Spelling instead of Euclid in the afternoon

" 7th 1st Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra.

" 8th School visited by the Rector this morning.

" 9th 1st. Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra.

" 11th Infant Boys Needlework in the afternoon. 1st Class Boys Grammar & Spelling instead of Euclid.

Page 250

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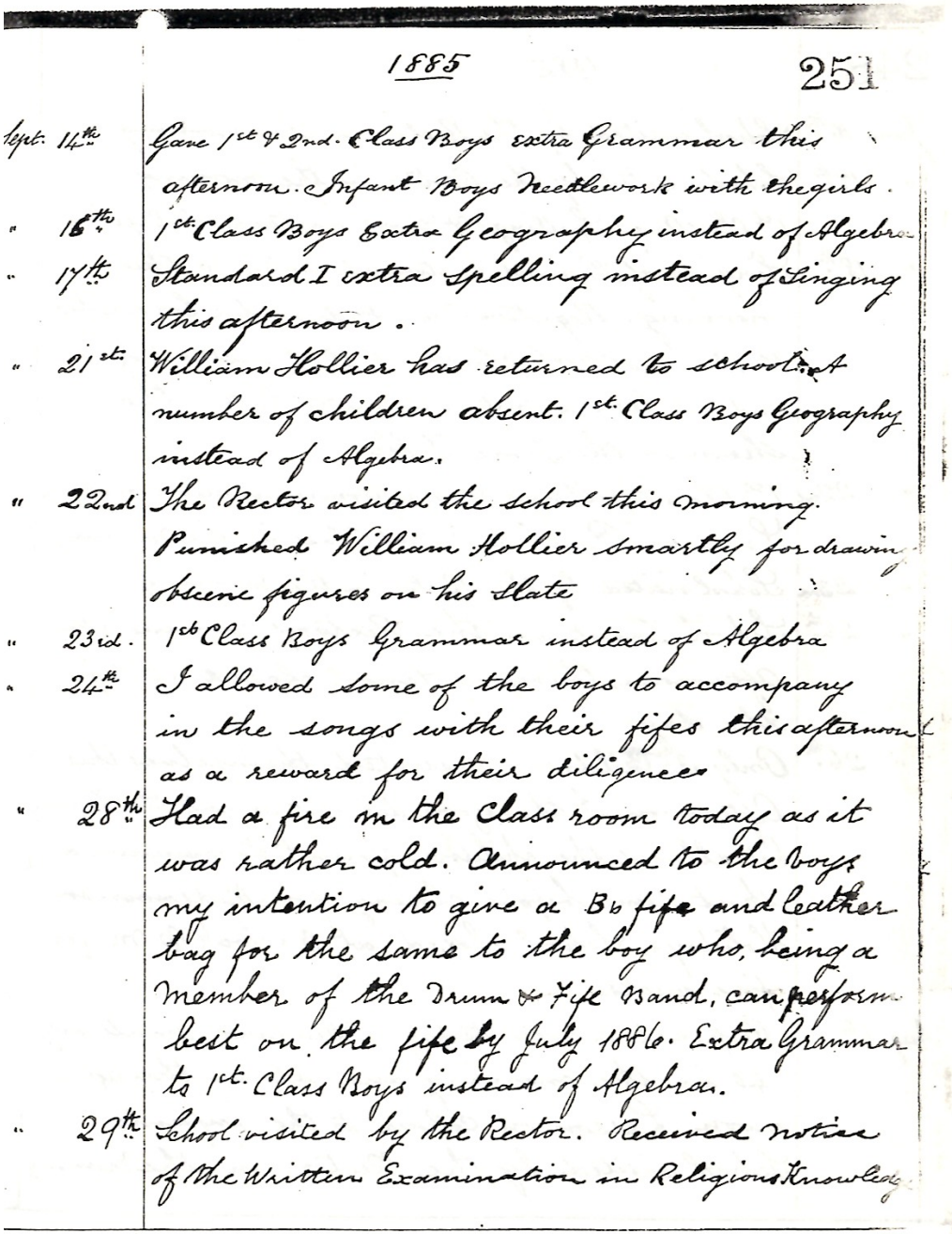
Uncertain readings: 25: the manager's register note is written in a small, cramped hand; '& found the numbers correct' is the likely reading; Signature read as 'C. Martin. Manager.'; the punctuation between name and title is unclear; 27th: 'Wm Hollier' – the surname could also be 'Hollies'; Lower-case versus capital 'b' in 'Infant boys' is hard to tell apart in places



1885 251

Sept. 14th Gave 1st & 2nd. Class Boys extra Grammar this afternoon. Infant Boys Needlework with the girls.

