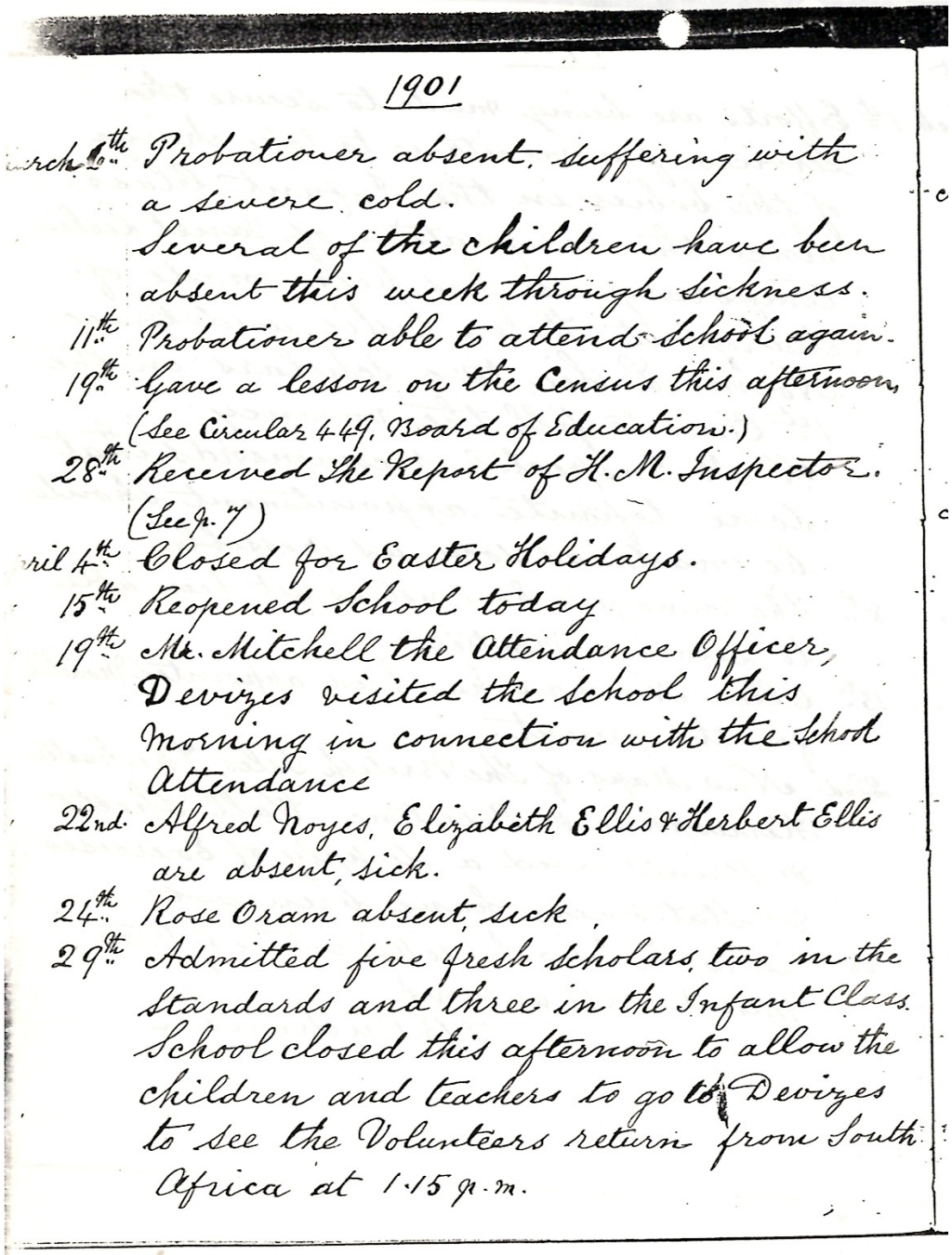
Poulshot School Log Book - school year 1901-02

Volume 2, pages 6-18 (13 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.



1901

arch 2nd Probationer absent. suffering with a severe cold. Several of the children have been absent this week through sickness.

11th Probationer able to attend School again.

19th Gave a lesson on the Census this afternoon, (See Circular 449. Board of Education.)

28th Received the Report of H.M. Inspector. (See p. 7)

ril 4th Closed for Easter Holidays.

15th Reopened School today

19th Mr. Mitchell the Attendance Officer, Devizes visited the school this morning in connection with the School Attendance

22nd. Alfred Noyes, Elizabeth Ellis & Herbert Ellis are absent, sick.

24th Rose Oram absent, sick

29th Admitted five fresh scholars, two in the Standards and three in the Infant Class. School closed this afternoon to allow the children and teachers to go to Devizes to see the Volunteers return from South Africa at 1.15 p.m.

Page 6

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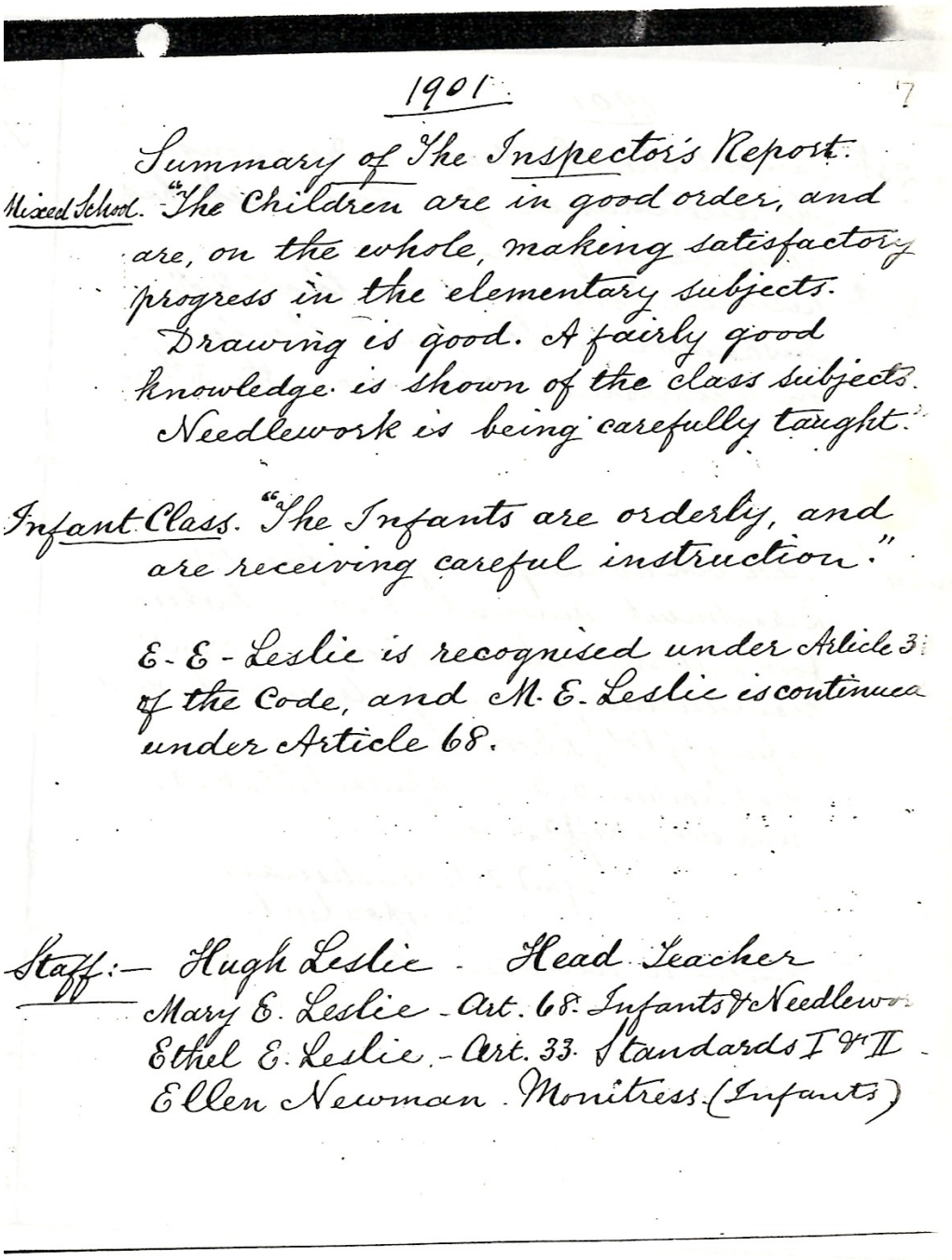
Uncertain readings: First margin date: the day digit is unclear, possibly 6 (or 2) followed by 'th'; the start of 'March' is cut off at the edge of the page; 'April' is partly cut off at the margin; 'go to Devizes': an ink blot covers 'to'; No page number is visible on this page



1901 7

Summary of The Inspector's Report.

