Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1890-91

Volume 1, pages 321-341 (21 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.

1890

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Feb. 28th Alfred Pearce went home ill this morning.

March 3rd. The New National Reading Books, "The Primer" and "The Infant Reader" have been got for the Infant Class Commenced to use the National Registers today instead of the Durham Registers. Monitress present today. Attendance very low owing to sickness.

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" 7th No needlework this week. Sewing Mistress still unable to attend owing to two of her children having fever Pupil Teacher and VI Standard boy still absent.

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Charles Martin
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(continued from previous page)

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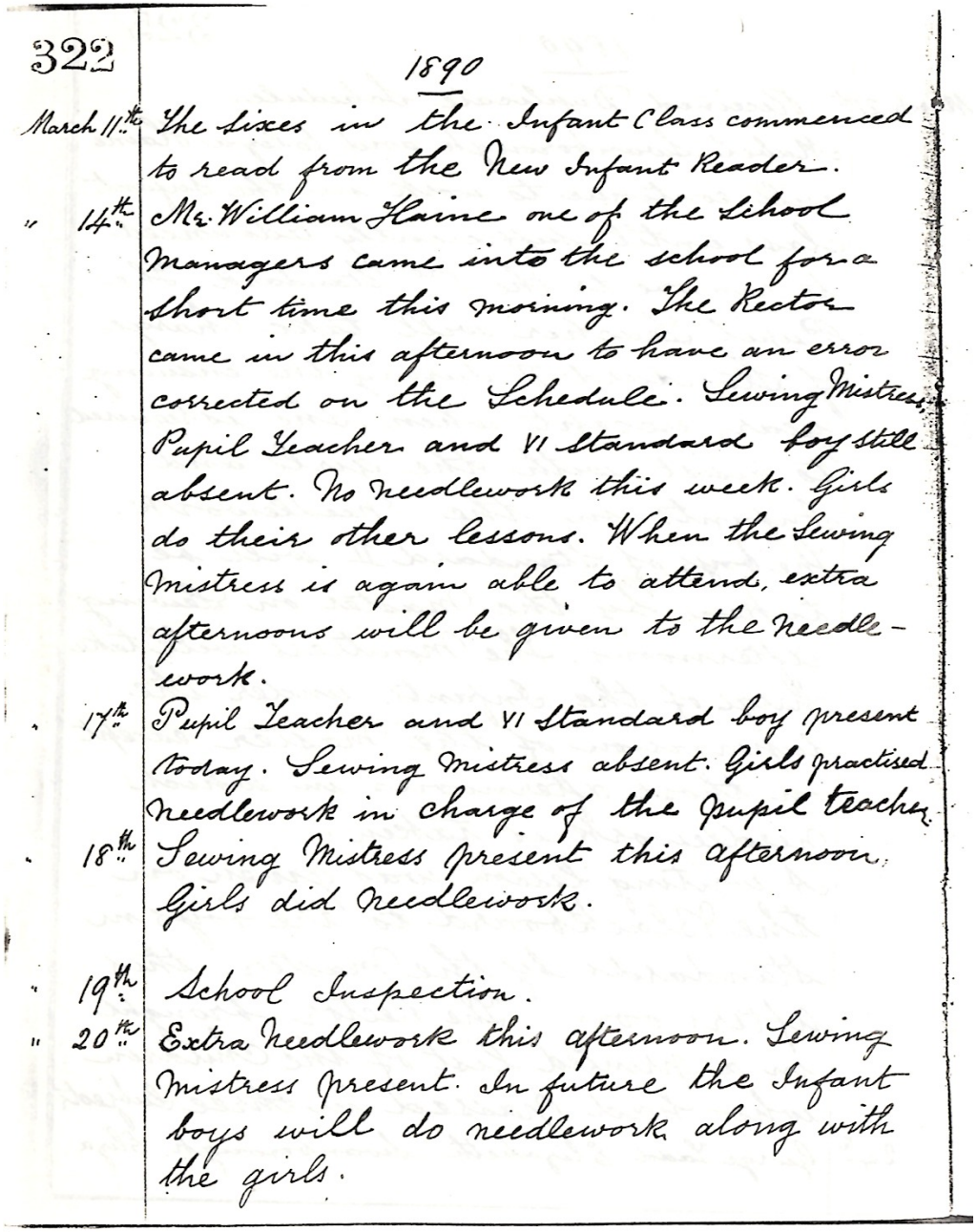
March 11 I have this morning examined the Registers & found the numbers correct. Charles Martin Manager.

Uncertain readings: 'Registers' in manager's entry is hastily written (OCR 'Rejecter'); '& found the numbers correct' – 'the' is written loosely and could be read as 'thes'; margin marks before '4th' and '7th' read as ditto marks



322

1890

March 11th The Sixes in the Infant Class commenced to read from the New Infant Reader.

" 14th Mr. William Haine one of the School Managers came into the school for a short time this morning. The Rector came in this afternoon to have an error corrected on the Schedule. Sewing Mistress, Pupil Teacher and VI Standard boy still absent. No needlework this week. Girls do their other lessons. When the Sewing Mistress is again able to attend, extra afternoons will be given to the needlework.

" 17th Pupil Teacher and VI Standard boy present today. Sewing Mistress absent. Girls practised needlework in charge of the pupil teacher.

" 18th Sewing Mistress present this afternoon. Girls did needlework.

" 19th School Inspection.

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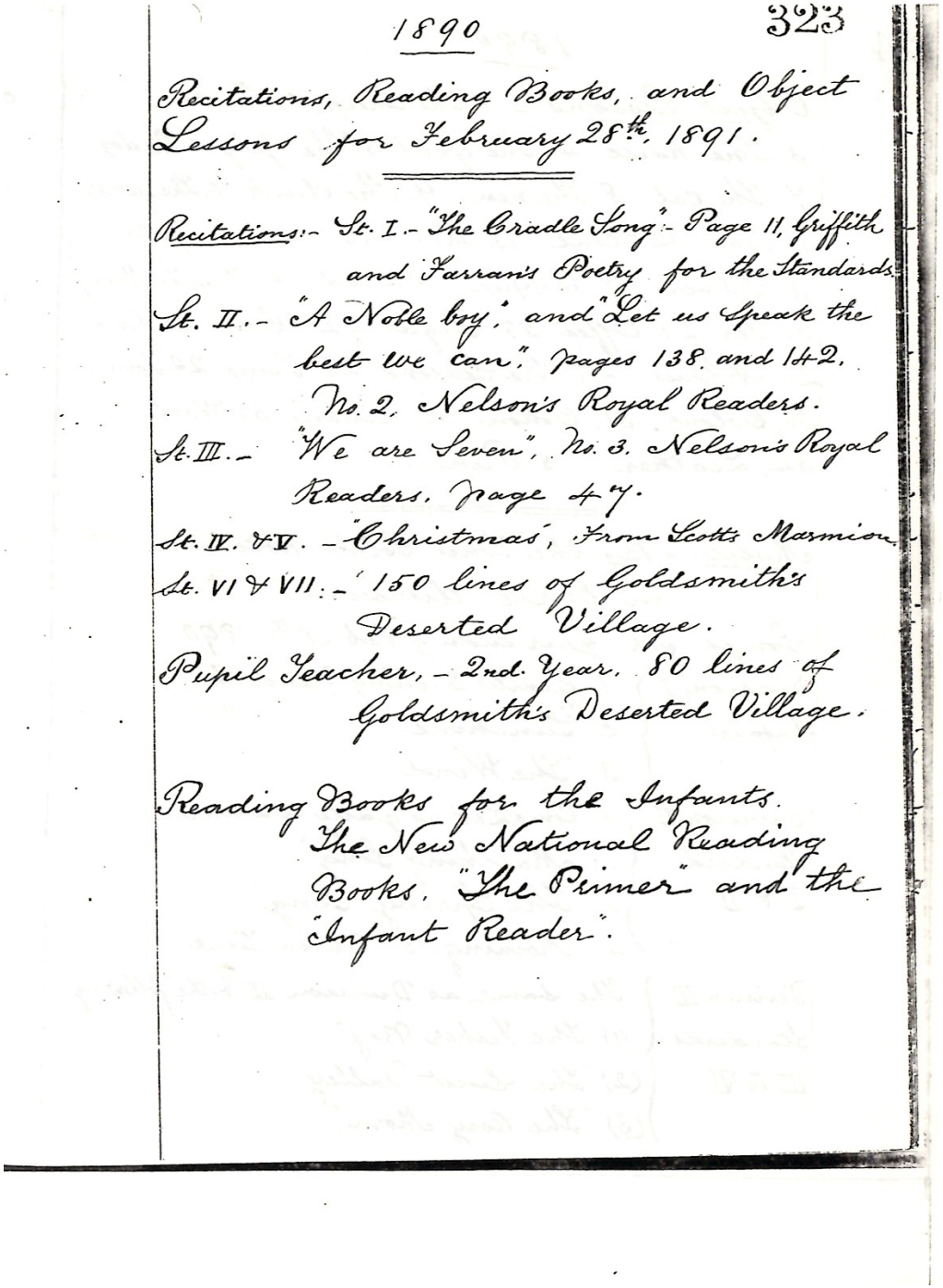
Uncertain readings: Manager's surname read as 'Haine' (OCR 'Have'); the capital could possibly be read differently; Margin dates for 14th-20th are marked with ditto marks for March



1890 323

Recitations, Reading Books, and Object Lessons for February 28th, 1891.

Recitations:- St. I.- "The Cradle Song"- Page 11, Griffith and Farran's Poetry for the Standards.
St. II.- "A Noble boy," and "Let us Speak the best we can", pages 138. and 142. No. 2. Nelson's Royal Readers.
St. III.- "We are Seven", No. 3. Nelson's Royal Readers. page 47.
St. IV. & V. - "Christmas", From Scott's Marmion.
St. VI & VII.- '150 lines of Goldsmith's Deserted Village.
Pupil Teacher, - 2nd. Year. 80 lines of Goldsmith's Deserted Village.

Reading Books for the Infants. The New National Reading Books. "The Primer" and the "Infant Reader".

