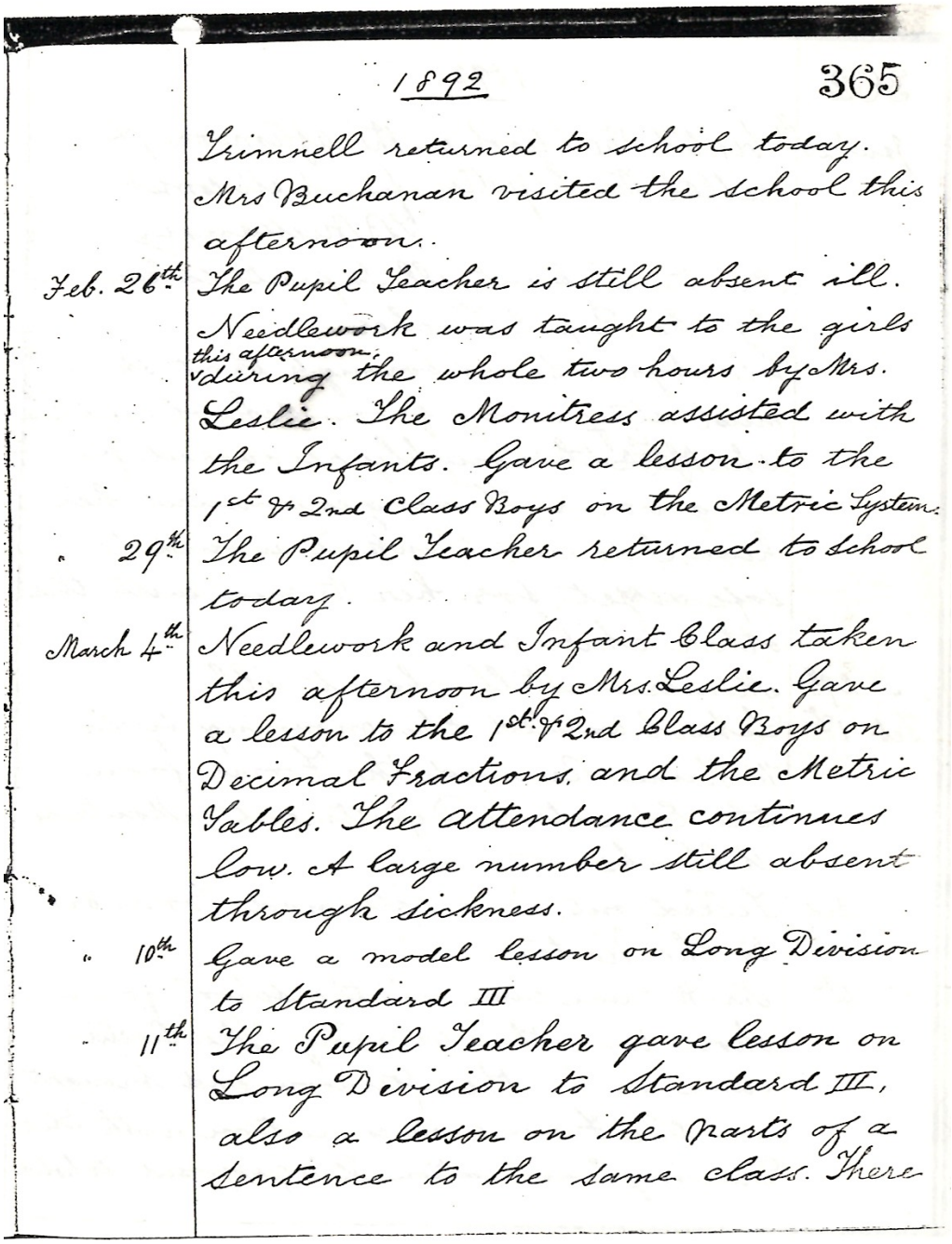
Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1892-93

Volume 1, pages 365-380 (16 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.



1892 365

Trimnell returned to school today. Mrs Buchanan visited the school this afternoon.

Feb. 26th The Pupil Teacher is still absent ill. Needlework was taught to the girls this afternoon during the whole two hours by Mrs. Leslie. The Monitress assisted with the Infants. Gave a lesson to the 1st & 2nd Class Boys on the Metric System.

" 29th The Pupil Teacher returned to school today.

March 4th Needlework and Infant Class taken this afternoon by Mrs. Leslie. Gave a lesson to the 1st & 2nd Class Boys on Decimal Fractions and the Metric Tables. The attendance continues low. A large number still absent through sickness.

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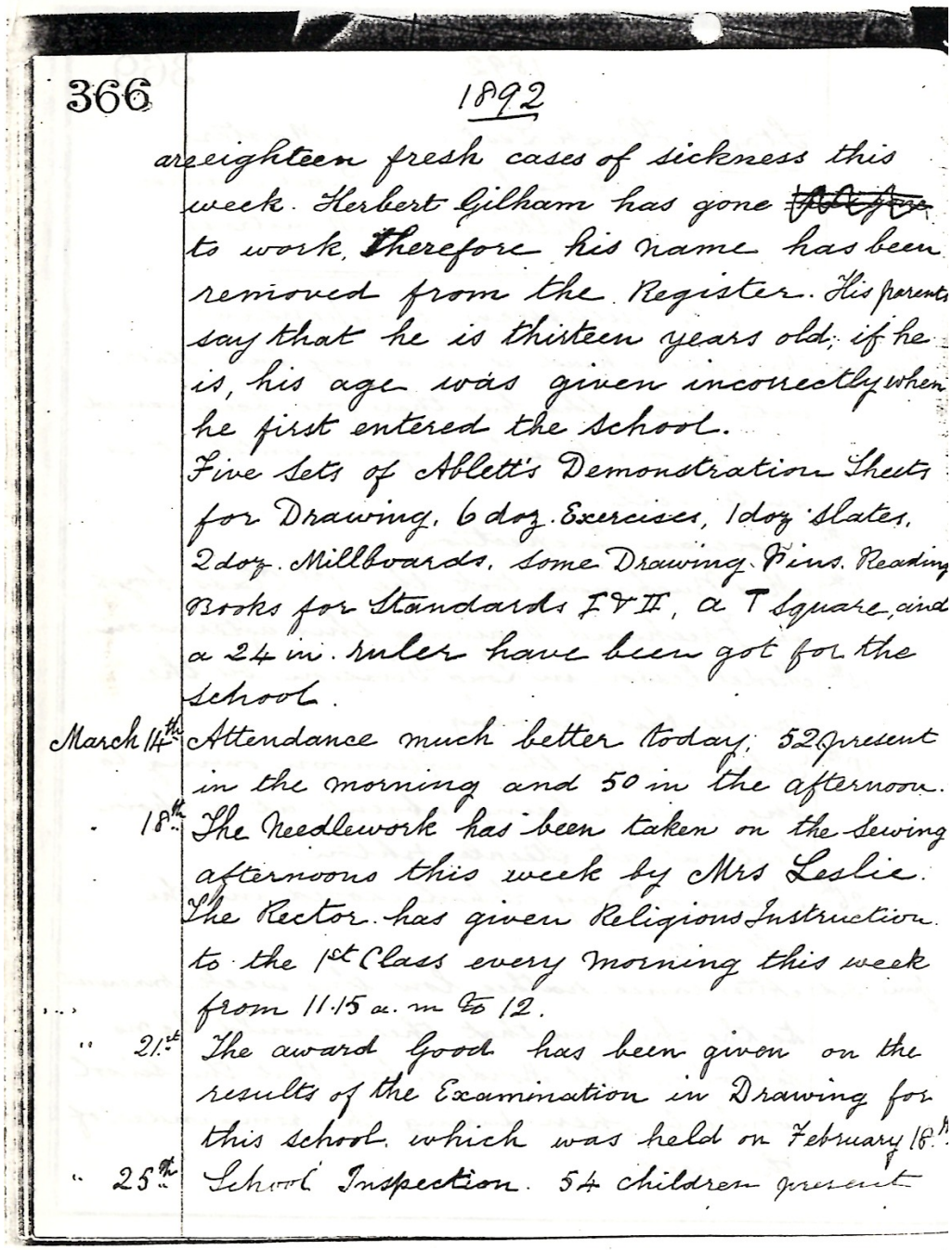
Uncertain readings: 'this afternoon' is written above the line with a caret before 'during'. It is shown as ^this afternoon^ in the transcription and moved inline in the entry text.; First line 'Trimnell' probably follows a first name on the previous page; the person's role isn't clear.; The mark after 'Metric System' at the end of line 10 could be a full stop or a colon.; Ditto marks before '29th' and '10th' in the margin stand for the month (Feb. and March).



366 1892

are eighteen fresh cases of sickness this week. Herbert Gilham has gone ~~to gone~~ to work, therefore his name has been removed from the Register. His parents say that he is thirteen years old; if he is, his age was given incorrectly when he first entered the school.
Five sets of Ablett's Demonstration Sheets for Drawing, 6 doz. Exercises, 1 doz. Slates, 2 doz. Millboards, some Drawing Pins. Reading Books for Standards I & II, a T Square, and a 24 in. ruler have been got for the school.

March 14th Attendance much better today. 52 present in the morning and 50 in the afternoon.

" 18th The Needlework has been taken on the Sewing afternoons this week by Mrs Leslie. The Rector has given Religious Instruction to the 1st Class every morning this week from 11.15 a. m to 12.