" 16th 1st Class Boys Extra Geography instead of Algebra

" 17th Standard I extra Spelling instead of Singing this afternoon.

" 21st William Hollier has returned to school:- A number of children absent. 1st. Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra.

" 22nd The Rector visited the school this morning. Punished William Hollier smartly for drawing obscene figures on his Slate

" 23rd. 1st Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra

" 24th I allowed some of the boys to accompany in the songs with their fifes this afternoon as a reward for their diligencee

" 28th Had a fire in the Class room today as it was rather cold. Announced to the boys my intention to give a B♭ fife and leather bag for the same to the boy who, being a member of the Drum & Fife Band, can perform best on the fife by July 1886. Extra Grammar to 1st. Class Boys instead of Algebra.

" 29th School visited by the Rector. Received notice of the Written Examination in Religious Knowledg

Page 251

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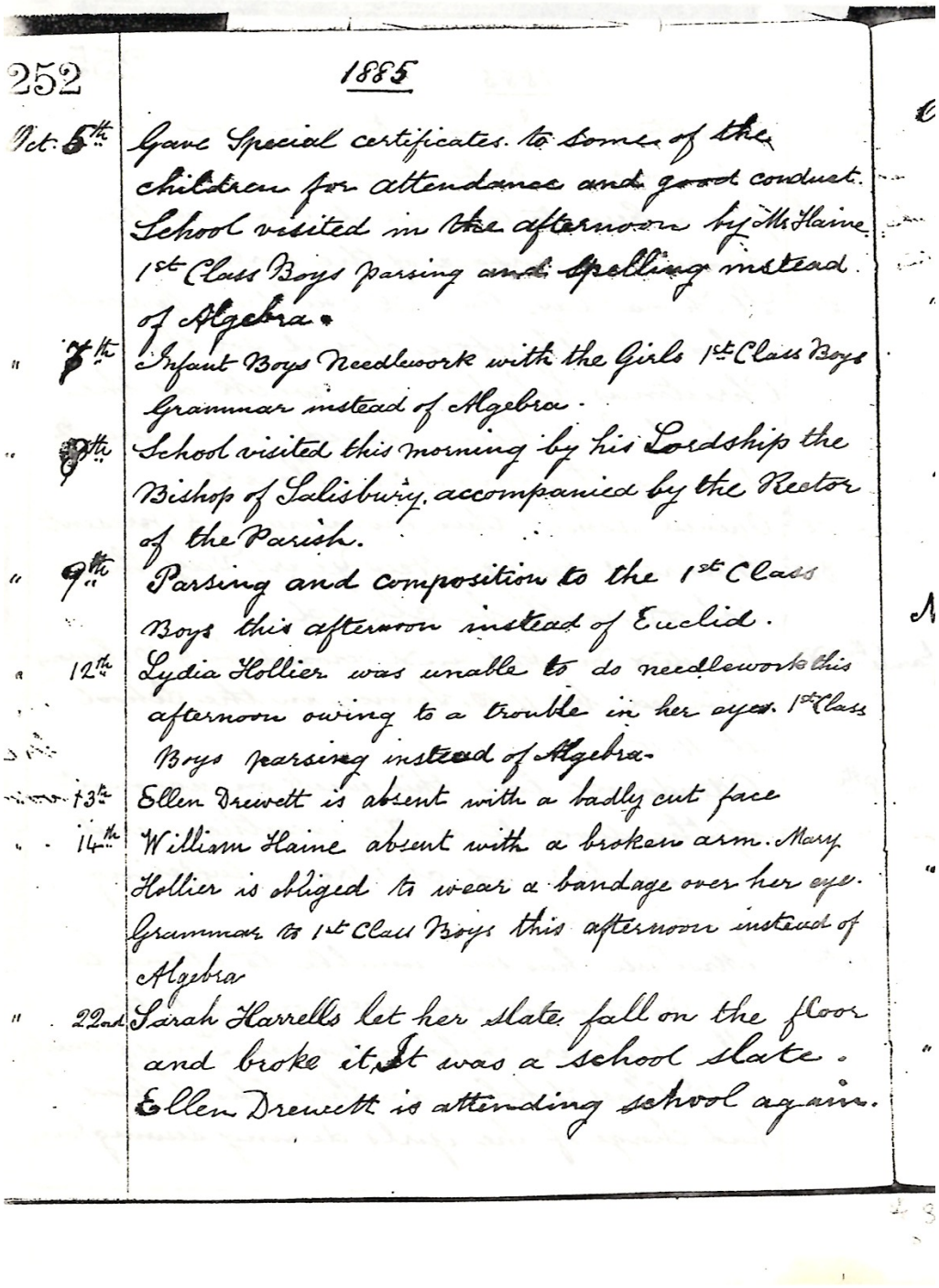
29th School visited by the Rector. Received notice of the Written Examination in Religious Knowledg[e?]