Page 323

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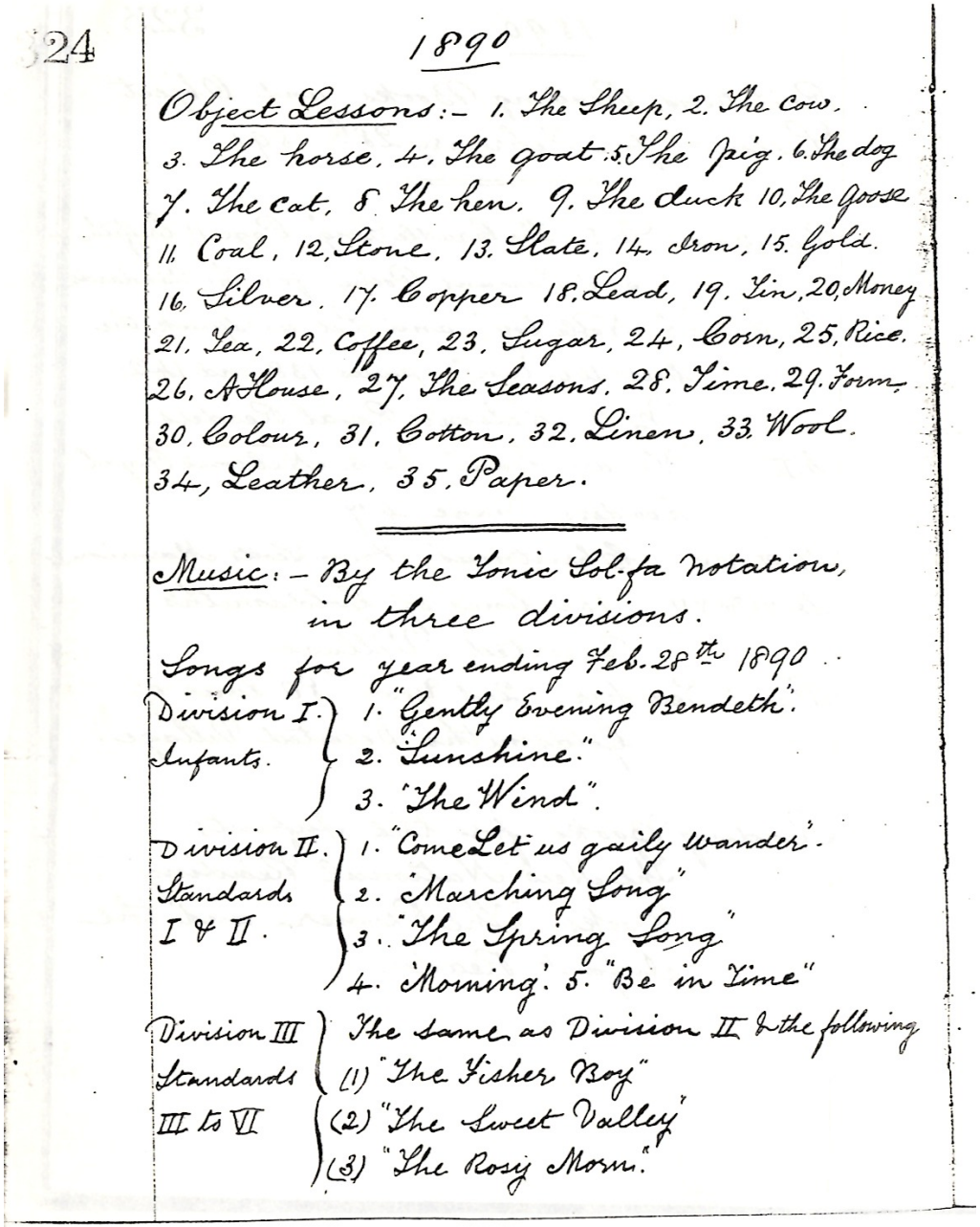
Uncertain readings: Stray mark before '150 lines' in St. VI & VII line, transcribed as an apostrophe; Punctuation after 'page 47' and 'Marmion' partly obscured; read as full stops



324

1890

Object Lessons:- 1. The Sheep, 2. The cow. 3. The horse. 4. The goat. 5. The pig. 6. The dog 7. The cat, 8. The hen. 9. The duck 10, The goose 11. Coal, 12, Stone. 13. Slate. 14. Iron, 15. Gold. 16. Silver. 17. Copper 18. Lead, 19. Tin, 20, Money 21. Tea, 22. Coffee, 23. Sugar, 24, Corn, 25, Rice. 26. A House, 27, The Seasons. 28. Time. 29. Form. 30. Colour, 31. Cotton. 32. Linen. 33. Wool. 34, Leather. 35. Paper.

Music:- By the Tonic Sol-fa notation, in three divisions.

Songs for year ending Feb. 28th 1890.

Division I. Infants.
1. "Gently Evening Bendeth".
2. "Sunshine."
3. "The Wind".

Division II. Standards I & II.
1. "Come Let us gaily Wander".
2. "Marching Song"
3. "The Spring Song"
4. "Morning". 5. "Be in Time"

Division III Standards III to VI
The same as Division II & the following
(1) "The Fisher Boy"
(2) "The Sweet Valley"
(3) "The Rosy Morn."

Page 324

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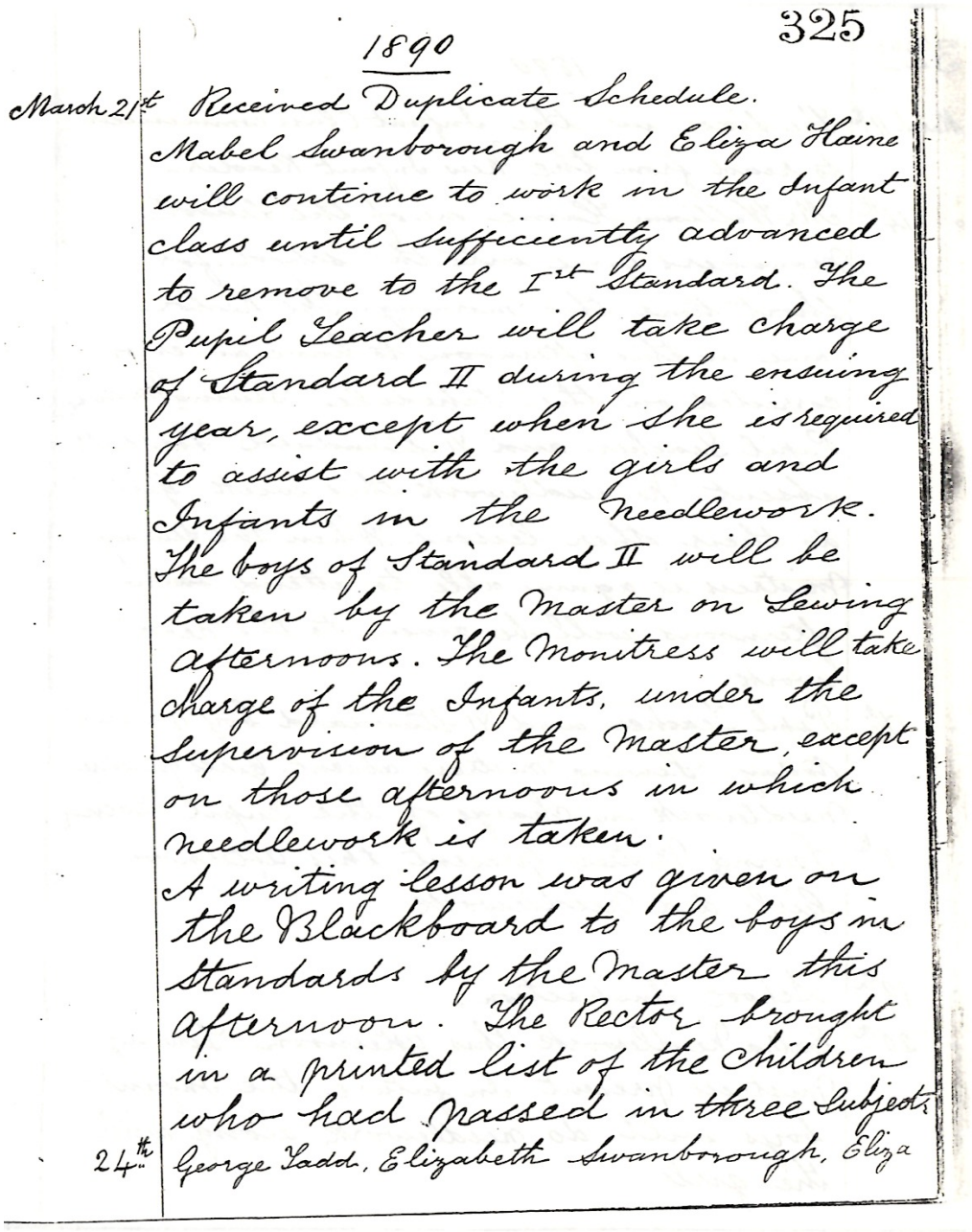
Uncertain readings: Page number: the first digit is partly cut off at the edge of the scan; it reads as 324 (OCR gave 24); "Come Let us gaily wander" - the 'L' is written as a capital with no space after 'Come'; Item 4 in Division II reads 'Morning' and is not 'Moming'



1890 325

March 21st Received Duplicate Schedule.
Mabel Swanborough and Eliza Haine will continue to work in the Infant class until sufficiently advanced to remove to the Ist Standard. The Pupil Teacher will take charge of Standard II during the ensuing year, except when she is required to assist with the girls and Infants in the Needlework. The boys of Standard II will be taken by the Master on Sewing afternoons. The Monitress will take charge of the Infants, under the supervision of the Master, except on those afternoons in which needlework is taken.
A writing lesson was given on the Blackboard to the boys in Standards by the Master this afternoon. The Rector brought in a printed list of the children who had passed in three Subjects

24th George Ladd. Elizabeth Swanborough, Eliza

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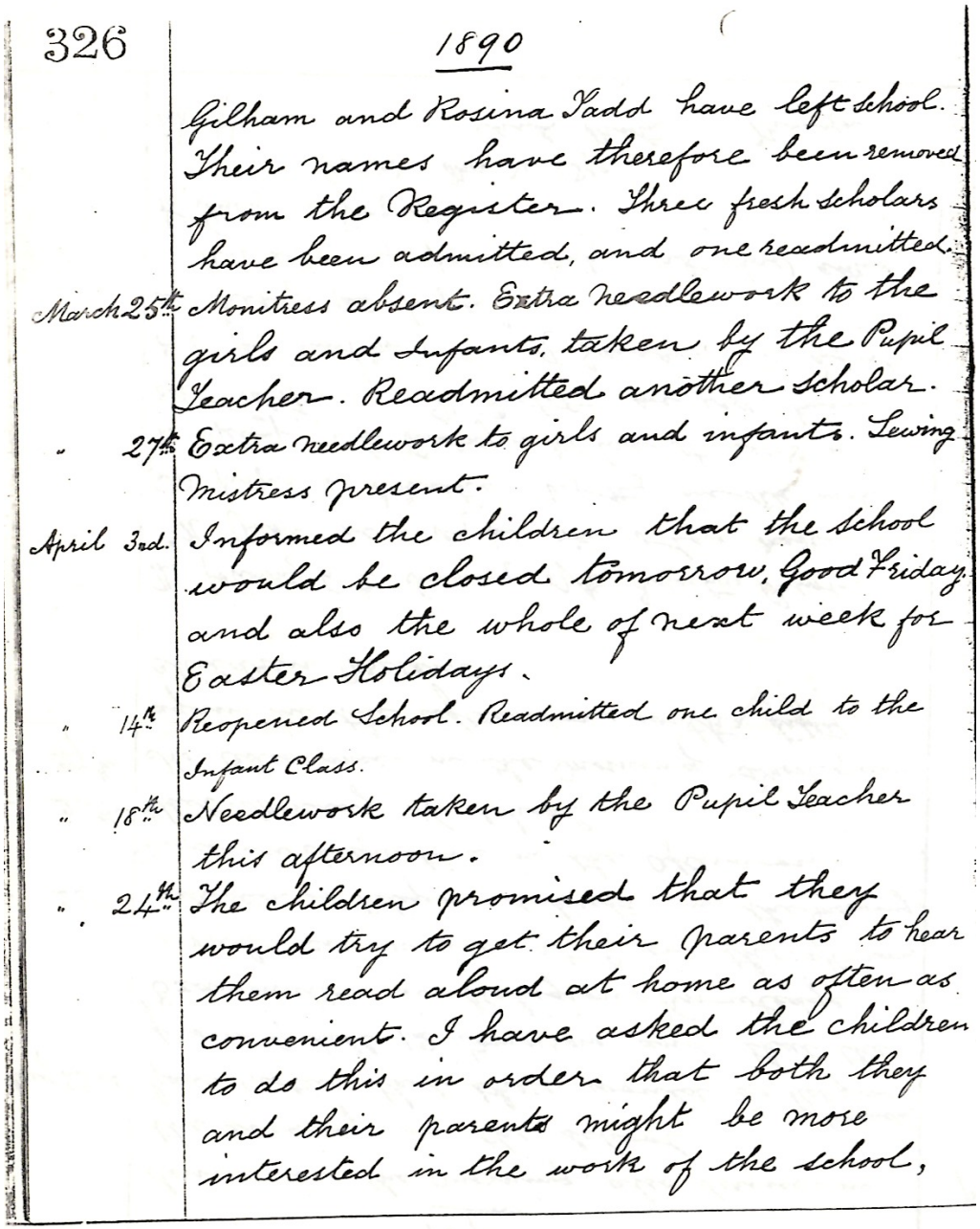
24th George [Ladd?], Elizabeth Swanborough, Eliza

Uncertain readings: 'George [Ladd?]': the capital looks like the hand's T in 'The' and 'Teacher', so it could be 'Tadd'; the OCR gives 'Yadd'; 'Sewing afternoons': the capital S is written like the hand's T/L form (the OCR reads 'Lewing'); 'Ist Standard': written as 'I' with superscript 'st'; The margin date '24th' sits beside the last line (the list of names). The names may finish the 21st entry about the Rector's printed list rather than begin a new entry on the 24th; The last name 'Eliza' runs on to the next page; her surname is not on this page


326

1890

Gilham and Rosina Tadd have left school. Their names have therefore been removed from the Register. Three fresh scholars have been admitted, and one readmitted.