" 21st The award Good has been given on the results of the Examination in Drawing for this school which was held on February 18th

" 25th School Inspection. 54 children present

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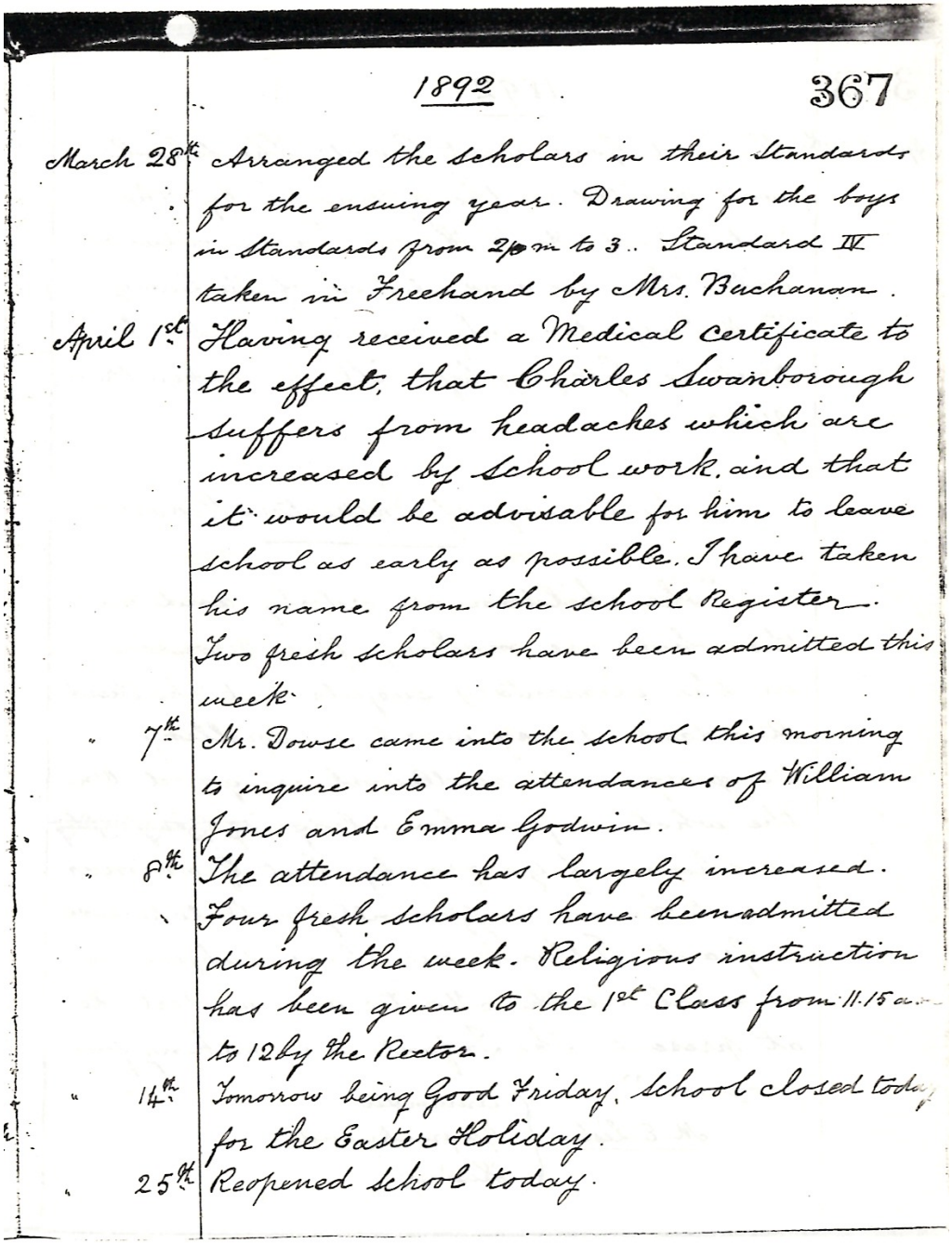
Uncertain readings: Word struck through after 'gone' on line 2 can't be read; 'are' at the start of line 1 is partly written into the margin; On line 3 'therefore' may have a capital T written over a lower-case t; Margin ditto marks before 18th, 21st and 25th are read as repeating 'March'; Comma or full stop after 'this school' in the 21st entry



1892 367

March 28th Arranged the scholars in their Standards for the ensuing year. Drawing for the boys in Standards from 2p.m to 3.. Standard III taken in Freehand by Mrs. Buchanan.

April 1st Having received a Medical certificate to the effect, that Charles Swanborough suffers from headaches which are increased by school work. and that it would be advisable for him to leave school as early as possible. I have taken his name from the school Register. Two fresh scholars have been admitted this week.

" 7th Mr. Dowse came into the school this morning to inquire into the attendances of William Jones and Emma Godwin.

" 8th The attendance has largely increased. Four fresh scholars have beenadmitted during the week. Religious instruction has been given to the 1st Class from 11.15 a.— to 12by the Rector.

" 14th Tomorrow being Good Friday. School closed toda[y] for the Easter Holiday.

" 25th Reopened school today.

Page 367

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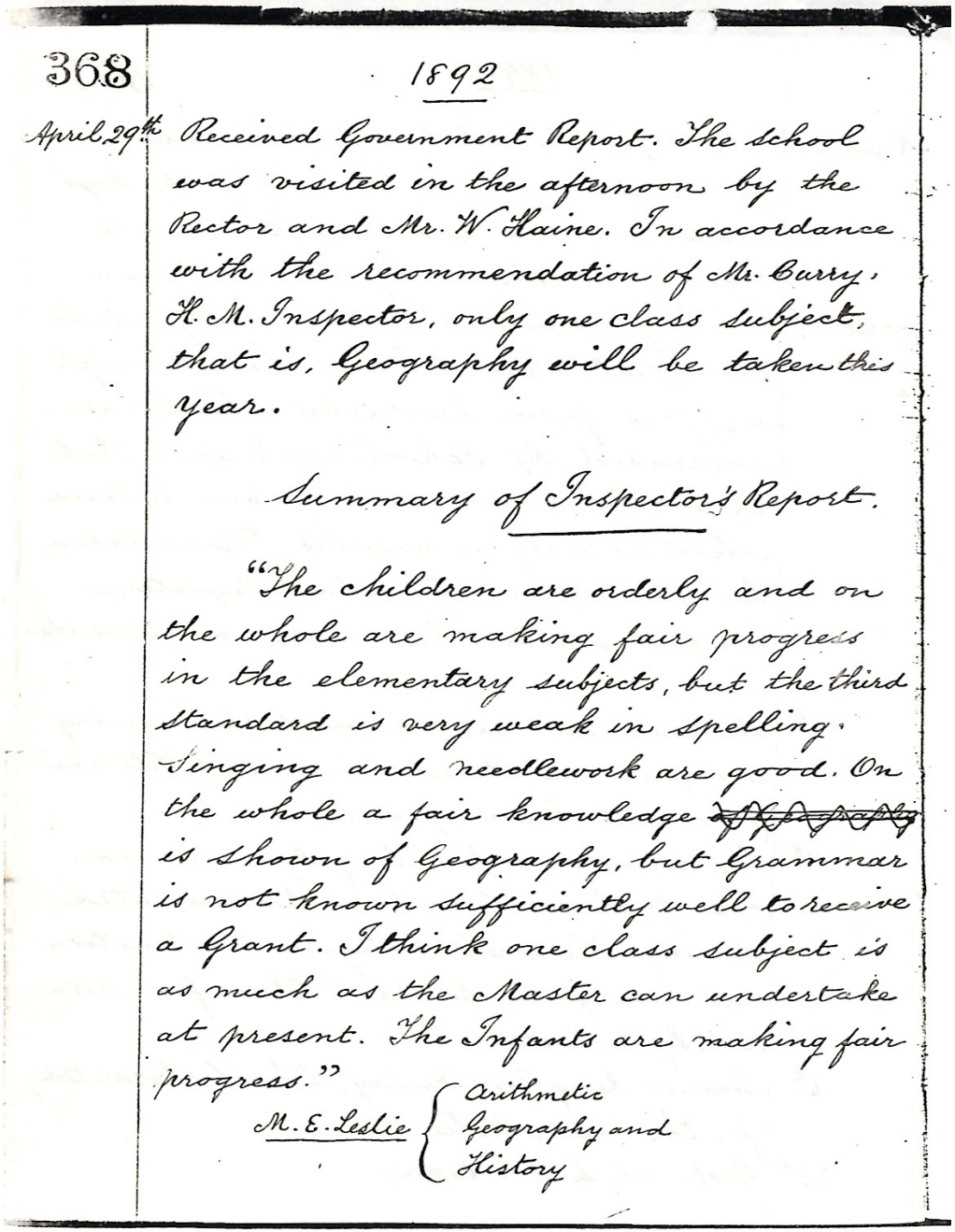
Uncertain readings: '11.15 a[.m.?]' – the end of the line is cut off at the page edge; the OCR had no 'a.'; 'toda[y]' – the final letter runs off the page edge; Margin date reads '8th', not '9th' as the OCR has it (8 April 1892 was a Friday); '2p.m' – the 'p' is partly overwritten; 'school work' – it's unclear whether the 's' is a capital



368

1892

April 29th Received Government Report. The school was visited in the afternoon by the Rector and Mr. W. Haine. In accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Curry, H. M. Inspector, only one class subject, that is, Geography will be taken this year.

Summary of Inspector's Report.

"The children are orderly and on the whole are making fair progress in the elementary subjects, but the third standard is very weak in spelling. Singing and needlework are good. On the whole a fair knowledge ~~of Geography~~ is shown of Geography, but Grammar is not known sufficiently well to receive a Grant. I think one class subject is as much as the Master can undertake at present. The Infants are making fair progress."