Mixed School. "The Children are in good order, and are, on the whole, making satisfactory progress in the elementary subjects. Drawing is good. A fairly good knowledge is shown of the class subjects. Needlework is being carefully taught."

Infant Class. "The Infants are orderly, and are receiving careful instruction."

E. E. Leslie is recognised under Article 3[illegible] of the Code, and M. E. Leslie is continued under Article 68.

Staff:— Hugh Leslie - Head Teacher
Mary E. Leslie - Art. 68. Infants & Needlew[illegible]
Ethel E. Leslie - Art. 33. Standards I & II
Ellen Newman. Monitress (Infants)

Page 7

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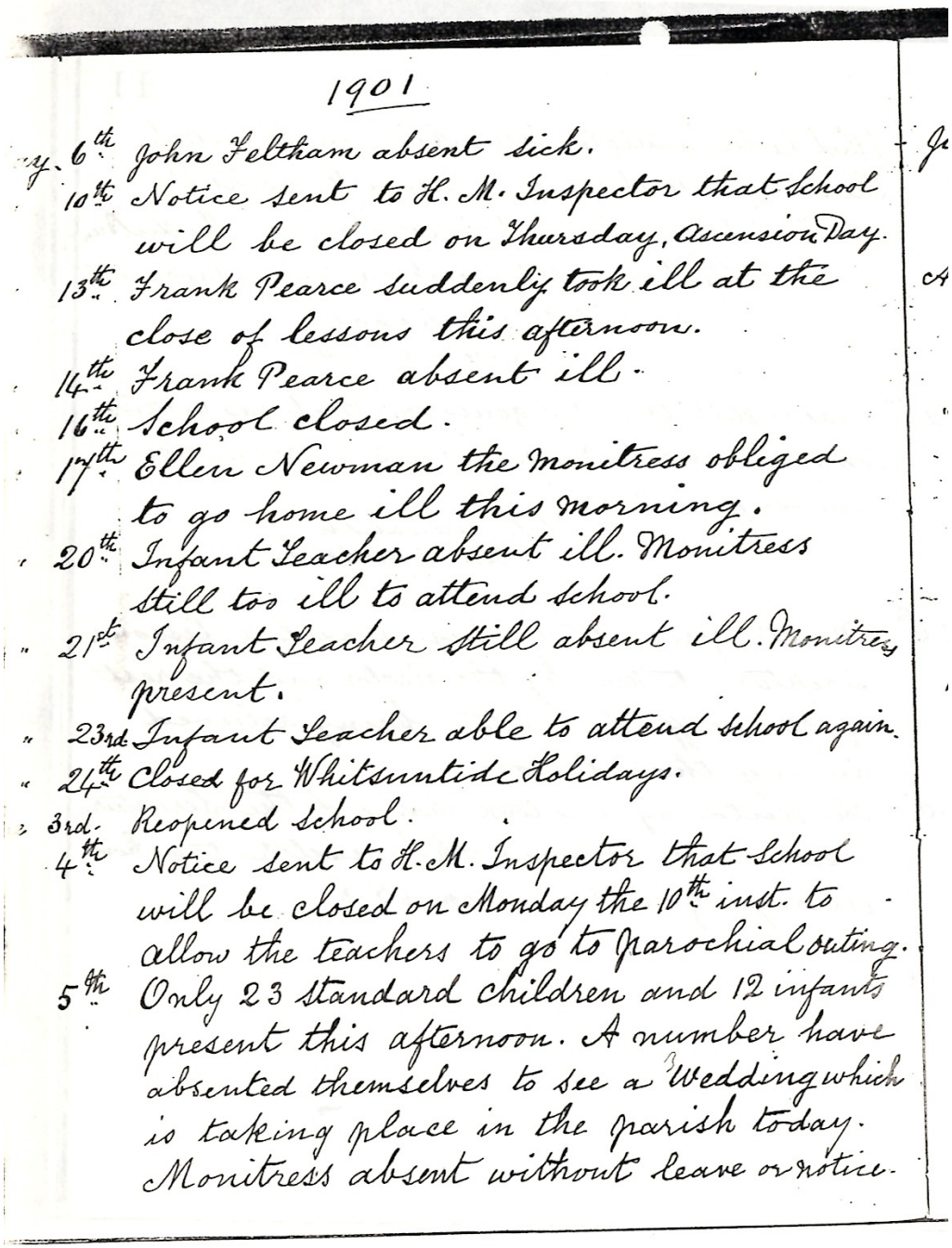
Uncertain readings: 'Article 3[3?]' - the number is cut off at the page edge; the staff list gives Art. 33; 'continue[d?]' - the end of the word is cut off at the page edge; 'Needlew[ork?]' - cut off at the page edge



1901

y. 6th John Feltham absent sick.
10th Notice sent to H. M. Inspector that School will be closed on Thursday, Ascension Day.
13th Frank Pearce suddenly took ill at the close of lessons this afternoon.
14th Frank Pearce absent ill.
16th School closed.
17th Ellen Newman the Monitress obliged to go home ill this morning.
20th Infant Teacher absent ill. Monitress still too ill to attend school.
" 21st Infant Teacher still absent ill. Monitress present.
" 23rd Infant Teacher able to attend school again.
" 24th Closed for Whitsuntide Holidays.
e 3rd. Reopened School.
4th Notice sent to H.M. Inspector that School will be closed on Monday the 10th inst. to allow the teachers to go to parochial outing.
5th Only 23 standard children and 12 infants present this afternoon. A number have absented themselves to see a Wedding which is taking place in the parish today. Monitress absent without leave or notice.

Page 8

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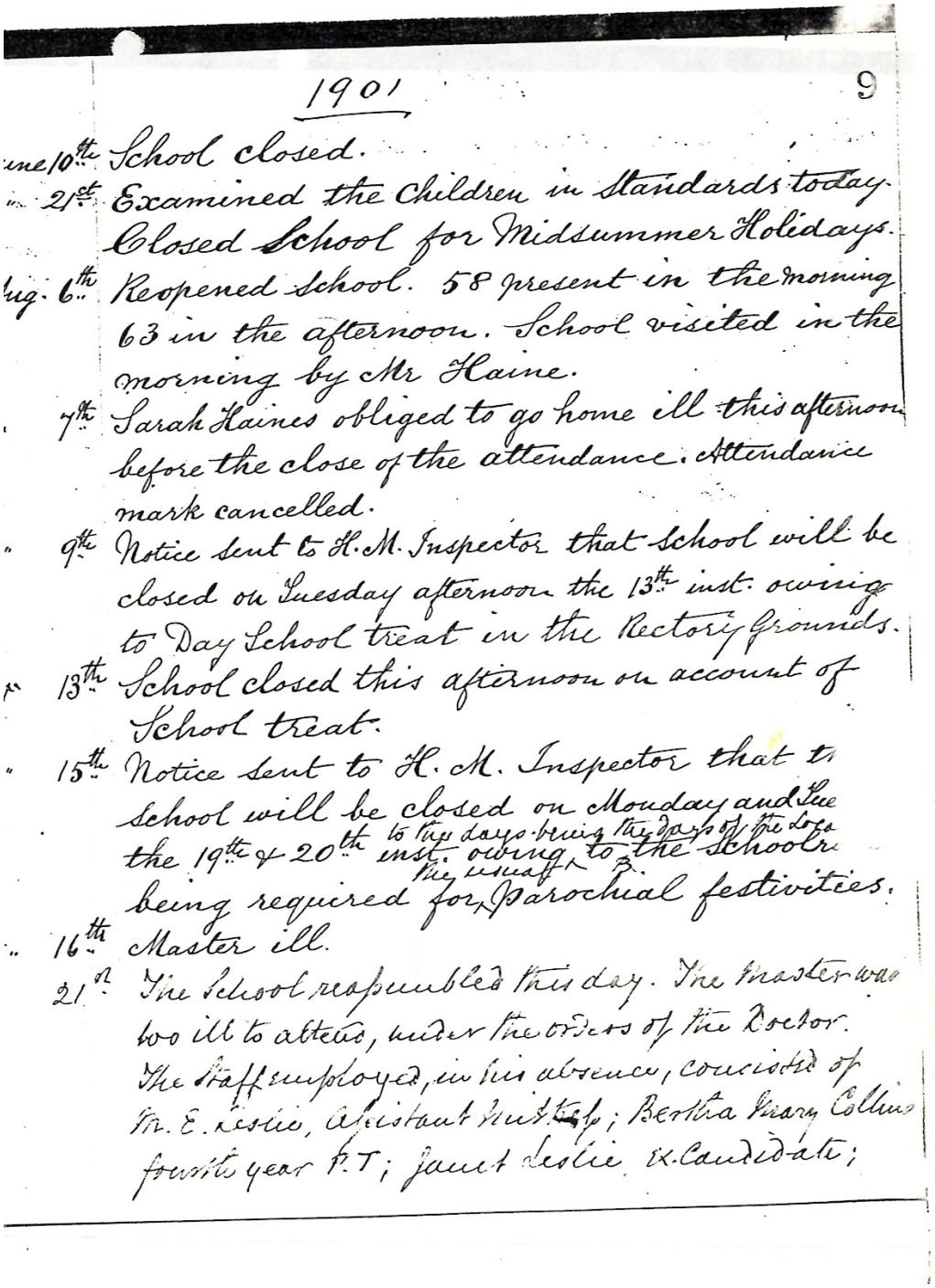
Uncertain readings: Month names in left margin are cut off by the scan: '[Ma]y' and '[Jun]e' reconstructed (Ascension Day 16 May 1901, Whit Sunday 26 May 1901 and Monday 10 June 1901 confirm); 'obliged' could be spelt 'obleged' in the hand; small caret/mark before 'Wedding', possibly an insertion mark; No page number visible on the page