March 25th Monitress absent. Extra needlework to the girls and Infants, taken by the Pupil Teacher. Readmitted another scholar.

" 27th Extra needlework to girls and infants. Sewing Mistress present.

April 3rd. Informed the children that the school would be closed tomorrow, Good Friday, and also the whole of next week for Easter Holidays.

" 14th Reopened School. Readmitted one child to the Infant Class.

" 18th Needlework taken by the Pupil Teacher this afternoon.

" 24th The children promised that they would try to get their parents to hear them read aloud at home as often as convenient. I have asked the children to do this in order that both they and their parents might be more interested in the work of the school,

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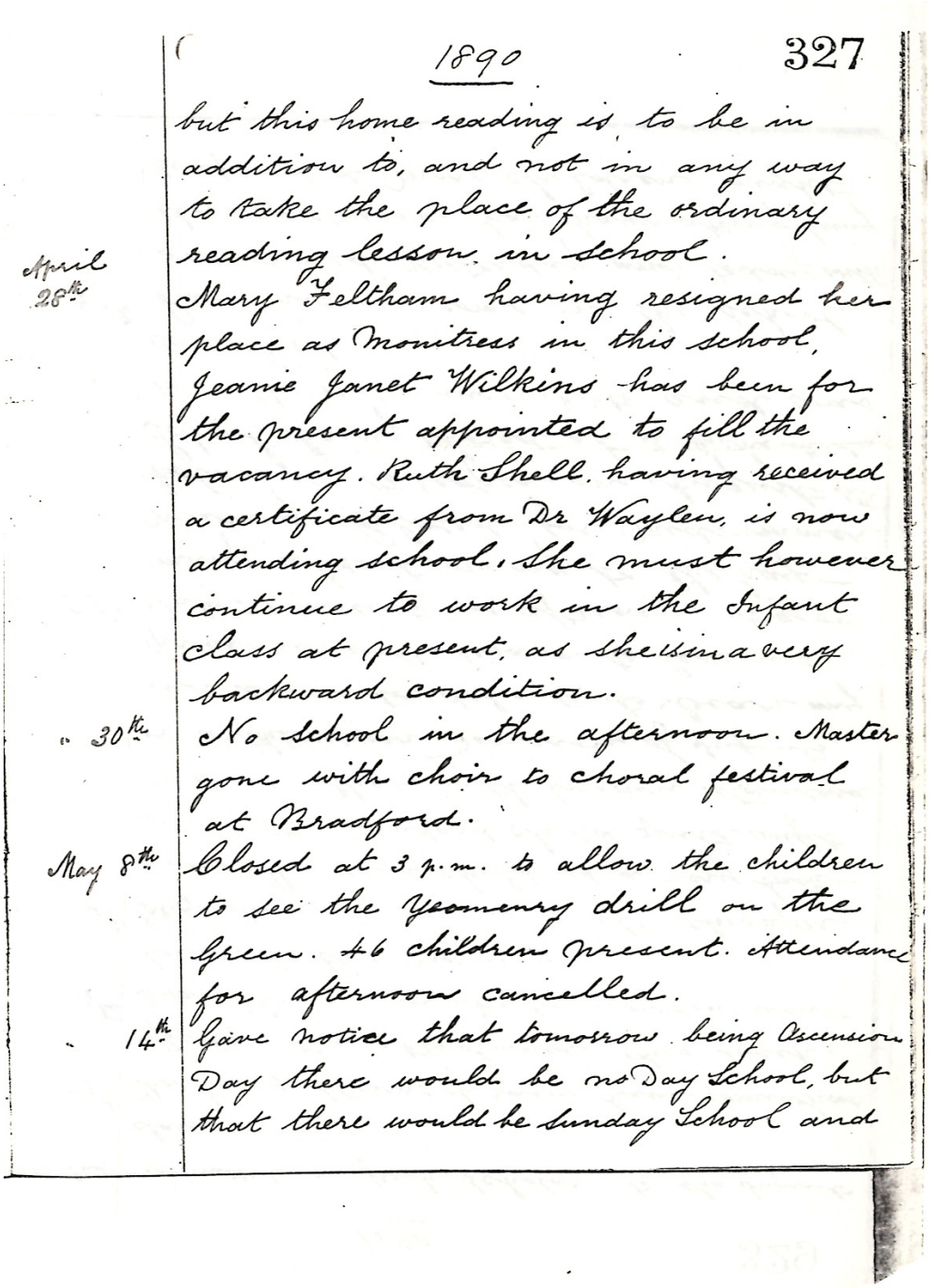
Uncertain readings: 'Gilham' is probably the surname of a pupil whose first name was on the previous page; 'Tadd' could also be read as 'Todd'



1890 327

but this home reading is to be in addition to, and not in any way to take the place of the ordinary reading lesson in school.

April 28th Mary Feltham having resigned her place as Monitress in this school, Jeanie Janet Wilkins has been for the present appointed to fill the vacancy. Ruth Shell. having received a certificate from Dr Waylen, is now attending school. She must however continue to work in the Infant class at present, as sheisinavery backward condition.

" 30th No School in the afternoon. Master gone with choir to choral festival at Bradford.

May 8th Closed at 3 p.m. to allow the children to see the Yeomenry drill on the Green. 46 children present. Attendance for afternoon cancelled.

" 14th Gave notice that tomorrow being Ascension Day there would be no Day School, but that there would be Sunday School and

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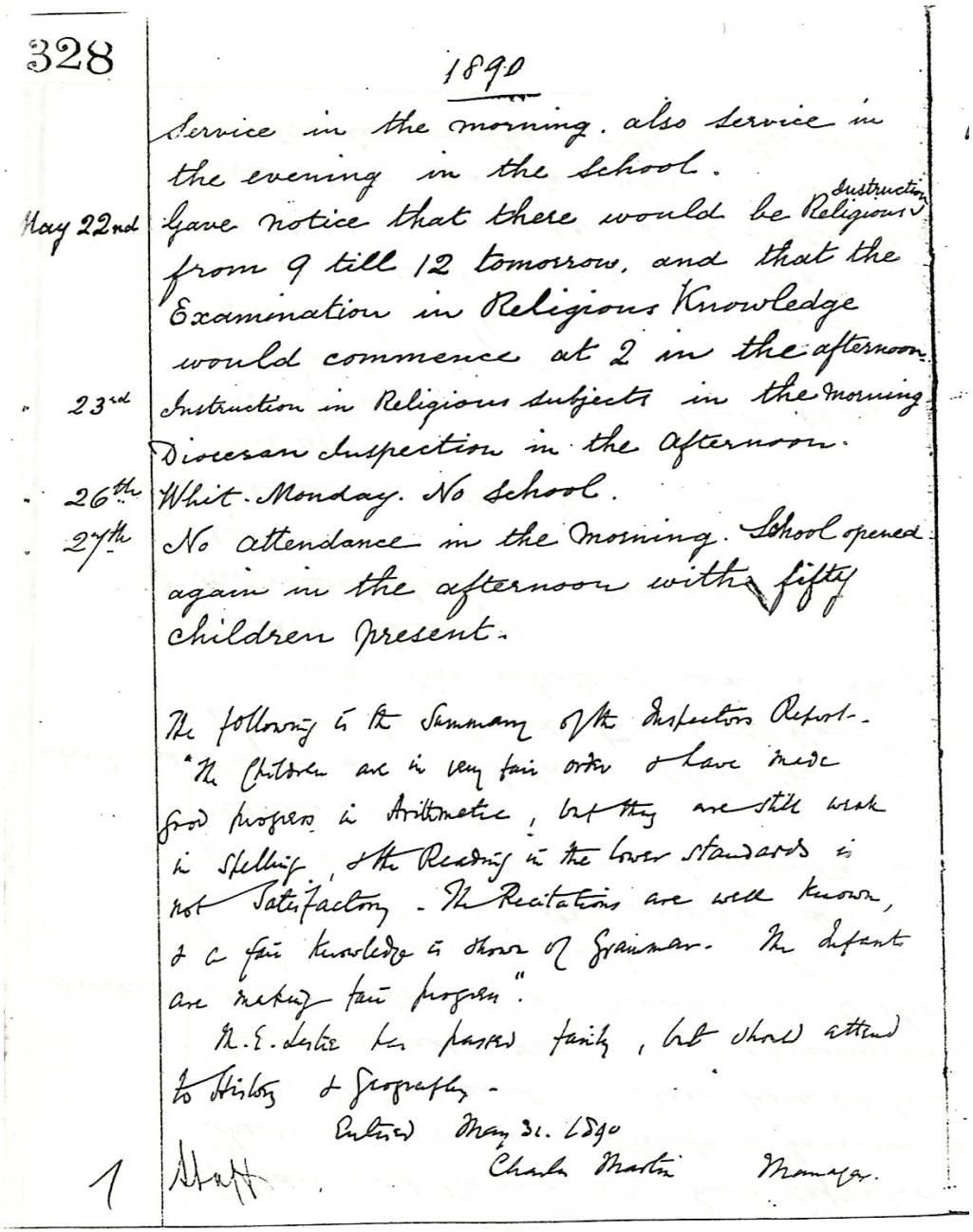
Uncertain readings: 'Jeanie' could be 'Jeannie' or 'Jennie'; the OCR reads 'Jeame gamet'; 'sheisinavery' is written run together on the page; the entry text has it as 'she is in a very'; 'Yeomenry' (sic): the second vowel looks like 'e', not 'a'; 'Ruth Shell.' has a full stop after the name, kept as written; The date for the May 14th entry is written as a ditto mark plus '14th'


328

1890

Service in the morning. also Service in the evening in the School.

May 22nd Gave notice that there would be Religious Instruction from 9 till 12 tomorrow, and that the Examination in Religious Knowledge would commence at 2 in the afternoon.

" 23rd Instruction in Religious subjects in the morning. Diocesan Inspection in the afternoon.

" 26th Whit. Monday. No school.

" 27th No attendance in the morning. School opened again in the afternoon with fifty children present.

The following is the Summary of the Inspectors Report. "The Children are in very fair order & have made good progress in Arithmetic, but they are still weak in Spelling, & the Reading in the lower standards is not Satisfactory. The Recitations are well known, & a fair knowledge is shown of Grammar. The Infants are making fair progress".

M. E. Leslie has passed fairly, but should attend to History & Geography.

Entered May 31. 1890

Charles Martin Manager.