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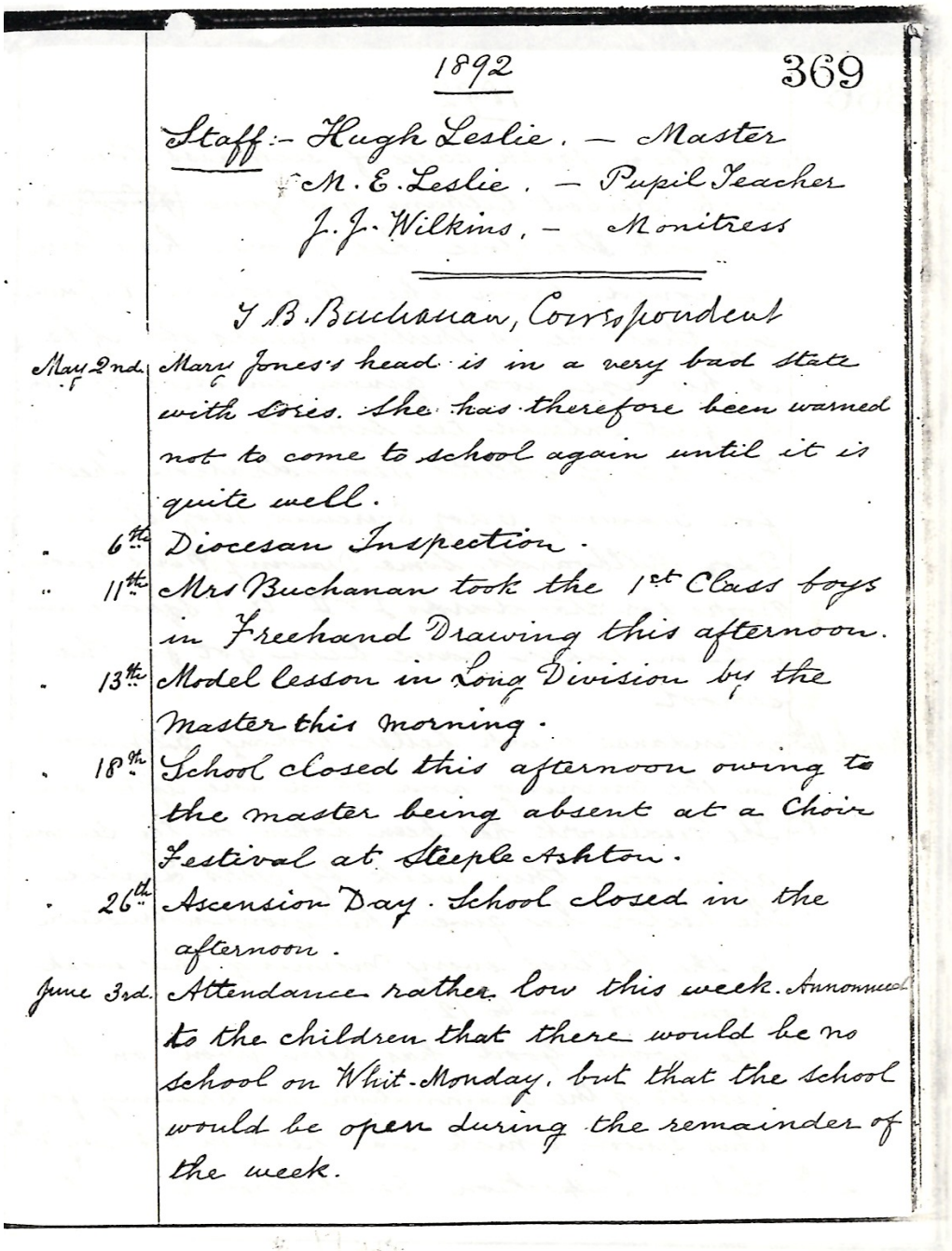
Uncertain readings: Inspector's name read as 'Curry' (OCR gave 'Burry'); the initial capital looks like C; Words struck through after 'knowledge' on line 16 appear to be 'of Geography', which the writer moved to the next line; Note at the foot: 'M. E. Leslie' with a brace grouping 'Arithmetic / Geography and / History'. This is probably a staff note from the report (perhaps subjects in which this teacher, likely a Leslie family member, was examined or found weak). Their role is not stated; 'Mr. W. Haine' is assumed to be a school manager; the page itself only says he visited



1892 369

Staff:- Hugh Leslie. – Master
M. E. Leslie. – Pupil Teacher
J. J. Wilkins. – Monitress

T B. Buchanan, Correspondent

May 2nd. Mary Jones's head is in a very bad state with sores. She has therefore been warned not to come to school again until it is quite well.

" 6th. Diocesan Inspection.

" 11th. Mrs Buchanan took the 1st Class boys in Freehand Drawing this afternoon.

" 13th. Model lesson in Long Division by the Master this morning.

" 18th. School closed this afternoon owing to the master being absent at a Choir Festival at Steeple Ashton.

" 26th. Ascension Day. School closed in the afternoon.

June 3rd. Attendance rather low this week. Announced to the children that there would be no school on Whit-Monday. but that the school would be open during the remainder of the week.

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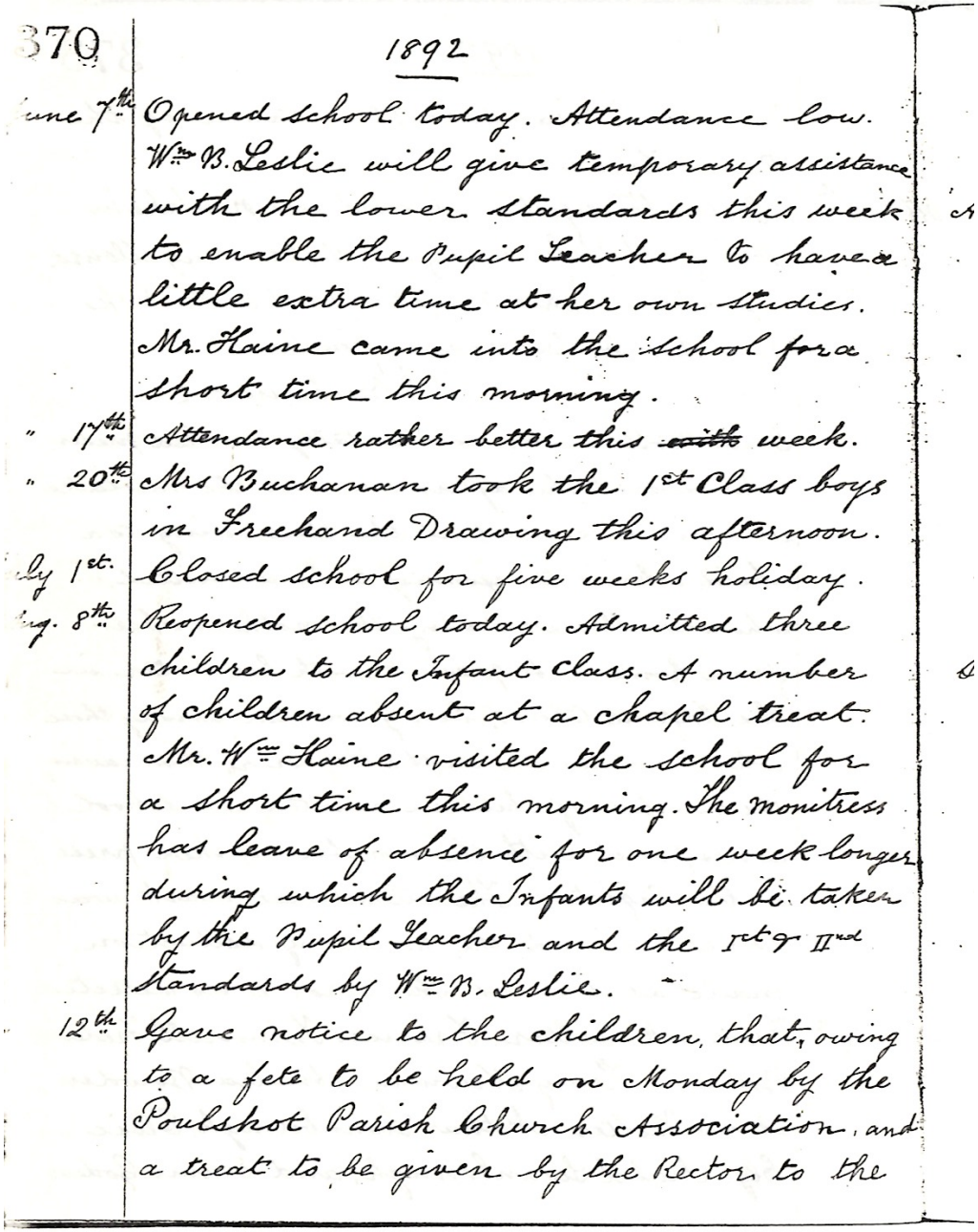
370

