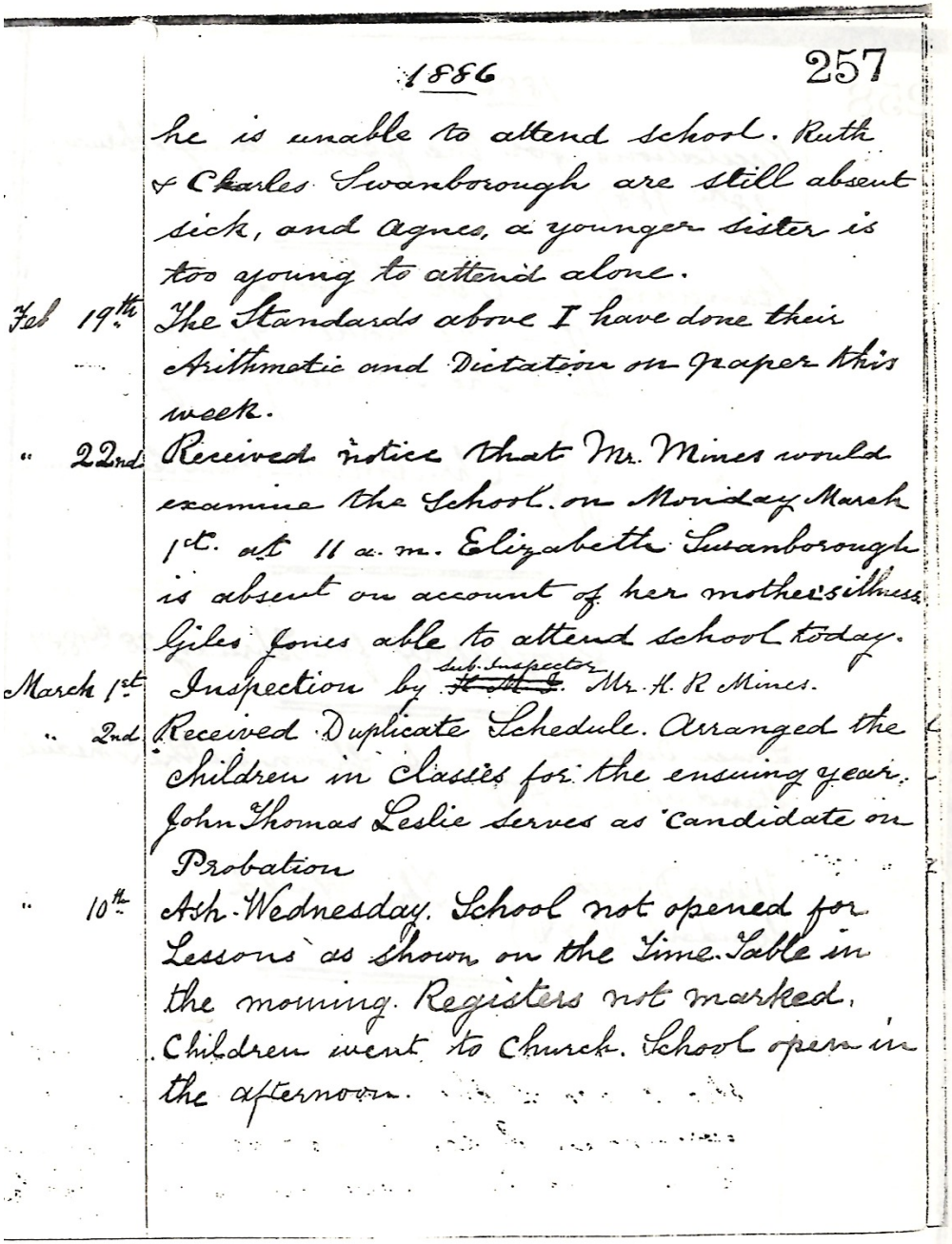
Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1886-87

Volume 1, pages 257-270 (14 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.



1886 257

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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.

Page 257

(continued from previous page)

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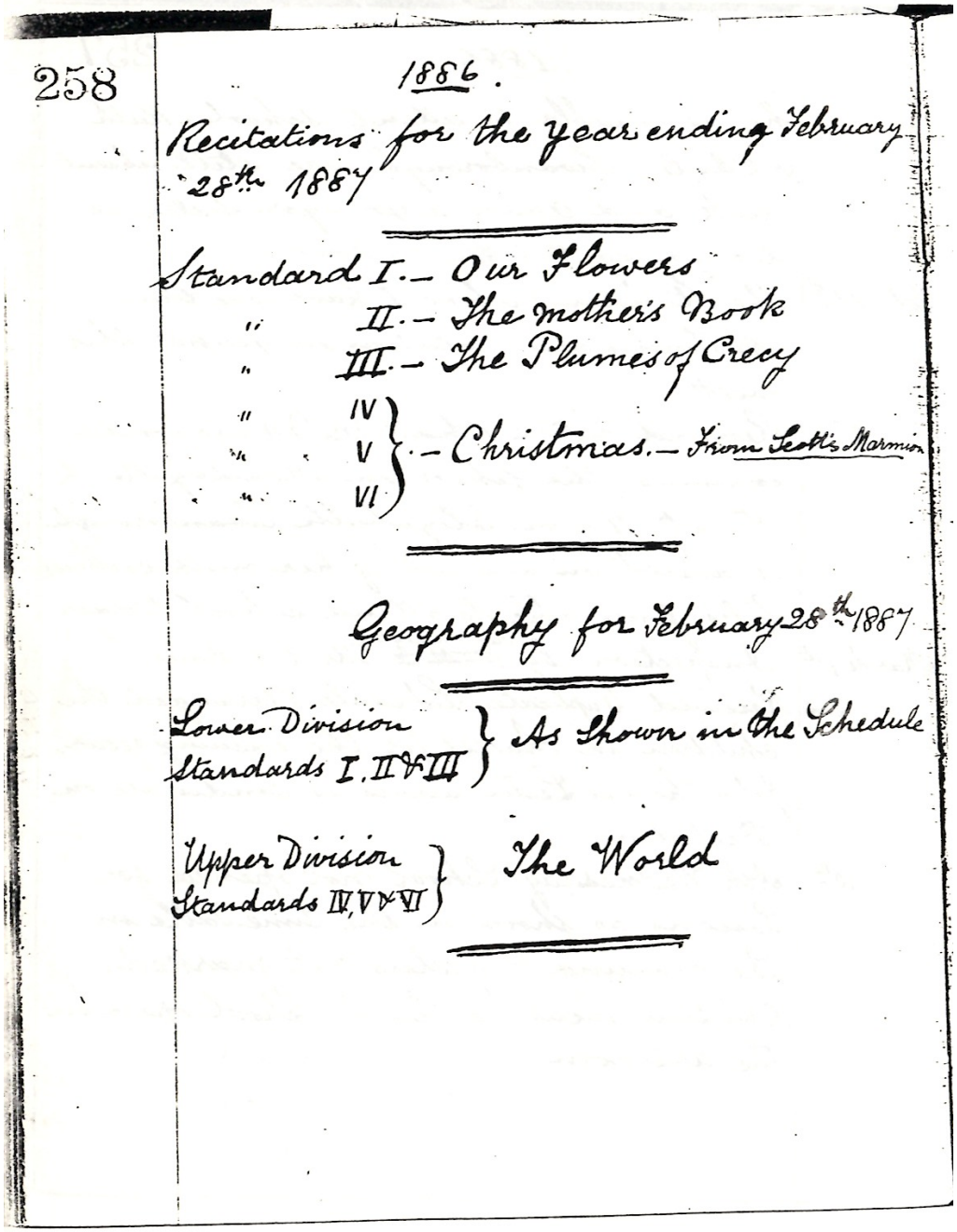
Uncertain readings: 'H.M.I.' after 'Inspection by' is struck through with 'Sub-Inspector' written above it; the struck letters are hard to read; 'Standards above I' read as Standard I and above, as written; John Thomas Leslie is presumably the headmaster's son, but the page does not say so