1 Staff.

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(continued from previous page)

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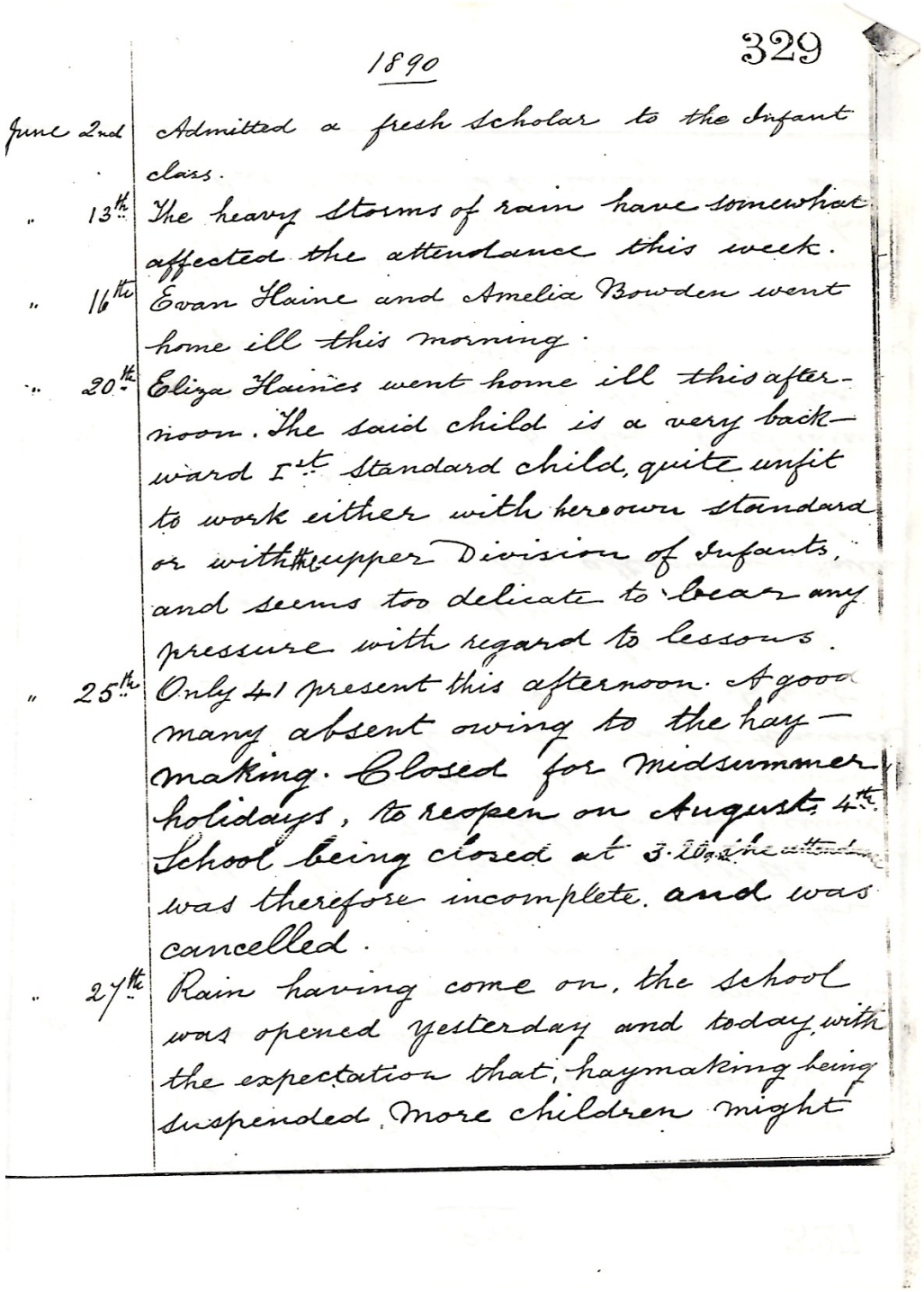
Uncertain readings: Initials 'M. E.' in 'M. E. Leslie' and this person's role (probably a pupil teacher or assistant) are uncertain; '1 Staff' in the bottom margin is a later annotation, read as '1' and 'Staff'; 'Instruction' is written above the line after 'Religious' as an insertion; The opening line continues an entry from the previous page (probably Ascension Day services); I dated the copied inspection report to the 'Entered May 31. 1890' line, because it has no margin date



1890 329

June 2nd Admitted a fresh Scholar to the Infant class.

" 13th The heavy Storms of rain have somewhat affected the attendance this week.

" 16th Evan Haine and Amelia Bowden went home ill this morning.

" 20th Eliza Haines went home ill this afternoon. The said child is a very backward Ist Standard child, quite unfit to work either with herown standard or withthe upper Division of Infants, and seems too delicate to bear any pressure with regard to lessons.

" 25th Only 41 present this afternoon. A good many absent owing to the hay-making. Closed for midsummer holidays, to reopen on August 4th. School being closed at 3.20 the attendance was therefore incomplete. and was cancelled.

" 27th Rain having come on, the school was opened yesterday and today, with the expectation that, haymaking being suspended, more children might

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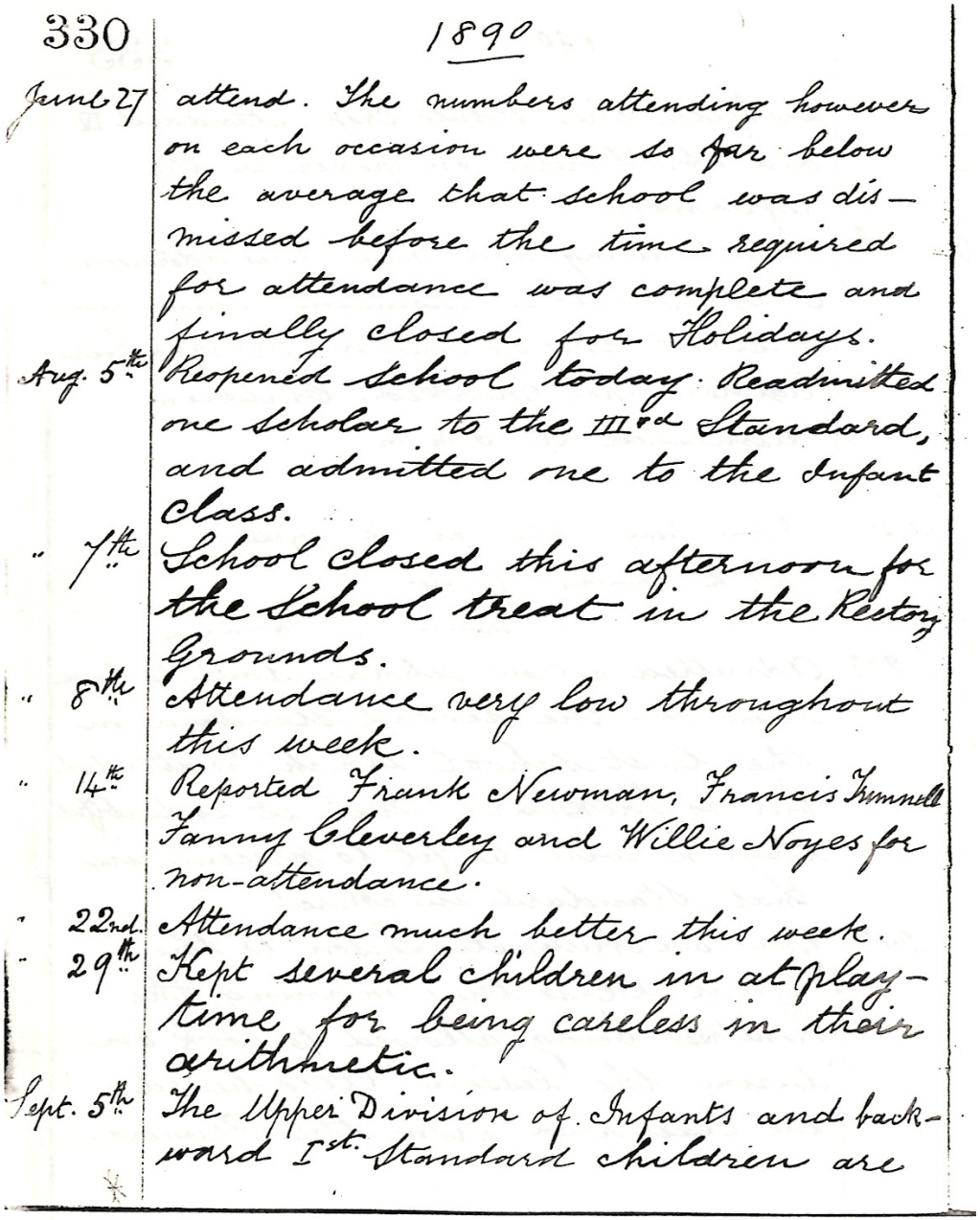
Uncertain readings: 'Evan Haine': surname looks like 'Haine' without final s (possibly 'Haines', as in Eliza Haines on the same page); first name could be 'Ewan'; 'with the upper': 'the' squeezed in small between 'with' and 'upper'; 'her own' is written almost as one word ('herown'); '3.20 the attendance': time and 'the attendance' are cramped and faint at the end of the line; 'Closed for midsummer holidays, to reopen on August 4th' and 'and was cancelled' are in darker, heavier ink and may have been added later; Punctuation after 'suspended' is unclear (comma or stray mark)



330 1890

June 27 attend. The numbers attending however on each occasion were so far below the average that school was dismissed before the time required for attendance was complete and finally closed for Holidays.

Aug. 5th Reopened school today. Readmitted one scholar to the IIIrd Standard, and admitted one to the Infant class.

" 7th School closed this afternoon for the School treat in the Rectory Grounds.

" 8th Attendance very low throughout this week.

" 14th Reported Frank Newman, Francis Trimnell Fanny Cleverley and Willie Noyes for non-attendance.

" 22nd. Attendance much better this week.

" 29th Kept several children in at play-time for being careless in their arithmetic.

Sept. 5th The Upper Division of Infants and backward Ist. Standard children are

* Uncertain readings: Surname of Francis (14 Aug) read as 'Trimnell'; could be 'Trimmell' or 'Trimnell'; The faint pencil note below the ruled area (keyed by an asterisk beside the Sept. 5th entry) is mostly illegible; it may say something like 'Infants Grace ...'; Line 1 'attend.' continues an entry from the previous page; the June 27 margin date probably belongs to that entry

