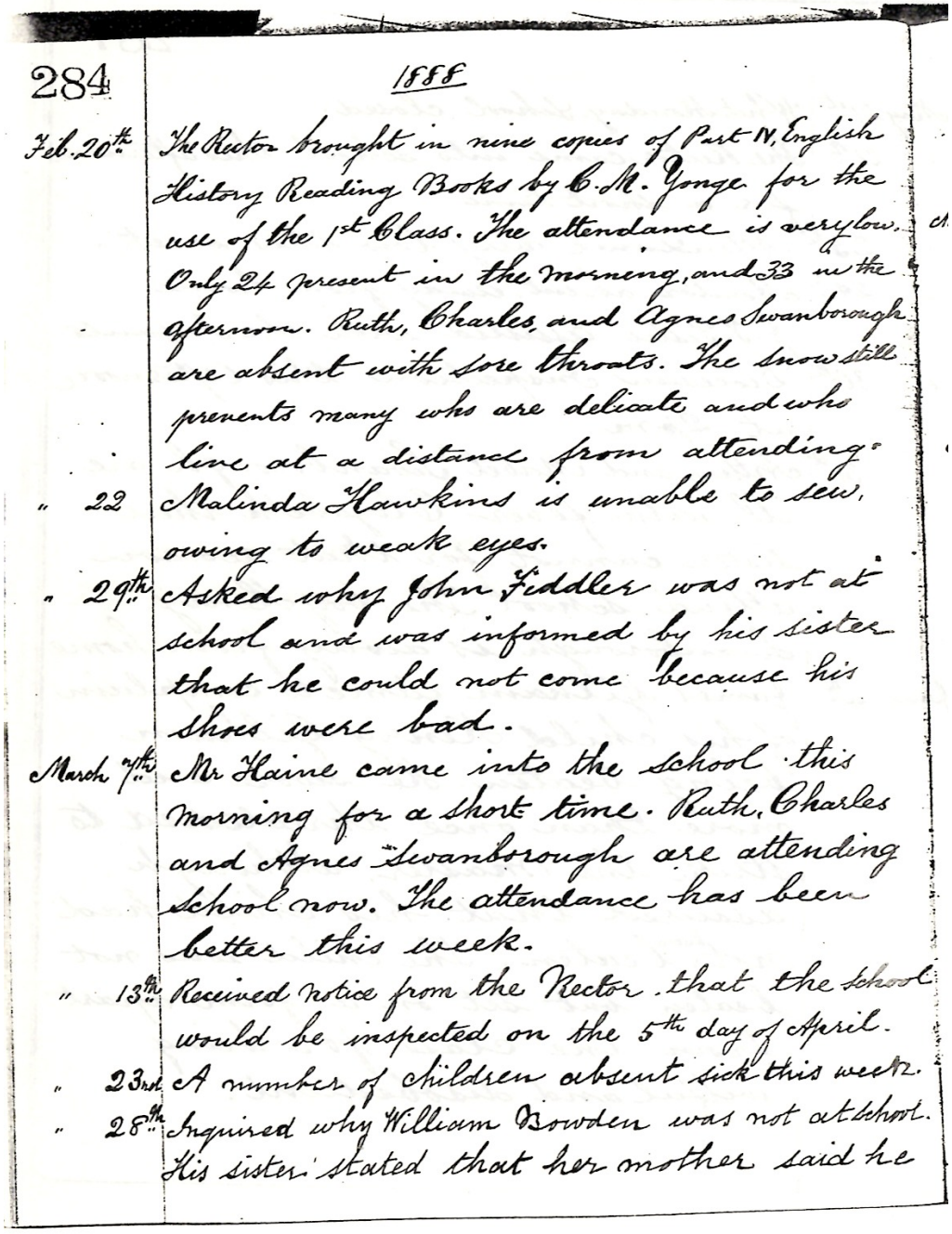
Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1888-89

Volume 1, pages 284-297 (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.



284 1888

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" 22 Malinda Hawkins is unable to sew, owing to weak eyes.

" 29th Asked why John Fiddler was not at school and was informed by his sister that he could not come because his shoes were bad.

March 7th Mr Haine came into the school this morning for a short time. Ruth, Charles and Agnes Swanborough are attending school now. The attendance has been better this week.

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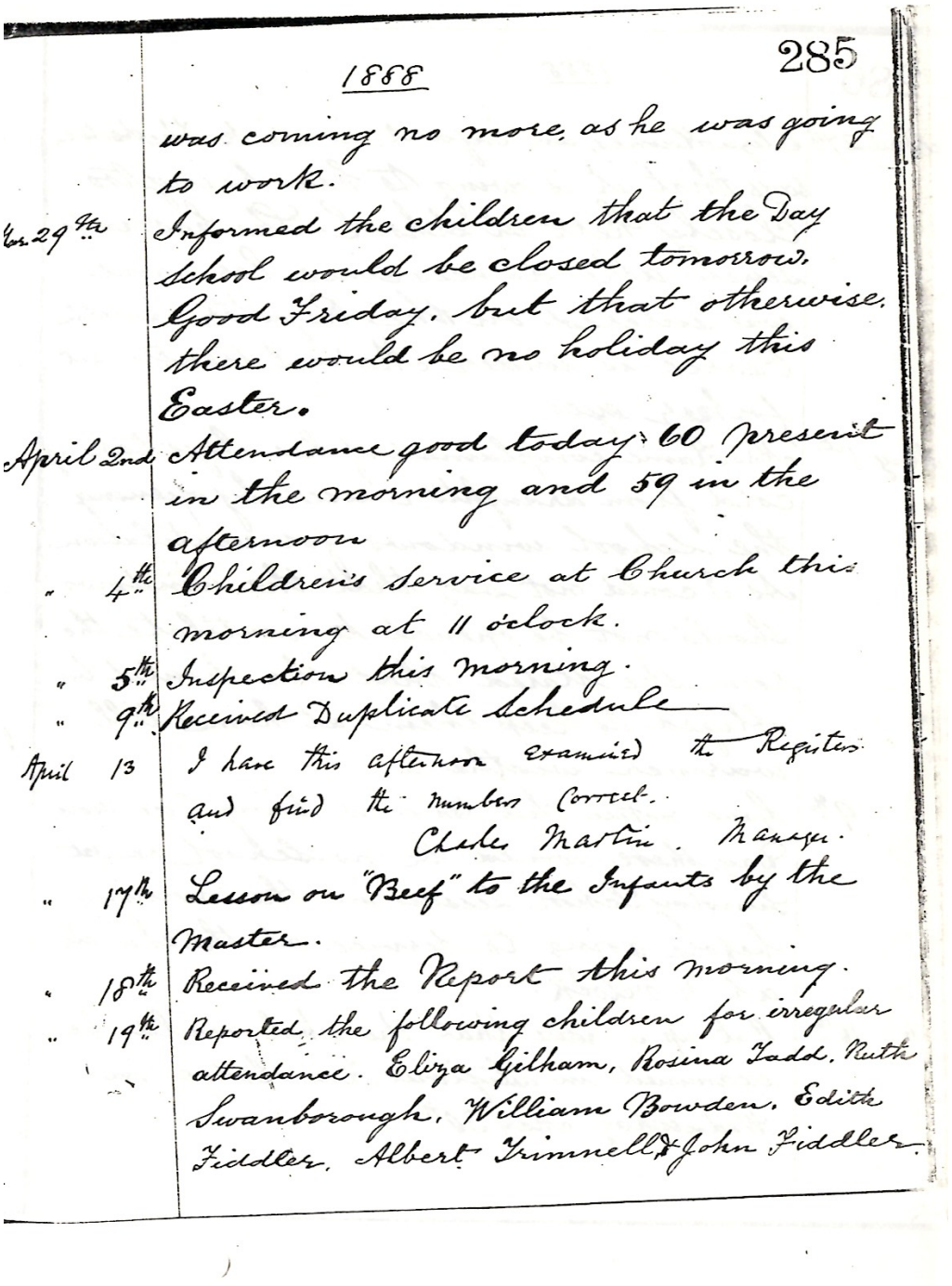
Uncertain readings: 'Part IV' - numeral could be read as 'N' in OCR; appears to be IV; 'Fiddler' - could be read 'Feddler'; 'Mr Haine' - surname reading fairly clear but identity/role unknown; Stray quotation-like mark before 'Swanborough' in 7 March entry, omitted



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April 2nd Attendance good today: 60 present in the morning and 59 in the afternoon

" 4th Children's service at Church this morning at 11 o'clock.