1901 9

une 10th School closed.

" 21st Examined the Children in Standards today. Closed School for Midsummer Holidays.

ug. 6th Reopened School. 58 present in the morning 63 in the afternoon. School visited in the morning by Mr Haine.

" 7th Sarah Haines obliged to go home ill this afternoon before the close of the attendance. Attendance mark cancelled.

" 9th Notice sent to H.M. Inspector that School will be closed on Tuesday afternoon the 13th inst. owing to Day School treat in the Rectory Grounds.

" 13th School closed this afternoon on account of School treat.

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" 16th Master ill.

" 21st The School reassembled this day. The Master was too ill to attend, under the orders of the Doctor. The Staff employed, in his absence, consisted of Mr. E. Leslie, Assistant Mistress; Bertha Mary Collins fourth year P.T; Janet Leslie, Ex-Candidate;

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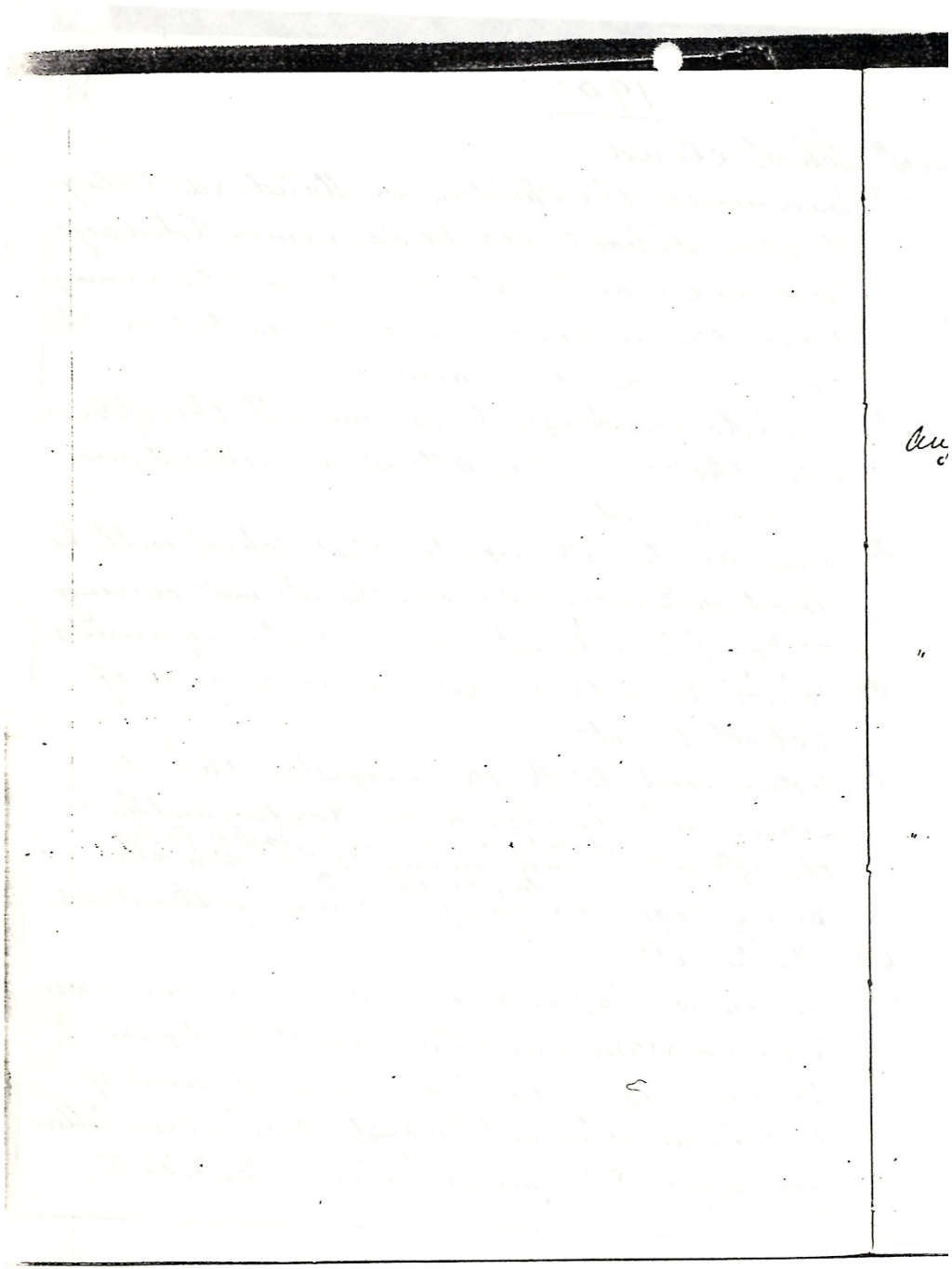
Uncertain readings: Month names in the margin are cut off: 'une' read as June, 'ug.' as Aug.; 'Mr E. Leslie': the page seems to say 'Mr.', but 'Assistant Mistress' suggests Mrs. E. Leslie; Line ends cut off at the right edge: 'th[e]', 'Tue[sday]', 'Schoolr[oom]'; Insertion above the 19th & 20th line is hard to read: possibly 'to two days being the days of the Loca[l] ...', perhaps the local feast or club; 'Haine' (visitor) and 'Haines' (pupil) are spelled as on the page