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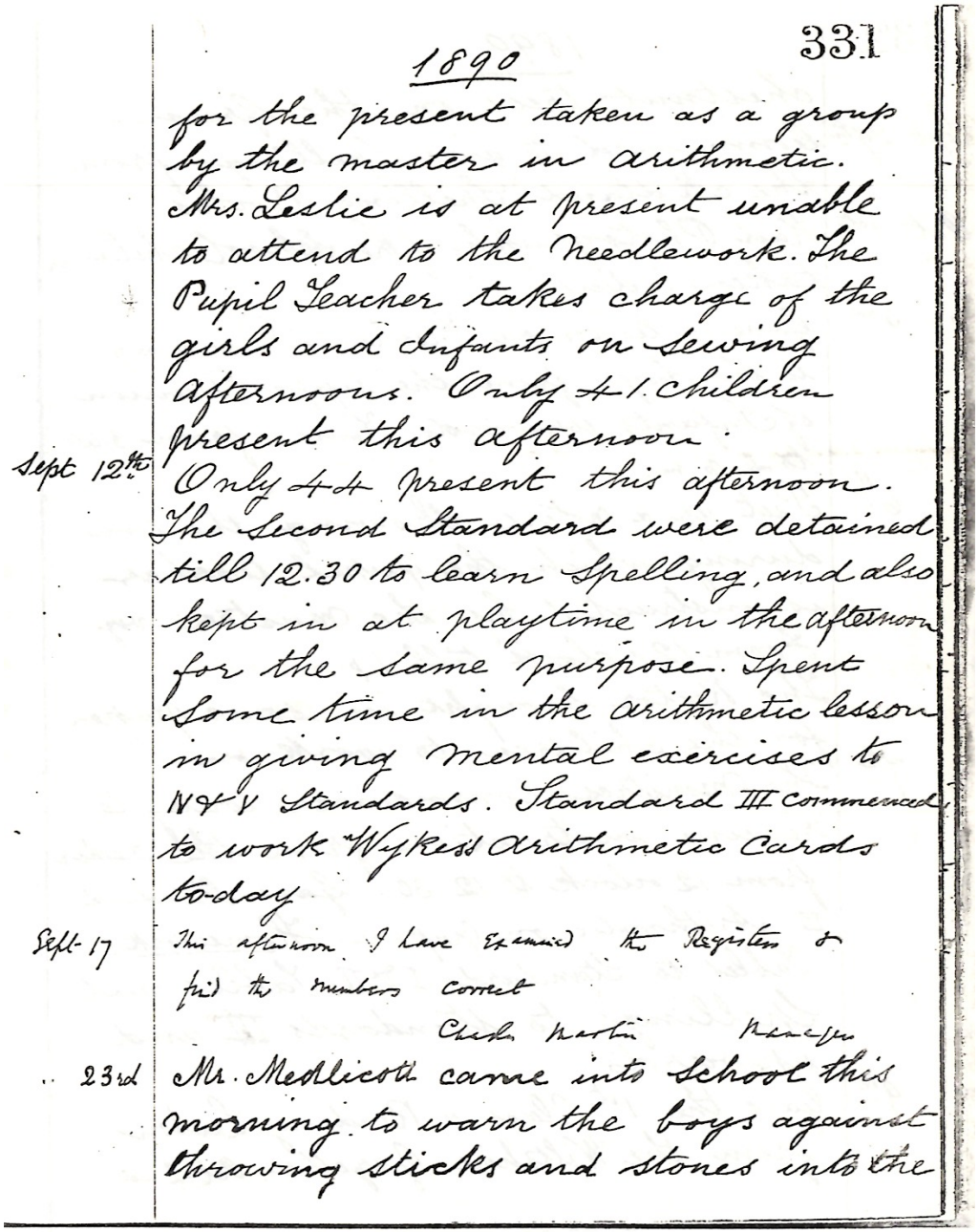

1890 331

for the present taken as a group by the master in arithmetic. Mrs. Leslie is at present unable to attend to the needlework. The Pupil Teacher takes charge of the girls and Infants on sewing afternoons. Only 41 children present this afternoon.

Sept 12th Only 44 present this afternoon. The Second Standard were detained till 12.30 to learn Spelling, and also kept in at playtime in the afternoon for the same purpose. Spent Some time in the arithmetic lesson in giving mental exercises to IV & V Standards. Standard III commenced to work "Wykes's Arithmetic Cards to-day

Sept 17 This afternoon I have Examined the Registers & find the numbers correct

Chas Martin Manager

" 23rd Mr. Medlicott came into School this morning to warn the boys against throwing sticks and stones into the

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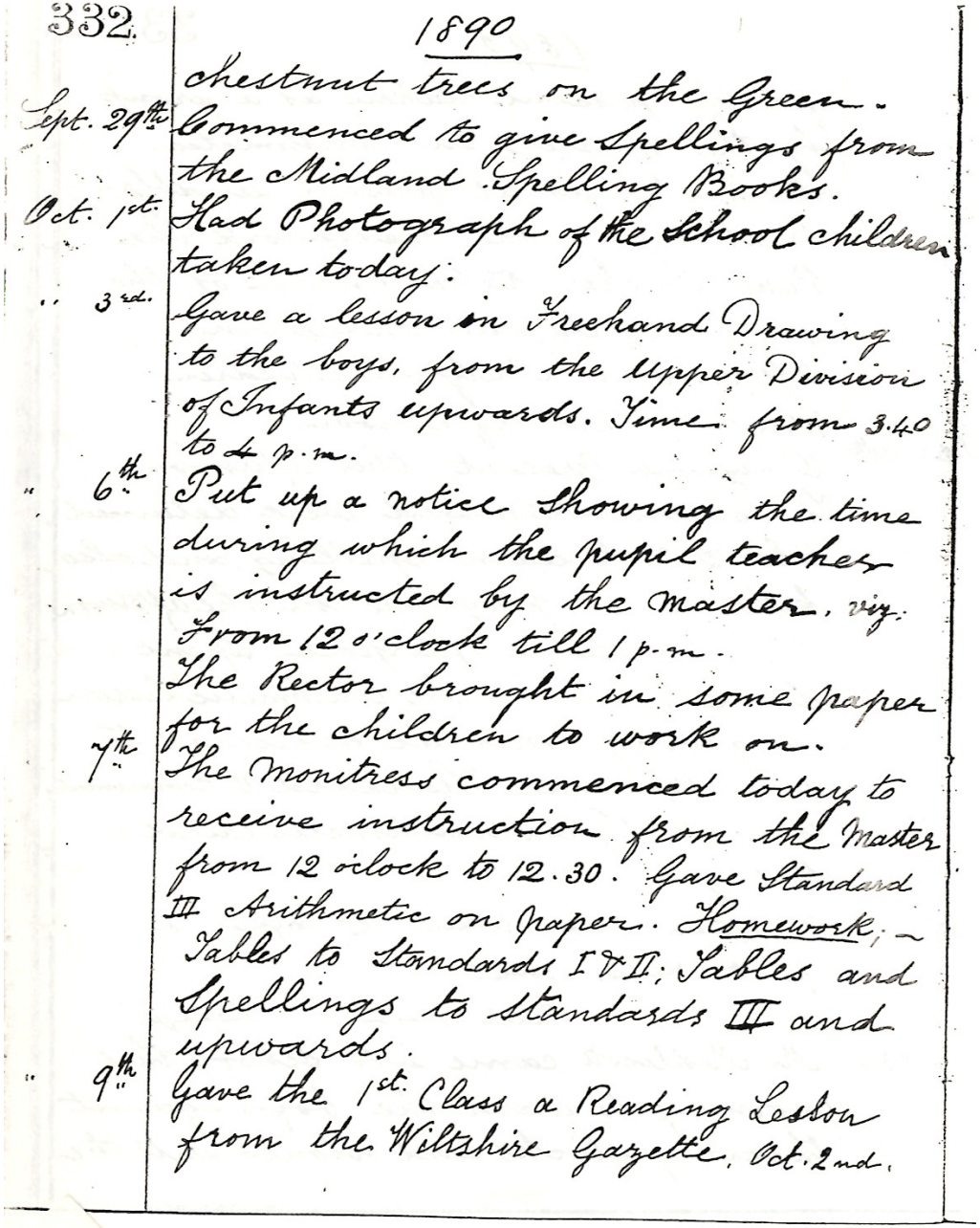
Uncertain readings: 'IV & V' written as a ligature that looks like 'N&V'; IV & V Standards is the likely meaning; 'Wykes's' has an opening quotation mark with no closing one; the possessive spelling is uncertain; the manager's signature looks like 'Chas. Martin'; reads 'Chedy Martin' in OCR; 'Medlicott' may be spelt 'Medlicoth' on the page; faint pencil note below the ruled area (something like ' Navy rec 12'?) is not legible*



332

1890

chestnut trees on the Green.

Sept. 29th Commenced to give Spellings from the Midland Spelling Books.

Oct. 1st. Had Photograph of the School children taken today.

" 3rd. Gave a lesson in Freehand Drawing to the boys, from the Upper Division of Infants upwards. Time from 3.40 to 4 p.m.

" 6th. Put up a notice showing the time during which the pupil teacher is instructed by the master, viz. From 12 o'clock till 1 p.m.

The Rector brought in some paper for the children to work on.

7th The Monitress commenced today to receive instruction from the Master from 12 o'clock to 12.30. Gave Standard III Arithmetic on paper. Homework;- Tables to Standards I & II; Tables and Spellings to Standards III and upwards.

" 9th Gave the 1st. Class a Reading Lesson from the Wiltshire Gazette. Oct. 2nd.

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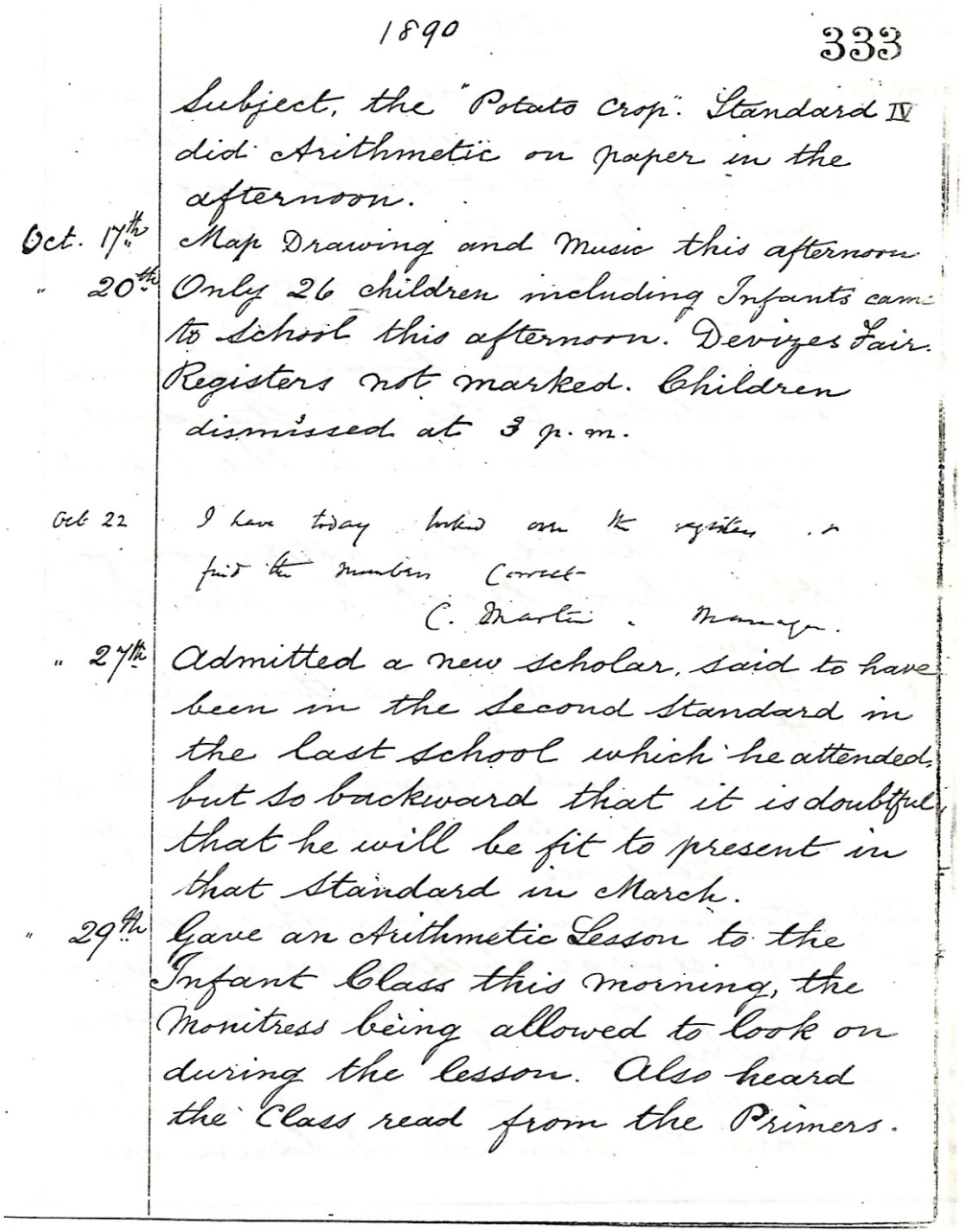
Uncertain readings: Margin date '7th' sits between 'for the children to work on' and 'The Monitress'; taken as the date of the Monitress entry, so the Rector's paper is put under 6th; 'Master' in the 6th entry may be lower-case 'master'; 'School children' capital S is uncertain; 'I & II' written as a ligature, 'I&II'


1890 333

Subject, the "Potato Crop". Standard IV did Arithmetic on paper in the afternoon.