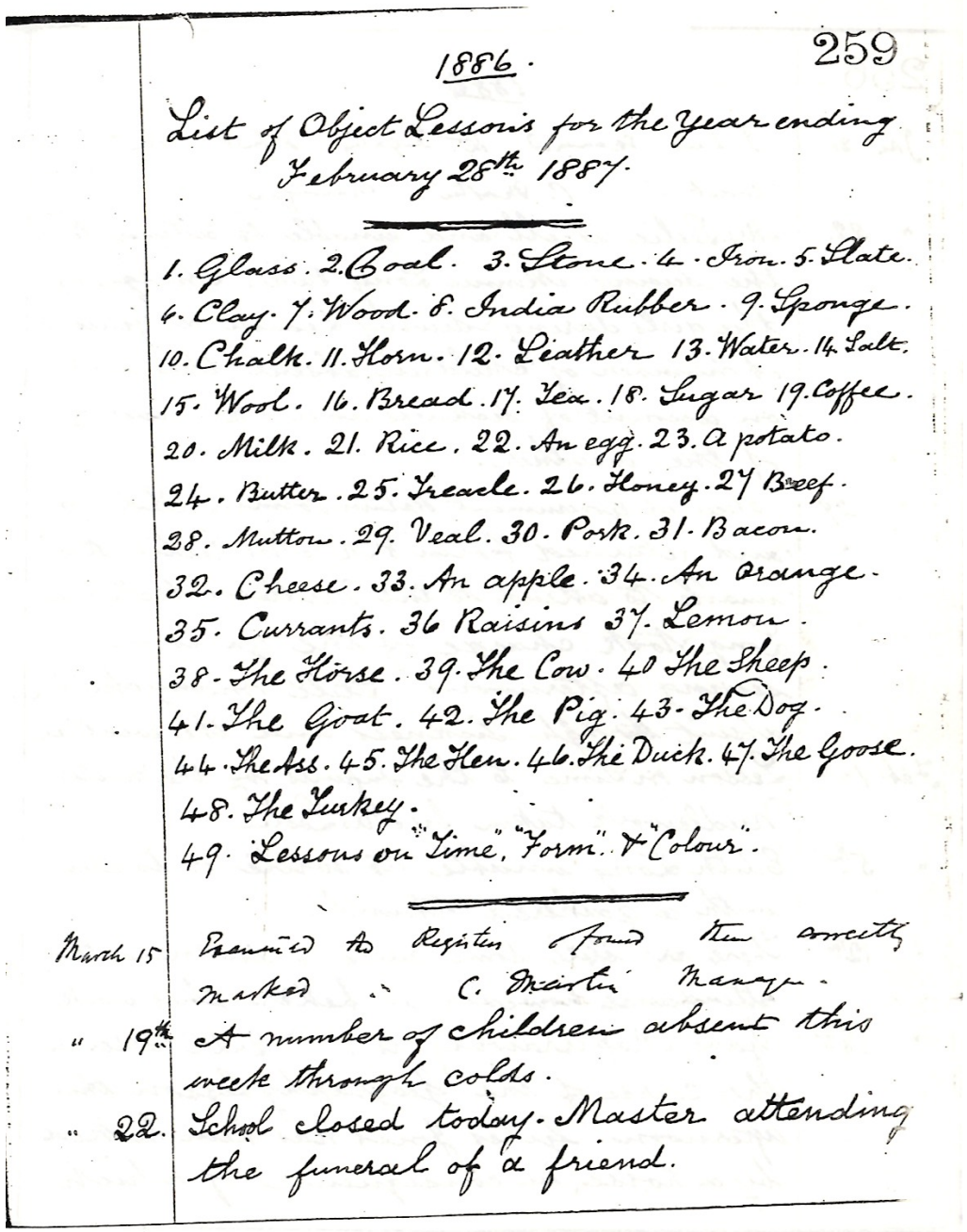


Page 258

Recitations for the year ending February 28th 1887. Standard I. _ Our Flowers. " II. – The mother's Book. " III. – The Plumes of Crecy. " IV, V, VI – Christmas. – From Scott's Marmion.

Geography for February 28th 1887. Lower Division Standards I, II & III – As Shown in the Schedule. Upper Division Standards IV, V & VI – The World.

Uncertain readings: Standard I line separator after 'I.' may be a dash or underscore; 'Shown' written with capital S



1886. 259

List of Object Lessons for the Year ending February 28th 1887.

1. Glass. 2. Coal. 3. Stone. 4. Iron. 5. Slate. 6. Clay. 7. Wood. 8. India Rubber. 9. Sponge. 10. Chalk. 11. Horn. 12. Leather 13. Water. 14. Salt. 15. Wool. 16. Bread. 17. Tea. 18. Sugar 19. Coffee. 20. Milk. 21. Rice. 22. An egg. 23. A potato. 24. Butter. 25. Treacle. 26. Honey. 27 Beef. 28. Mutton. 29. Veal. 30. Pork. 31. Bacon. 32. Cheese. 33. An apple. 34. An orange. 35. Currants. 36 Raisins 37. Lemon. 38. The Horse. 39. The Cow. 40 The Sheep. 41. The Goat. 42. The Pig. 43. The Dog. 44. The Ass. 45. The Hen. 46. The Duck. 47. The Goose. 48. The Turkey. 49. Lessons on "Time", "Form". & "Colour".

March 15 Examined the Registers found them correctly marked .:. C. Martin Manager.

" 19th A number of children absent this week through colds.

" 22. School closed today. Master attending the funeral of a friend.

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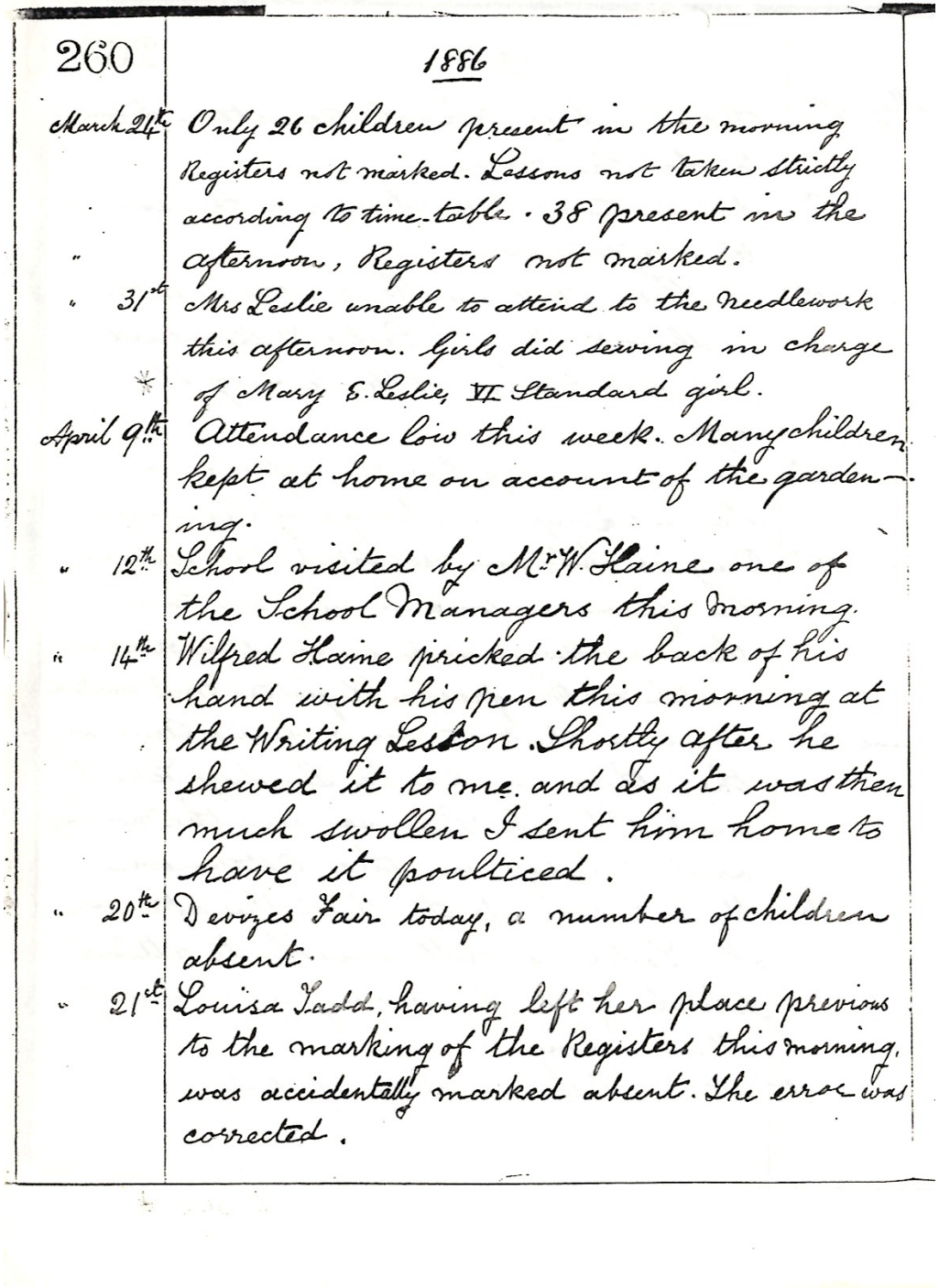
March 15 Examined the Registers found them correctly marked .:. C. Martin Manager.

" 19th A number of children absent this week through colds.

" 22. School closed today. Master attending the funeral of a friend.

Uncertain readings: 'Examined the Registers' in the manager's hurried hand: 'Registers' and 'correctly' are read from rough letter shapes; 'Manager.' looks abbreviated or trailing off ('Manage-'); Dated entries taken as March 1886 from the page header, since the list covers the school year March 1886 to February 1887



260

1886

March 24th Only 26 children present in the morning Registers not marked. Lessons not taken strictly according to time-table. 38 present in the afternoon, Registers not marked.

" 31st Mrs Leslie unable to attend to the needlework this afternoon. Girls did sewing in charge of Mary E. Leslie, VI Standard girl.