Uncertain readings: 'Knowledg[e?]' - the last word runs off the right edge of the page, so the final letter can't be seen; 'B■' - written as 'B' with a small flat-like mark (OCR read 'Bb'); '23rd.' - superscript is unclear and the OCR read it as '23id'; 'obscene' - letters are a little cramped and could be read 'obsceie'; 'diligence' - the word ends with an extra stroke and might read 'diligencee'


252

1885

Oct. 5th Gave Special certificates. to some of the children for attendance and good conduct. School visited in the afternoon by Mr Haine 1st Class Boys parsing and spelling instead of Algebra.

" 7th Infant Boys Needlework with the Girls 1st Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra.

" 8th School visited this morning by his Lordship the Bishop of Salisbury, accompanied by the Rector of the Parish.

" 9th Parsing and composition to the 1st Class Boys this afternoon instead of Euclid.

" 12th Lydia Hollier was unable to do needlework this afternoon owing to a trouble in her eyes. 1st Class Boys parsing instead of Algebra.

" 13th Ellen Drewett is absent with a badly cut face

" 14th William Haine absent with a broken arm. Mary Hollier is obliged to wear a bandage over her eye. Grammar to 1st Class Boys this afternoon instead of Algebra

" 22nd Sarah Harrells let her slate fall on the floor and broke it. It was a school slate. Ellen Drewett is attending school again.

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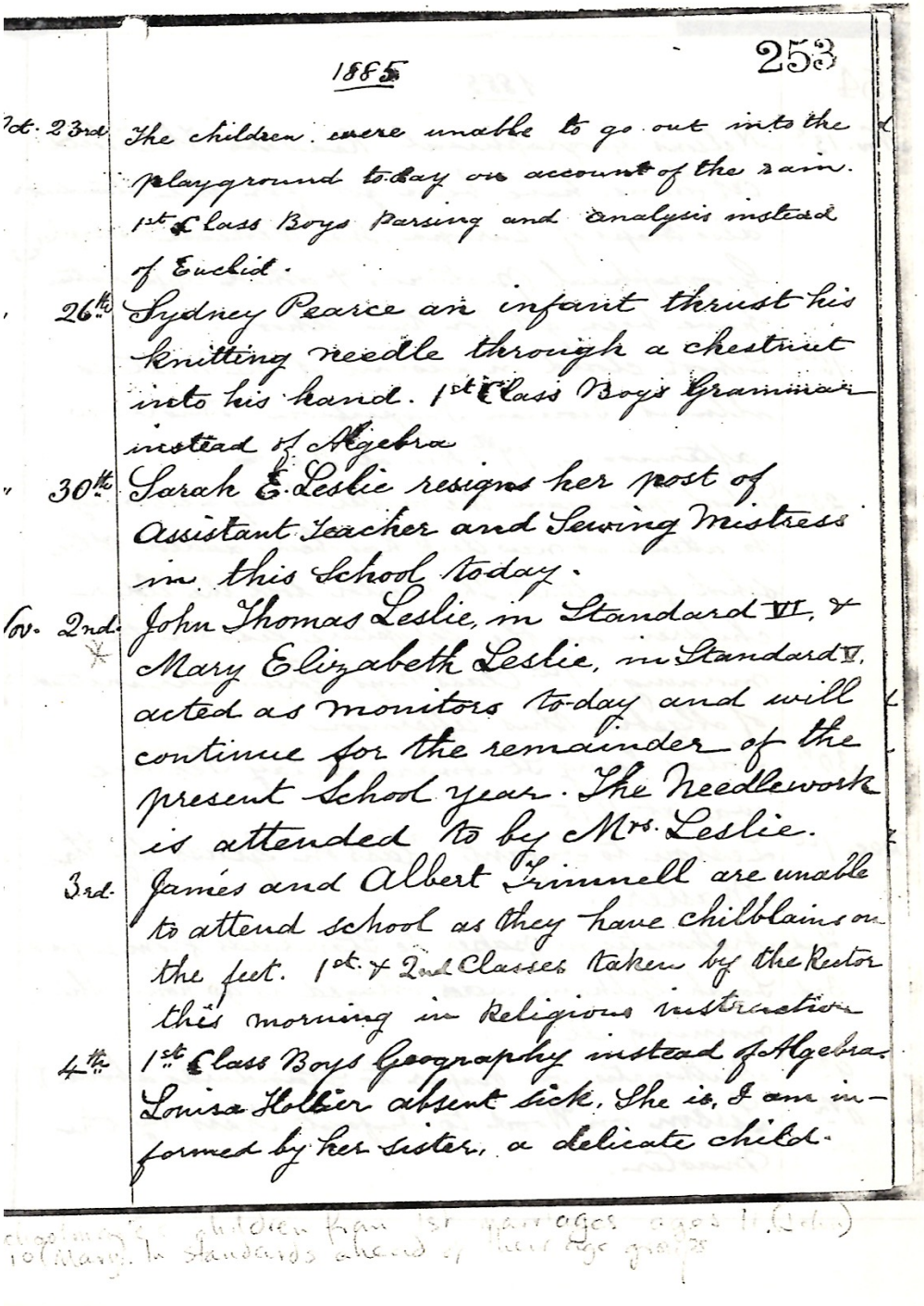
Uncertain readings: 8th margin date looks overwritten (possibly 8 written over another figure); 'Mr Haine' (5th): the 'Mr' is cramped and could be 'Mrs'; 'spelling' (5th) is faint or partly struck through and may read differently; 'eyes' (12th) could be read as 'eye'; 'Sarah Harrells': the surname spelling is as written and may be the family name Harrell; Lydia Hollier (12th) has eye trouble and Mary Hollier (14th) wears a bandage over her eye; they may be the same child under two names, or sisters