" 5th Inspection this morning.

" 9th Received Duplicate Schedule

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Charles Martin. Manager.

" 17th Lesson on "Beef" to the Infants by the Master.

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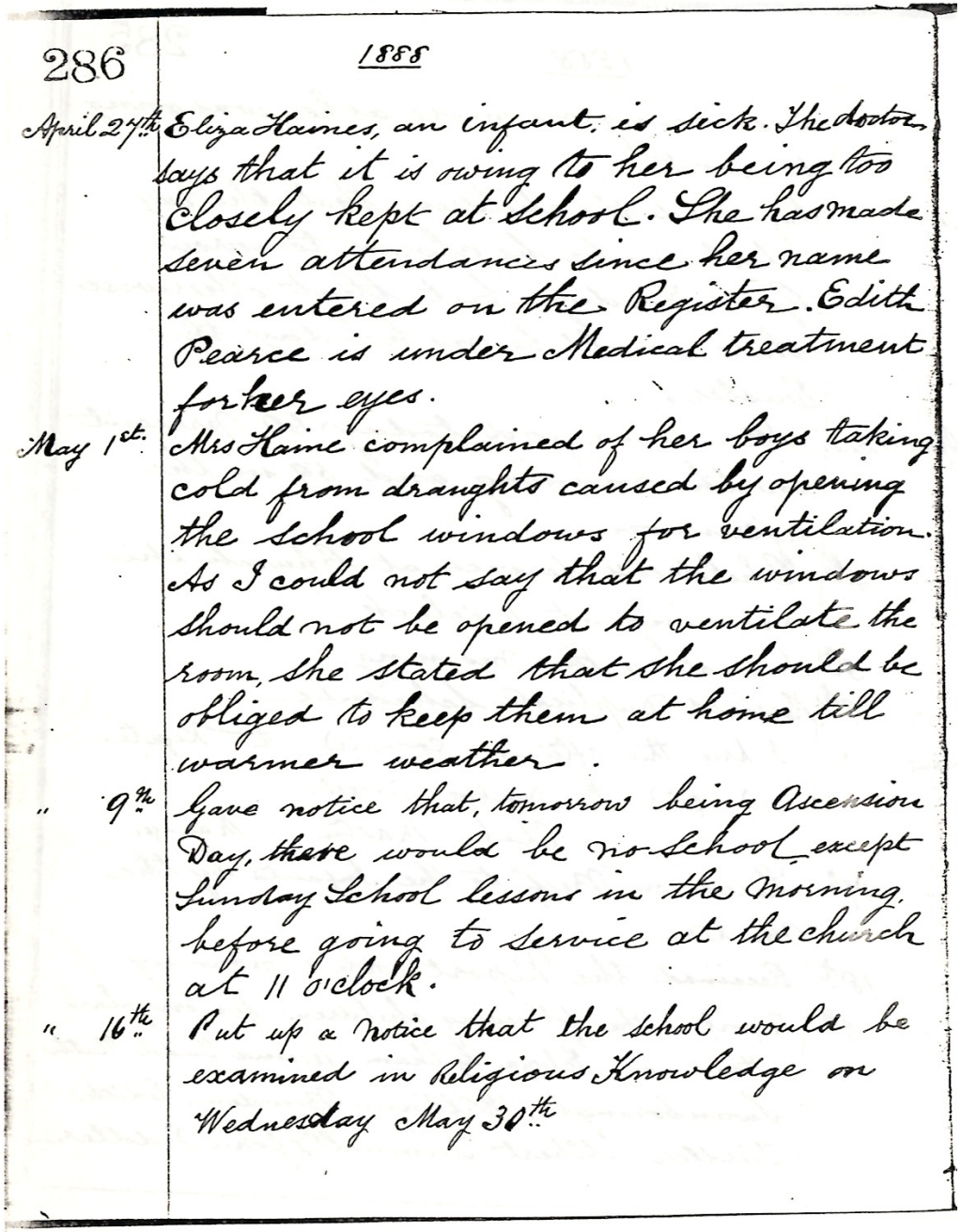
Uncertain readings: Margin date 'Mar. 29th' is partly cut off at the edge but fits Good Friday 1888 falling on 30 March; 'Rosina Tadd' could also be read as 'Todd' (the OCR has Todd); The manager's signature is written loosely and might be an abbreviated 'Chas'; read as 'Charles Martin'



286 1888

April 24th Eliza Haines, an infant, is sick. The doctor says that it is owing to her being too closely kept at school. She has made seven attendances since her name was entered on the Register. Edith Pearce is under Medical treatment for her eyes.

May 1st. Mrs Haine complained of her boys taking cold from draughts caused by opening the school windows for ventilation. As I could not say that the windows should not be opened to ventilate the room, she stated that she should be obliged to keep them at home till warmer weather.

" 9th Gave notice that, tomorrow being Ascension Day, there would be no School except Sunday School lessons in the morning before going to service at the church at 11 o'clock.

" 16th Put up a notice that the school would be examined in Religious Knowledge on Wednesday May 30th

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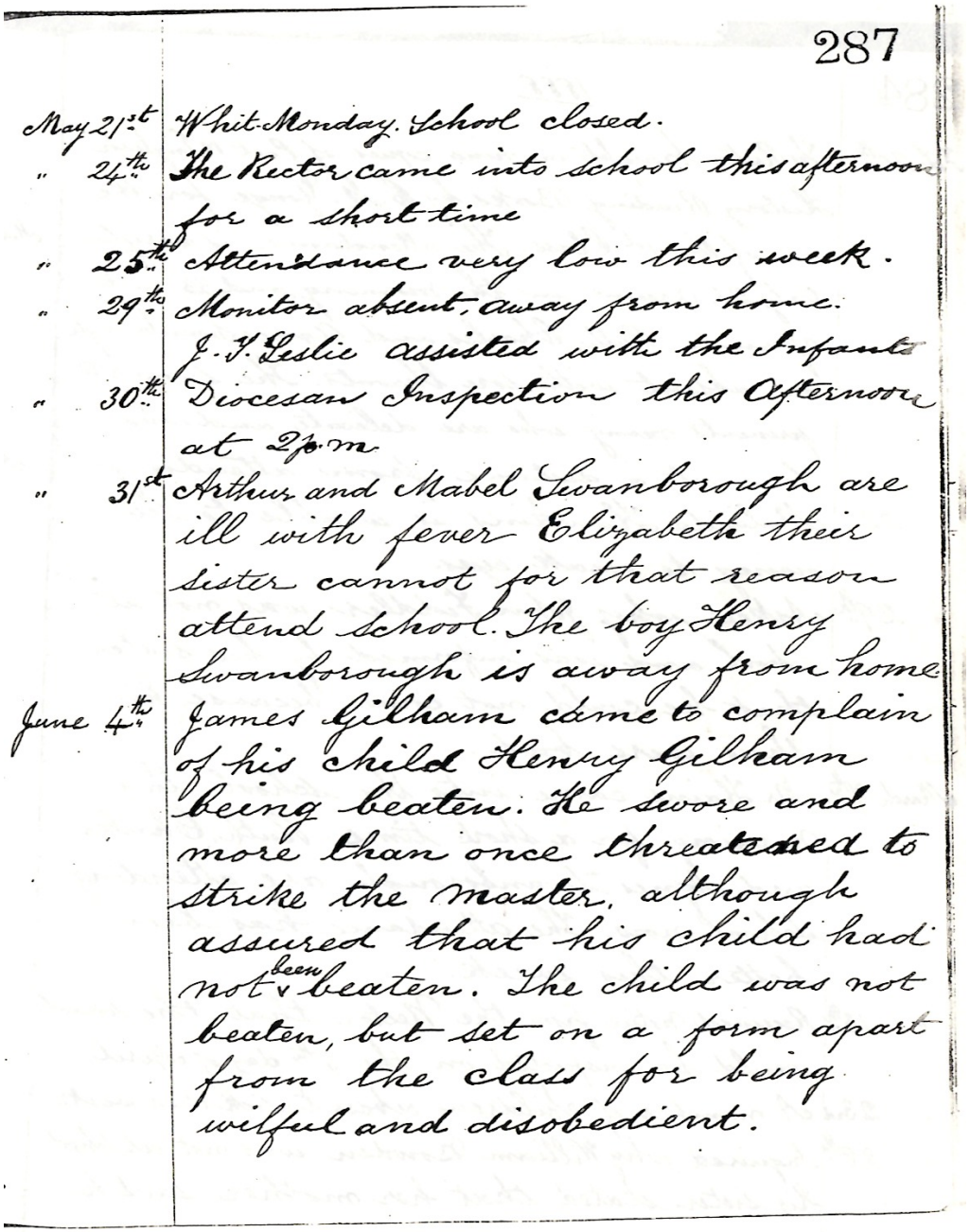
Uncertain readings: Margin date reads 'April 27th' in the image; the OCR gave '24th'; 'Mrs Haine' is written without a final 's'. She is probably the mother of Eliza Haines, but the page does not say so; 'there' (Ascension Day entry) seems to be written over an earlier word