April 9th Attendance low this week. Many children kept at home on account of the gardening.

" 12th School visited by Mr W. Haine one of the School Managers this morning.

" 14th Wilfred Haine pricked the back of his hand with his pen this morning at the Writing Lesson. Shortly after he shewed it to me. and as it was then much swollen I sent him home to have it poulticed.

" 20th Devizes Fair today, a number of children absent.

" 21st Louisa Tadd, having left her place previous to the marking of the Registers this morning, was accidentally marked absent. The error was corrected.

Page 260

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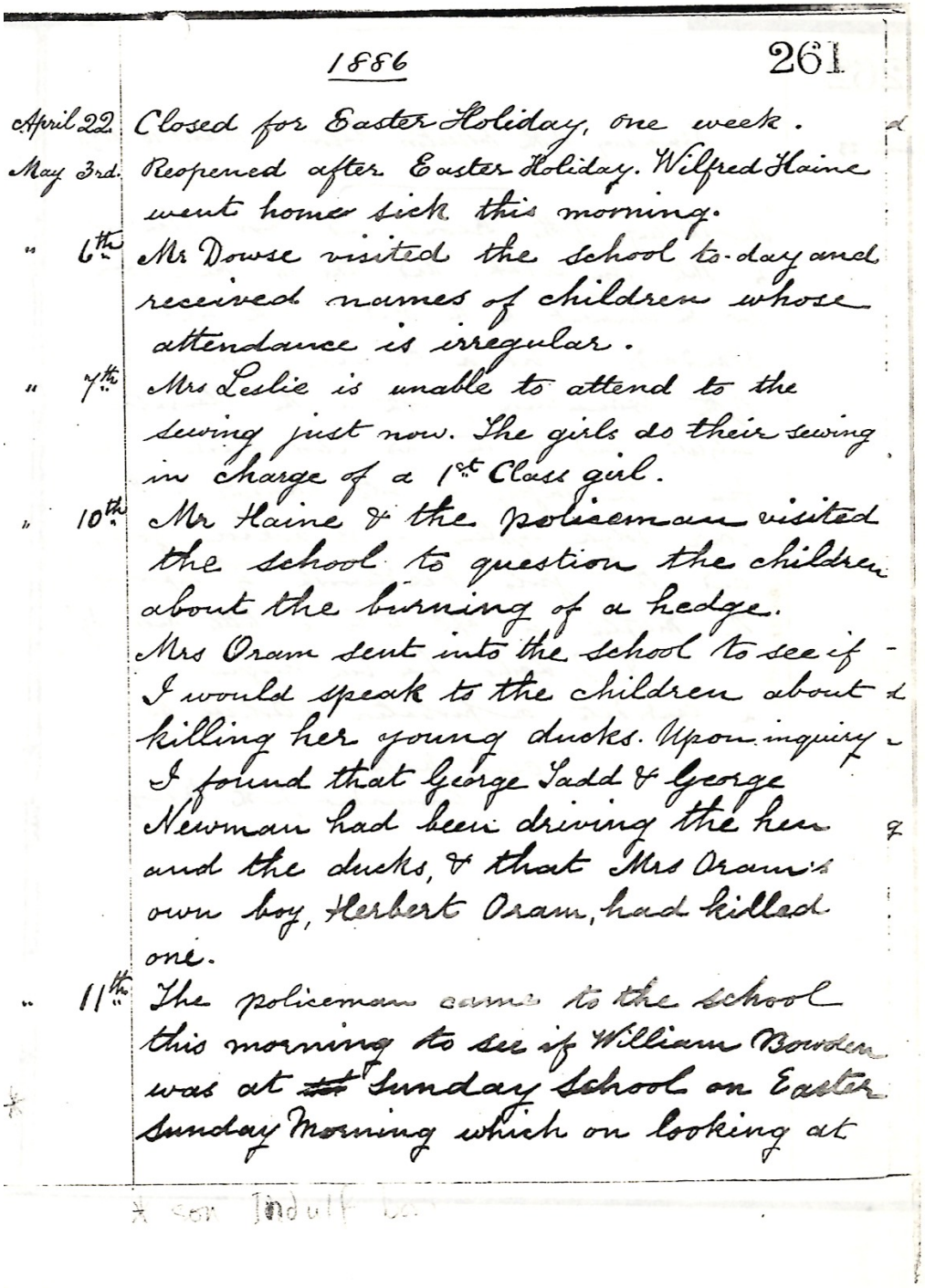
Uncertain readings: Louisa Tadd: the initial capital could also be read as 'J' or 'G' (Jadd/Gadd); Haine: the capital H is unusual and resembles an 'L' (OCR read it that way); Ditto mark in the margin beside the 'afternoon' line of the 24 March entry; it probably refers to the same day; Asterisk in the margin beside 'of Mary E. Leslie'; its meaning is not clear



1886 261

April 22. Closed for Easter Holiday, one week.

May 3rd. Reopened after Easter Holiday. Wilfred Haine went home sick this morning.

" 6th. Mr Dowse visited the school to-day and received names of children whose attendance is irregular.

" 7th. Mrs Leslie is unable to attend to the sewing just now. The girls do their sewing in charge of a 1st Class girl.

" 10th. Mr Haine & the policeman visited the school to question the children about the burning of a hedge. Mrs Oram sent into the school to see if I would speak to the children about killing her young ducks. Upon inquiry I found that George Tadd & George Newman had been driving the hen and the ducks, & that Mrs Oram's own boy, Herbert Oram, had killed one.

" 11th. The policeman came to the school this morning to see if William Bowden was at ~~the~~ Sunday School on Easter Sunday Morning which on looking at