Page 10

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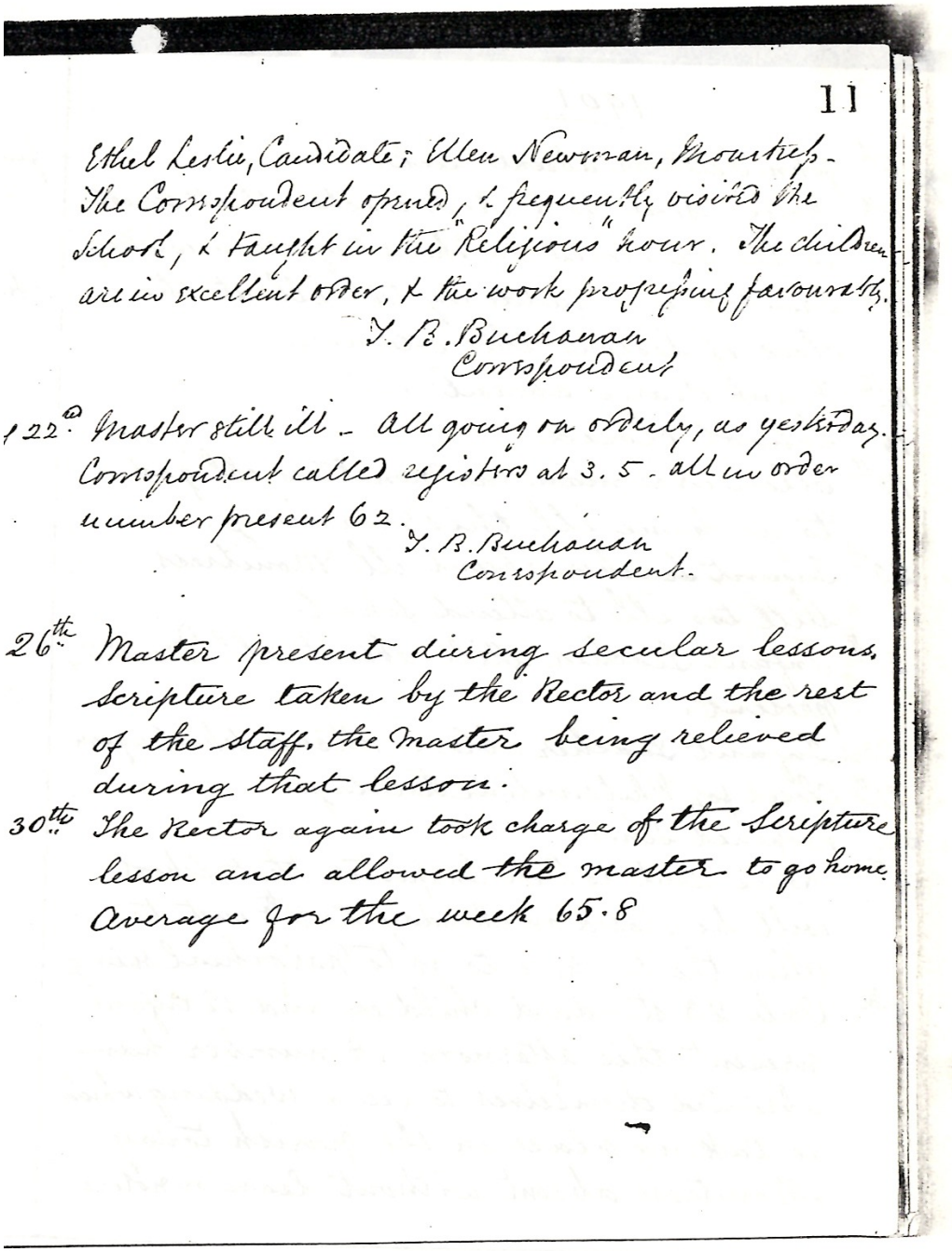
Uncertain readings: Faint show-through text across the page is unreadable; it seems to come from the other side of the leaf, not this page; Top-centre faint year may read '1900' or '1901' (show-through); Right-edge 'Au[g?]' and ditto marks belong to the margin dates of the facing page, cut off by the scan


11

Ethel Leslie, Candidate; Ellen Newman, Monitress.
The Correspondent opened, & frequently visited the School, & taught in the "Religious" hour. The children are in excellent order, & the work progressing favourably.
T. B. Buchanan
Correspondent

22d Master still ill - All going on orderly, as yesterday. Correspondent called registers at 3.5. All in order number present 62.
T. B. Buchanan
Correspondent.

26th Master present during secular lessons. Scripture taken by the Rector and the rest of the staff. the master being relieved during that lesson.

30th The Rector again took charge of the Scripture lesson and allowed the master to go home. Average for the week 65.8

Page 11

(continued from previous page)

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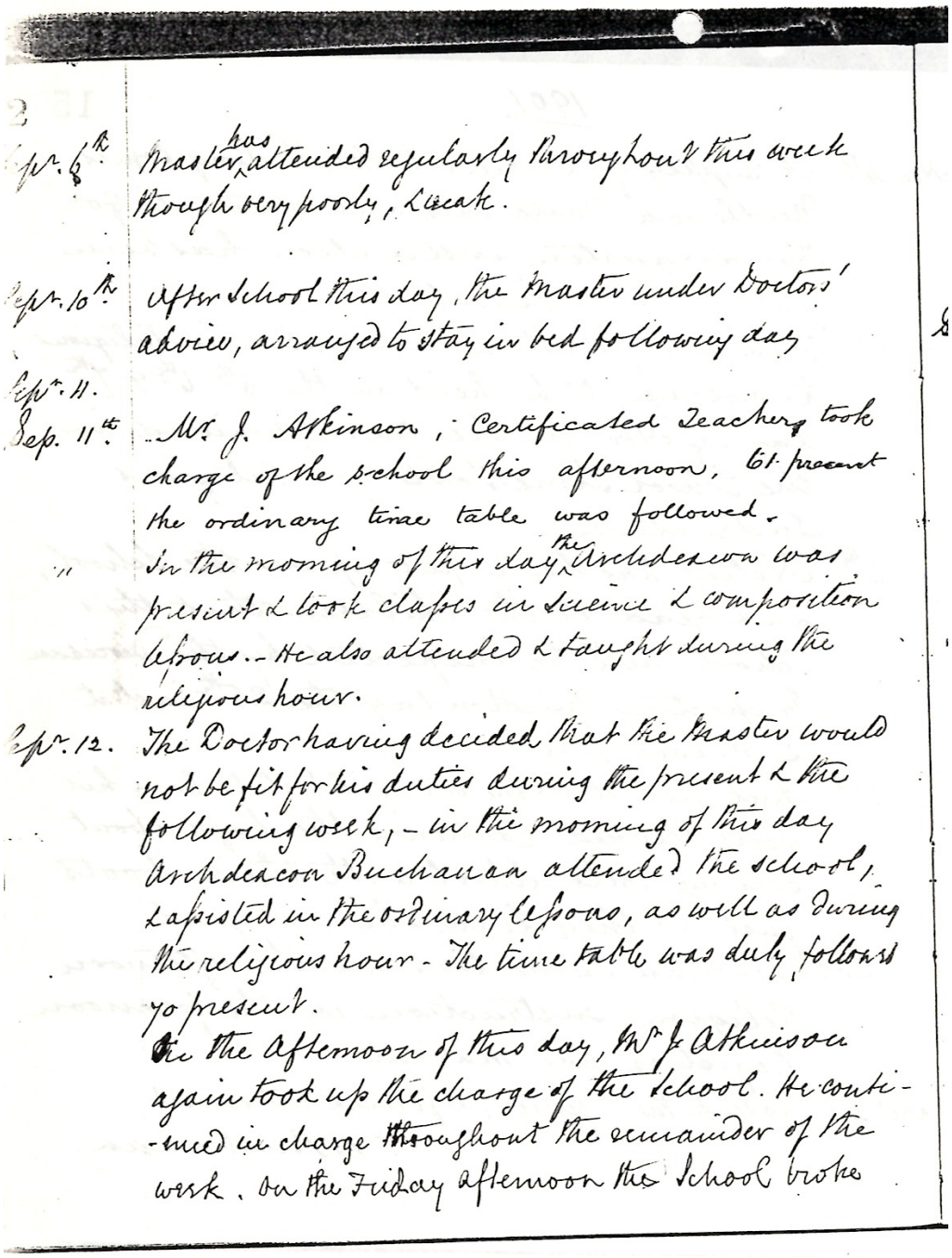
Uncertain readings: Header year not legible: the top of the page is cut off. A faint '1901' at top centre may be the header or show-through from another page, so the dates are left without a year.; Margin '22d' has a mark before it, maybe a cut-off month or a bracket.; The signature initial could be 'T. B.' or 'J. B.' Buchanan.; 'Monitress' is written with an odd ending that looks like 'Monitresp'.; 'Correspondent opened, &' - the comma and ampersand are faint.



2

Sepr. 6th Master has attended regularly throughout this week though very poorly, & weak.

Sepr. 10th After School this day, the Master under Doctors' advice, arranged to stay in bed following day

Sepr. 11.

