

afflicted children who have been denied the gift of hearing and speech, would not learn very much about the God Who made them. Those who taught deaf children had undertaken a difficult task, and it was only by perseverance, self sacrifice and patience that such a task was possible. For their work the Sisters were not in receipt of anything; and it might be said that they are doing a national work".

The reconstructed central section of the building now contains an Assembly and Recreation Hall containing stage and

annex rooms, children's and Staff dining rooms, servery, entrance, vestibule and reception rooms, 5 class rooms on the ground floor and two dormitories, linen rooms, baths, washrooms and a number of single rooms on the first and second floors.

During the afternoon those present were given the opportunity of seeing through the school, which is now one of the best equipped schools in Australia.

The debt on the building was £47,000. Donations totalled over £4,000.



CHILDREN OF EX-STUDENTS
AT SAN CLEMENTE.



THE PREFECTS OF
SAN CLEMENTE.

1955
1952

SAN CLEMENTE, MAYFIELD

REMINISCENCES

There are very few indeed who could look back with anything save the happiest memories on the years spent at any Dominican Convent. Perhaps it is fond prejudice, but I am sure we as old girls all pride ourselves on that unique something which is possessed by most who were trained to follow and exemplify our brief yet all embracing way of life—symbolized by the one word "Veritas". Moreover, I am sure that all past pupils of San Clemente will join with me in declaring that Mayfield for us has a special significance, perhaps unrealised by those not privileged to live within its walls. Besides sharing the common Dominican heritage, San Clemente evokes for me, at

least, a deeper, more emotional response, a call which it would be difficult to suppress or refuse.

You may or may not agree with me that San Clemente in its buildings and surroundings is one of the most imposing and inspiring of our convents. This is merely an external aspect after all, unworthy of undue emphasis. There are many such imposing buildings, mere bricks and mortar, but where indeed is there another San Clemente?

Primarily, I think the attraction lies in what has been vaguely called the "Mayfield spirit"—a spirit which has led her forward from very modest beginnings to her present achievement. There is generally something about a Mayfield girl—whether or not she excels in study or sport is of relatively little import. She is characterized by an enthusiasm, a determination to succeed, and above all by a loyalty, which is not often encountered.

Reminiscing personally, the memories which first come to me are of the long cool cloisters, scene of our daily Rosary; the big airy dormitories, filled at night by the ghostly creaking of the nearby bamboos; the chapel, small but intimate, with an abiding sense of the presence of God; the front lawn, graced by Our Lady's Grotto; "Fairy Bower"; the music rooms, the playing fields, the tennis court. No doubt there are a few changes in the past years, but these, the essentials of San Clemente, will not change. They are part of its existence.

Mingled with my happy memories there is a momentary feeling of regret for the fleeting of those happy days. They are now part of the past, a past, however, all the more pleasing to remember for the place which San Clemente has occupied in it.

—PATRICIA M. SMITH.
"Sancta Sophia."



M. CONNORS, J. RINGLAND, M. SMITH,
N. SHIELDS, C. RENWICK, B. COLEMAN.