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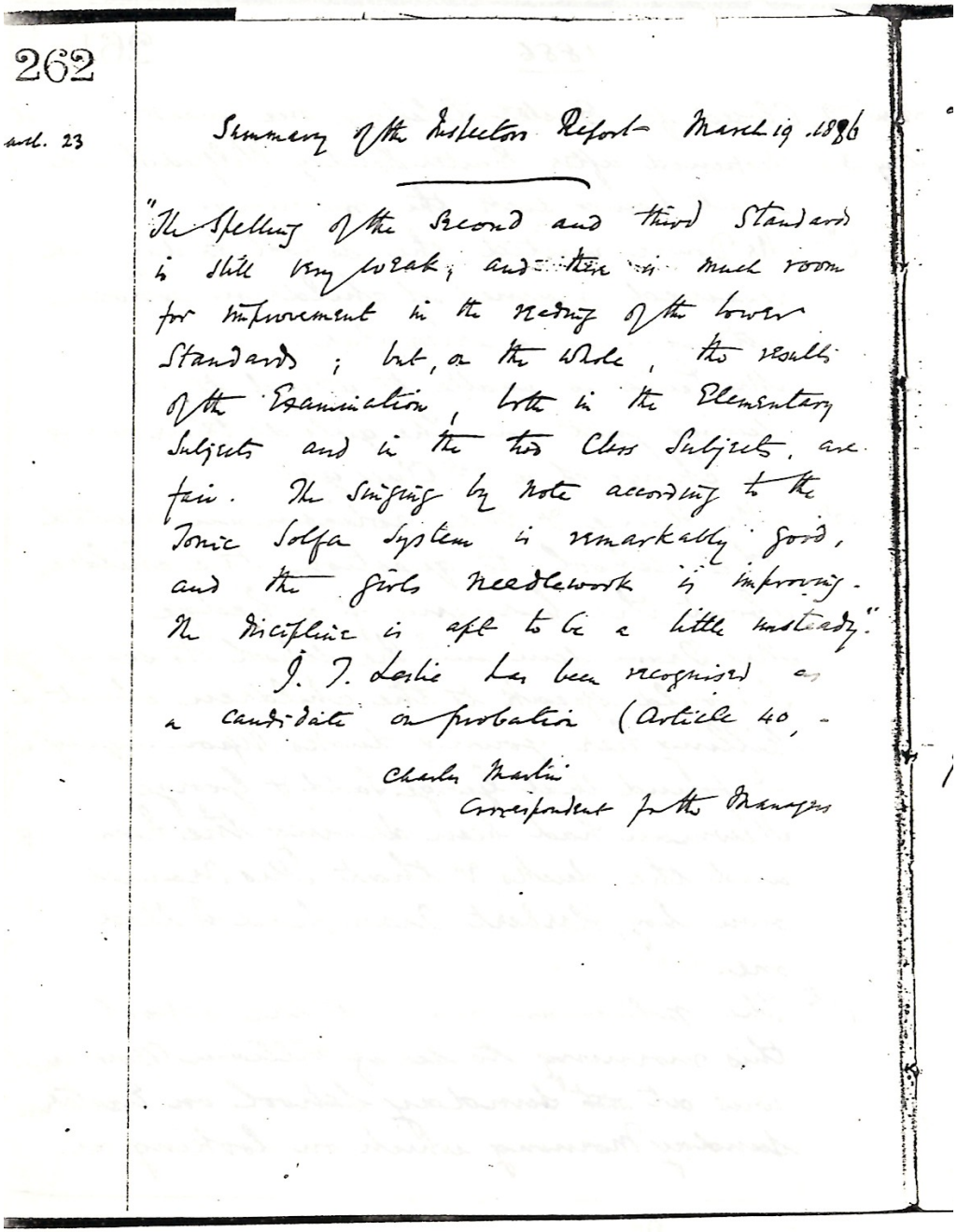
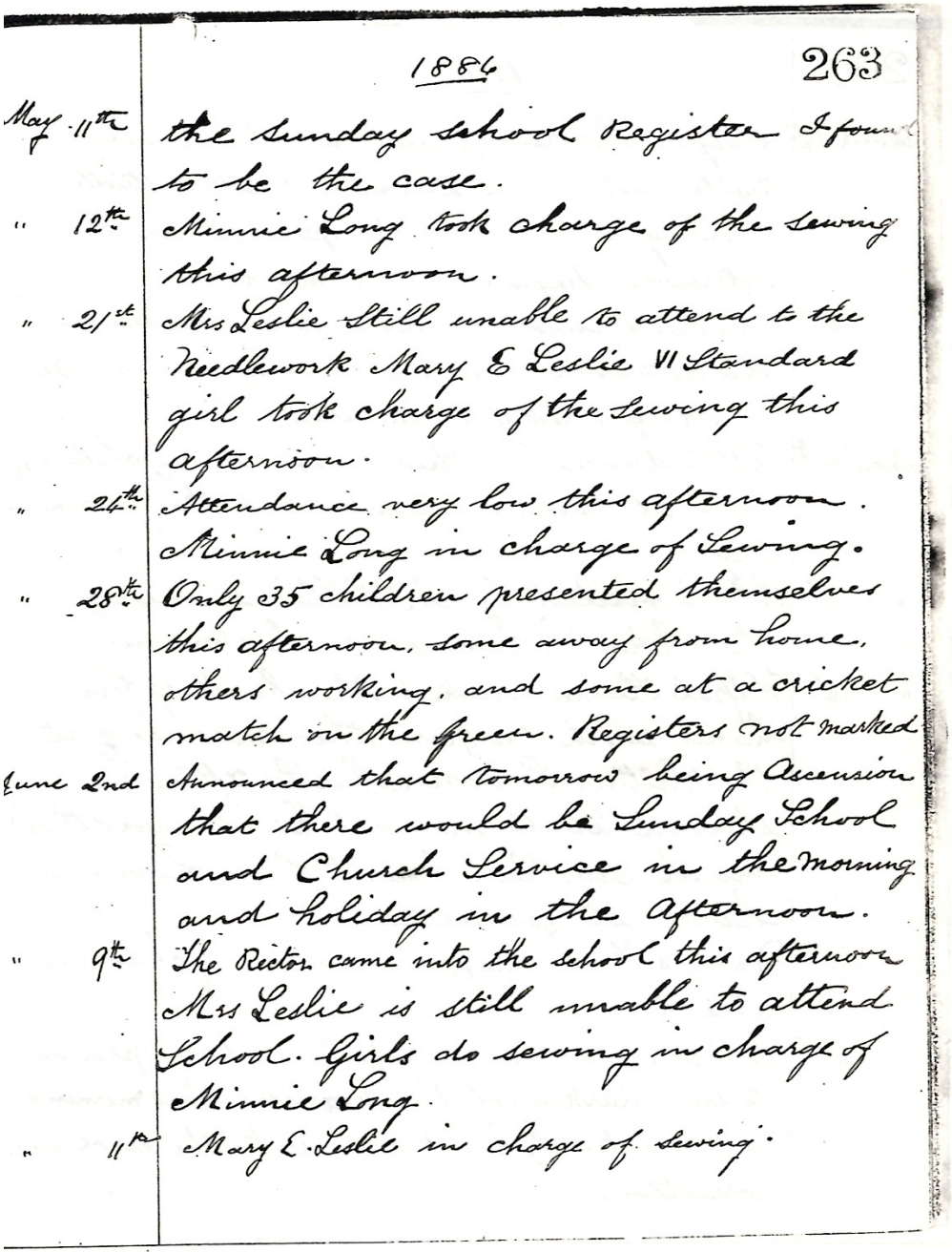
Uncertain readings: 'George Tadd': the capital is ambiguous and could be 'Sadd'; 'burning' could be read as 'birning' from the letter forms; Struck-through word before 'Sunday School' is perhaps 'in' or 'the'; Pencil note at the foot of the page (' son Indulf ...') looks like a later annotation and is only partly legible; 'Mr Haine' (10th) is taken as a parent; his role isn't stated; Last entry runs on to the next page*



Page 262

[Ap]ril. 23 Summary of the Instector Report March 19. 1886 "The Spelling of the Second and third Standards is still very weak, and there is much room for improvement in the reading of the lower Standards; but, on the whole, the results of the Examination, both in the Elementary Subjects and in the two Class Subjects, are fair. The Singing by note according to the Tonic Solfa System is remarkably good, and the girls needlework is improving. The discipline is apt to be a little unsteady." J. T. Leslie has been recognised as a candidate on probation (Article 40, - Charles Martin Correspondent for the Managers

Uncertain readings: Margin date is cut off at the page edge, reading only 'ril. 23'. Taken as April 23 because the report it introduces is dated March 19 1886.; No year is written at the top of this page. The faint '1886' there is show-through from the other side, so the entry's year comes from the report date in the text.; 'Instector' looks like the writer's slip for 'Inspector's'. Kept as written.; 'reading' (OCR gave 'nermy'). The handwriting suggests 'reading', but this is not certain.; The bracket in '(Article 40, -' is never closed on the page.



1884 263

May 11th the Sunday school Register I found to be the case.

" 12th Minnie Long took charge of the sewing this afternoon.

" 21st Mrs Leslie Still unable to attend to the Needlework Mary E Leslie VI Standard girl took charge of the sewing this afternoon.

" 24th Attendance very low this afternoon. Minnie Long in charge of Sewing.

" 28th Only 35 children presented themselves this afternoon, some away from home, others working, and some at a cricket match on the green. Registers not marked

June 2nd Announced that tomorrow being Ascension that there would be Sunday School and Church Service in the morning and holiday in the afternoon.

" 9th The Rector came into the school this afternoon Mrs Leslie is still unable to attend School. Girls do sewing in charge of Minnie Long.

" 11th Mary E. Leslie in charge of sewing.

Page 263

(continued from previous page)

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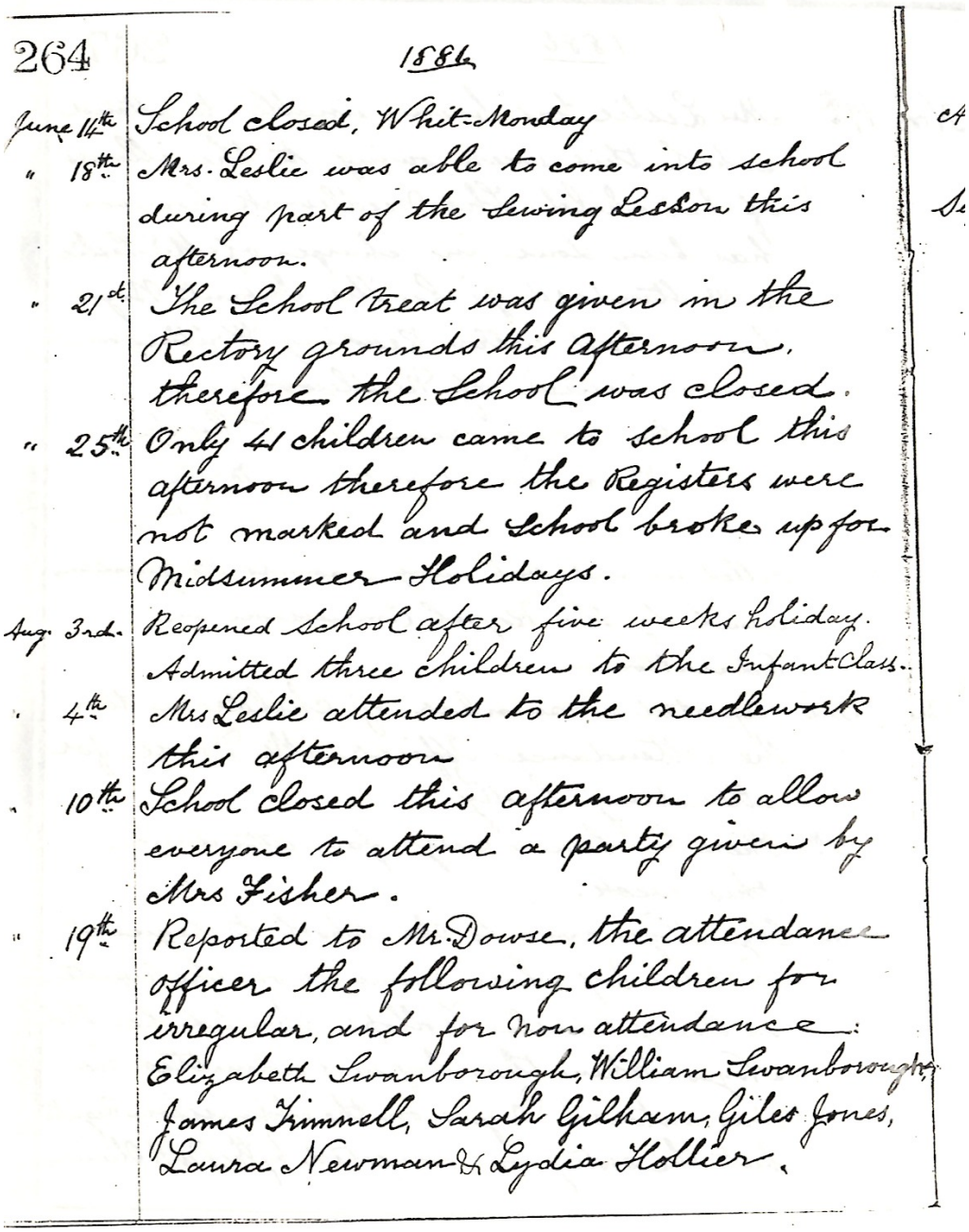
Uncertain readings: Line 1 'foun[d?]': the end of the word runs off the right edge of the page; Year read as 1886 (the OCR has 1884); Ascension Day fell on 3 June 1886, which matches the 2 June entry; Minnie Long's role (monitress) is inferred and not stated on the page; Mary E. Leslie is described only as a 'VI Standard girl'; that she was the headmaster's daughter is inferred