1885 253

Oct. 23rd The children were unable to go out into the playground to-day on account of the rain. 1st Class Boys Parsing and analysis instead of Euclid.

26th Sydney Pearce an infant thrust his knitting needle through a chestnut into his hand. 1st Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra

30th Sarah E. Leslie resigns her post of Assistant Teacher and Sewing Mistress in this School today.

Nov. 2nd John Thomas Leslie, in Standard VI, & Mary Elizabeth Leslie, in Standard V, acted as monitors to-day and will continue for the remainder of the present School year. The Needlework is attended to by Mrs. Leslie.

3rd. James and Albert Trimmell are unable to attend school as they have chilblains on the feet. 1st & 2nd Classes taken by the Rector this morning in Religious instruction

4th 1st Class Boys Geography instead of Algebra. Louisa Holber absent sick, She is, I am informed by her sister, a delicate child.

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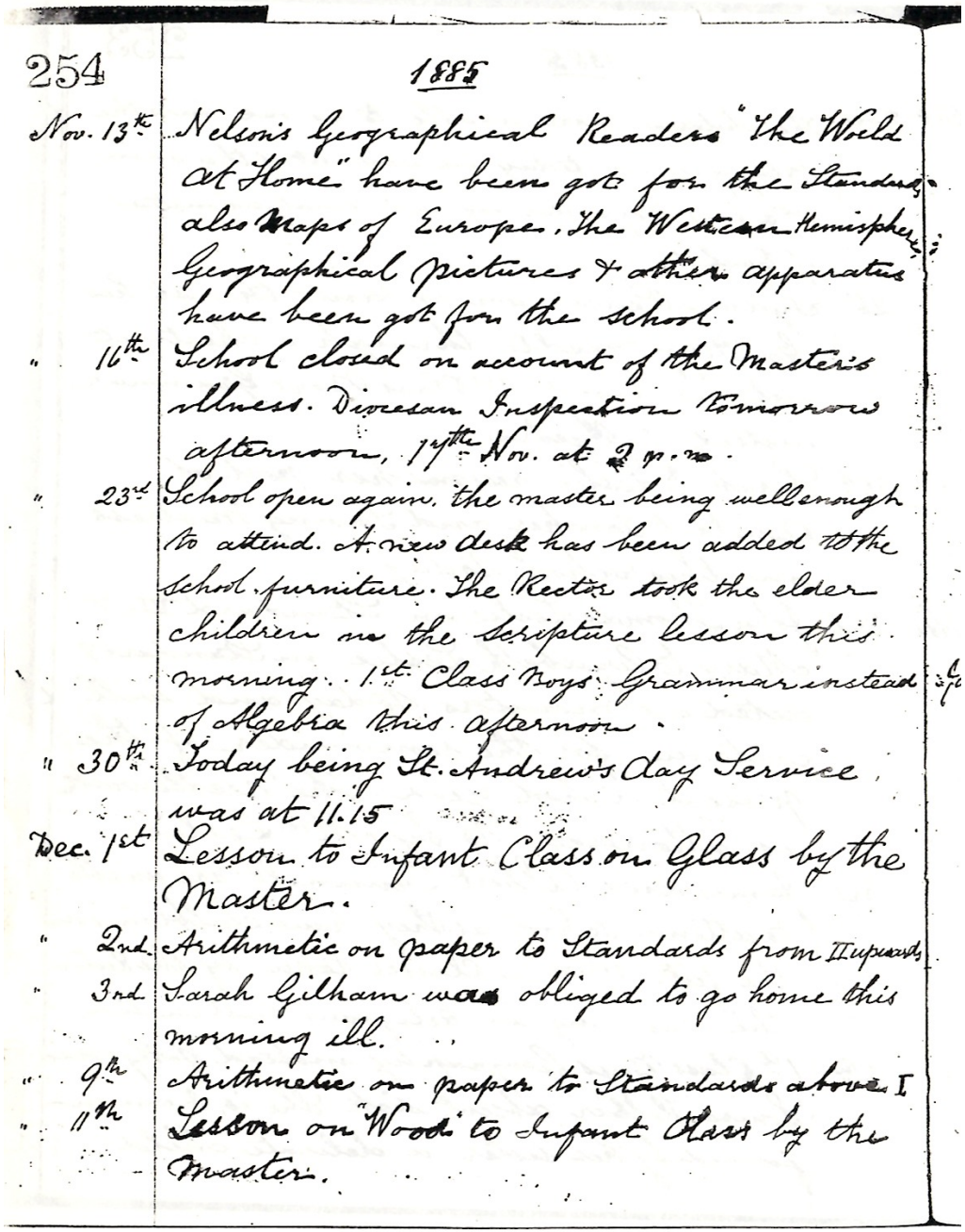
Uncertain readings: Surname of James and Albert: read as 'Trimmell'; could be 'Trimnell' or 'Frimmell'; Surname 'Holber' (Louisa): could be 'Holker' or 'Holbier'; Margin months 'Oct.' and 'Nov.' partly cut off at the left edge; Pencil note at the foot of the page is a later annotation, faint and partly cut off; first word possibly 'Schoolmaster's'; Not clear whether 'Mrs. Leslie' is the same person as Sarah E. Leslie



