

EDUCATIONALISTS often say that

Stroud is exceptionally fortunate in possessing such a splendid array of secondary schools. It is one of the relatively few areas in the country where the provisions of the 1944 Education Act on secondary education have been fully implemented.

On another page Mr. Stanley Marling tells how the Marling School came into being towards the end of the last century. There had been some rudimentary form of grammar school education in Stroud before that time, but the establishment of Marling opened a new field which has grown and improved ever since.

Changing ideas about education for girls brought the High School in Beards Lane, Stroud, into being exactly fifty years ago, and it is not long since the jubilee of this excellent school was celebrated in grave and gay fashion. Girls now have facilities equal to those provided for their brothers, to advance with their education right up to university standard and from the High School many enter the professions at the highest grade and teaching is constantly being enriched by girls who have received their basic training under almost ideal conditions at the High School. From time to time, the public attend functions in the spacious school hall which is often placed at the disposal of other schools less fortunate in the matter of accommodation.

A few years before the First World War the establishment of what is now the Boys' Secondary Technical School, also in Beard's Lane, took place. It was intended to provide boys specially fitted to enter local industry as its first name—the Craft School—indicates. There came a period when it operated as a central school and now, following the war, it has finally emerged as a secondary school where boys can take their education to sixth form standard in preparation for further training after school.

Over the other side of Beard's Lane—which seems to be the roadway to a miniature university—is the Girls' Secondary Technical School with a similar history to that of the boys. It began in the First World War in the old school at Badbrook and, just under 30 years ago, was given new buildings on the present site which have been considerably enlarged and improved since the war, although much remains to be provided.

Technical School girls can also go to the sixth form stage and many are entering the professions. Indeed, for the school's "Grade A" commercial students, the demand far exceeds the supply. In all our local secondary schools however, the broader aspects of education are not overlooked and much time is pleasurably and profitably devoted to the cultivation of the arts—music, drama and the like.