264

1886

June 14th School closed, Whit-Monday

" 18th Mrs. Leslie was able to come into school during part of the Sewing Lesson this afternoon.

" 21st The School treat was given in the Rectory grounds this afternoon, therefore the School was closed.

" 25th Only 41 children came to school this afternoon therefore the Registers were not marked and School broke up for Midsummer Holidays.

Aug. 3rd. Reopened School after five weeks holiday. Admitted three children to the Infant Class.

" 4th Mrs Leslie attended to the needlework this afternoon

" 10th School closed this afternoon to allow everyone to attend a party given by Mrs Fisher.

" 19th Reported to Mr. Dowse, the attendance officer the following children for irregular, and for non attendance: Elizabeth Swanborough, William Swanborough, James Trimnell, Sarah Gilham, Giles Jones, Laura Newman & Lydia Hollier.

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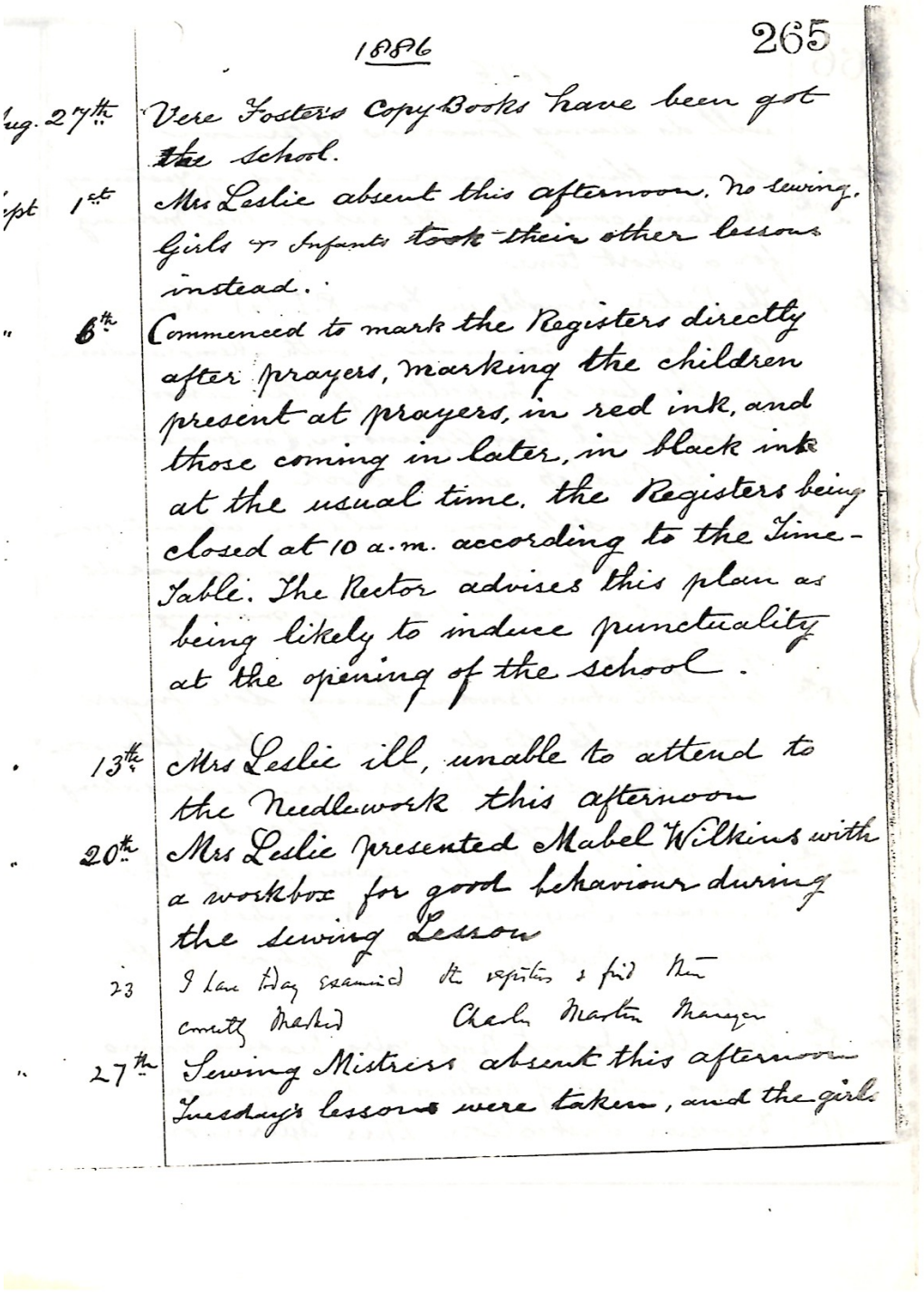
" 19th Reported to Mr. Dowse, the attendance officer the following children for irregular, and for non attendance: Elizabeth Swanborough, William Swanborough, James Trimnell, Sarah Gilham, Giles Jones, Laura Newman & Lydia Hollier.

Uncertain readings: Header year read as 1886 (OCR gave 1884); Whit Monday fell on 14 June in 1886, which supports this; 'James Trimnell' – OCR read 'Frimmell'; first letter could be T or F; 'non attendance' – OCR read 'now'; the word looks like 'non'



1886 265

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pt 1st Mrs Leslie absent this afternoon. No sewing. Girls & Infants took their other lessons instead.

" 6th Commenced to mark the Registers directly after prayers, marking the children present at prayers, in red ink, and those coming in later, in black ink at the usual time. the Registers being closed at 10 a.m. according to the Time-Table. The Rector advises this plan as being likely to induce punctuality at the opening of the school.

" 13th Mrs Leslie ill, unable to attend to the Needlework this afternoon

" 20th Mrs Leslie presented Mabel Wilkins with a workbox for good behaviour during the sewing Lesson

23 I have today examined the registers & find them correctly marked Charles Martin Manager

" 27th Sewing Mistress absent this afternoon Tuesday's lessons were taken, and the girls