1892

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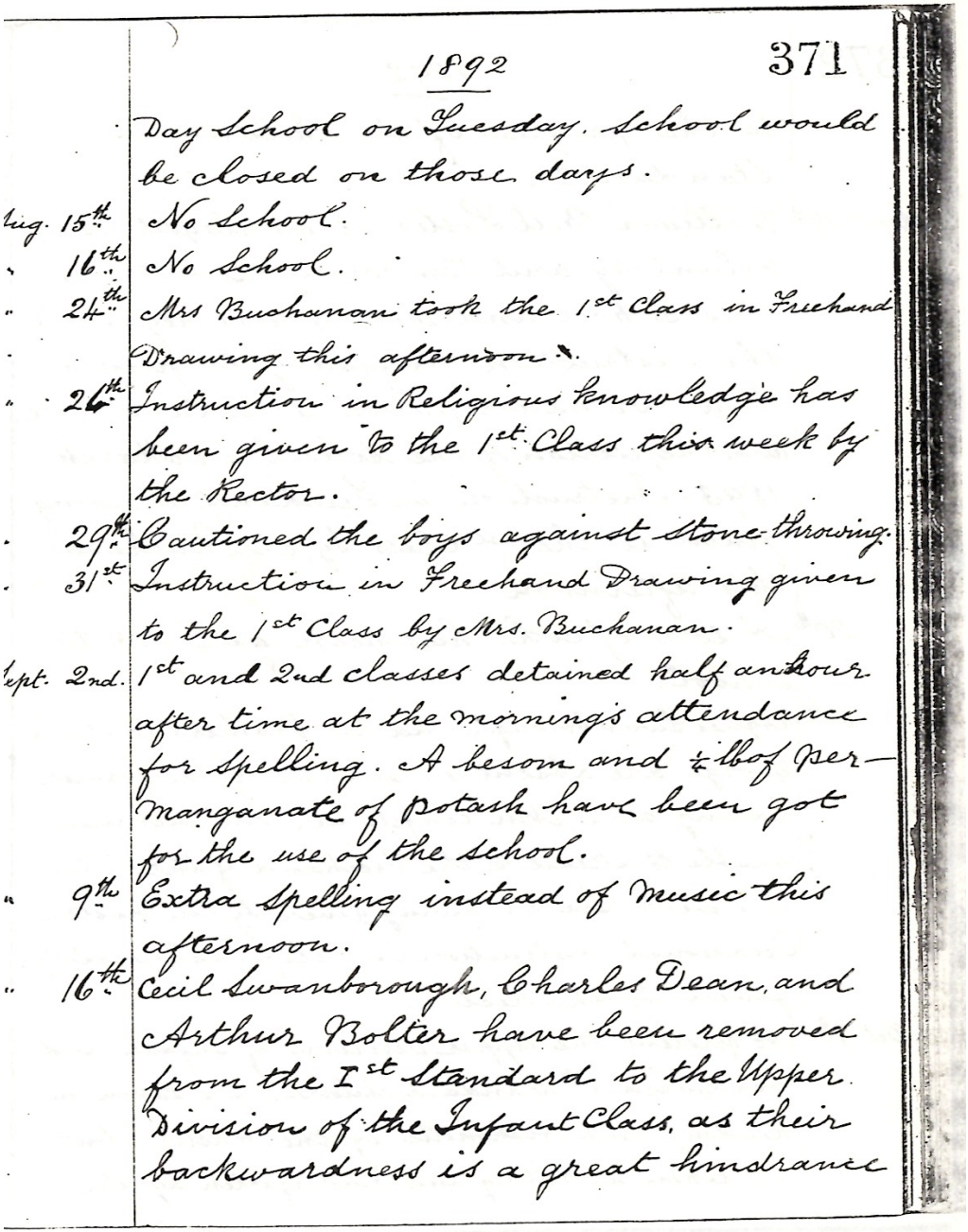

1892 371

Day School on Tuesday. School would be closed on those days.

Aug. 15th No School.

" 16th No School.

" 24th Mrs Buchanan took the 1st Class in Freehand Drawing this afternoon.

" 26th Instruction in Religious knowledge has been given to the 1st Class this week by the Rector.

" 29th Cautioned the boys against Stone-throwing.

" 31st Instruction in Freehand Drawing given to the 1st Class by Mrs. Buchanan.

Sept. 2nd. 1st and 2nd classes detained half anhour after time at the morning's attendance for Spelling. A besom and ¼ lb of Permanganate of potash have been got for the use of the school.

" 9th Extra Spelling instead of Music this afternoon.

" 16th Cecil Swanborough, Charles Dean, and Arthur Bolter have been removed from the 1st Standard to the Upper Division of the Infant Class, as their backwardness is a great hindrance

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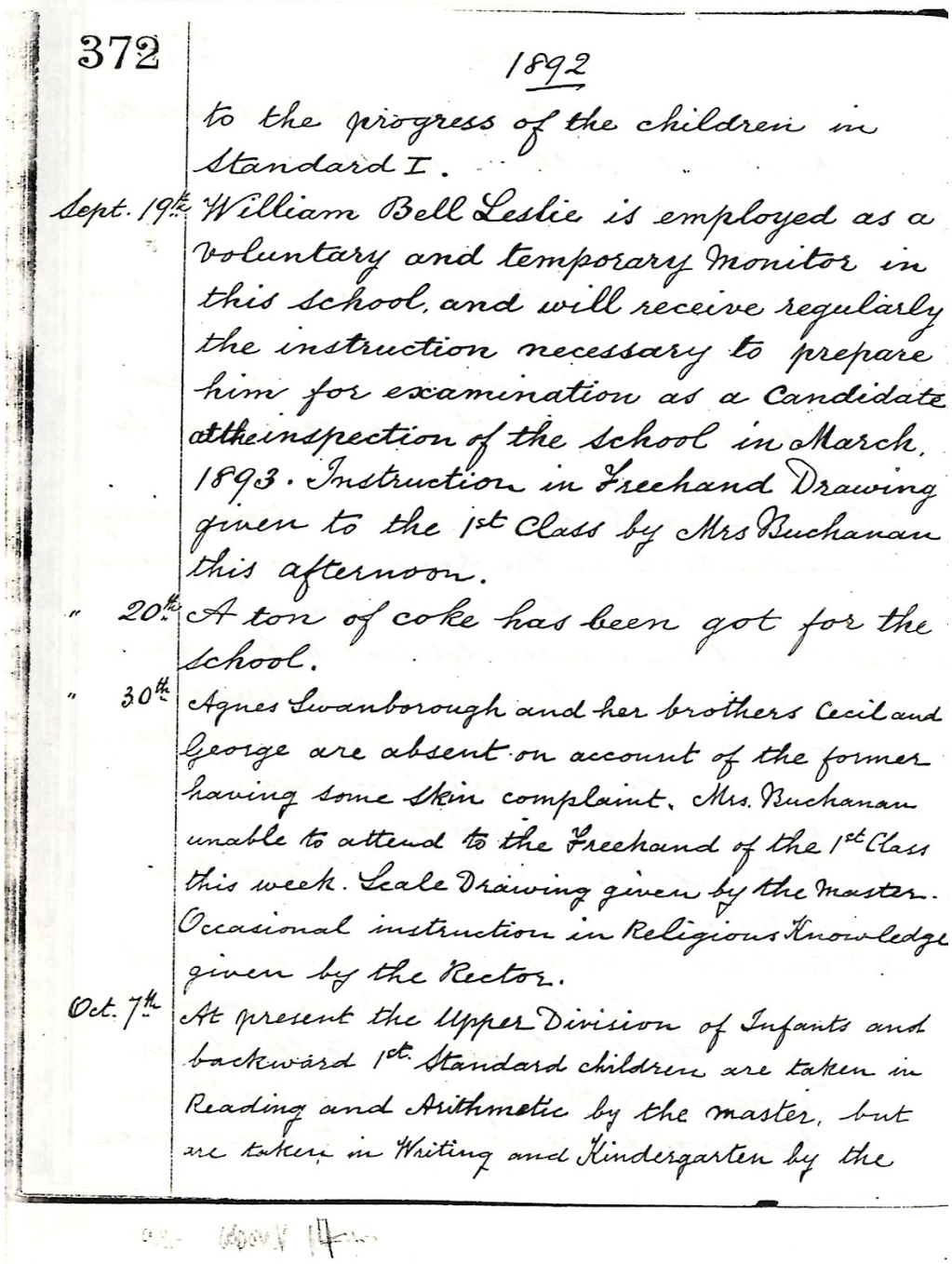

372

1892

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Sept. 19th William Bell Leslie is employed as a voluntary and temporary Monitor in this school, and will receive regularly the instruction necessary to prepare him for examination as a Candidate attheinspection of the school in March, 1893. Instruction in Freehand Drawing given to the 1st Class by Mrs Buchanan this afternoon.

" 20th A ton of coke has been got for the school.

" 30th Agnes Swanborough and her brothers Cecil and George are absent on account of the former having some skin complaint. Mrs. Buchanan unable to attend to the Freehand of the 1st Class this week. Scale Drawing given by the master. Occasional instruction in Religious Knowledge given by the Rector.