287

May 21st Whit-Monday. School closed.
" 24th The Rector came into school this afternoon for a short time
" 25th Attendance very low this week.
" 29th Monitor absent, away from home. J. J. Leslie assisted with the Infants
" 30th Diocesan Inspection this Afternoon at 2p.m
" 31st Arthur and Mabel Swanborough are ill with fever Elizabeth their sister cannot for that reason attend school. The boy Henry Swanborough is away from home
June 4th James Gilham came to complain of his child Henry Gilham being beaten. He swore and more than once threatened to strike the master, although assured that his child had not been beaten. The child was not beaten, but set on a form apart from the class for being wilful and disobedient.

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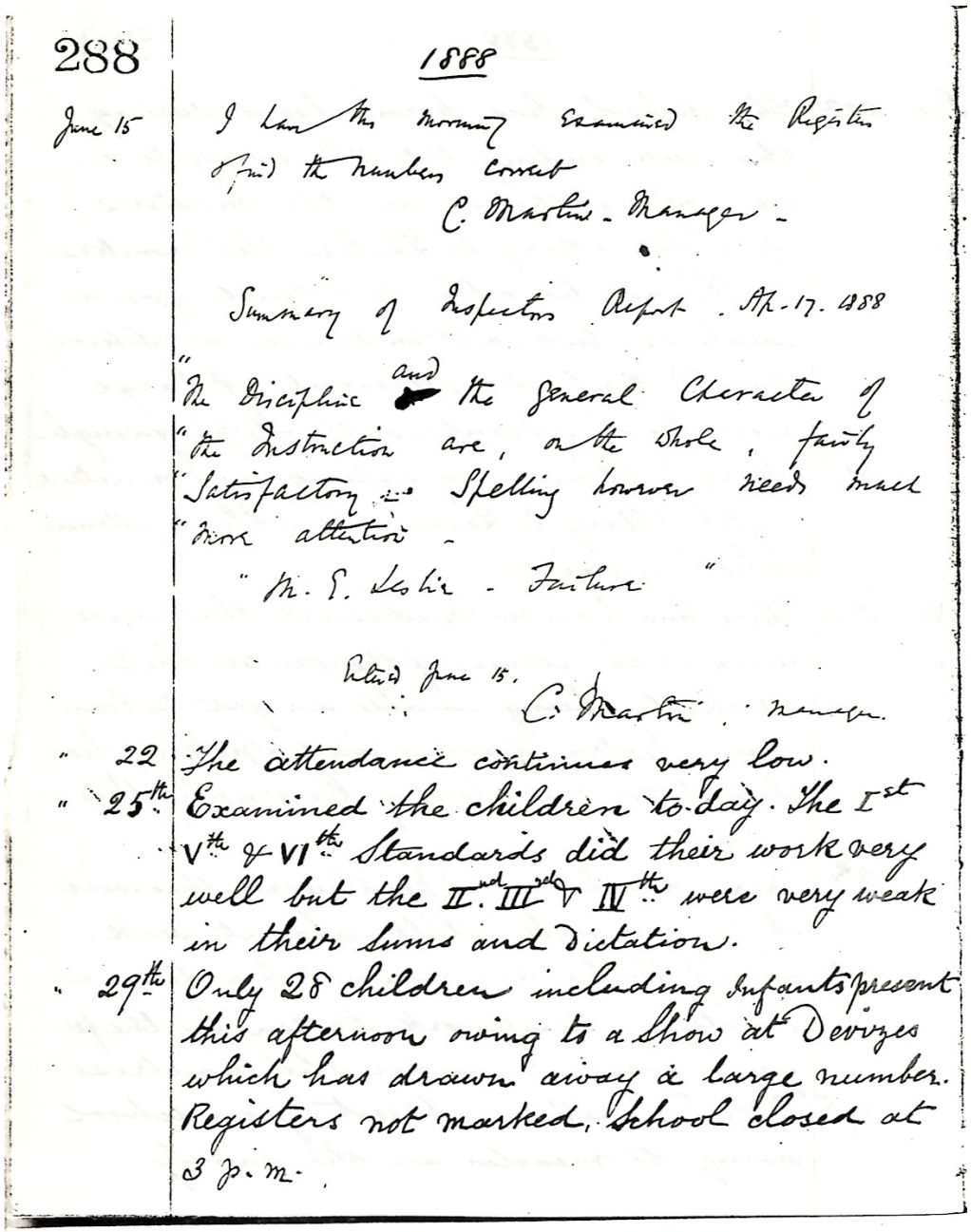
Uncertain readings: No year at the top of the page; I inferred 1888 because Whit Monday fell on 21 May that year (Easter was 1 April), and the weekdays of the other dates match.; 'J. J. Leslie': the second initial could be read as 'T' ('J. T. Leslie').; 'threatened': the ending is written over a correction on the page.; 'Infants': the last letter runs into the right margin.; 'not ^been beaten': 'been' is written above the line with a caret.



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1888

June 15 I have this morning examined the Registers & find the numbers correct

C. Martin - Manager -

Summary of Inspectors Report . Ap-17. 488

" The Discipline and the General Character of "the Instruction are, on the whole, fairly "Satisfactory - Spelling however needs much "more attention -

" M. S. Leslie - Failure "

Entered June 15.

C. Martin . manager.

" 22 The attendance continues very low.

" 25th Examined the children to-day. The Ist Vth & VIth Standards did their work very well but the IInd. IIIrd & IVth were very weak in their Sums and Dictation.

" 29th Only 28 children including Infants present this afternoon owing to a Show at Devizes which has drawn away a large number. Registers not marked. School closed at 3 p. m.

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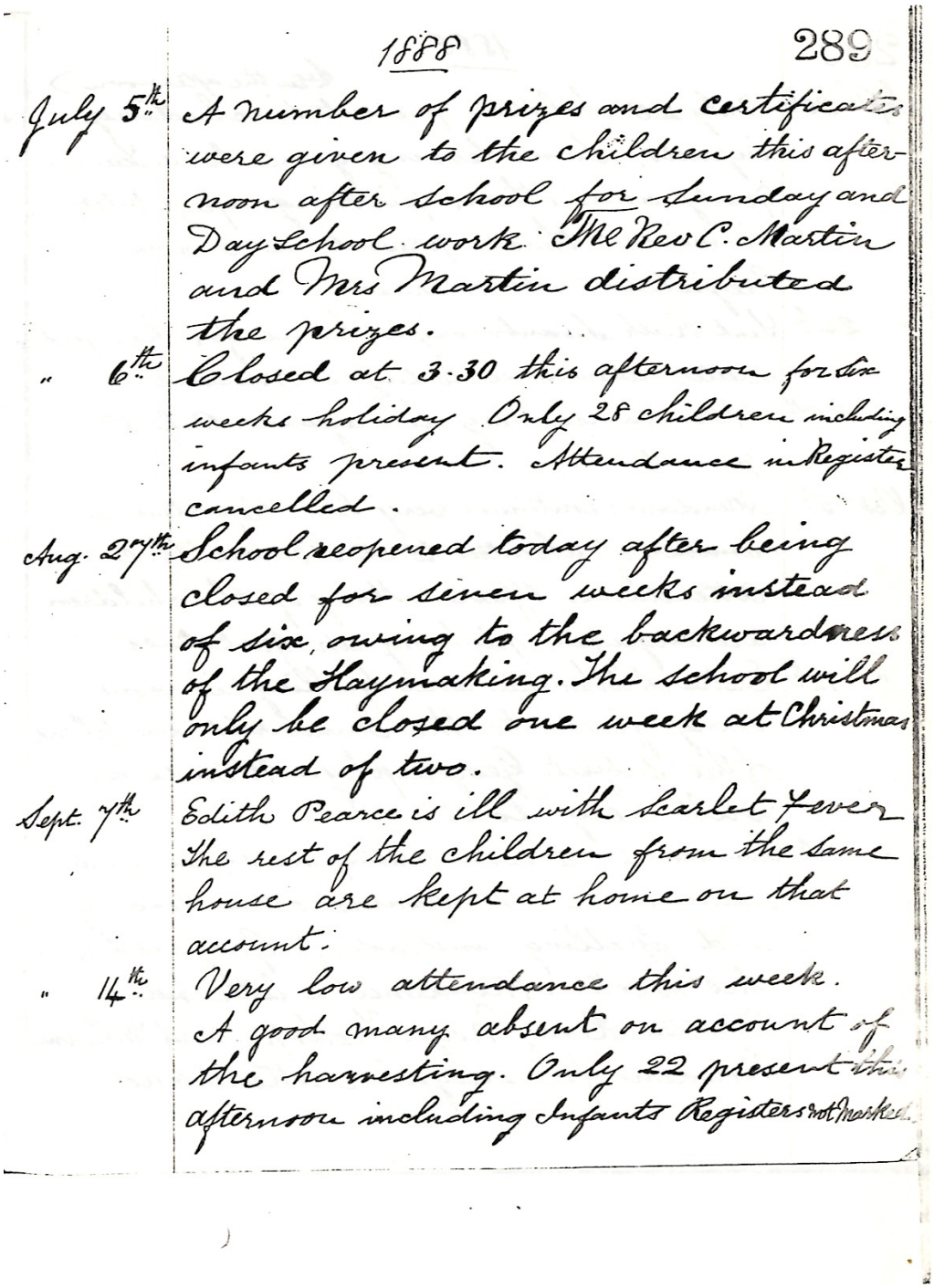
Uncertain readings: 'M. S. Leslie': the second initial could be S or E; this is probably a Leslie family member (perhaps an assistant or pupil teacher), and 'Failure' may mean they failed the examination; 'Ap. 17. 1888': the year is written with a looped 1 that looks like '488'


