

## Profile

**MR. R. A. SIMPSON, B.A.(QUB), M.A.(Cantab.)**

R. A. Simpson was born in Dungannon and educated at Dungannon Royal School, Queen's University, Belfast, and St. John's College, Cambridge. He then taught for three years at Larne Grammar School and for a similar period at Ballymena Academy. He was appointed Headmaster to Omagh Academy on 1st April, 1937.

When Mr. Simpson was appointed the school numbered 100 pupils and it was housed in buildings on Market Street, where the County Cinema now stands. During his 34 years as Headmaster, Mr. Simpson has seen the numbers increase to the present figure of almost 700 pupils and he has guided the School through various periods of expansion in building and accommodation.

The school moved to the present site almost immediately after Mr. Simpson became Headmaster. These "New Buildings" described in the Headmaster's Report of 1937 as "modern, well-lit, well-ventilated and well-heated classrooms" quickly became inadequate in housing the increasing numbers entering the school. On reading the reports of these years, one is constantly aware of Mr. Simpson's ability to make the best of existing circumstances. He could also, when the need arose, fight vigorously and tenaciously to uphold the rights of The Academy.

Mr. Simpson has striven over the years to give form to the school, to mould from the amorphous mass of pupils entrusted to his care, a corporate body with a single identity. He introduced the wearing of school uniform and gave the school its crest and motto—*Veritas vincet*—"Truth will prevail". He has never taken a narrowly academic view of education — he introduced the game of rugby to the school and has encouraged the growth of a wide range of extra-curricular activities in the school.

In his personal life Mr. Simpson explodes the myth of the uncultured scientist. He is deeply interested in music and art and indeed he, himself, paints and plays the piano. It is only the undeveloped personality who fears retirement — Mr. Simpson has so many interests that he assures us he can scarcely find time to fit them all in. He looks forward to retirement as a period of development in which he can devote himself to his dearest interests, free from the restrictions imposed by a daily routine.

When questioned about the future of Education, Mr. Simpson said: "I've stopped thinking about it. It's getting beyond me!" There is no doubt in our minds that Mr. Simpson would have faced any possible future developments in education with the same adaptability that he showed in the past. As it is, it only remains for us to wish him, in all sincerity, a very long and happy retirement.