Oct. 17th Map Drawing and Music this afternoon

" 20th Only 26 children including Infants came to School this afternoon. Devizes Fair. Registers not marked. Children dismissed at 3 p. m.

Oct 22 I have today looked over the registers & find the numbers Correct-

C. Martin . Manager.

" 27th Admitted a new scholar, said to have been in the Second Standard in the last school which he attended, but so backward that it is doubtful that he will be fit to present in that Standard in March.

" 29th Gave an Arithmetic Lesson to the Infant Class this morning, the Monitress being allowed to look on during the lesson. Also heard the Class read from the Primers.

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(continued from previous page)

Subject, the "Potato Crop". Standard IV did Arithmetic on paper in the afternoon.

Oct. 17th Map Drawing and Music this afternoon

" 20th Only 26 children including Infants came to School this afternoon. Devizes Fair. Registers not marked. Children dismissed at 3 p.m.

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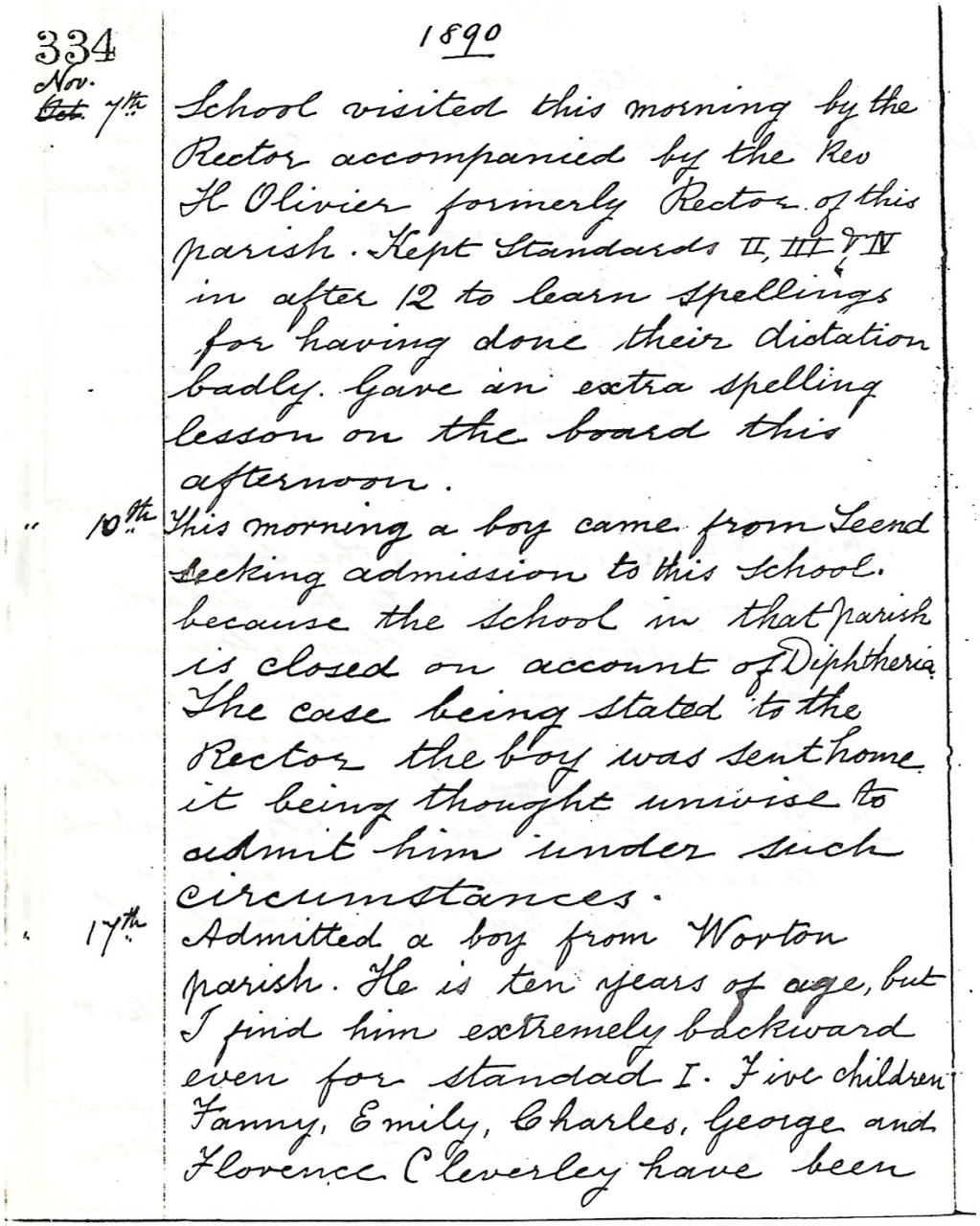
Uncertain readings: Manager's entry is in a hasty, faint hand: 'looked over the registers & find the numbers Correct' is read from the context; Signature read as 'C. Martin', but the surname is cramped; 'came' is cut off at the right margin ('cam-')



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1890

Nov. Oct. 7th School visited this morning by the Rector accompanied by the Rev H Olivier formerly Rector of this parish. Kept Standards II, III & IV in after 12 to learn spellings for having done their dictation badly. Gave an extra spelling lesson on the board this afternoon.

" 10th This morning a boy came from Seend seeking admission to this School. because the School in that parish is closed on account of Diphtheria The case being stated to the Rector the boy was sent home it being thought unwise to admit him under such circumstances.

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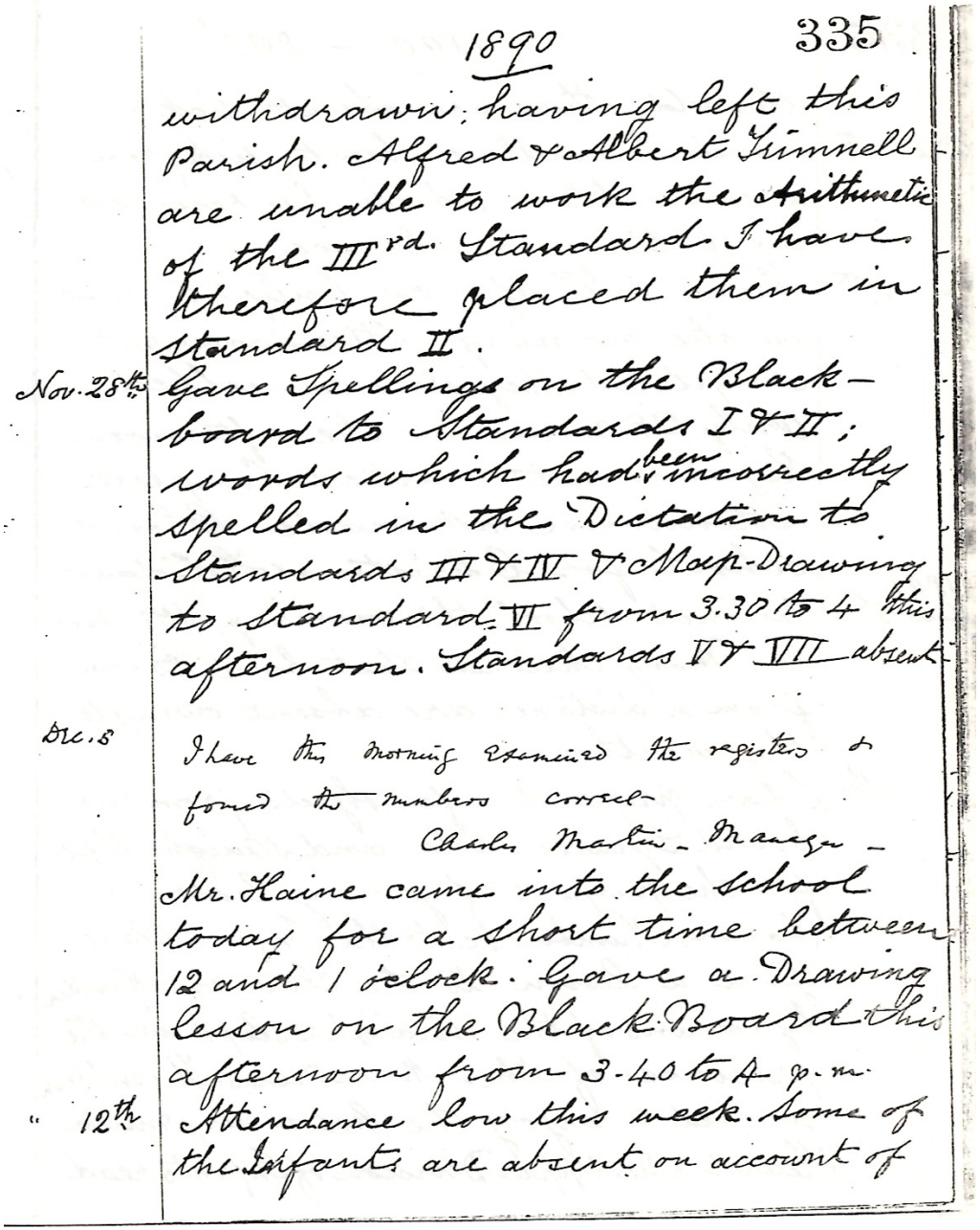
Uncertain readings: Margin month: 'Oct.' struck through with 'Nov.' written above; dates taken as November; '&' between III and IV is a small ampersand-like mark; 'standad' appears to be the writer's spelling of 'standard'; Last entry (17th) runs on to the next page



1890 335

withdrawn; having left this Parish. Alfred & Albert Timmell are unable to work the Arithmetic of the IIIrd. Standard I have therefore placed them in Standard II.

Nov. 28th Gave Spellings on the Black-board to Standards I & II; words which had been incorrectly spelled in the Dictation to Standards III & IV & Map-Drawing to Standard VI from 3.30 to 4 this afternoon. Standards V & VII absent

Dec. 5 I have this morning Examined the registers & found the numbers correct

Charles Martin - Manager -

Mr. Haine came into the school today for a short time between 12 and 1 oclock. Gave a Drawing lesson on the Black Board this afternoon from 3.40 to A p.m.

" 12th Attendance low this week. Some of the Infants are absent on account of

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Uncertain readings: Surname 'Timmell' (OCR 'Jimmell'); could be Tinnell or Gimmell; 'Standards V & VII absent': the second numeral could be VIII or VII; 'Dec. 5' margin date: the manager's hand is rough; '4 p.m.' looks like 'A p.m.' on the page

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the cold. others are absent sick.

Dec. 17th Francis Trimnell is absent sick from a severe blow which he received in falling on the ice.

" 19th Heavy fall of Snow. Only 25 present in the morning. Attendance not completed. Registers cancelled. Only 28 came in the afternoon Registers not marked. Complete attendance not made. Closed School for Christmas Holidays.

1891 Jan. 5th Reopened School this morning. Attendance low. Many children that have to come from a distance are absent owing to the weather.