1888 289

July 5th A number of prizes and certificates were given to the children this afternoon after school for Sunday and Day School work. Mr Rev C. Martin and Mrs Martin distributed the prizes.

" 6th Closed at 3.30 this afternoon for six weeks holiday. Only 28 children including infants present. Attendance in Register cancelled.

Aug. 27th School reopened today after being closed for seven weeks instead of six, owing to the backwardness of the Haymaking. The school will only be closed one week at Christmas instead of two.

Sept. 7th Edith Pearce is ill with Scarlet Fever The rest of the children from the same house are kept at home on that account.

" 14th Very low attendance this week. A good many absent on account of the harvesting. Only 22 present this afternoon including Infants Registers not marked.

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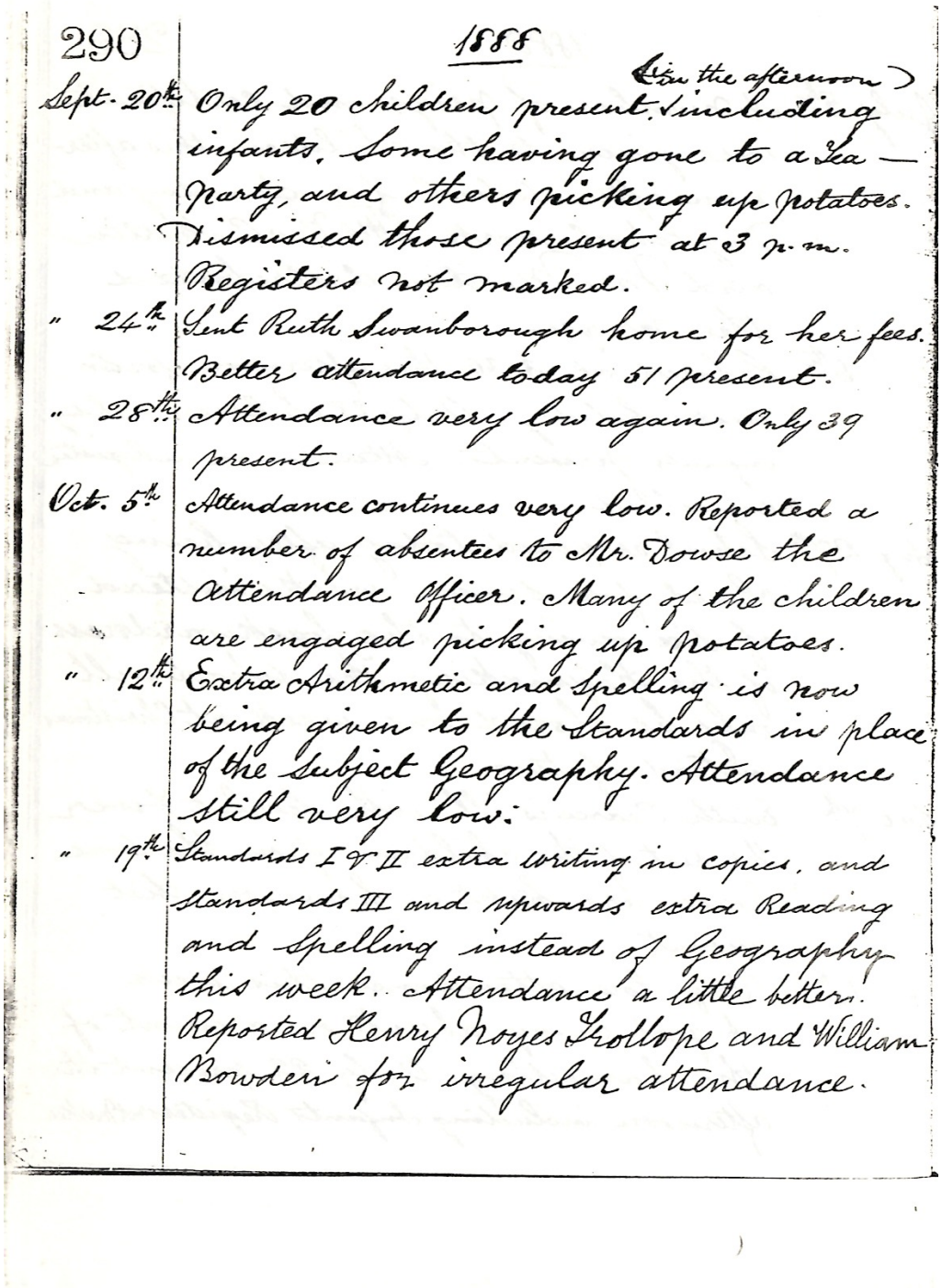
Uncertain readings: Rev C. Martin's role as Rector is inferred from context; the page does not say so; "Day School" could be read as one word, "DaySchool"



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1888

Sept. 20th Only 20 children present (in the afternoon) including infants. Some having gone to a Tea — Party, and others picking up potatoes. Dismissed those present at 3 p.m. Registers not marked.

" 24th Sent Ruth Swanborough home for her fees. Better attendance today 51 present.

" 28th Attendance very low again. Only 39 present.

Oct. 5th Attendance continues very low. Reported a number of absentees to Mr. Dowse the Attendance Officer. Many of the children are engaged picking up potatoes.

" 12th Extra Arithmetic and Spelling is now being given to the Standards in place of the Subject Geography. Attendance still very low.

" 19th Standards I & II extra Writing in copies, and Standards III and upwards extra Reading and Spelling instead of Geography this week. Attendance a little better. Reported Henry Noyes Trollope and William Bowden for irregular attendance.