Oct. 7th At present the Upper Division of Infants and backward 1st. Standard children are taken in Reading and Arithmetic by the master, but are taken in Writing and Kindergarten by the

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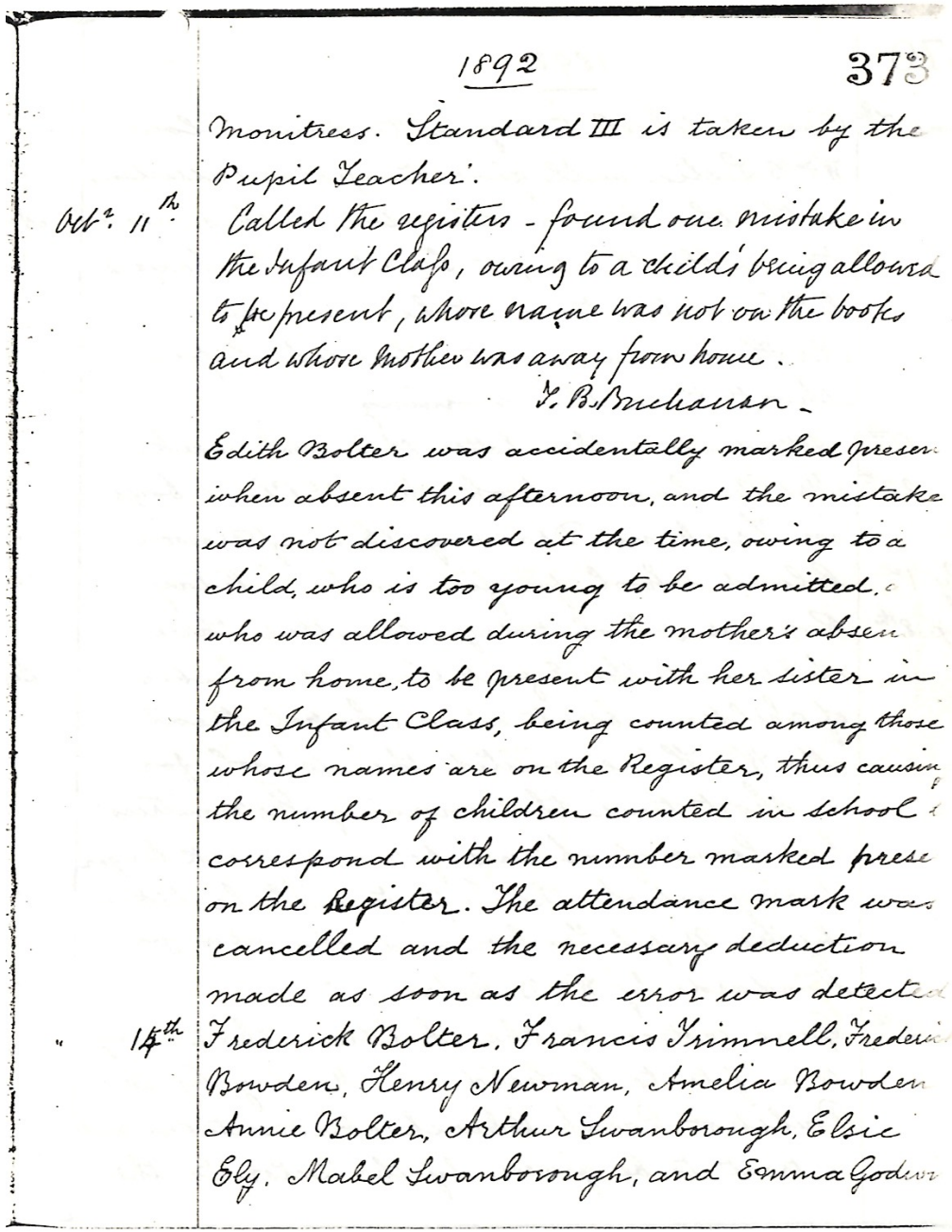

1892 373

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Octr. 11th Called the registers - found one mistake in the Infant Class, owing to a child's being allowed to be present, whose name was not on the books and whose mother was away from home.

J. B. Buchanan -

Edith Bolter was accidentally marked presen when absent this afternoon, and the mistake was not discovered at the time, owing to a child, who is too young to be admitted, who was allowed during the mother's absen from home, to be present with her sister in the Infant Class, being counted among those whose names are on the Register, thus causin the number of children counted in school correspond with the number marked prese on the Register. The attendance mark was cancelled and the necessary deduction made as soon as the error was detected

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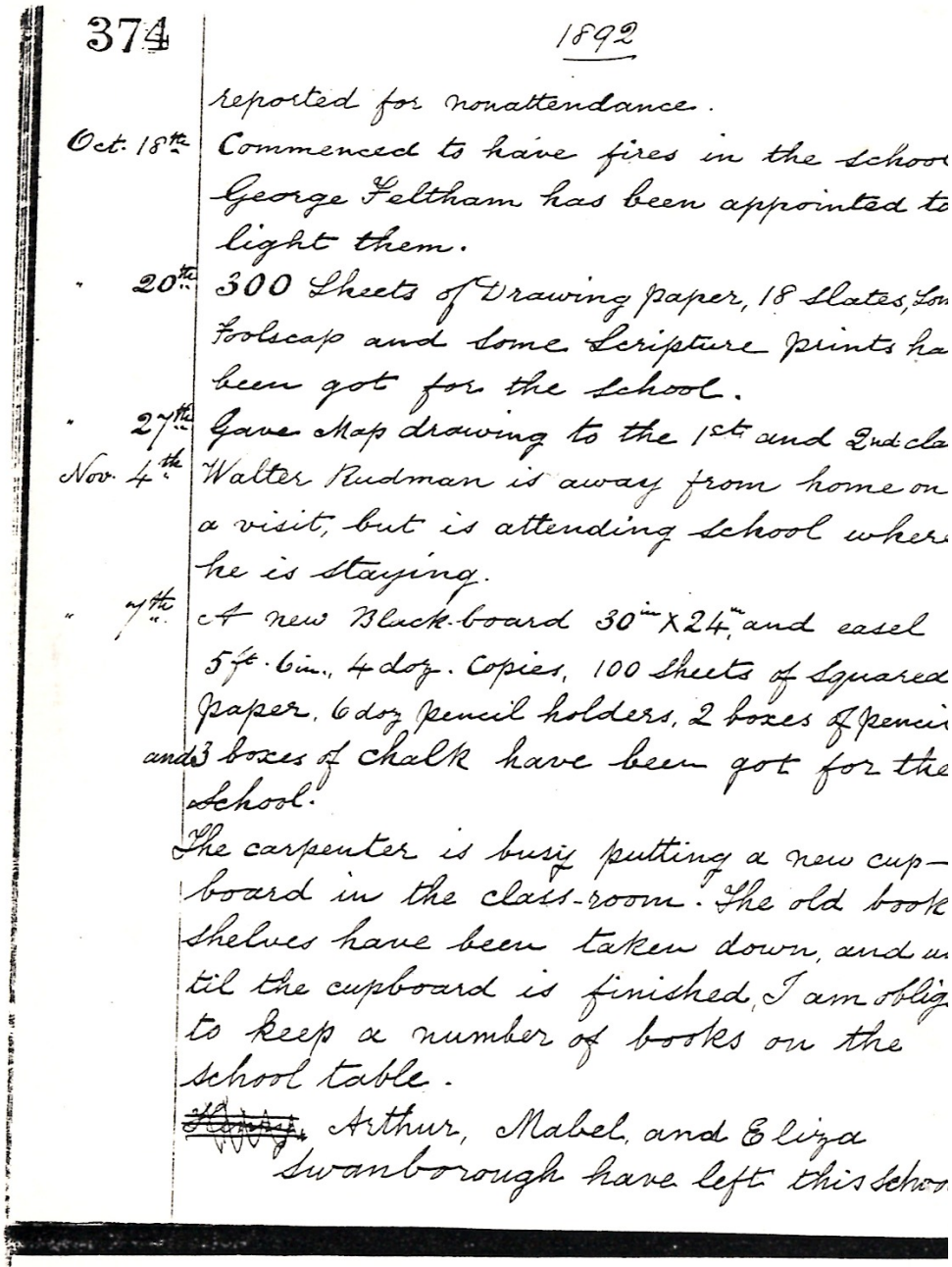
Uncertain readings: Right margin is cropped: endings of 'presen[t]', 'absen[ce]', 'causin[g]', '[to]', 'prese[nt]', 'detecte[d]', 'Frederi[ck]', 'Godwi[n]' are supplied from context; Signature read as 'J. B. Buchanan'; the first initial could be 'T'; Small mark after 'admitted,' at the cropped edge cannot be read; 'to be present' in the Buchanan entry seems to have a correction over 'be'; 'Cla■s' is written with a long-s ligature in the Buchanan entry; 'Class' is used in the headmaster's hand; The 14th entry probably carries on to the next page, so the reason for listing these children is not known; The margin dates are in a different style; the 14th is marked with ditto marks under 'Octr.'


374 1892

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Nov. 4th Walter Rudman is away from home on a visit, but is attending school wher he is staying.

" 7th A new Black-board 30in X 24in and easel 5ft. 6in., 4 doz. Copies, 100 Sheets of Squared paper, 6 doz pencil holders, 2 boxes of pencil and 3 boxes of chalk have been got for the School.

The carpenter is busy putting a new cup- board in the class-room. The old book shelves have been taken down, and u til the cupboard is finished, I am oblig to keep a number of books on the school table.