Page 265

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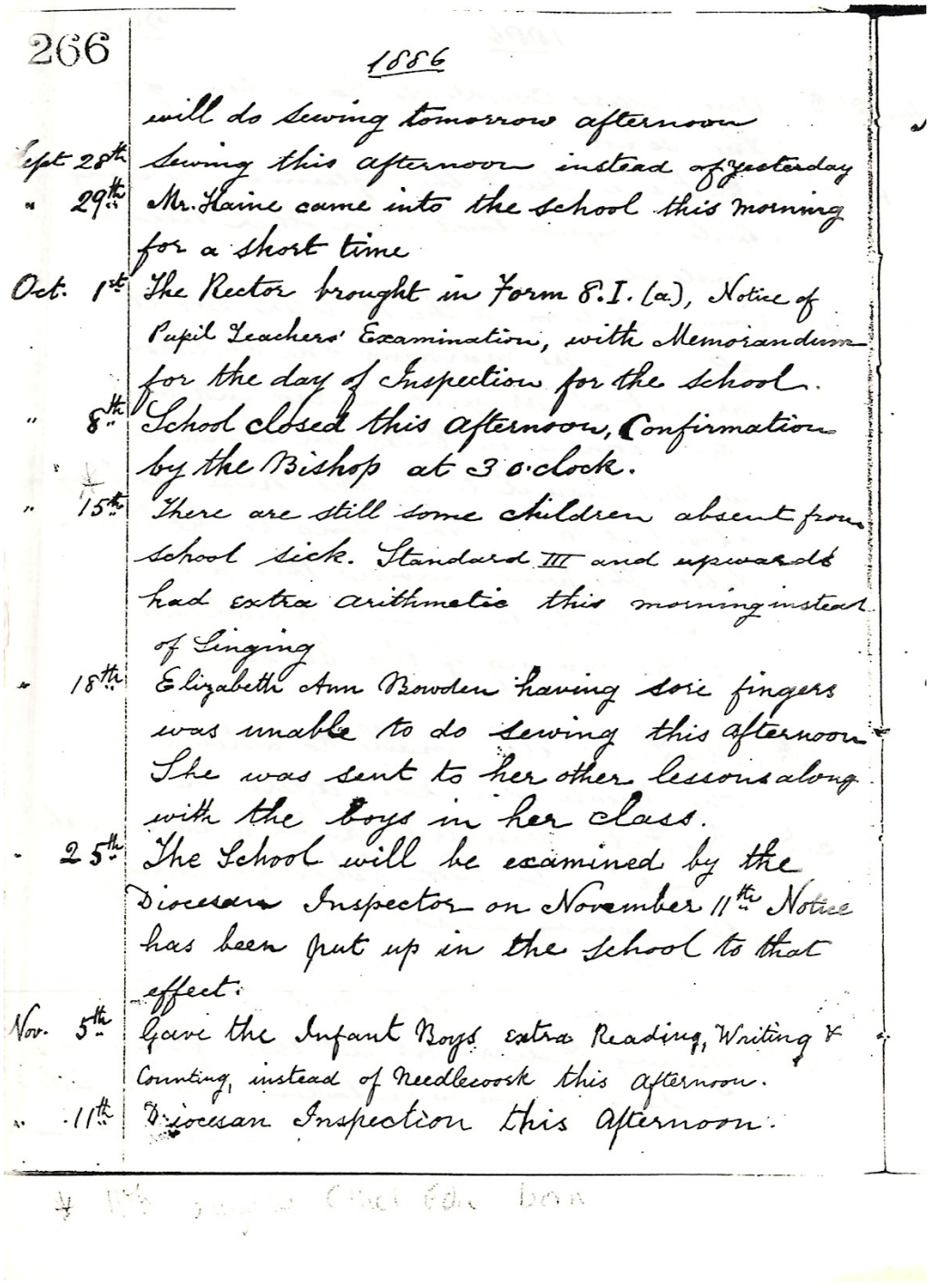
Uncertain readings: Line 2 of Aug. 27th entry: 'the' looks overwritten or struck through; the sense suggests 'got [for] the school'; Margin dates 'Aug.' and 'Sept' are partly cut off at the left edge; Manager's signature 'Charles Martin' is written in a quick, cramped hand; 'Charles' may be abbreviated; 'Girls & Infants': the ampersand is written like '+'


266

1886

will do Sewing tomorrow afternoon

Sept 28th Sewing this afternoon instead of yesterday

" 29th Mr. Haine came into the school this morning for a short time

Oct. 1st The Rector brought in Form 8.I. (a), Notice of Pupil Teachers' Examination, with Memorandum for the day of Inspection for the school.

" 8th School closed this afternoon, Confirmation by the Bishop at 3 o.clock.

" 15th There are still some children absent from school sick. Standard III and upwards had extra arithmatic this morning instead of Singing

" 18th Elizabeth Ann Bowden having sore fingers was unable to do Sewing this afternoon She was sent to her other lessons along with the boys in her class.

" 25th The School will be examined by the Diocesan Inspector on November 11th Notice has been put up in the school to that effect.

Nov. 5th Gave the Infant Boys extra Reading, Writing & Counting, instead of Needlecoork this afternoon.

" 11th Diocesan Inspection this afternoon.

Page 266

(continued from previous page)
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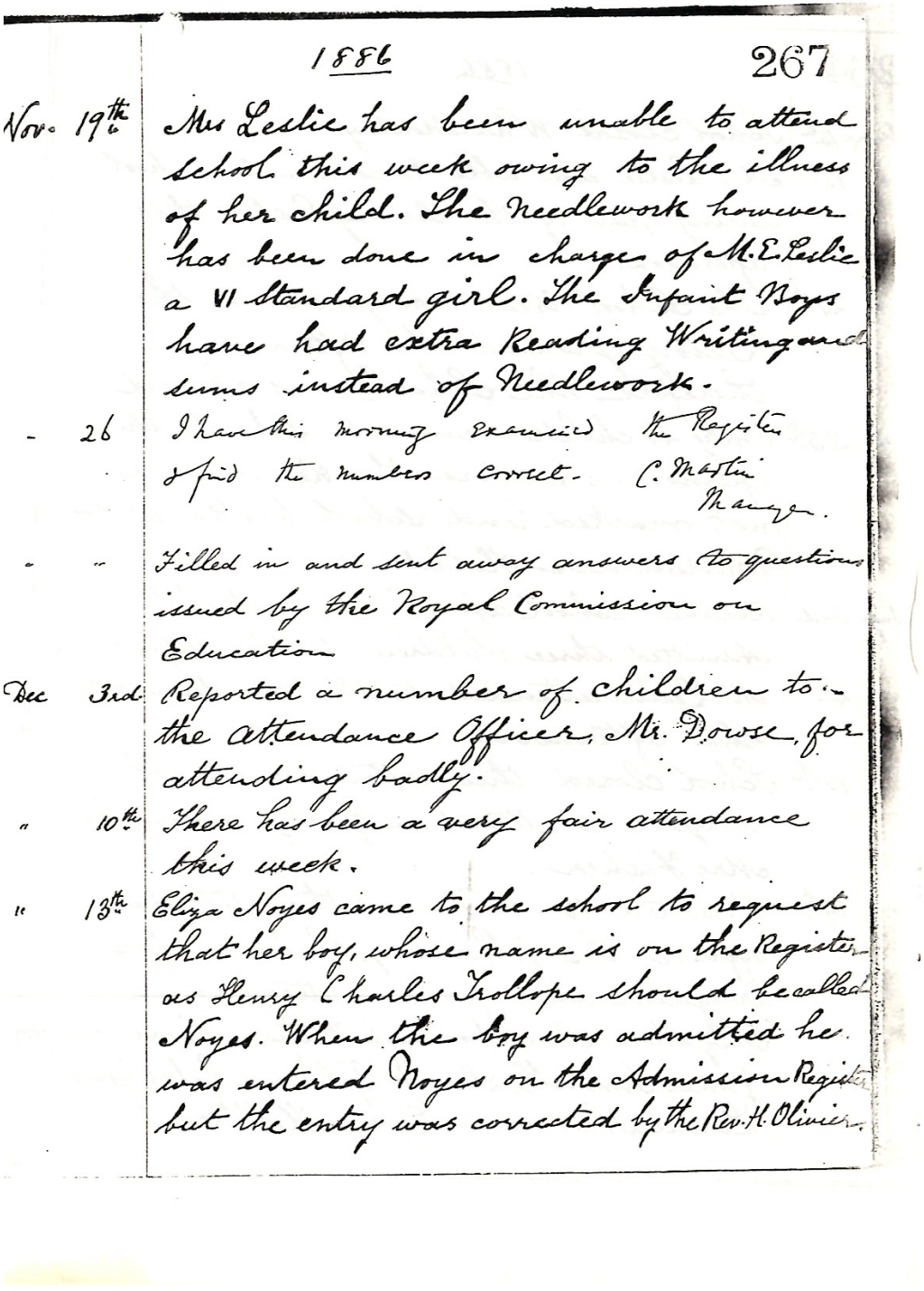
Uncertain readings: 'Mr. Haine' could be 'Mr. Haines'; 'Needlework' looks like 'Needlecoork' in the handwriting, but it is probably 'Needlework' with an awkward w; The faint pencil note at the foot, keyed by an asterisk to 15th Oct, is mostly illegible. It may read ' 15th ... Ethel Edie born'; The 's' after 'Sewing' in line 1 begins mid-sentence, continuing from the previous page*



1886 267

Nov. 19th Mrs Leslie has been unable to attend school this week owing to the illness of her child. The Needlework however has been done in charge of M. E. Leslie a VI Standard girl. The Infant Boys have had extra Reading Writing and sums instead of Needlework.

" 26 I have this morning examined the Register & find the numbers correct. C. Martin Manager.

" " Filled in and sent away answers to questions issued by the Royal Commission on Education

Dec 3rd Reported a number of children to the attendance Officer, Mr. Dowse, for attending badly.

" 10th There has been a very fair attendance this week.

" 13th Eliza Noyes came to the school to request that her boy, whose name is on the Register as Henry Charles Trollope should be called Noyes. When the boy was admitted he was entered Noyes on the Admission Register but the entry was corrected by the Rev. H. Olivier.