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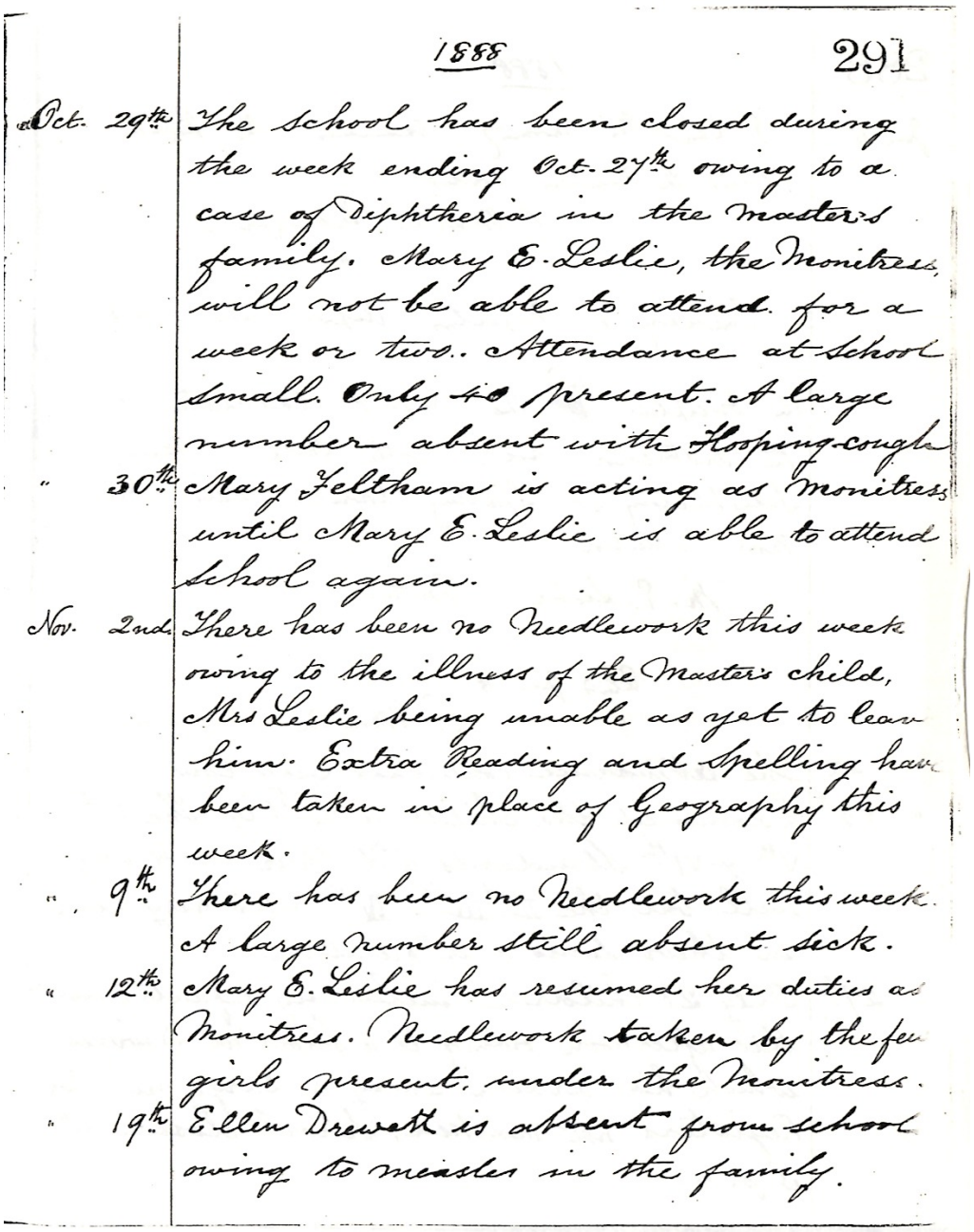
Uncertain readings: '(in the afternoon)' is written above the line with a caret; its exact position in the sentence is uncertain, either after 'present.' or before 'including'; 'Henry Noyes Trollope' could be one pupil or two (Henry Noyes and a Trollope child), because there is no comma; 'Standards I & II': the OCR read this as 'IV II'; the image reads 'I & II'



1888 291

Oct. 29th The school has been closed during the week ending Oct. 27th owing to a case of Diphtheria in the master's family. Mary E. Leslie, the Monitress, will not be able to attend. for a week or two.. Attendance at School small. Only 40 present. A large number absent with Hooping-cough

" 30th Mary Feltham is acting as Monitress until Mary E. Leslie is able to attend School again.

Nov. 2nd. There has been no Needlework this week owing to the illness of the Master's child, Mrs Leslie being unable as yet to leave him. Extra Reading and Spelling have been taken in place of Geography this week.

" 9th There has been no Needlework this week. A large number still absent sick.

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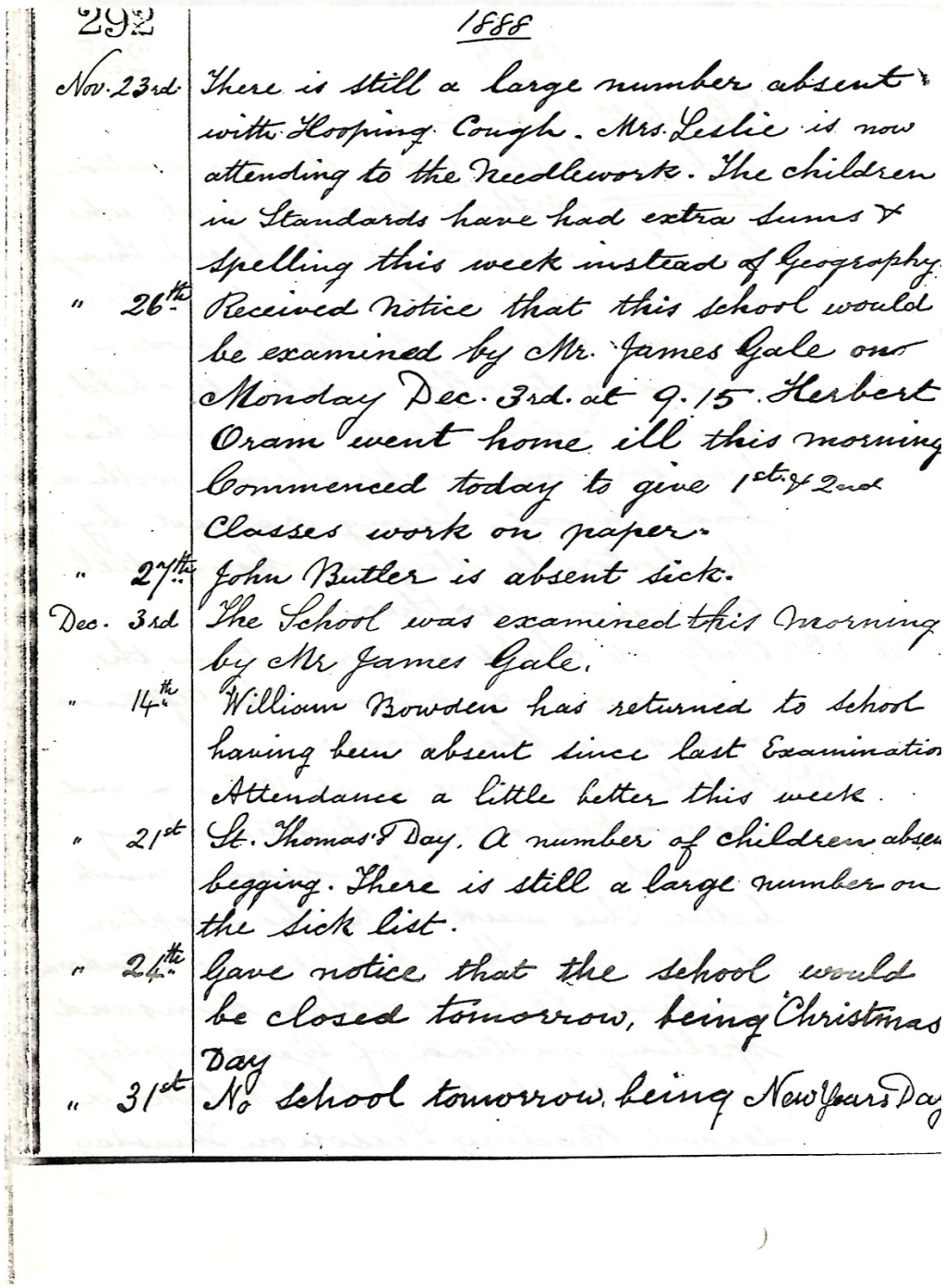
Uncertain readings: 'Only 40 present' – figure written like '4o', read as 40; Surname 'Drewett' – written 'Drewett' (OCR 'Drewath'); Stray full stop in 'attend. for a' and double stop in 'two..' kept as written



292 1888

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Dec. 3rd The School was examined this Morning by Mr James Gale.

" 14th. William Bowden has returned to school having been absent since last Examination Attendance a little better this week.

" 21st St. Thomas's Day. A number of children absent begging. There is still a large number on the Sick list.