Sep. 11th Mr. J. Atkinson, Certificated Teacher, took charge of the school this afternoon, 61 present the ordinary time table was followed.
In the morning of this day, the Archdeacon was present & took clafses in Science & composition lefsons. - He also attended & taught during the religious hour.

Sepr. 12. The Doctor having decided that the Master would not be fit for his duties during the present & the following week, - in the morning of this day Archdeacon Buchanan attended the school, & afsisted in the ordinary lefsons, as well as during the religious hour - The time table was duly followd 70 present.
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Page 12

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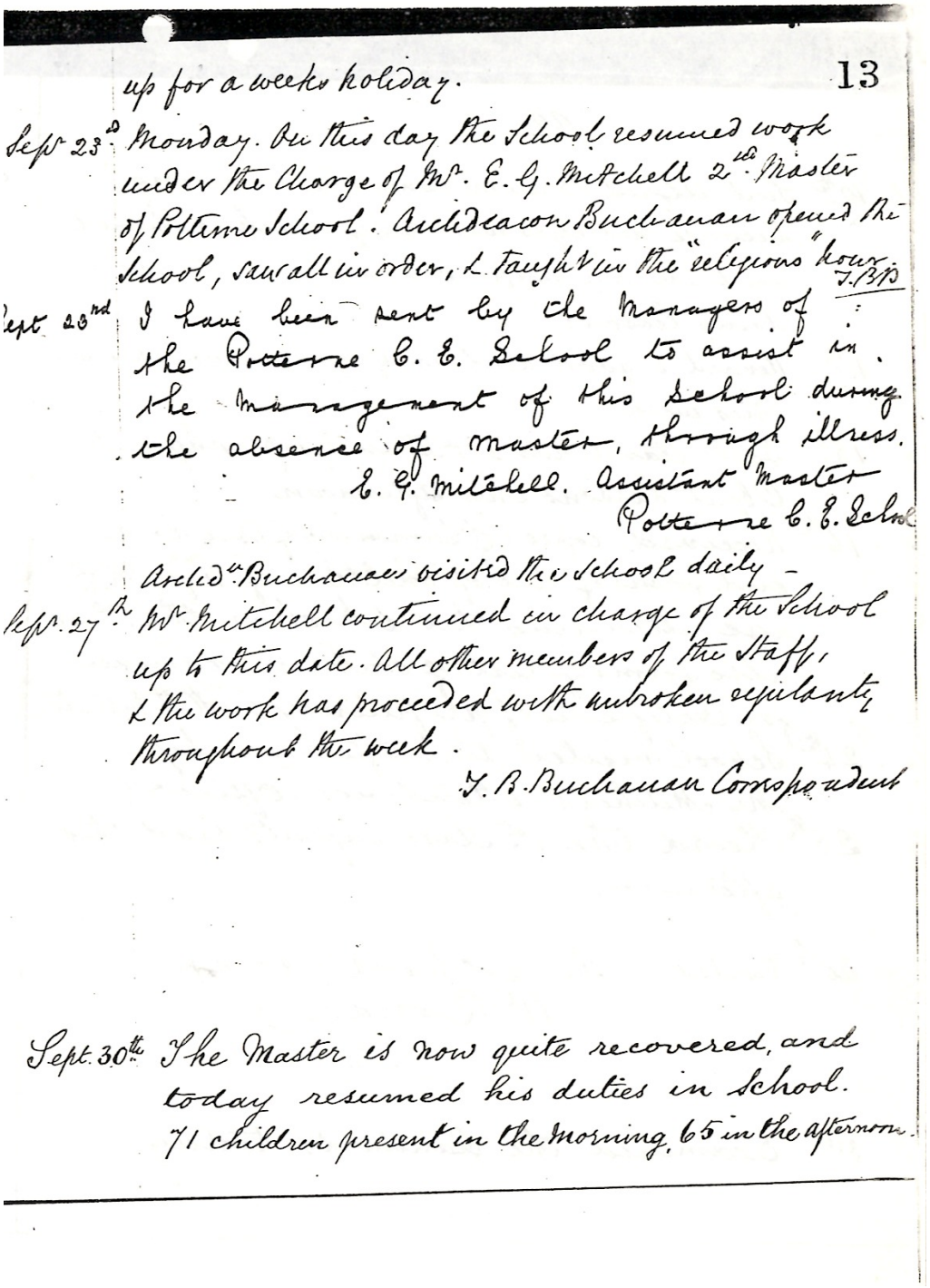
Uncertain readings: Page number: only '2' visible at top left; the corner is cut off, so it may be part of a longer number; Header year not legible on this page; a faint '190?' near the top may be bleed-through or the facing page (possibly 1901), so dates are left blank; Margin dates partly cut off at the left edge: '[S]epr.' reconstructed; '& weak' (OCR 'Lecak'); 'Sepr. 11.' and 'Sep. 11th' both appear in the margin, the second in a different hand (Atkinson's); '70 present' could be ''70' or '90'; 'the School broke' vs 'this School broke'; Long-s forms ('clafses', 'lefsons', 'afsisted') rendered as 'ss'


up for a weeks holiday. 13

Sept 23rd Monday. On this day the School resumed work under the Charge of Mr. E. G. Mitchell 2nd Master of Potterne School. Archdeacon Buchanan opened the School, saw all in order, & taught in the "religious" hour. T.B.B

Sept 23rd I have been sent by the Managers of the Potterne C. E. School to assist in the management of this School during the absence of master, through illness.
E. G. Mitchell. Assistant Master
Potterne C. E. School

Archdn. Buchanan visited the School daily -

Sept. 27th Mr. Mitchell continued in charge of the School up to this date. All other members of the Staff, & the work has proceeded with unbroken regularity throughout the week.
T. B. Buchanan Correspondent

Sept. 30th The Master is now quite recovered, and today resumed his duties in School.
71 children present in the Morning, 65 in the afternoon.

Page 13

(continued from previous page)
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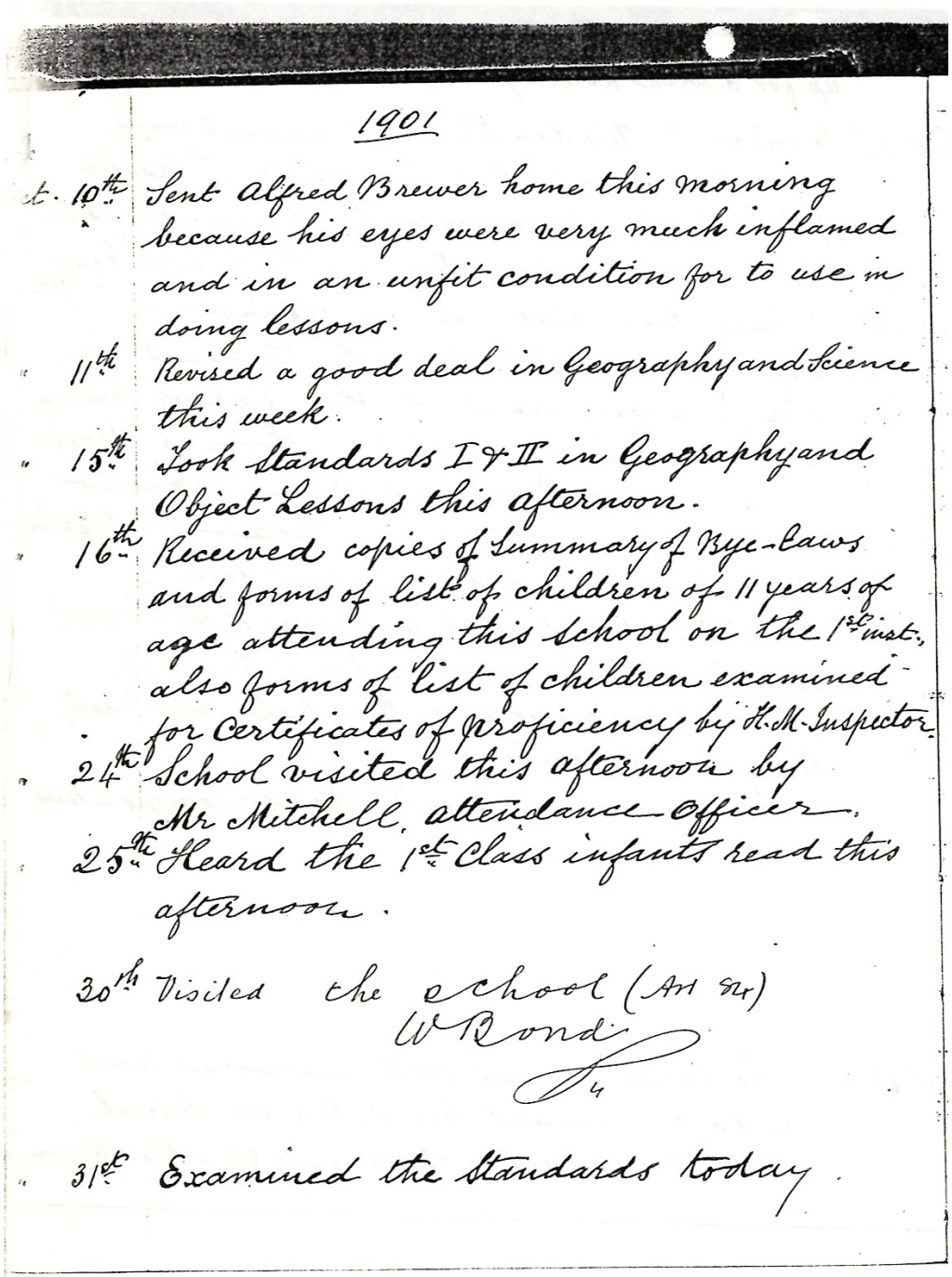
Uncertain readings: No year in the page header, so ISO dates are left blank. 23 September fell on a Monday in 1878, 1889, 1895, 1901, 1907 and 1912.; 'unbroken regularity': the handwriting looks like 'regulanty' but is read as 'regularity'; 'Correspondent': written a little cramped, something like 'Corrspondent'; 'Potterne' in Mitchell's signature block is partly struck through or blotted