~~Harry~~ Arthur, Mabel, and Eliza Swanborough have left this schoo

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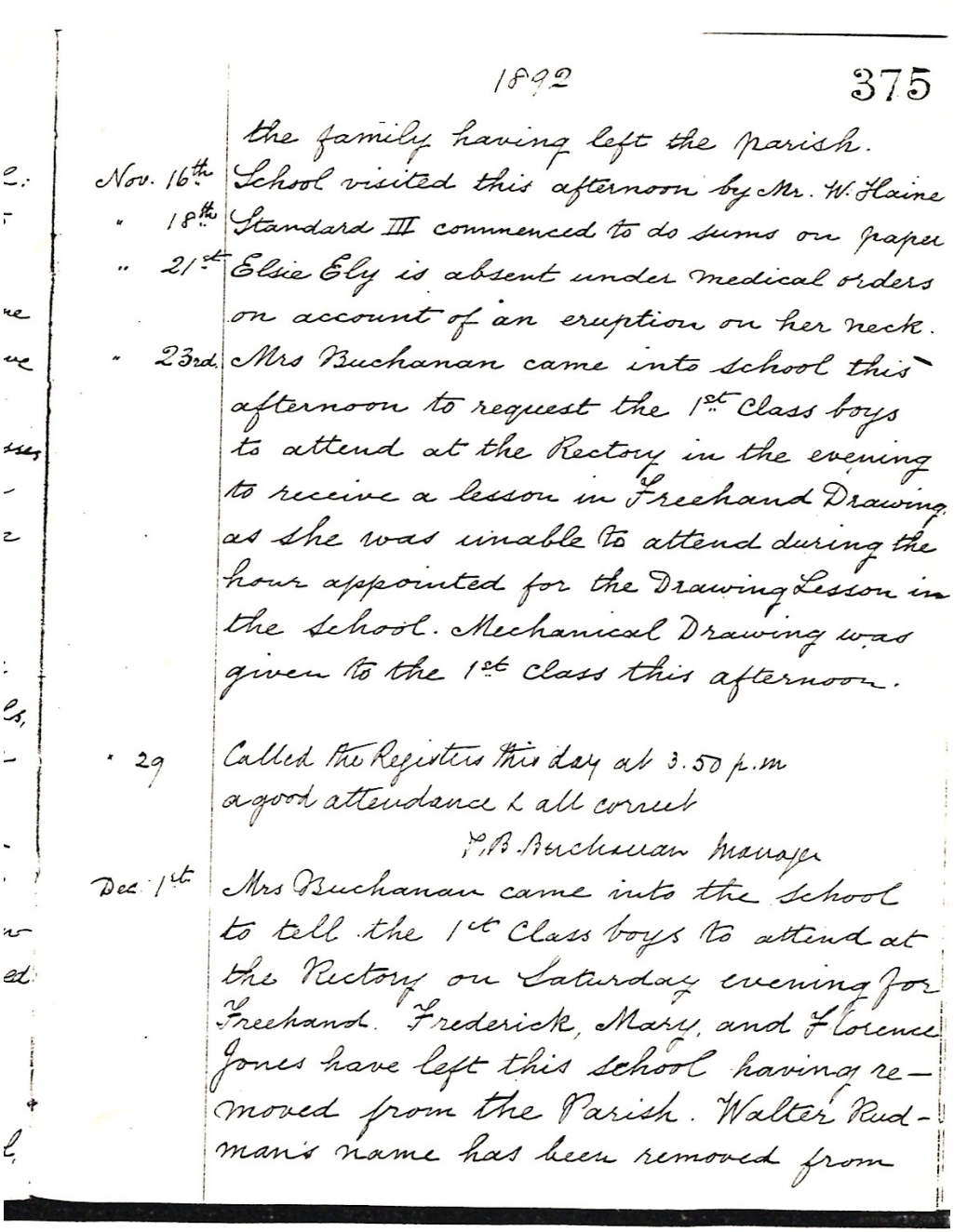

1892 375

the family having left the parish.

Nov. 16th School visited this afternoon by Mr. W. Haine

" 18th Standard III commenced to do sums on paper

" 21st Elsie Ely is absent under medical orders on account of an eruption on her neck.

" 23rd. Mrs Buchanan came into school this afternoon to request the 1st Class boys to attend at the Rectory in the evening to receive a lesson in Freehand Drawing as she was unable to attend during the hour appointed for the Drawing Lesson in the school. Mechanical Drawing was given to the 1st class this afternoon.

" 29 Called the Registers this day at 3.50 p.m a good attendance & all correct

P.B. Buchanan Manager

Dec 1st Mrs Buchanan came into the school to tell the 1st Class boys to attend at the Rectory on Saturday evening for Freehand. Frederick, Mary, and Florence Jones have left this school having removed from the Parish. Walter Rudman's name has been removed from

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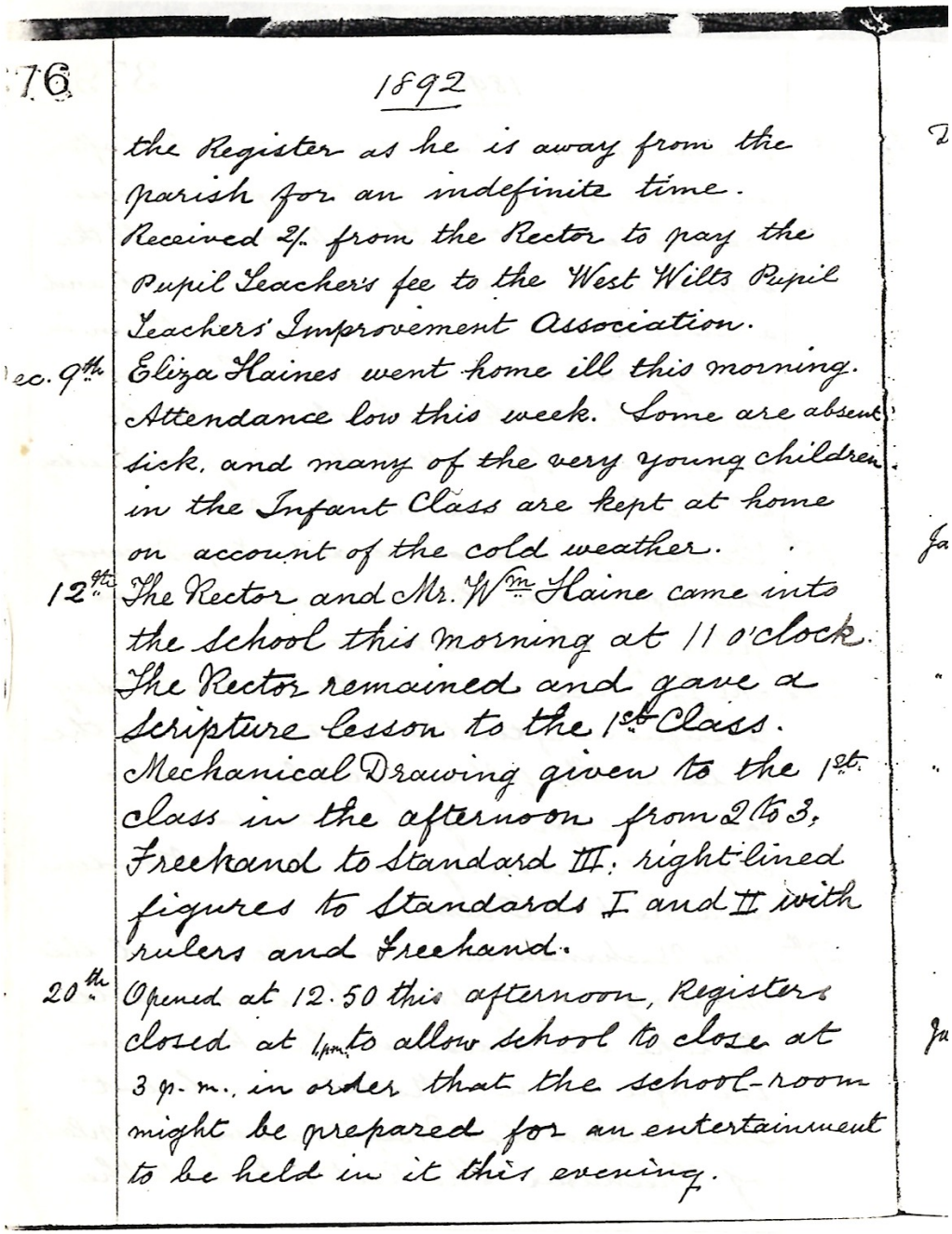
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1892

the Register as he is away from the parish for an indefinite time. Received 2/. from the Rector to pay the Pupil Teacher's fee to the West Wilts Pupil Teachers' Improvement Association.

ec. 9th Eliza Haines went home ill this morning. Attendance low this week. Some are absent sick, and many of the very young children in the Infant Class are kept at home on account of the cold weather.

12th The Rector and Mr. Wm Haine came into the School this morning at 11 o'clock. The Rector remained and gave a Scripture lesson to the 1st Class. Mechanical Drawing given to the 1st. class in the afternoon from 2 to 3. Freehand to Standard III: right lined figures to Standards I and II with rulers and Freehand.

20th Opened at 12.50 this afternoon, Registers closed at 1 p.m. to allow school to close at 3 p.m., in order that the school-room might be prepared for an entertainment to be held in it this evening.