254

1885

Nov. 13th Nelson's Geographical Readers "The World At Home" have been got for the Standards, also Maps of Europe. The Western Hemisphere, Geographical pictures & other apparatus have been got for the school.

" 16th School closed on account of the Master's illness. Diocesan Inspection tomorrow afternoon, 17th Nov. at 2 p.m.

" 23rd School open again. the master being well enough to attend. A new desk has been added to the school furniture. The Rector took the elder children in the Scripture lesson this morning. 1st Class Boys Grammar instead of Algebra this afternoon.

" 30th Today being St. Andrew's day Service was at 11.15

Dec. 1st Lesson to Infant Class on Glass by the Master.

" 2nd Arithmetic on paper to Standards from II upwards

" 3rd Sarah Gilham was obliged to go home this morning ill.

" 9th Arithmetic on paper to Standards above I

" 11th Lesson on "Wood" to Infant Class by the Master.

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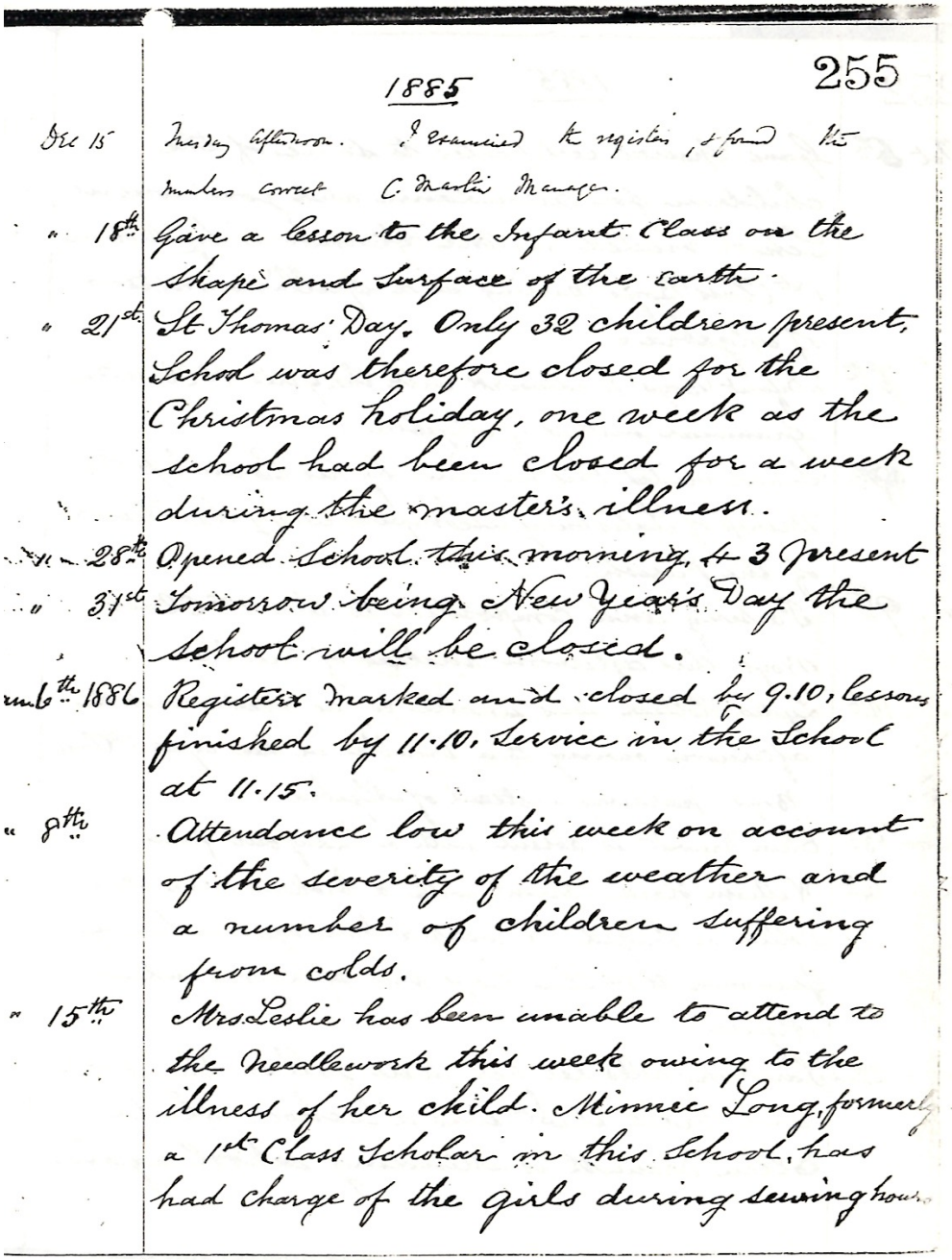
Uncertain readings: 'Western' Hemisphere: the word looks corrected or overwritten, and the OCR read it as 'Westicn'; 'Standards,' at the end of line 2 runs into the margin; 'from II upwards.' is cramped at the line end



1885 255

Dec 15 Tuesday afternoon. I examined the registers, & found the numbers correct C. Martin Manager.

" 18th Gave a lesson to the Infant Class on the Shape and Surface of the earth.

" 21st St Thomas' Day. Only 32 children present, School was therefore closed for the Christmas holiday, one week as the school had been closed for a week during the master's illness.

" 28th Opened School this morning, & 3 present

" 31st Tomorrow being New Year's Day the school will be closed.

Jan 6th 1886 Registers marked and closed by 9.10, lessons finished by 11.10, Service in the School at 11.15.

" 8th Attendance low this week on account of the severity of the weather and a number of children suffering from colds.

" 15th Mrs Leslie has been unable to attend to the Needlework this week owing to the illness of her child. Minnie Long, formerly a 1st Class Scholar in this School, has had charge of the girls during sewing hour.