1901

t. 10th Sent Alfred Brewer home this morning because his eyes were very much inflamed and in an unfit condition for to use in doing lessons.

" 11th Revised a good deal in Geography and Science this week.

" 15th Took Standards I & II in Geography and Object Lessons this afternoon.

" 16th Received copies of Summary of Bye-Laws and forms of list of children of 11 years of age attending this school on the 1st inst., also forms of list of children examined for Certificates of Proficiency by H.M. Inspector.

" 24th School visited this afternoon by Mr Mitchell, attendance officer.

" 25th Heard the 1st Class infants read this afternoon.

" 30th Visited the school (Art 84)
W Bond

" 31st Examined the Standards today.

Page 14

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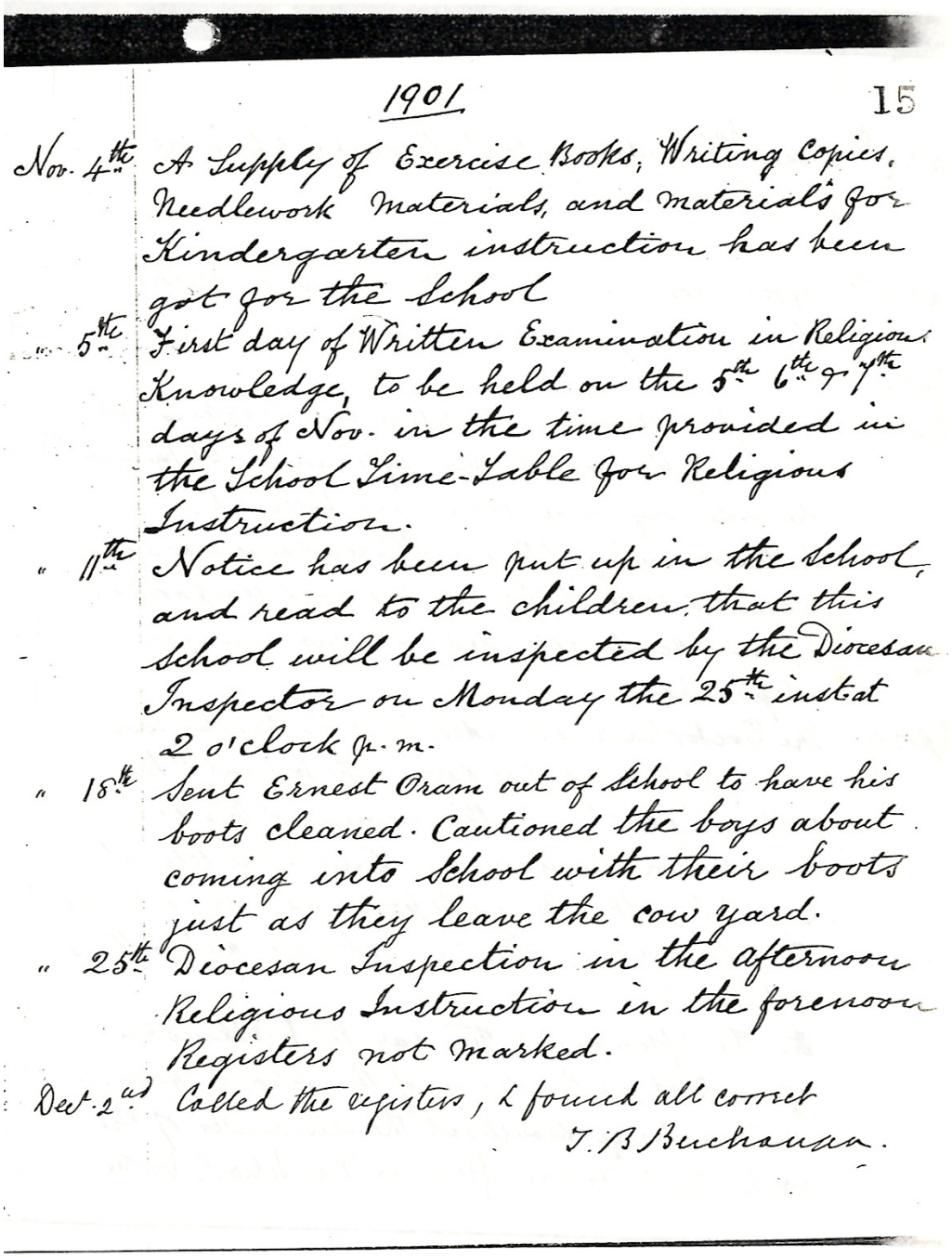
" 30th Visited the school (Art 84) W Bond

" 31st Examined the Standards today.

Uncertain readings: Month in margin only partly visible ('…t.'); taken as Oct. because the weekdays fit October 1901 (11th a Friday, 'this week'); '(Art 84)' after the visit on the 30th: reading fairly sure, probably Article 84 of the Code (visit without notice); Signature read as 'W Bond'; No page number visible; top corner cut off



1901 15

Nov. 4th A Supply of Exercise Books, Writing Copies, Needlework Materials, and materials for Kindergarten instruction has been got for the School

" 5th First day of Written Examination in Religious Knowledge, to be held on the 5th 6th & 7th days of Nov. in the time provided in the School Time-Table for Religious Instruction.

" 11th Notice has been put up in the School, and read to the children, that this School will be inspected by the Diocesan Inspector on Monday the 25th inst. at 2 o'clock p. m.

" 18th Sent Ernest Oram out of School to have his boots cleaned. Cautioned the boys about coming into School with their boots just as they leave the cow yard.

" 25th Diocesan Inspection in the afternoon Religious Instruction in the forenoon Registers not marked.