" 8th I have prepared a few objects from card-board, Squares, circles, and straight slips for the purpose of giving lessons on Form, Number &c., to the Infant Class. Gave a lesson to the class on Number by means of the straight slips in the presence of the Monitress. The children seemed to enjoy the lesson very much. Heard the Upper Division of Infants read

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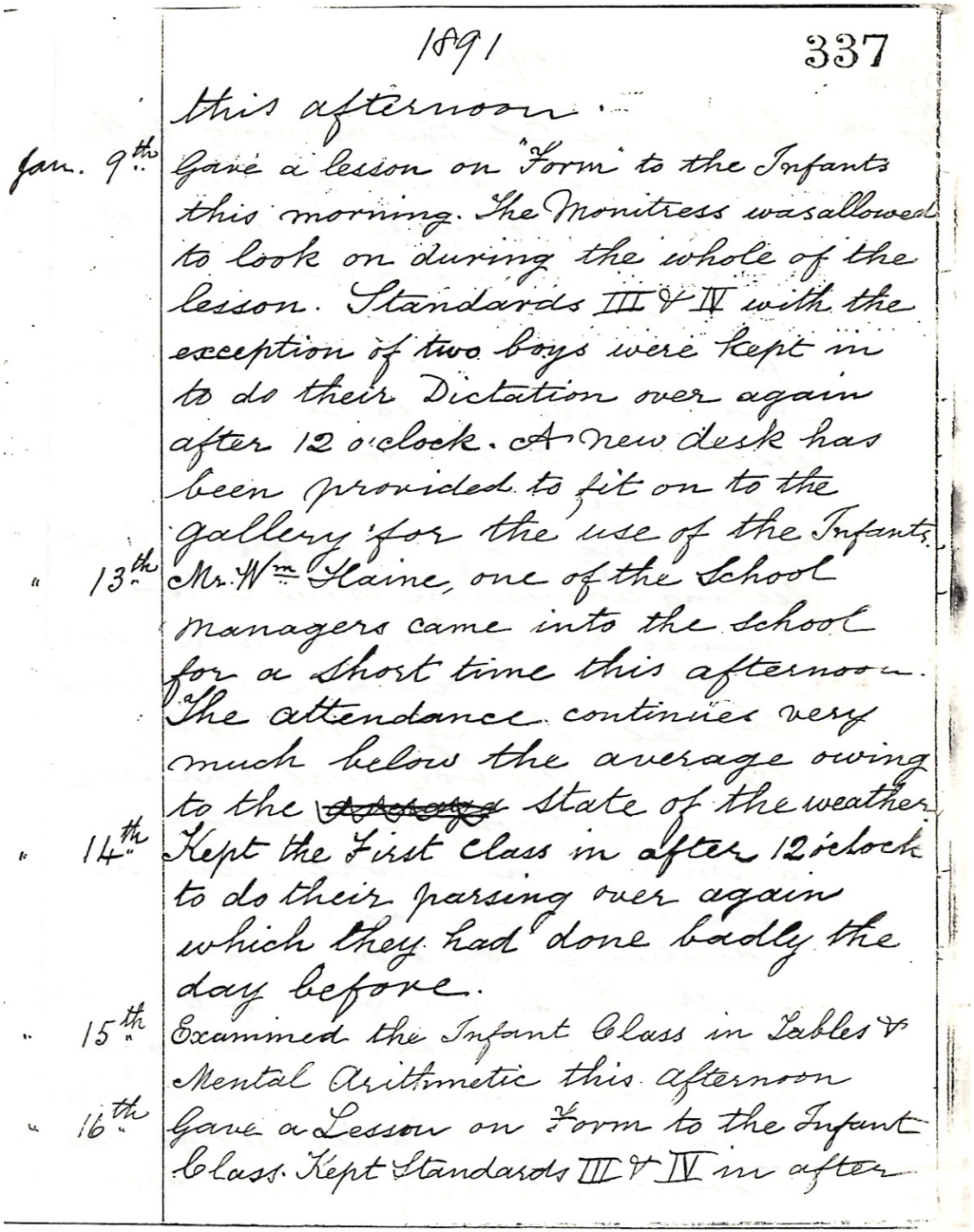
Uncertain readings: 'Slips' in line 'straight Slips' may be lower-case 'slips'; 'School' in 'Reopened School' may be lower-case; Header reads '1890 — 1891'; header_year given as 1890



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Jan. 9th Gave a lesson on "Form" to the Infants this morning. The Monitress wasallowed to look on during the whole of the lesson. Standards III & IV with the exception of two boys were kept in to do their Dictation over again after 12 o'clock. A new desk has been provided to fit on to the gallery for the use of the Infants.

" 13th Mr. Wm Haine, one of the School managers came into the school for a short time this afternoon. The attendance continues very much below the average owing to the ~~average~~ state of the weather.

" 14th Kept the First Class in after 12 o'clock to do their parsing over again which they had done badly the day before.

" 15th Examined the Infant Class in Tables & Mental Arithmetic this afternoon

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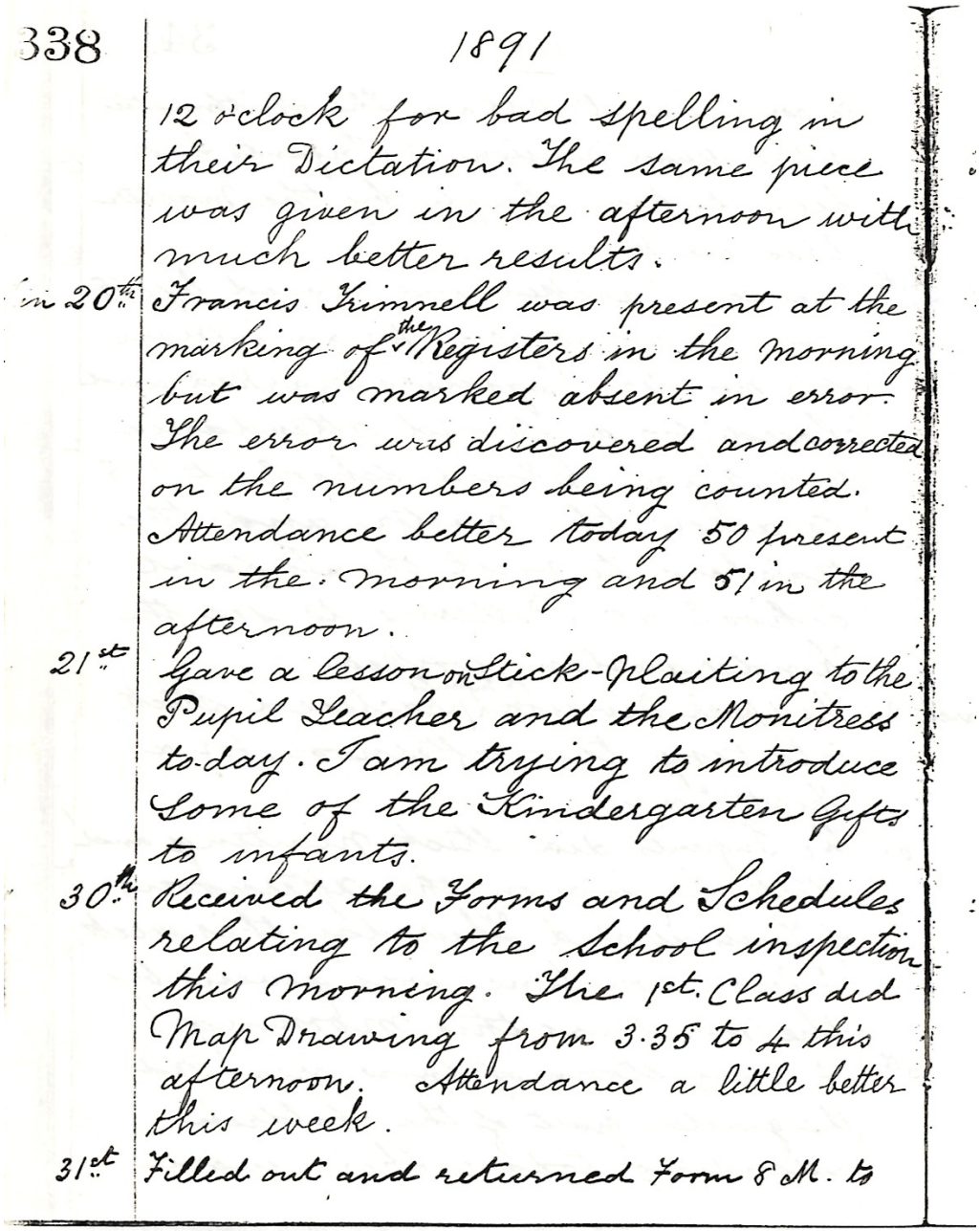
Uncertain readings: Manager's surname read as 'Haine' (OCR agrees); the capital could also be read as 'Flaine' or the name may be 'Haines'; Word struck through before 'state of the weather' appears to be 'average', a slip repeated from the line above; 'wasallowed' is written as one word on the page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12 o'clock for bad spelling in their Dictation. The same piece was given in the afternoon with much better results.

[Ja]n 20th Francis Trimnell was present at the marking of the Registers in the morning but was marked absent in error. The error was discovered and corrected on the numbers being counted. Attendance better today 50 present in the morning and 51 in the afternoon.

21st Gave a lesson on Stick-Plaiting to the Pupil Teacher and the Monitress to-day. I am trying to introduce Some of the Kindergarten Gifts to infants.

30th Received the Forms and Schedules relating to the School inspection this Morning. The 1st. Class did Map Drawing from 3.35 to 4 this afternoon. Attendance a little better this week.

31st Filled out and returned Form 8 M. to

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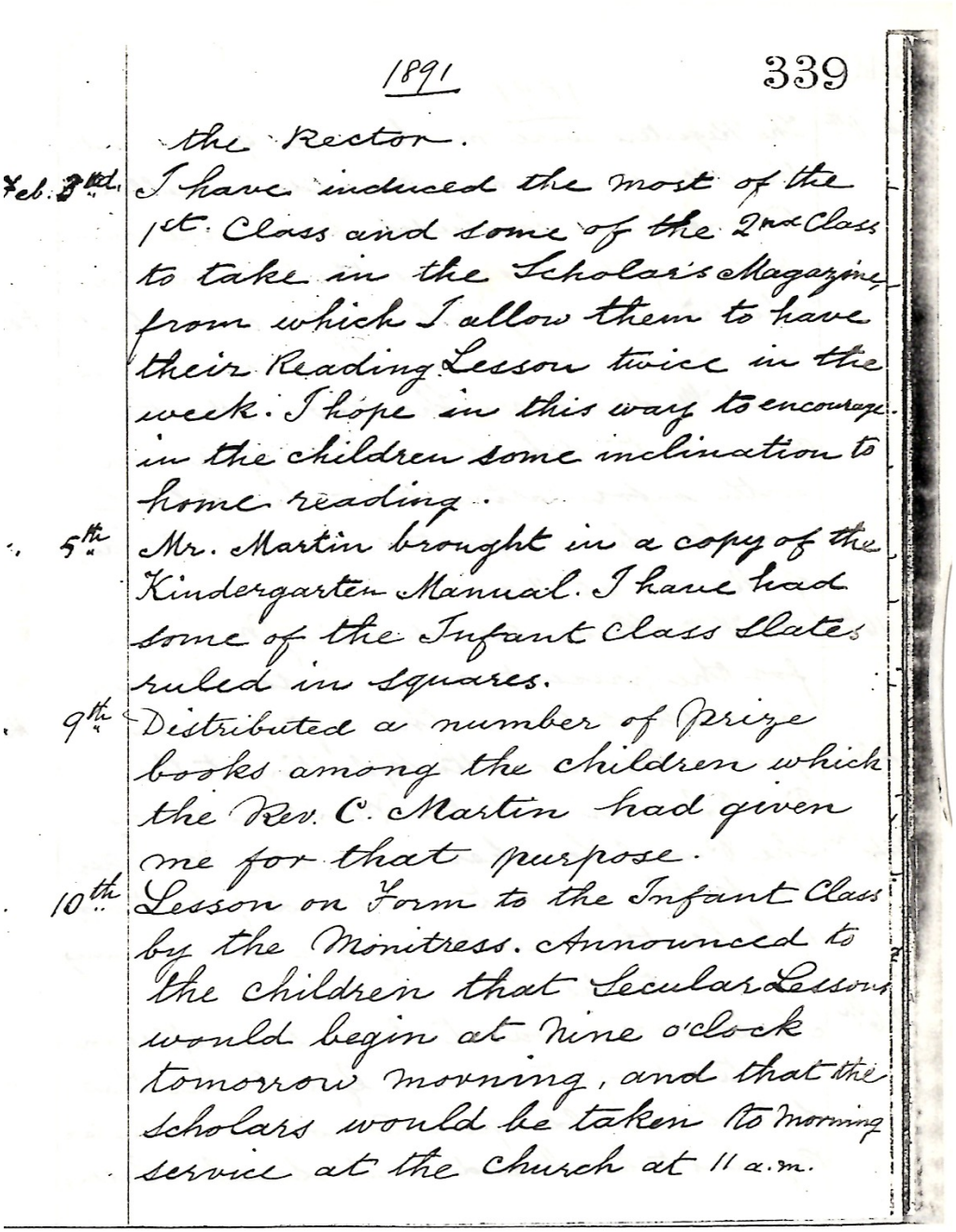
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the Rector.

