

# Churchman pays tribute to director of Nonsuch

A tribute was paid to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tucker for their work at Nonsuch Training School in the September issue of the Bermuda Churchman.

A Churchman views the News' states:

The retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Tucker will be noted with regret far and wide, for in its own quiet way, and in its own special field, it is hardly too much to say that Nonsuch School has achieved international fame.

In the last quarter of a century or so, it has been visited and studied by some of the leading experts in the world, and it is certain of a niche of honour in Bermuda's social history.

It has been largely a personal achievement, because for most of the time the indomitable Cap'n has had a hard struggle to get the necessary food allowance, clothing, equipment, and accommodation, and has had to make do with remote and intractable buildings, primitive amenities, rigid economy, and a genius for improvisation.

Now and again the work attracted an outstanding assistant,

but for most of the time he has been obviously under-staffed. He has won his battle, and when the new Superintendent takes over, adequate financial backing will be taken for granted.

He has taken under-nourished, un-schooled, unloved little fellows from the streets, with bad homes or no homes, problem characters from good homes too, and he has instilled into them, on the boy level, discipline and responsibility co-operation with others, and a pride in themselves.

It is acknowledged that one of the best treatments for the anti-social youth, warped and resentful and wrapped up in himself, is to give him the sensation of being a member of a team tackling some project beyond his own individual capacity, the success of which will obviously be useful to the whole group. He develops a cheerfulness and zest which may transform him.

In devising this sort of project, Mr. Tucker has been a genius. The training required to handle small boats smartly is a great thing for boys, and this is another feature of Nonsuch.

The old "Seahorse", besides having a long tale of adventures to her credit, has set an example of correctness in harbour to many a dandy yachtsman, let alone the usual landlubber with an outboard motor.

And both at Nonsuch Island and at Paget Island, the Chapel has been the centre of the school, and the pride of old Canon Tucker's heart, with its regular and reverent services and the Confirmation class every year.

There have been failures among the boys who have left, due in large part to the lack of after-care organization and hostel accommodation: but the list of successes if it could be published would be splendid: good citizens, steady workers, devoted husbands and fathers in every parish in the Colony who were made into men at Nonsuch, and whom nobody would think of as once delinquent.

The whole Colony joins in a tribute of gratitude and respect and admiration to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur St. George Tucker, and in wishing them many years of happiness in their well-earned retirement.