Page 255

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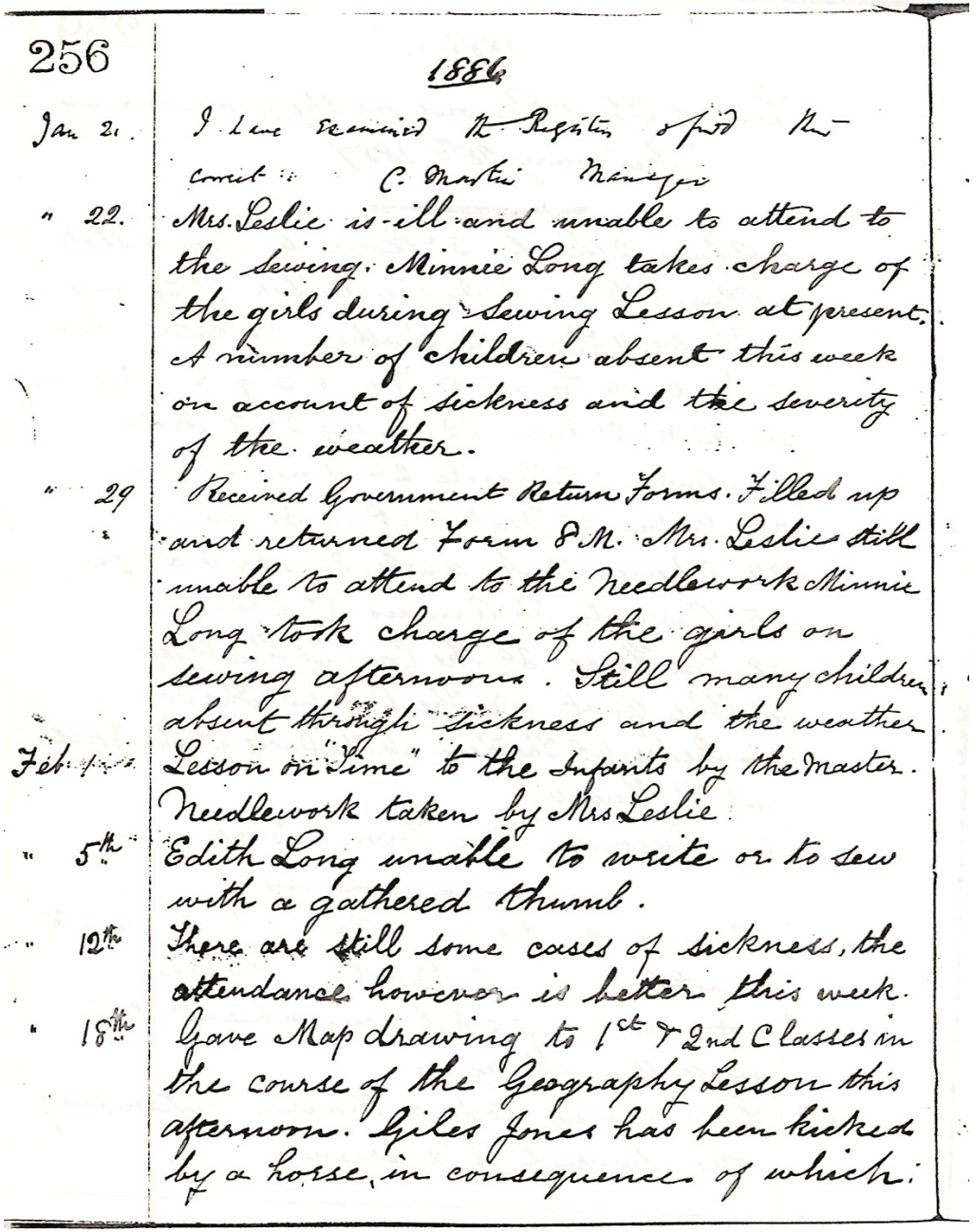
Uncertain readings: Dec 15 entry is in a different, cursive hand (the manager's): 'Tuesday afternoon', 'registers, & found the numbers correct' read from faint writing; Margin 'Jan 6th 1886' is partly cut off at the left edge; only 'an 6th 1886' is visible; '43 present' could be read as '4 3' in the original; 'Registers' could be 'Registerx' on the page; the ending is unclear


256

1886

Jan 21. I have examined the Registers & find them correct C. Martin Manager

" 22. Mrs. Leslie is ill and unable to attend to the sewing. Minnie Long takes charge of the girls during Sewing Lesson at present. A number of children absent this week on account of sickness and the severity of the weather.

" 29 Received Government Return Forms. Filled up and returned Form 8 M. Mrs. Leslie still unable to attend to the Needlework Minnie Long took charge of the girls on sewing afternoons. Still many children absent through sickness and the weather

Feb 1st Lesson on "Time" to the Infants by the Master. Needlework taken by Mrs Leslie.

" 5th Edith Long unable to write or to sew with a gathered thumb.

" 12th There are still some cases of sickness, the attendance however is better this week.

" 18th Gave Map drawing to 1st & 2nd Classes in the course of the Geography Lesson this afternoon. Giles Jones has been kicked by a horse, in consequence of which:

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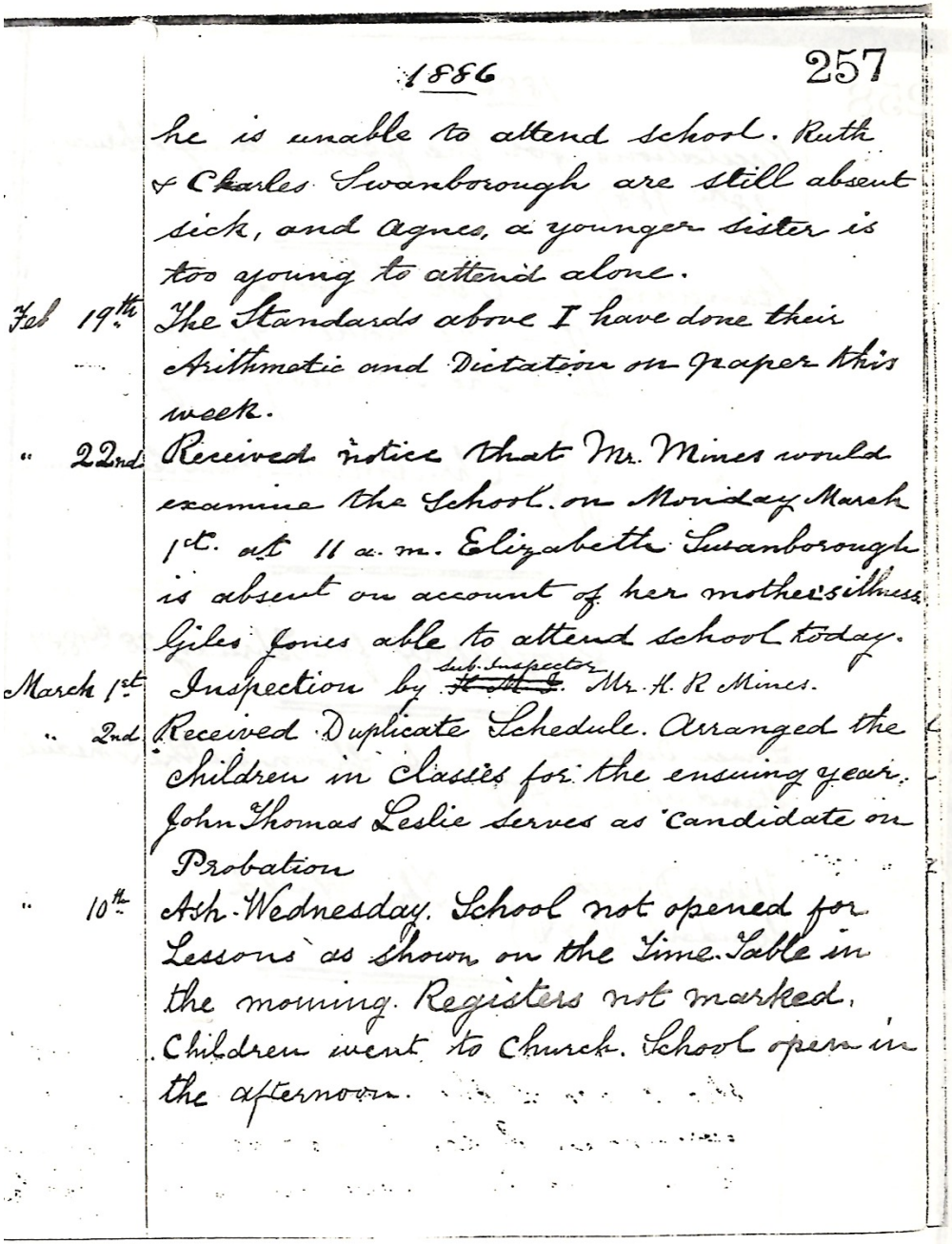
Uncertain readings: 'Registers & find them' in the manager's faint hand could be 'Register & find it'; Manager's signature read as 'C. Martin'; Margin date for Lesson on Time read as 'Feb 1st' (faint); Form number read as '8 M'; Minnie Long's role (monitress) is inferred, not stated on the page



1886 257

he is unable to attend school. Ruth & Charles Swanborough are still absent sick, and Agnes, a younger sister is too young to attend alone.

Feb 19th The Standards above I have done their Arithmetic and Dictation on paper this week.

" 22nd Received notice that Mr. Mines would examine the School. on Monday March 1st. at 11 a. m. Elizabeth Swanborough is absent on account of her mothers illness. Giles Jones able to attend school today.

March 1st Inspection by ~~H.M.I.~~ Sub-Inspector Mr. H. R Mines.

" 2nd Received Duplicate Schedule. Arranged the Children in classes for the ensuing year. John Thomas Leslie serves as Candidate on Probation

" 10th Ash-Wednesday. School not opened for Lessons as shown on the Time-Table in the morning. Registers not marked. Children went to Church. School open in the afternoon.

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(continued from previous page)

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Uncertain readings: 'H.M.I.' after 'Inspection by' is struck through with 'Sub-Inspector' written above it; the struck letters are hard to read; 'Standards above I' read as Standard I and above, as written; John Thomas Leslie is presumably the headmaster's son, but the page does not say so

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