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(continued from previous page)

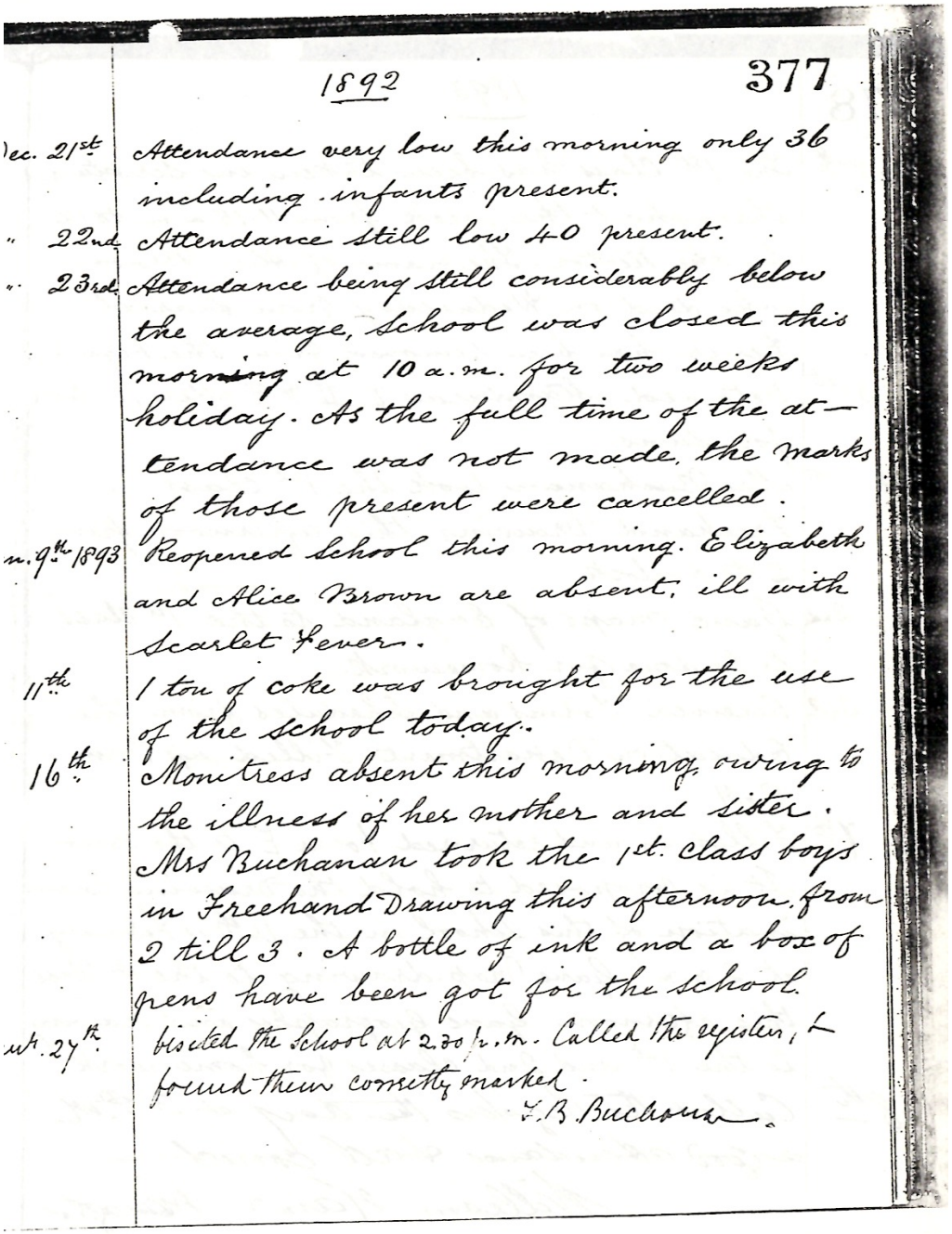
the Register as he is away from the parish for an indefinite time. Received 2/. from the Rector to pay the Pupil Teacher's fee to the West Wilts Pupil Teachers' Improvement Association.

[D]ec. 9th Eliza Haines went home ill this morning. Attendance low this week. Some are absent sick, and many of the very young children in the Infant Class are kept at home on account of the cold weather.

12th The Rector and Mr. Wm Haine came into the School this morning at 11 o'clock. The Rector remained and gave a Scripture lesson to the 1st Class. Mechanical Drawing given to the 1st. class in the afternoon from 2 to 3. Freehand to Standard III: right lined figures to Standards I and II with rulers and Freehand.

20th Opened at 12.50 this afternoon, Registers closed at 1 p.m. to allow school to close at 3 p.m., in order that the school-room might be prepared for an entertainment to be held in it this evening.

Uncertain readings: Page number: there is a mark before '76' at the cut edge, so it might be part of a longer number; Margin 'Dec.': the 'D' is cut off at the edge; 'Mr. Wm Haine': the name is written 'Haine', not 'Haines'; his role as manager is assumed; 'right lined': it is unclear whether there is a hyphen; The role of 'he' in the first line (taken off the Register) is unknown because the entry begins on the previous page



1892 377

ec. 21st Attendance very low this morning only 36 including infants present.

" 22nd Attendance still low 40 present.

" 23rd Attendance being still considerably below the average, School was closed this morning at 10 a.m. for two weeks holiday. As the full time of the attendance was not made, the marks of those present were cancelled.

n. 9th 1893 Reopened School this morning. Elizabeth and Alice Brown are absent, ill with Scarlet Fever.

11th 1 ton of coke was brought for the use of the school today.

16th Monitress absent this morning, owing to the illness of her mother and sister. Mrs Buchanan took the 1st. class boys in Freehand Drawing this afternoon, from 2 till 3. A bottle of ink and a box of pens have been got for the school.

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F. B. Buchanan.

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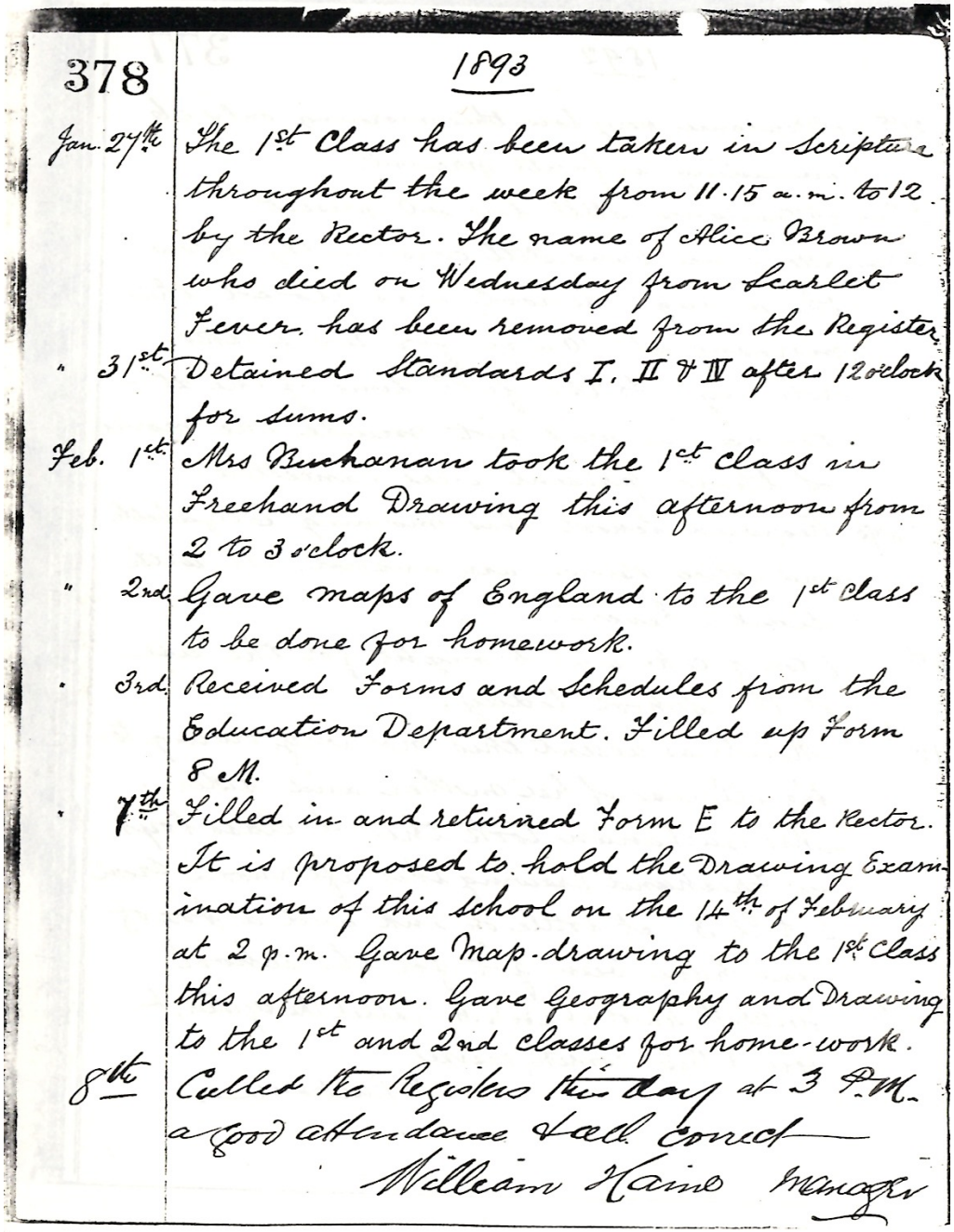
Uncertain readings: Margin dates for 9th and 27th are cut off at the left edge. The first is read as 'Jan.' and the second only 'nt.' is visible (perhaps 'Jant.' for January).; Signature initial read as 'F.' but could be 'J.' or 'T.'. The signer is probably a manager or the Rector.; 'Visited' has an unusual capital V that looks like 'b' (the OCR read 'bisited').; 'registers, &' could be 'register, &'. I read it as plural because the entry goes on 'found them'.



378

1893

Jan. 27th The 1st Class has been taken in Scripture throughout the week from 11.15 a.m. to 12 by the Rector. The name of Alice Brown who died on Wednesday from Scarlet Fever. has been removed from the Register.

" 31st Detained Standards I. II & IV after 12 o'clock for sums.

Feb. 1st Mrs Buchanan took the 1st class in Freehand Drawing this afternoon from 2 to 3 o'clock.

" 2nd Gave maps of England to the 1st class to be done for homework.

" 3rd. Received Forms and Schedules from the Education Department. Filled up Form 8 M.