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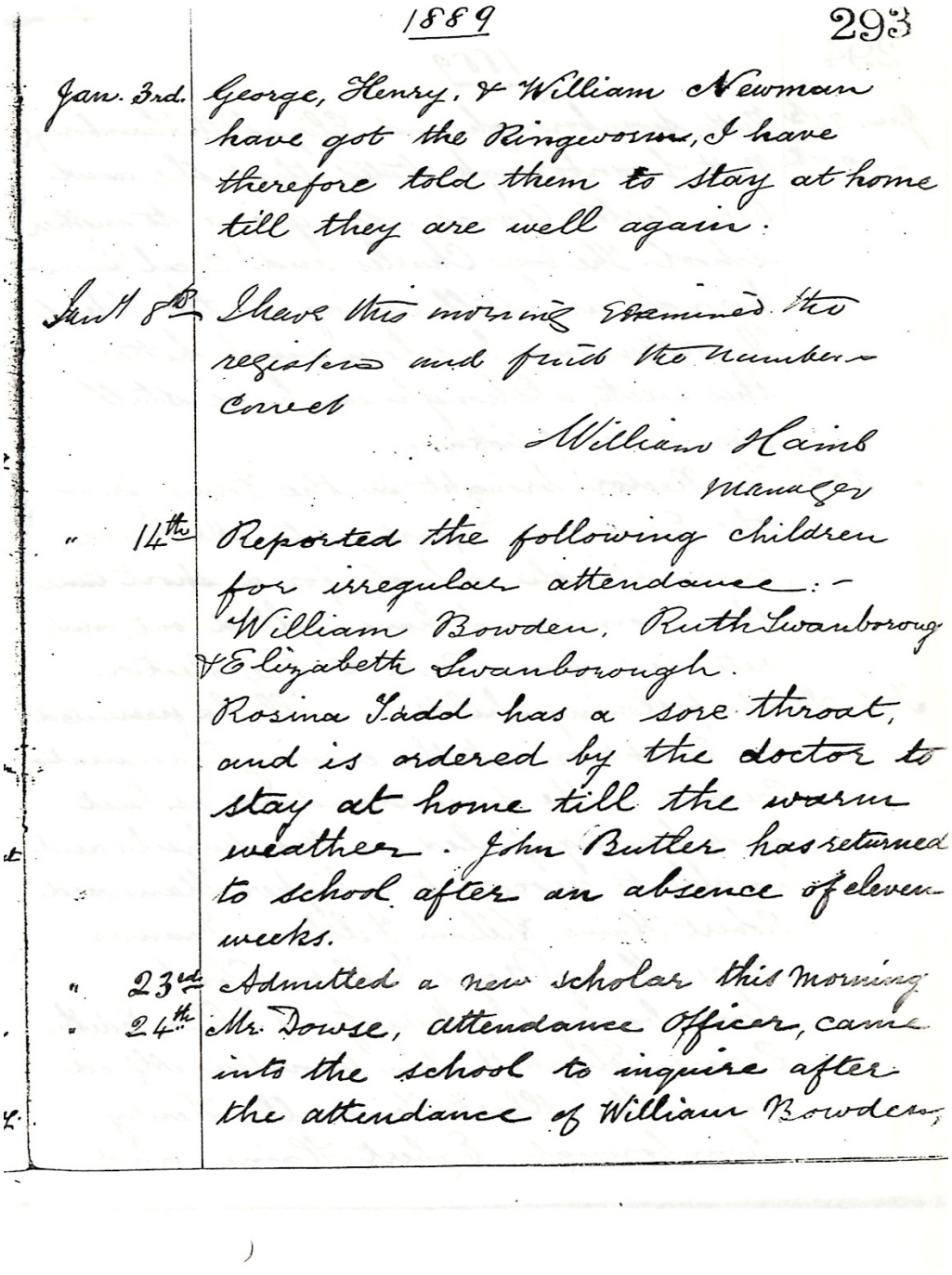
Uncertain readings: 'St. Thomas's Day' - apostrophe/possessive form unclear on page; 'Received Notice' - capital N uncertain; '1st. & 2nd' - written small/superscript; 'absent' at end of 21st line partly cut off at page edge



1889 293

Jan. 3rd. George, Henry, & William Newman have got the Ringworm, I have therefore told them to stay at home till they are well again.

Jan'y 8th I have this morning Examined the registers and find the numbers correct

William Hainb
Manager

" 14th Reported the following children for irregular attendance:- William Bowden, Ruth Swanborough & Elizabeth Swanborough. Rosina Tadd has a sore throat, and is ordered by the doctor to stay at home till the warm weather. John Butler has returned to schol after an absence of eleven weeks.

" 23rd Admitted a new scholar this morning

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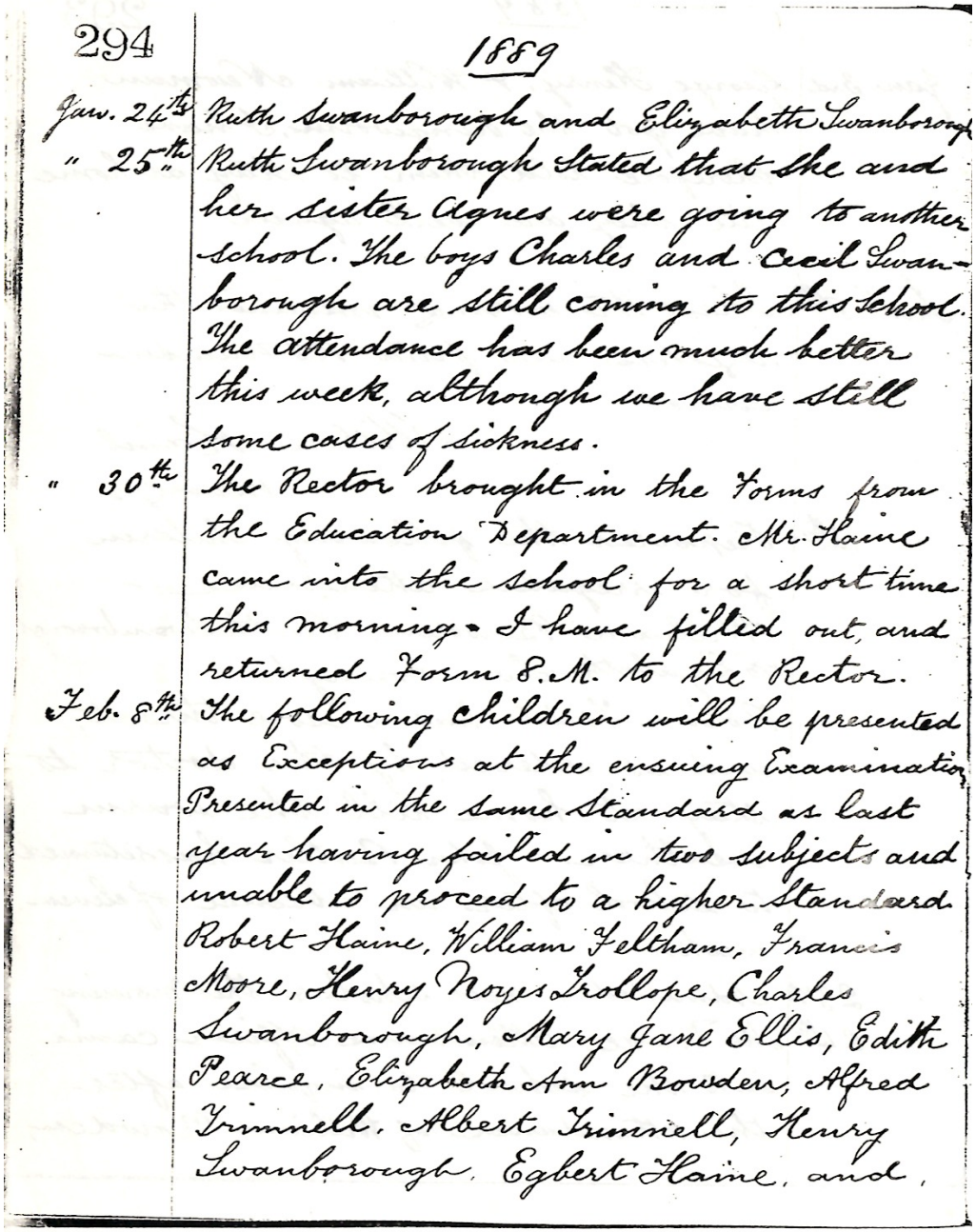
Uncertain readings: Manager's margin date written as 'Janl 8th' or similar, read as Jan 8th; Manager's signature surname 'Hainb' is unclear, possibly another name in a hurried hand; 'Swanboroug' runs off the right edge of the page; final 'h' supplied; 'Tadd' could be read as 'Todd'; The final entry ends with a comma and probably continues on the next page



294

1889

Jan. 24th Ruth Swanborough and Elizabeth Swanborough

" 25th Ruth Swanborough Stated that she and her sister Agnes were going to another school. The boys Charles and Cecil Swanborough are still coming to this School. The attendance has been much better this week, although we have still some cases of sickness.