Dec. 2nd Called the registers, & found all correct

T. B Buchanan.

Page 15

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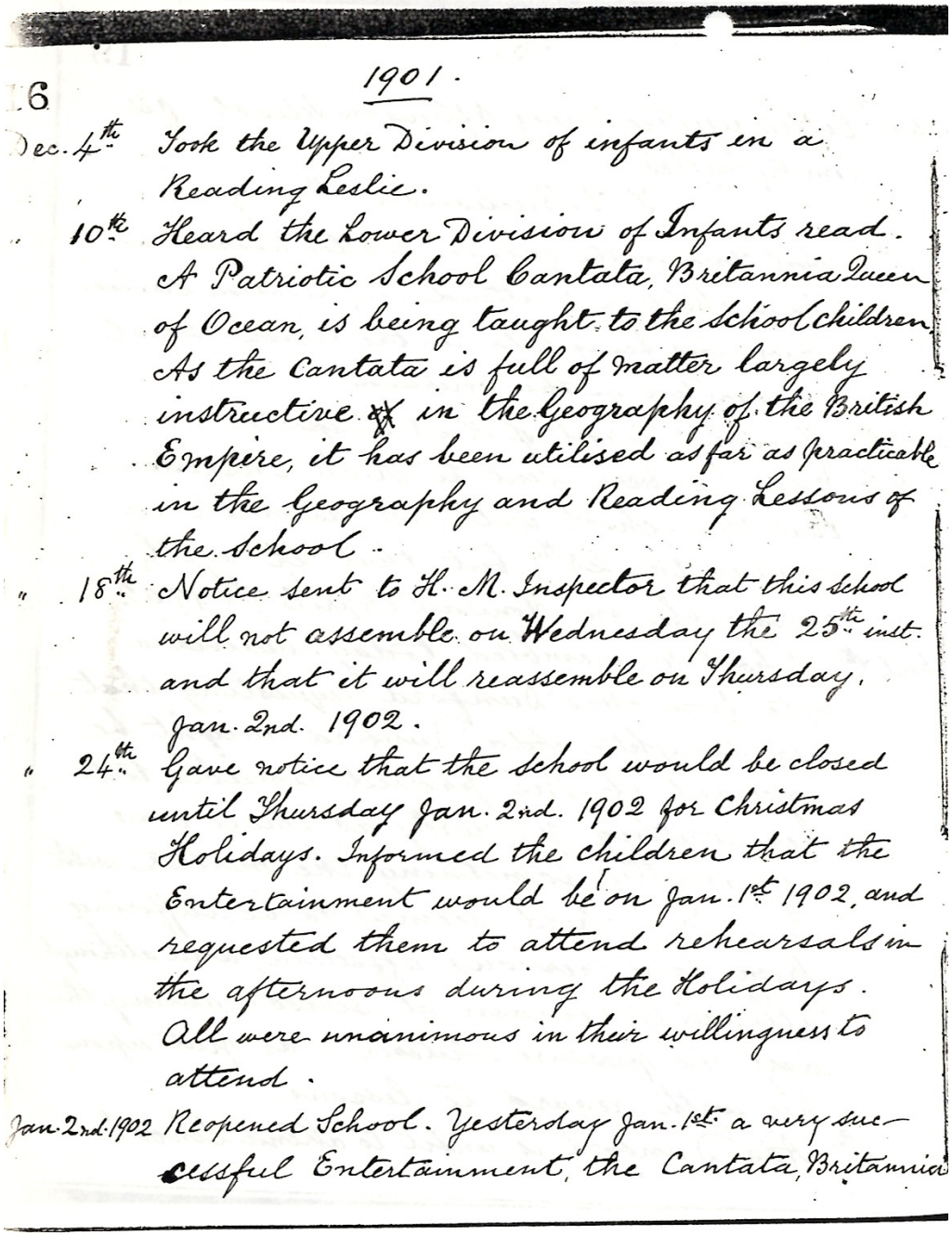
Dec. 2nd Called the registers, & found all correct T. B. Buchanan.

Uncertain readings: Signature read as 'T. B. Buchanan'; the first initial could be J.; 'Needlework Materials, and Materials': the capital M is likely but not certain; Punctuation after 'Exercise Books' (comma or semicolon) and after 'children' is unclear



16

1901.

Dec. 4th Took the Upper Division of infants in a Reading Leslie.

" 10th Heard the Lower Division of Infants read. A Patriotic School Cantata, Britannia Queen of Ocean, is being taught to the School children As the Cantata is full of matter largely instructive ~~&~~ in the Geography of the British Empire, it has been utilised as far as practicable in the Geography and Reading Lessons of the School.

" 18th Notice sent to H. M. Inspector that this School will not assemble on Wednesday the 25th inst. and that it will reassemble on Thursday, Jan. 2nd. 1902.

" 24th Gave notice that the school would be closed until Thursday Jan. 2nd. 1902 for Christmas Holidays. Informed the children that the Entertainment would be on Jan. 1st 1902, and requested them to attend rehearsals in the afternoons during the Holidays. All were unanimous in their willingness to attend.

Jan. 2nd. 1902 Reopened School. Yesterday Jan. 1st a very successful Entertainment, the Cantata, Britannia

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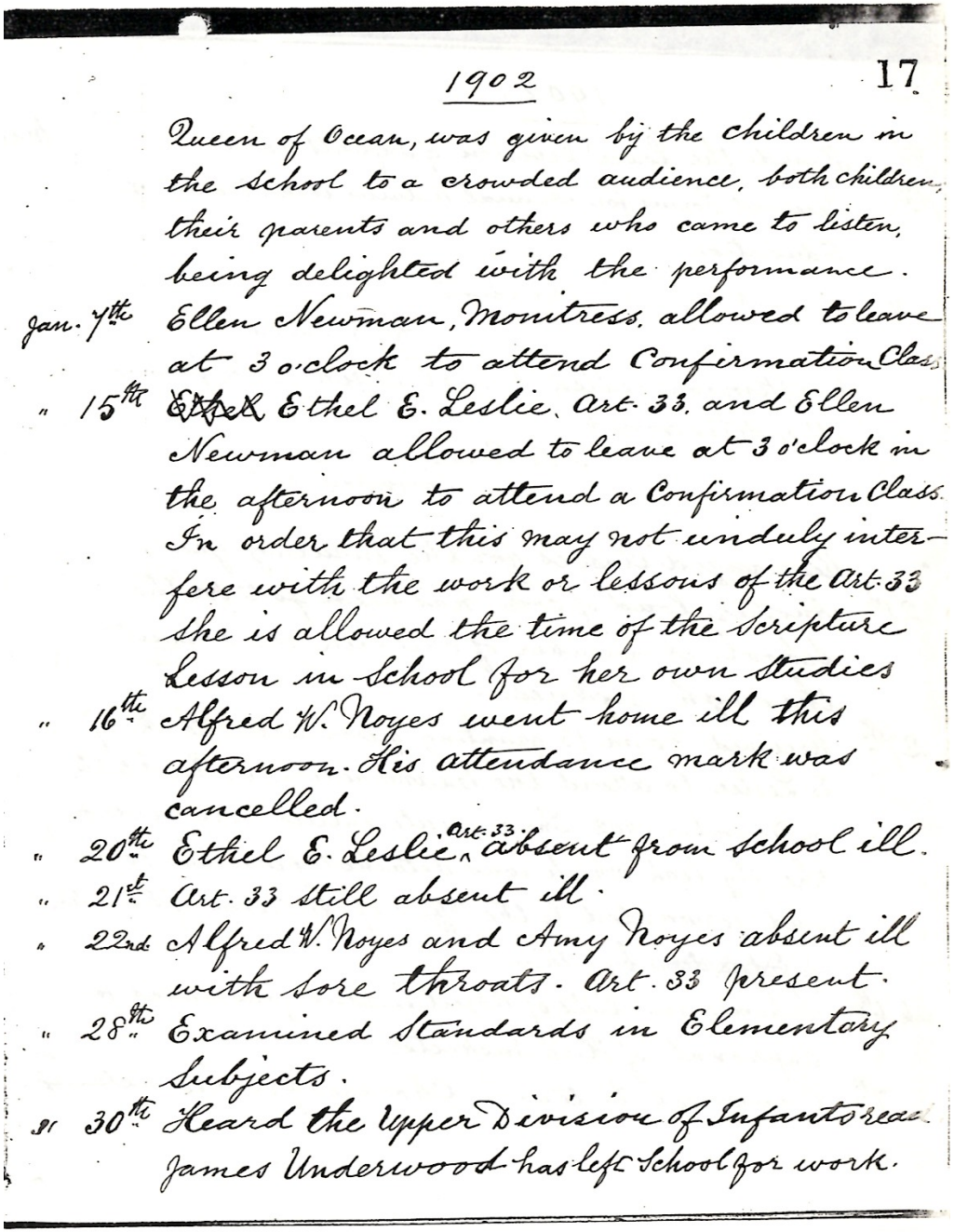
Jan. 2nd. 1902 Reopened School. Yesterday Jan. 1st. a very successful Entertainment, the Cantata, Britannia

Uncertain readings: Page number: only '6' fully visible at the cut edge; a partial leading '1' suggests 16 (OCR read 6); 'Reading Leslie.' (Dec. 4th) is clearly written so, but probably a slip of the pen for 'Reading Lesson'; After 'instructive' a struck-through '&' (or similar mark) has been deleted; 'Britannia' at line end of the final entry is partly cut off at the page edge; the entry continues on the next page



1902 17

Queen of Ocean, was given by the children in the school to a crowded audience, both children, their parents and others who came to listen, being delighted with the performance.