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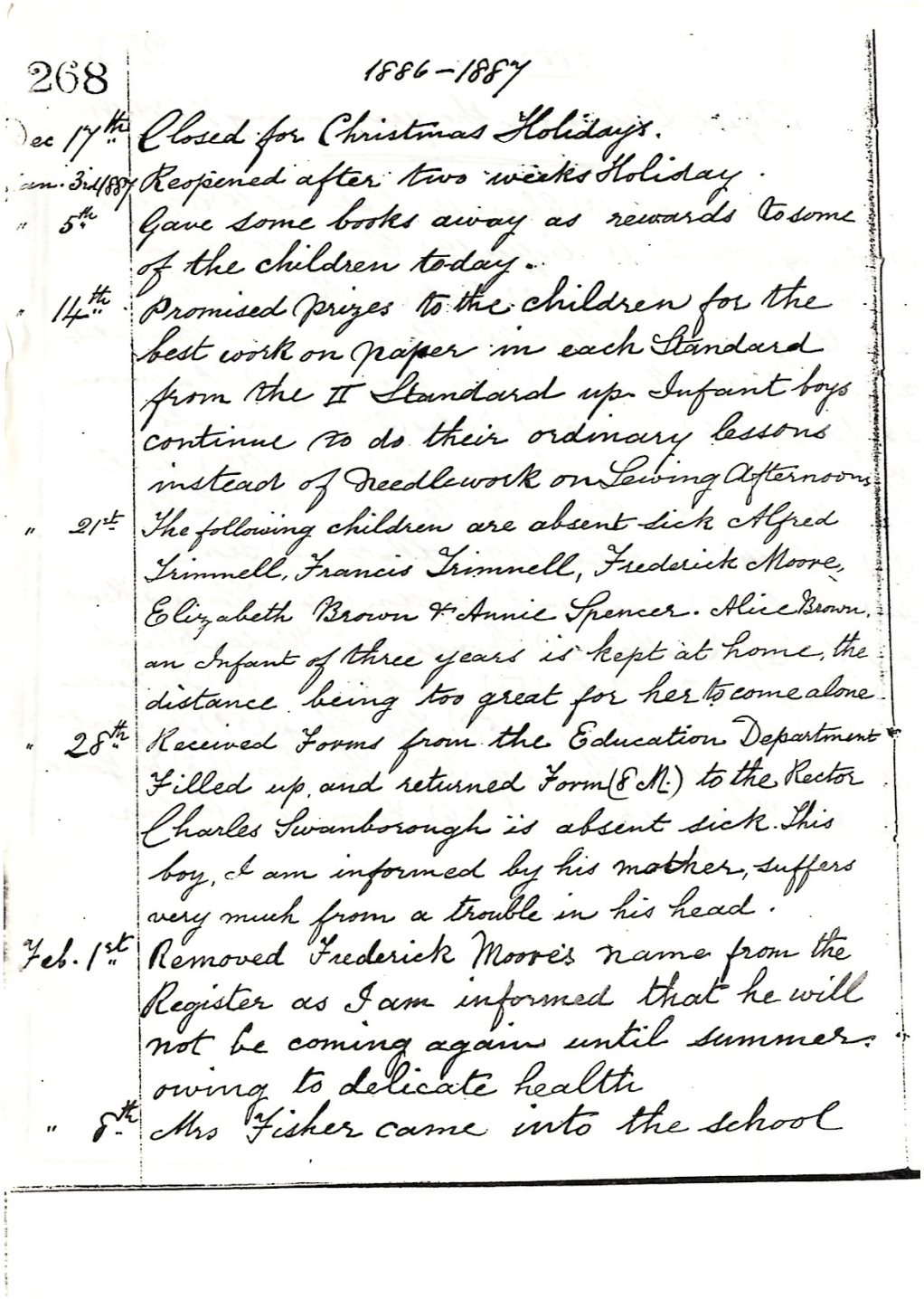
Uncertain readings: 'Register' on Nov 26 is written in a different hand and partly cut off at the right edge ('Regist[er]'); M. E. Leslie: presumably the headmaster's daughter, but the page doesn't say so; 'Mr. Dowse' surname reading is fairly clear but could be 'Dowze'


268

1886–1887

Dec 17th Closed for Christmas Holidays.

Jan. 3rd 1887 Reopened after two weeks Holiday.

" 5th Gave some books away as rewards to some of the children today.

" 14th Promised prizes to the children for the best work on paper in each Standard from the II Standard up. Infant boys continue to do their ordinary lessons instead of Needlework on Sewing Afternoons

" 21st The following children are absent sick Alfred Trimnell, Francis Trimnell, Frederick Moore, Elizabeth Brown & Annie Spencer. Alice Brown, an Infant of three years is kept at home, the distance being too great for her to come alone.

" 28th Received Forms from the Education Department Filled up, and returned Form (E M.) to the Rector Charles Swanborough is absent sick. This boy, I am informed by his mother, suffers very much from a trouble in his head.

Feb. 1st " Removed Frederick Moore's name from the Register as I am informed that he will not be coming again until summer owing to delicate health

" 8th Mrs Fisher came into the school

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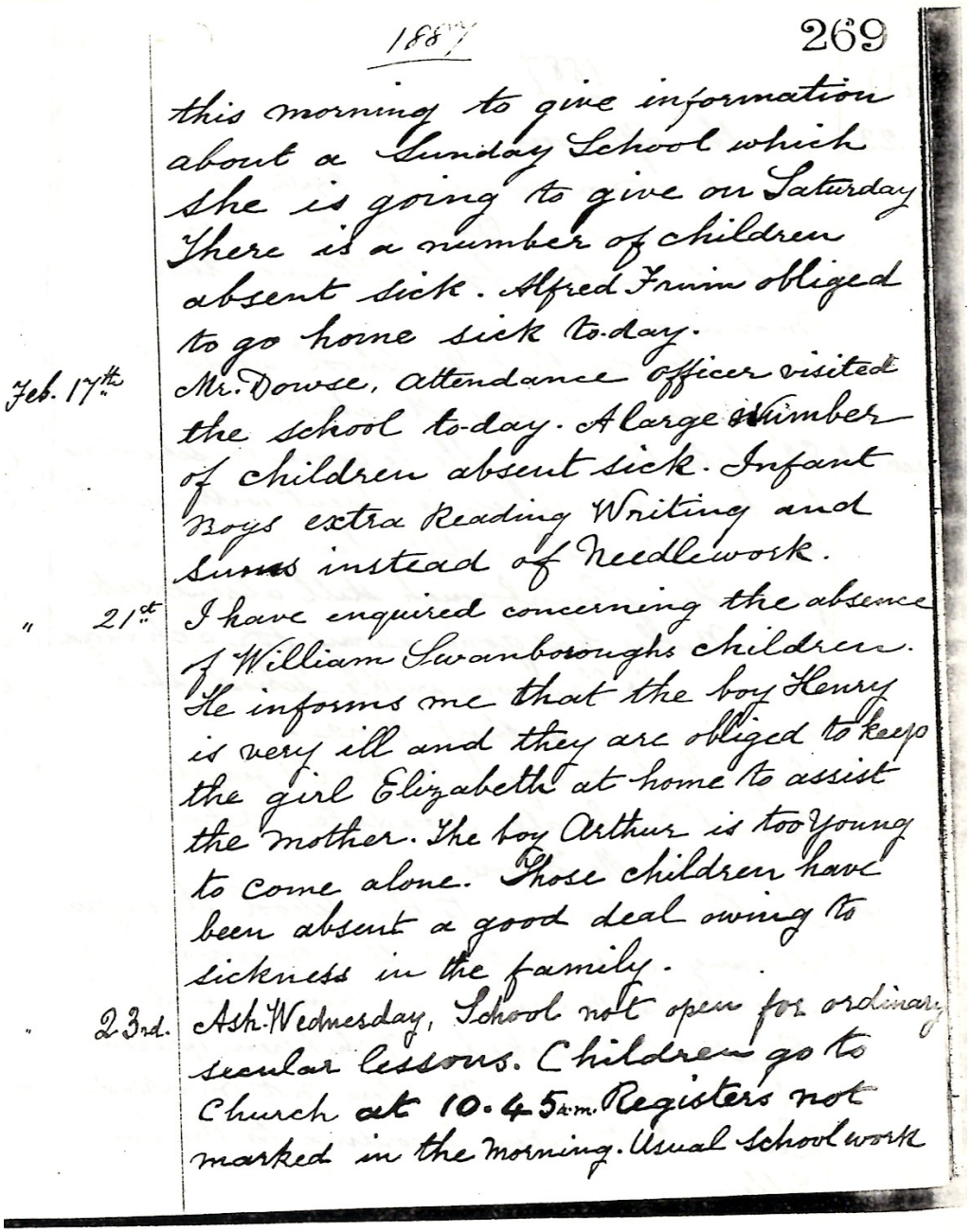
Uncertain readings: Form ([E M.?]): the letters in brackets could be 'E M.' or '8 M.'; Trimnell: both surnames read as Trimnell, though the first could be Trimmell; Feb 8th: the margin date looks like 8th, but the OCR read it as 9th; The Feb 8th entry runs over onto the next page



188?