" 30th The Rector brought in the Forms from the Education Department. Mr. Haine came into the school for a short time this morning. I have filled out, and returned Form 8.M. to the Rector.

Feb. 8th The following children will be presented as Exceptions at the ensuing Examination Presented in the same Standard as last year having failed in two subjects and unable to proceed to a higher Standard. Robert Haine, William Feltham, Francis Moore, Henry Noyes Trollope, Charles Swanborough, Mary Jane Ellis, Edith Pearce, Elizabeth Ann Bowden, Alfred Trimnell, Albert Trimnell, Henry Swanborough, Egbert Haine, and,

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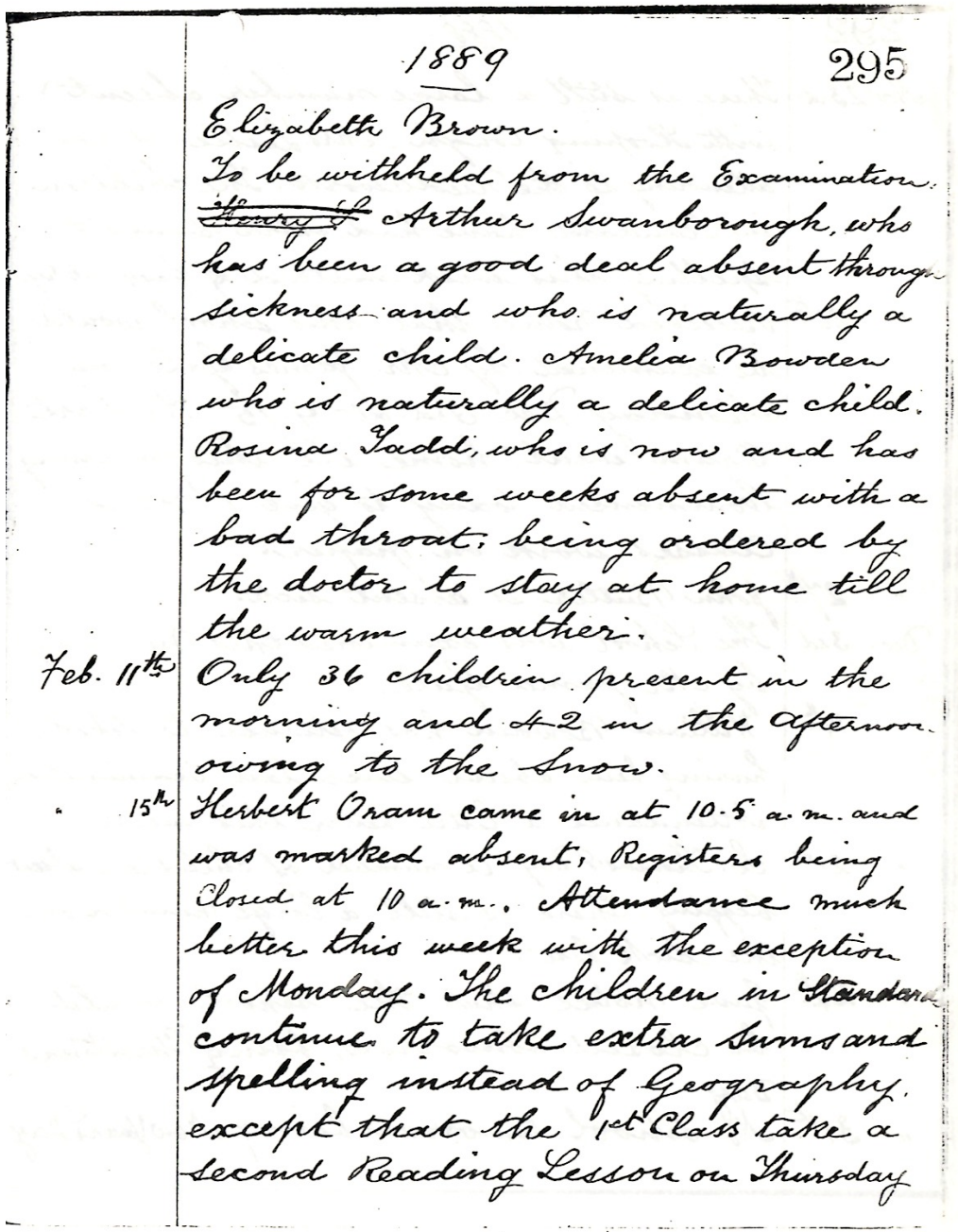
Uncertain readings: Jan. 24th entry seems unfinished: it gives only the two names and runs to the page edge, so 'Swanborough' may be cut off and a word such as 'absent' may be missing; 'Form 8.M.': the figure is probably 8, but it could be 9; 'Mr. Haine': the capital H looks like the writer's ornate H; the OCR read 'Have'



1889 295

Elizabeth Brown.
To be withheld from the Examination.
~~Henry J~~ Arthur Swanborough, who has been a good deal absent through sickness and who is naturally a delicate child. Amelia Bowden who is naturally a delicate child. Rosina Tadd, who is now and has been for some weeks absent with a bad throat; being ordered by the doctor to stay at home till the warm weather.

Feb. 11th Only 36 children present in the morning and 42 in the Afternoon owing to the Snow.

" 15th Herbert Oram came in at 10.5 a.m. and was marked absent; Registers being Closed at 10 a.m.. Attendance much better this week with the exception of Monday. The children in Standards continue to take extra Sums and spelling instead of Geography, except that the 1st Class take a second Reading Lesson on Thursday

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(continued from previous page)

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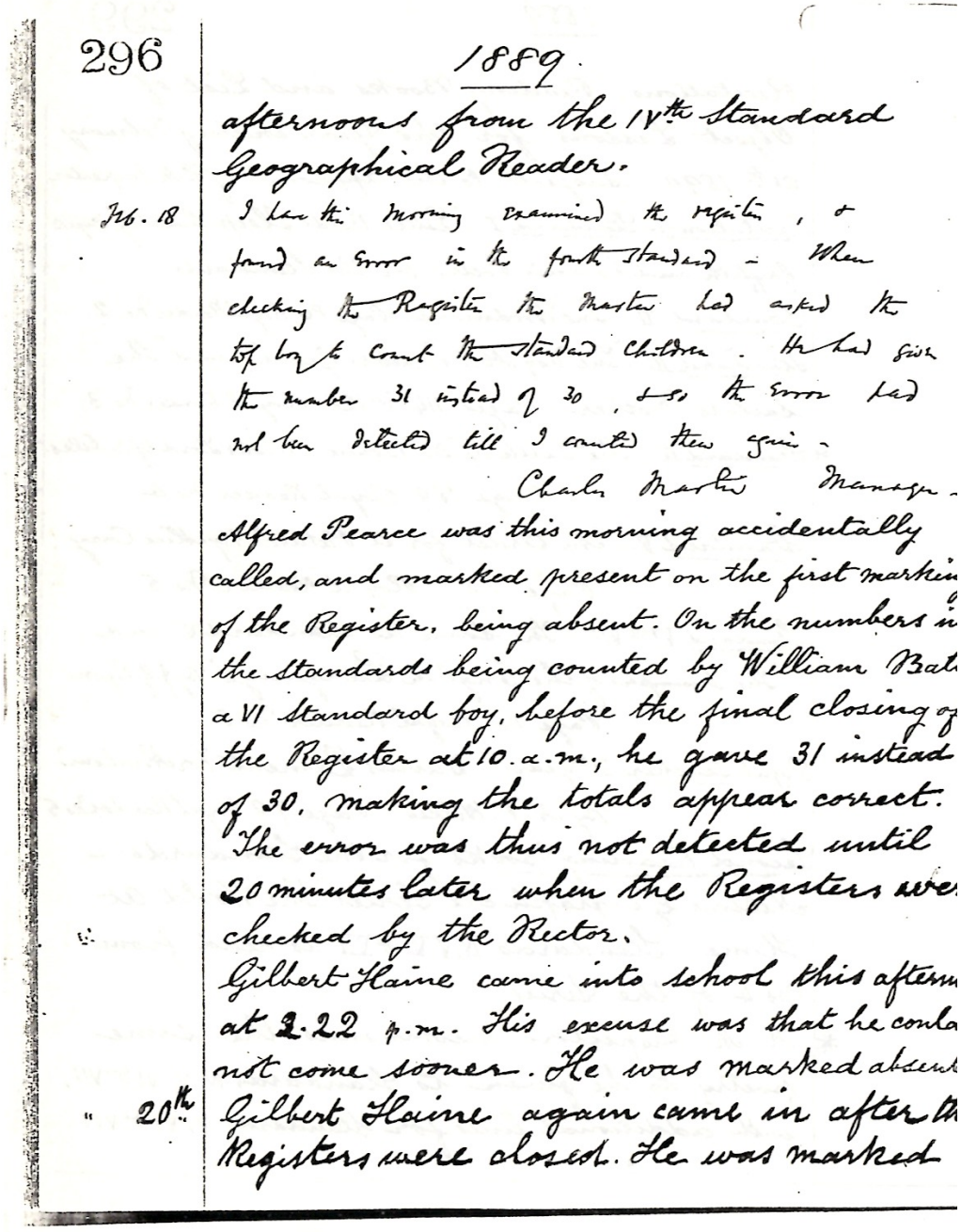
Uncertain readings: 'Henry J' before 'Arthur Swanborough' is struck through in the original; Surname 'Tadd' (OCR 'Yadd'); the capital could also be read as G ('Gadd'); 'Standards' at end of line is cramped against the margin; possibly 'Standard'; '10.5 a.m.' read as 10.05 a.m.