Feb. 3rd. I have induced the most of the 1st. Class and some of the 2nd Class to take in the Scholar's Magazine, from which I allow them to have their Reading Lesson twice in the week. I hope in this way to encourage in the children some inclination to home reading.

5th " Mr. Martin brought in a copy of the Kindergarten Manual. I have had some of the Infant class slates ruled in squares.

9th " Distributed a number of prize books among the children which the Rev. C. Martin had given me for that purpose.

10th " Lesson on Form to the Infant Class by the Monitress. Announced to the children that Secular Lessons would begin at nine o'clock tomorrow morning, and that the Scholars would be taken to morning service at the church at 11 a.m.

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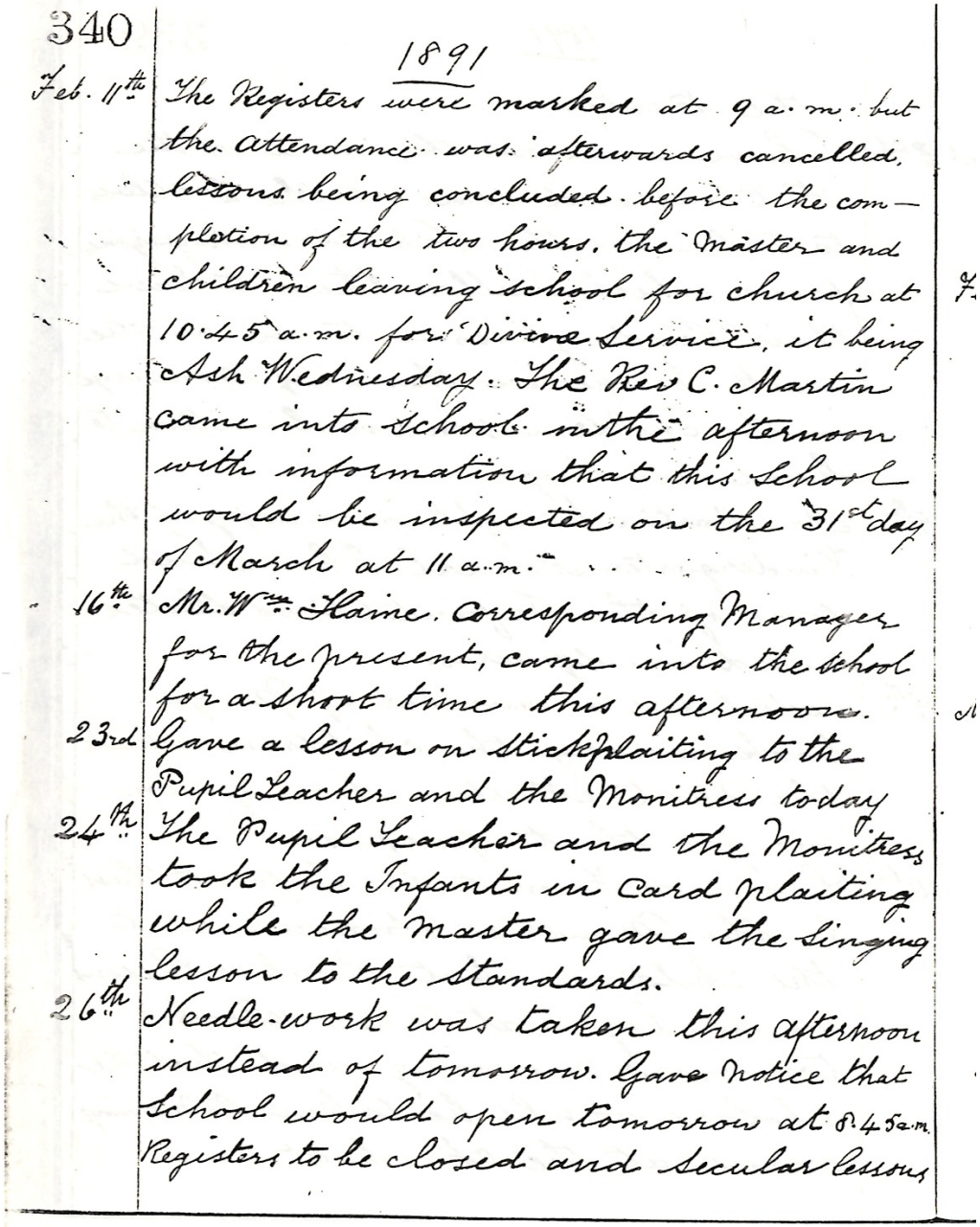
Uncertain readings: Margin '5th', '9th', '10th' carry ditto marks under 'Feb.'; 'nine' may be written with a capital N; 'Mr. Martin' and 'Rev. C. Martin' are taken to be the same person (the Rector)



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1891

Feb. 11th The Registers were marked at 9 a.m. but the attendance was afterwards cancelled, lessons being concluded before the completion of the two hours, the Master and children leaving school for church at 10.45 a.m. for Divine Service, it being Ash Wednesday. The Rev C. Martin came into school in the afternoon with information that this school would be inspected on the 31st day of March at 11 a.m.

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23rd Gave a lesson on Stickplaiting to the Pupil Teacher and the Monitress today

24th The Pupil Teacher and the Monitress took the Infants in card plaiting while the master gave the Singing lesson to the Standards.

26th Needle-work was taken this afternoon instead of tomorrow. Gave notice that School would open tomorrow at 8.45 a.m. Registers to be closed and Secular lessons

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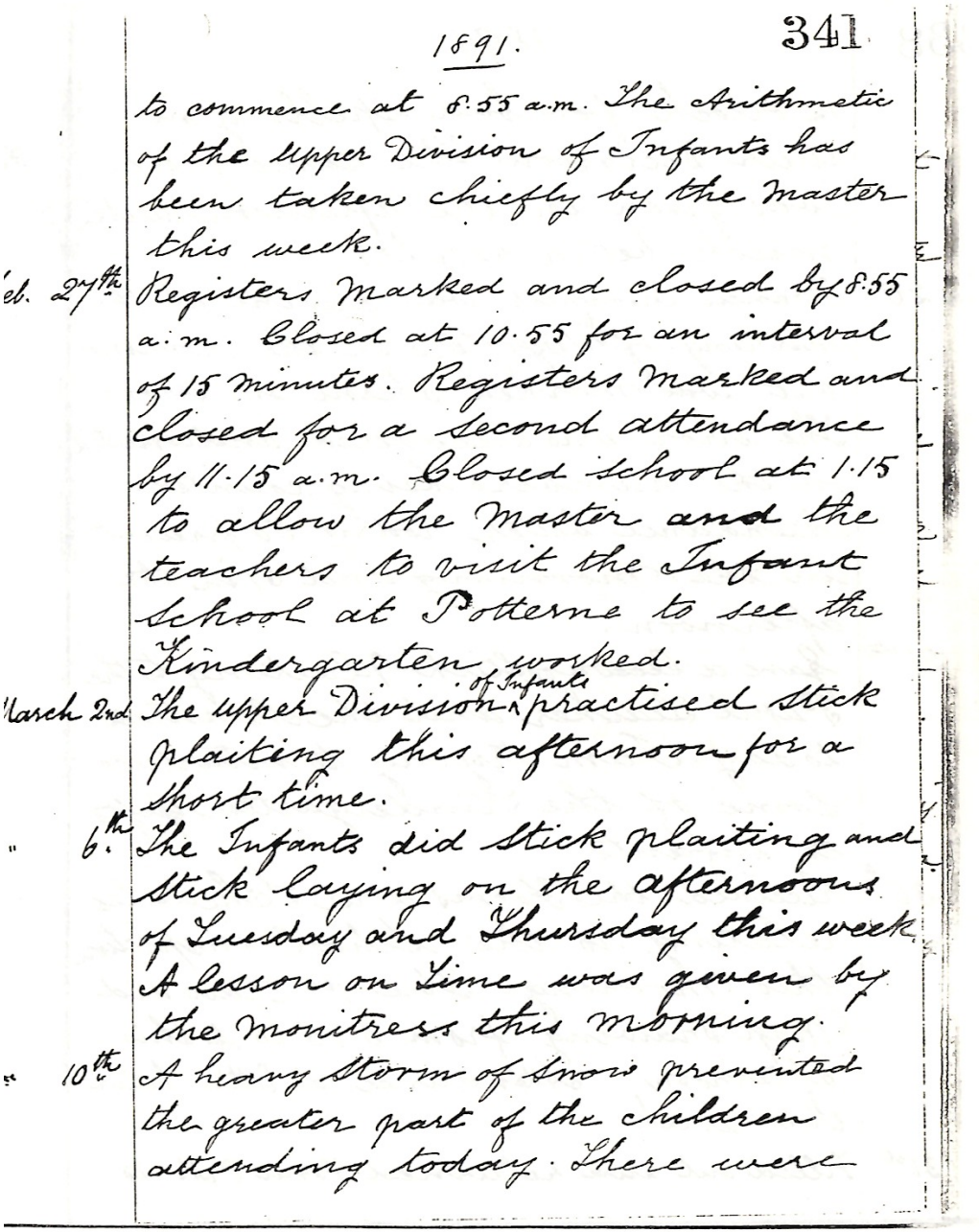
Uncertain readings: Surname of the Corresponding Manager read as 'Haine' (could be 'Flaine' or 'Hame'); written 'Mr. Wm. Haine' with a superscript m; 'Pupil Teacher': the capital T is written like an L, which is why the OCR read 'Leacher'



1891. 341

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March 2nd The upper Division of Infants practised stick plaiting this afternoon for a short time.

" 6th The Infants did stick plaiting and stick laying on the afternoons of Tuesday and Thursday this week. A lesson on Time was given by the monitress this morning.

" 10th A heavy storm of snow prevented the greater part of the children attending today. There were

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Uncertain readings: Margin date 'Feb. 27th' is cut off at the left edge; only 'eb. 27th' is visible; On 'Marked', 'Master' and 'Morning' the initial M is written in a large form that looks like a capital; transcribed as lower case; Several words begin with a tall initial s ('stick', 'school', 'second', 'short', 'storm', 'snow') that could be a capital S; transcribed as lower case; The capital T in 'Time' is uncertain; 'and' in 'the master and the' is written heavily or overwritten

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