" 7th Filled in and returned Form E to the Rector. It is proposed to hold the Drawing Examination of this school on the 14th of February at 2 p.m. Gave Map-drawing to the 1st Class this afternoon. Gave Geography and Drawing to the 1st and 2nd classes for home-work.

8th Called the Registers this day at 3 P.M. a good attendance & all correct

William Haine Manager

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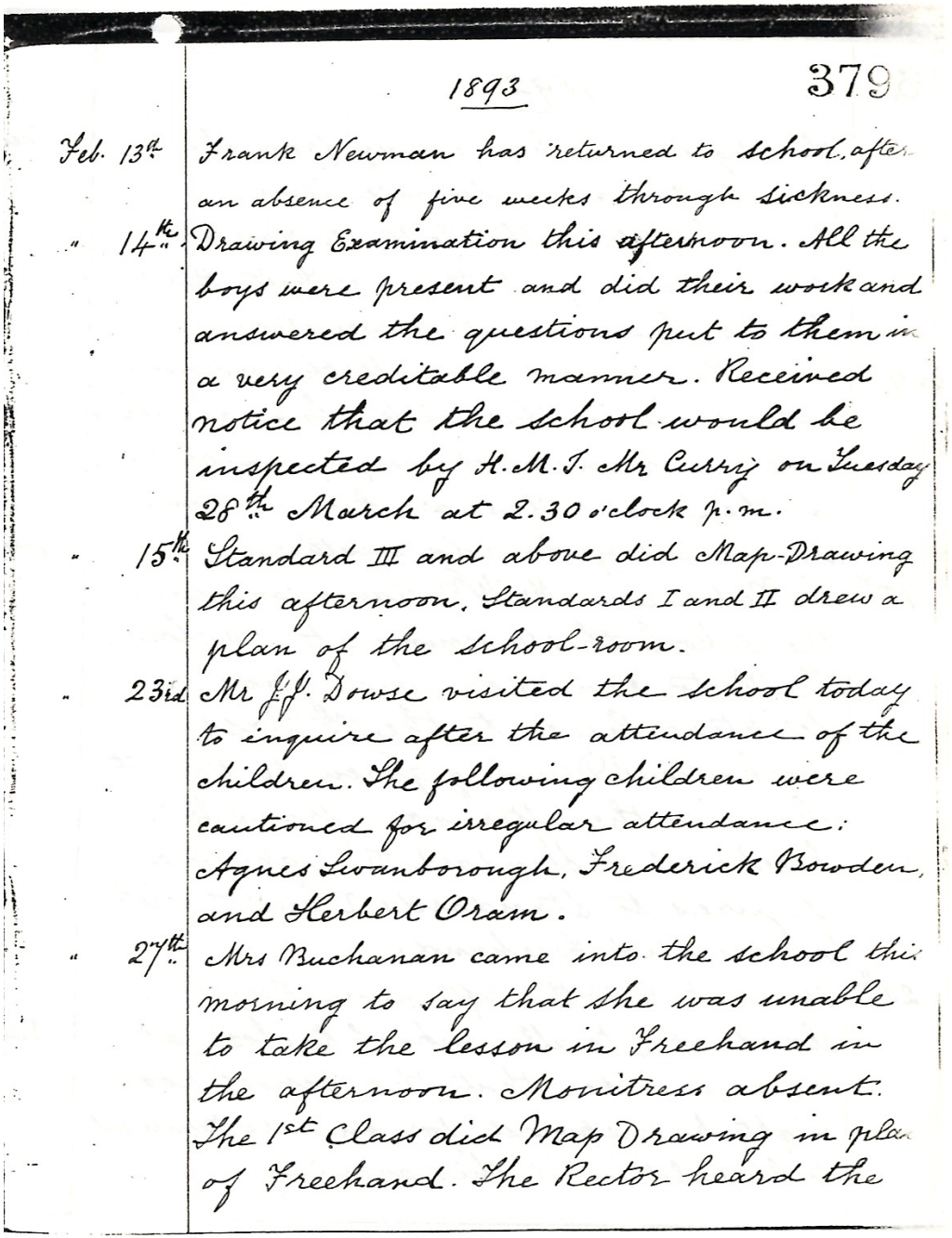
Uncertain readings: Manager's signature surname read as 'Haine'; could be 'Hains' or similar; Margin date read as 'Jan. 27th' (OCR gave 24th); 27th fits the Friday after Wednesday 25 Jan 1893



1893 379

Feb. 13th Frank Newman has returned to school, after an absence of five weeks through sickness.

" 14th Drawing Examination this afternoon. All the boys were present and did their work and answered the questions put to them in a very creditable manner. Received notice that the school would be inspected by H.M.I. Mr Curry on Tuesday 28th March at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

" 15th Standard III and above did Map-Drawing this afternoon. Standards I and II drew a plan of the school-room.

" 23rd Mr J.J. Dowse visited the school today to inquire after the attendance of the children. The following children were cautioned for irregular attendance: Agnes Swanborough, Frederick Bowden, and Herbert Oram.

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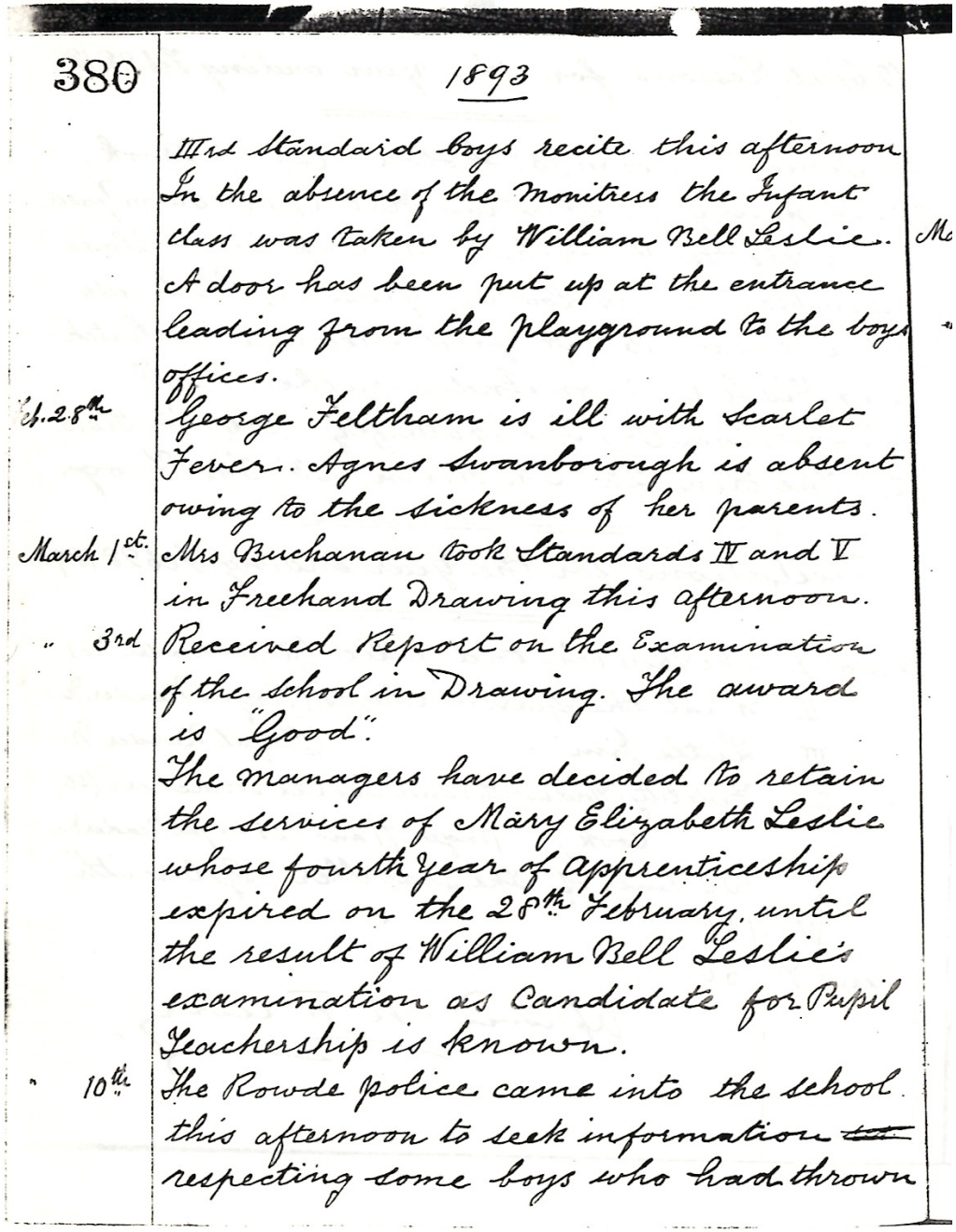
Uncertain readings: J.J. Dowse initials (OCR 'If'); 'place' at line end partly cut off ('plan' visible)



380

1893

IIIrd Standard boys recite this afternoon In the absence of the Monitress the Infant class was taken by William Bell Leslie. A door has been put up at the entrance leading from the playground to the boys offices.

Feb. 28th George Feltham is ill with Scarlet Fever. Agnes Swanborough is absent owing to the sickness of her parents.

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" 3rd Received Report on the Examination of the school in Drawing. The award is "Good".
The managers have decided to retain the services of Mary Elizabeth Leslie whose fourth year of Apprenticeship expired on the 28th February, until the result of William Bell Leslie's examination as Candidate for Pupil Teachership is known.

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Uncertain readings: Margin date beside George Feltham entry partly cut off; read as 'Feb. 28th'; Struck-through word after 'information' appears to be 'the'

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