296

1889.

afternoons from the IVth Standard Geographical Reader.

Feb. 18 I have this morning examined the registers, & found an Error in the fourth standard - When checking the Register the Master had asked the top boy to count the standard children. He had given the number 31 instead of 30, & so the Error had not been detected till I counted them again.

Charles Martin Manager.

Alfred Pearce was this morning accidentally called, and marked present on the first marking of the Register, being absent. On the numbers in the Standards being counted by William Bath a VI Standard boy, before the final closing of the Register at 10. a.m., he gave 31 instead of 30, making the totals appear correct. The error was thus not detected until 20 minutes later when the Registers were checked by the Rector.

Gilbert Haine came into school this afternoon at 2.22 p.m. His excuse was that he could not come sooner. He was marked absent.

" 20th Gilbert Haine again came in after the Registers were closed. He was marked

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(continued from previous page)

afternoons from the IVth Standard Geographical Reader.

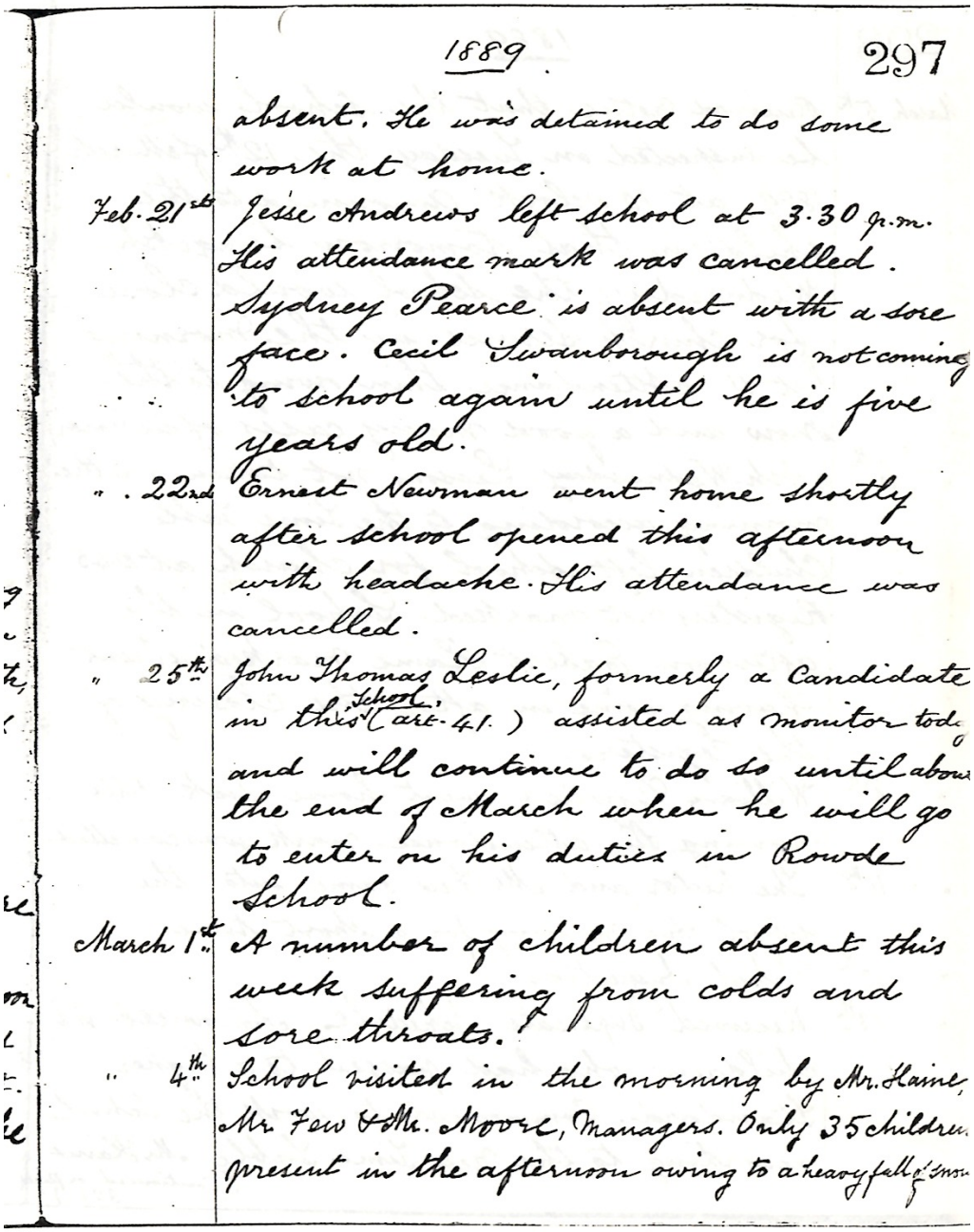
Feb. 18 I have this morning examined the registers, & found an Error in the fourth standard - When checking the Register the Master had asked the top boy to count the standard children. He had given the number 31 instead of 30, & so the Error had not been detected till I counted them again. Charles Martin Manager

Alfred Pearce was this morning accidentally called, and marked present on the first marking of the Register, being absent. On the numbers in the Standards being counted by William Bath[e?] a VI Standard boy, before the final closing of the Register at 10. a.m., he gave 31 instead of 30, making the totals appear correct. The error was thus not detected until 20 minutes later when the Registers were checked by the Rector.

Gilbert Haine came into school this afternoon at 2.22 p.m. His excuse was that he could not come sooner. He was marked absent.

" 20th Gilbert Haine again came in after the Registers were closed. He was marked

Uncertain readings: William Bath[e?]: the surname runs off the right edge of the page; Words cut off at the right margin were completed from context: afternoon, marking, in, closing of, were, could, absent, after the; '2.22 p.m.': the first digit is smudged; 'Gilbert Haine' might be 'Haines'; The Rector's hand is hurried. 'examined the registers', 'top boy' and 'counted them again' are probable readings



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absent. He was detained to do some work at home.

Feb. 21st Jesse Andrews left school at 3.30 p.m. His attendance mark was cancelled. Sydney Pearce is absent with a sore face. Cecil Swanborough is not coming to school again until he is five years old.

" 22nd Ernest Newman went home shortly after school opened this afternoon with headache. His attendance was cancelled.

" 25th John Thomas Leslie, formerly a Candidate in this (school (art. 41.) assisted as monitor tod and will continue to do so until abou the end of March when he will go to enter on his duties in Rowde School.

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(continued from previous page)

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Uncertain readings: 'Mr. Haine' could be 'Mr. Haines'; the final letters are run together with the comma; 'school' is written above the line as an insertion after 'this' in the 25th entry; 'of' in 'heavy fall of snow' is squeezed in small above the line at the page edge

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