269

this morning to give information about a Sunday School which she is going to give on Saturday There is a number of children absent sick. Alfred Fruin obliged to go home sick to-day.

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" 21st I have enquired concerning the absence of William Swanboroughs children. He informs me that the boy Henry is very ill and they are obliged to keep the girl Elizabeth at home to assist the mother. The boy Arthur is too young to come alone. Those children have been absent a good deal owing to sickness in the family.

" 23rd. Ash-Wednesday, School not open for ordinary secular lessons. Children go to Church at 10.45a.m. Registers not marked in the morning. Usual School work

Page 269

(continued from previous page)

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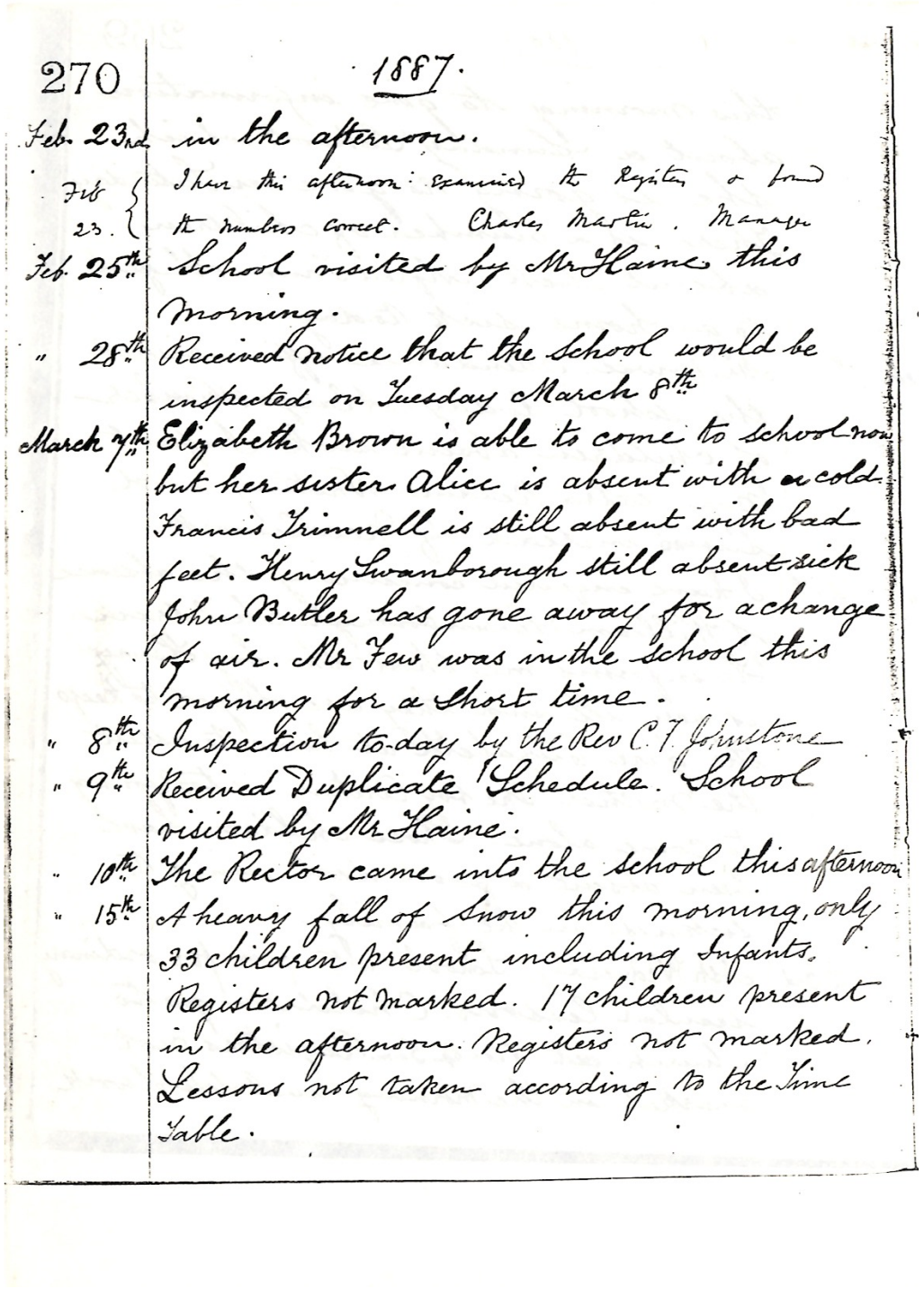
" 23rd. Ash-Wednesday, School not open for ordinary secular lessons. Children go to Church at 10.45a.m. Registers not marked in the morning. Usual School work

Uncertain readings: Surname of Alfred read as 'Fruin' (OCR 'Frame'); 'Fruin' is a local Wiltshire surname but the letters are not certain; Header year written '188?' with the last digit unclear; 1887 confirmed because Ash Wednesday fell on 23 February in 1887; 'Sunday School' in line 2 continues from the previous page; it is unclear who 'she' is and what is being given on Saturday (probably a treat); 'Number' in the 17 Feb entry has an overwritten initial letter


270

1887.

Feb. 23rd in the afternoon.

Feb 23. I have this afternoon examined the Register & found the numbers correct. Charles Martin. Manager

Feb. 25th School visited by Mr Haine this morning.

" 28th Received notice that the School would be inspected on Tuesday March 8th

March 7th Elizabeth Brown is able to come to school now but her sister Alice is absent with a cold. Francis Trimmell is still absent with bad feet. Henry Swanborough still absent sick John Butler has gone away for a change of air. Mr Few was in the school this morning for a short time.

" 8th Inspection to-day by the Rev C J Johnstone

" 9th Received Duplicate Schedule. School visited by Mr Haine.

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Page 270

(continued from previous page)

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Uncertain readings: 'Register' in the manager's note could be 'Registers'; Inspector's initials 'C. J.' could be 'C. T.'; 'Mr Few' surname uncertain; The 'Feb. 23rd' margin date beside 'in the afternoon.' may belong to an entry continued from the previous page

Index

People

Agnes Swanborough (pupil) — pages 257

Alfred Fruin (pupil) — pages 269

Alfred Trimnell (pupil) — pages 268

Alice Brown (pupil) — pages 268, 270

Annie Spencer (pupil) — pages 268

Arthur Swanborough (pupil) — pages 269

Bishop of Salisbury (Bishop) — pages 266

Charles Martin (manager, manager (correspondent for the managers)) — pages 262, 265, 270

Charles Swanborough (pupil) — pages 257, 268

Diocesan Inspector (Diocesan Inspector) — pages 266

Eliza Noyes (parent) — pages 267

Elizabeth Ann Bowden (pupil) — pages 266

Elizabeth Brown (pupil) — pages 268, 270

Elizabeth Swanborough (pupil) — pages 257, 264, 269

Francis Trimnell (pupil) — pages 268, 270

Frederick Moore (pupil) — pages 268

George Newman (pupil) — pages 261

George Tadd (pupil) — pages 261

Giles Jones (pupil) — pages 257, 264

H. R. Mines (HM Sub-Inspector) — pages 257

Henry Charles Noyes (pupil) — pages 267

Henry Swanborough (pupil) — pages 269, 270

Herbert Oram (pupil) — pages 261

Hugh Leslie (headmaster) — pages 259

J. J. Dowse (attendance officer) — pages 261, 264, 267, 269

James Trimnell (pupil) — pages 264

John Butler (pupil) — pages 270

John Thomas Leslie (candidate on probation (pupil teacher candidate), candidate on probation (pupil teacher)) — pages 257, 262

Laura Newman (pupil) — pages 264

Louisa Tadd (pupil) — pages 260

Lydia Hollier (pupil) — pages 264

Mabel Wilkins (pupil) — pages 265

Mary Elizabeth Leslie (pupil) — pages 260, 263, 267

Minnie Long (monitress) — pages 263

Mr Few — pages 270

Mr Haine (parent) — pages 261, 266, 270

Mrs Fisher — pages 264, 268

Mrs Leslie (sewing mistress) — pages 260, 261, 263, 264, 265, 267

Mrs Oram (parent) — pages 261

Mrs Swanborough (parent) — pages 268

Rev C. J. Johnstone (HM Inspector) — pages 270

Rev. C. Martin (manager) — pages 259, 267

Rev. Henry Arnold Olivier (Rector) — pages 267

Ruth Swanborough (pupil) — pages 257

Sarah Gilham (pupil) — pages 264

The Rector of Poulshot (Rector) — pages 263, 265, 266, 268, 270

Vere Foster — pages 265

Wilfred Haine (pupil) — pages 260, 261

William Bowden (pupil) — pages 261

William Haine (manager) — pages 260

William Swanborough (parent, pupil) — pages 264, 269

Places

Crécy — pages 258

Devizes — pages 260

Poulshot Church — pages 269

Poulshot Green — pages 263

Poulshot Rectory — pages 264

Organisations

Education Department — pages 268

Police — pages 261

Poulshot Sunday School — pages 261, 263, 269

Royal Commission on Education — pages 267

School Managers — pages 260, 262