Jan. 7th Ellen Newman, Monitress, allowed to leave at 3 o.clock to attend Confirmation Class

" 15th ~~Ethel~~ Ethel E. Leslie, Art. 33, and Ellen Newman allowed to leave at 3 o'clock in the afternoon to attend a Confirmation Class. In order that this may not unduly interfere with the work or lessons of the Art. 33 she is allowed the time of the Scripture Lesson in School for her own studies

" 16th Alfred W. Noyes went home ill this afternoon. His attendance mark was cancelled.

" 20th Ethel E. Leslie, Art. 33, absent from school ill.

" 21st Art. 33 still absent ill.

" 22nd Alfred W. Noyes and Amy Noyes absent ill with sore throats. Art. 33 present.

" 28th Examined Standards in Elementary Subjects.

" 30th Heard the Upper Division of Infants read James Underwood has left School for work.

Page 17

(continued from previous page)

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" 28th Examined Standards in Elementary Subjects.

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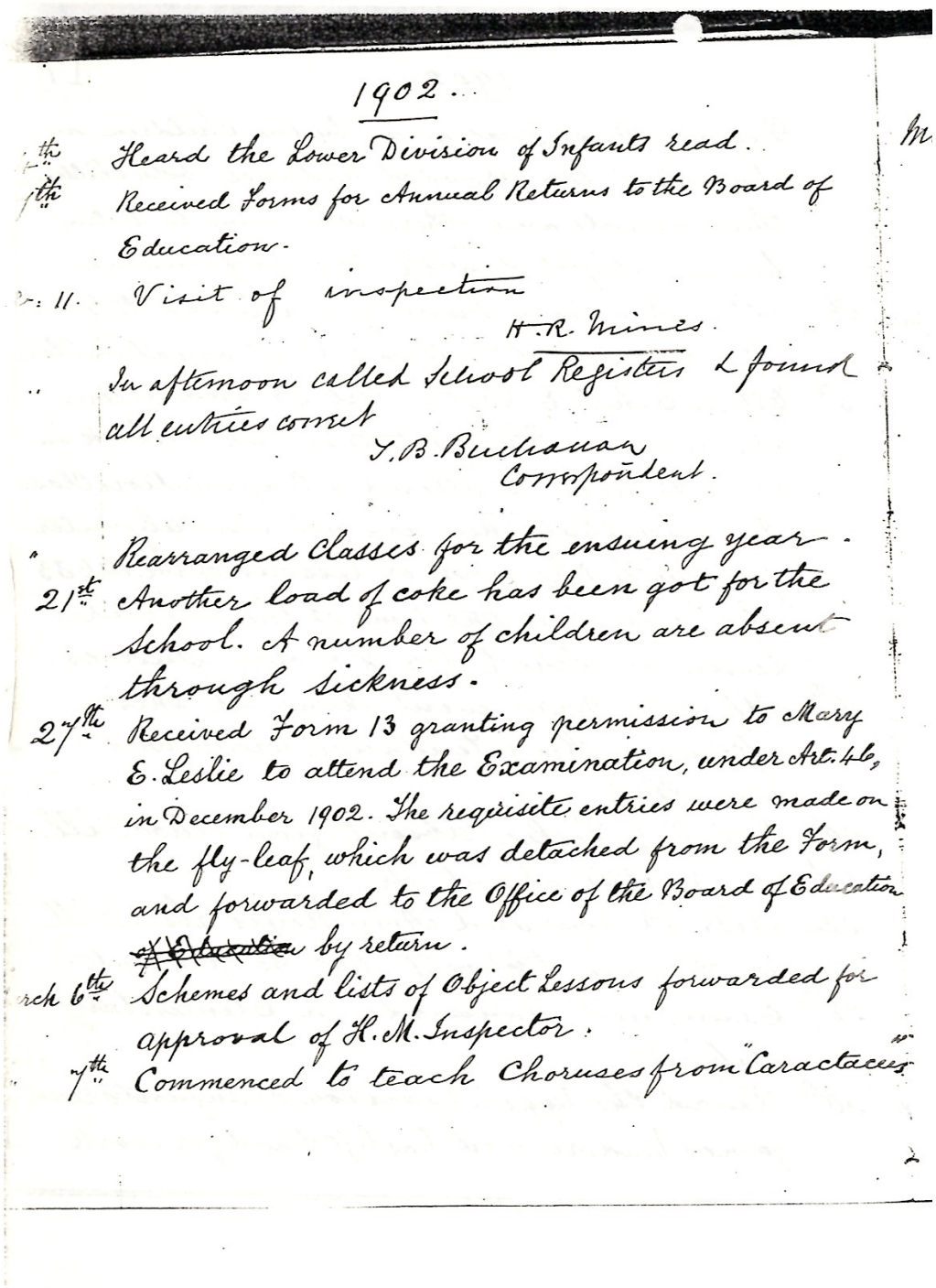
Uncertain readings: Line 7: the first word of the 15th entry, 'Ethel', is struck through and then written again; Line 6: 'o.clock' is written with a full stop in the 7th entry and as 'o'clock' in the 15th entry; Line 12: 'lessons' could be misread as 'lessous'; the handwriting supports 'lessons'; Line 18: 'Art. 33' in the 20th entry is an insertion written above a caret; Line 25: 'Infants read' runs into the page edge, so the last letters are cramped



1902.

[illegible]th Heard the Lower Division of Infants read.

[illegible]th Received Forms for Annual Returns to the Board of Education.

[Fe?]b. 11 Visit of inspection

H.R. Mines.

" In afternoon called School Registers & found all entries correct

T.B. Buchanan
Correspondent.

" Rearranged Classes for the ensuing year.

21st Another load of coke has been got for the School. A number of children are absent through sickness.

27th Received Form 13 granting permission to Mary E. Leslie to attend the Examination, under Art. 46, in December 1902. The requisite entries were made on the fly-leaf, which was detached from the Form, and forwarded to the Office of the Board of Education ~~of Education~~ by return.

[Ma]rch 6th Schemes and lists of Object Lessons forwarded for approval of H.M. Inspector.

7th Commenced to teach Choruses from "Caractacus"

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[illegible]th Heard the Lower Division of Infants read.

[illegible]th Received Forms for Annual Returns to the Board of Education.

[Fe?]b. 11 Visit of inspection H.R. Mines.

" In afternoon called School Registers & found all entries correct T.B. Buchanan Correspondent.

" Rearranged Classes for the ensuing year.

21st Another load of coke has been got for the School. A number of children are absent through sickness.

27th Received Form 13 granting permission to Mary E. Leslie to attend the Examination, under Art. 46, in December 1902. The requisite entries were made on the fly-leaf, which was detached from the Form, and forwarded to the Office of the Board of Education by return.

[Ma]rch 6th Schemes and lists of Object Lessons forwarded for approval of H.M. Inspector.

7th Commenced to teach Choruses from "Caractacus"

Uncertain readings: The left margin is cut off, so the first two dates show only 'th'. The day numbers are lost.; Date for the inspection reads '..b. 11'. I took it as Feb. 11, and dated the 21st and 27th entries to February because March 6th follows.; I took the ditto marks beside the register-checking and class-rearranging entries to mean the same day as the inspection (11th).; 'H.R. Mines': the inspector's surname is fairly clear, but his role isn't stated.; 'called School Registers': the verb is probably 'called' but could be 'checked'.; 'correct' and 'Correspondent' are written hastily in Buchanan's hand and look like 'corret' and 'Corrspondent'.; 'of Education' is struck through on the line before 'by return'.; No page number is visible; the top corner is cropped.

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