CHAPTER TWO

THE TEETHING PERIOD, 1946-1952

The first set of eighteen students and their two teachers sertled dowa lo the ploneering job of work and study. They had to maka their environment (which, in reality, was no batter than a jungle) conduaive to sarning. There ware no boarders in the first two yaars, as the buildings were not ready. The students were made to clear bushes, fell trees and remove ant-hills. They had to cut paths and lanes and to plant flowers for the beautification of thelr surroundings. They also had to prepare a fiald for sports and games.

In the ciassroom, subjects such as Mathernatics, Latin, History,Gengroohy Rellginus Knowiledge.Rural Sclence,sto, were taught. Even though he was not a graduate, Mr. M.B. Lapite was an invaluable asset.Dne cf the foundation sludents described him as followrsi

"Mr. M.B. Lapite was a yeteran school master. He was a n of vorsadlity, axcellent in the teaching of almost ali secondary school subjects. Among the subjects thught by hiin were English Language, English, Literature, latin,History, Geography, Botany,Yoruba, Music, Agriculture, all branches of Mathematics and Sports. He was also an organist. He was the type of teacher required for starting a college."1

Ar E.C.O. llogu, on his part, was ranowned for the mors!aducation he gave the students. Every Friday, before the students left for the weekand, he used to hand down the "Moral for the Week" which stuidents had to commit to memory and recite to him before they were admitted to his classes the following Monday. A foundation student recalled that anybody who failed to recite the weekly passage was asked tc mat grass bn the football field or to remove antuils. Two of such “aare quoted hare - under.

(1) "God will not seek thy race,Nor will He ask of thy Birth,

·alone He will demand of thee,

what thou has done on earth

'Olowofels, G.A."The background History of Imade Collage, Owo".A paper by the First Senior Prefect, 21/1/82.



(2) "Before your lips would keep from slip,

five things observe with care;

to whom you speak, of whom you speak

and how and when and where”.2

Mr. E.C.O, llogu left Imade College in December, 1947. He was ordained a Minister of Religion and later bacame Rev. Canon Edmund llogu. He was also Professor of Theology at the University of Nigaria, Nsukl

The students also benefitted a lot from the Addresses of aminant educationista and Clergymen who visited the College in the firet yaar of ito establishment. Among them were Rt, Rev. A.B. Akinyele and Rev. llacer Rt.Rev.) S.I. Kale, who was then the Principal of the CMS Grammar School,Lagos,Rr, Rev. Akinyele gave them a talk on what Education is. Part of the passage is quoted here-under:

"Education is meant neither as a couch on which to rest nor as a tower whence to look down on others, but like a rich a moury and treasure house for the glory of God and the ennobleme.it of life","As a way of complementing what was taught in the classroom, the

nucleus of a College Library was established with a surn oi £10. The Acting Principal was instructed by the Board of Governors to contac: the British Council and the Public Relations Office for a regular supply cf magazines and periodicals.

At the and of the year 1946, the students were promoted to Ciass Il. A few others joined them from outside while a fresh set was admitted into Class I. A new member of staff, Mr. E.O. Leyimu, joined the College from the Ondo Boys High School in January, 1947.

The year 1947 was ominous for the College and its first set of students. By the end of that year, only 5 of the 18 students remained, the rest having withdrawn to pursue their courses in other colleges and secondary schools. In those days, secondary schools were subjected to rigorous inspection by the Department of Education to determine standards,especially in the case of newly established schools, so as to decide whether or not the school should proceed to the next higher class or

2ljalaye, D.A.

"From Bush to Citadel of Learning, Imade College,Past,Present and Future" A paper presented at the 1992 Annual Guest Lectures of Imade College Old Students Association,Lagos Chapter.p.11

3Adeloye, S.F. "Silver Jubilee Celebration of the 1956 Set of Imade College Owo Old Students". An Address.

qualify for grant-in-aid. A condition precedent to the establishment of (who was usually the Principal) on the staff. Hence, in most cases,missionary bodies which could afford to provide such qualified staff were the Proprietors of Secondary Schools. In the case of Imade College,however, the proprietor was Owo Community, represented by the Olowo of Owo. As at 1947, two years after its inception, Imade College had no graduate on its staff.

The dreaded inspection was conducted on the 15th and 16th of May, 1947 by Mr. F.K. Butler, Acting Chief Inspector of Education,Western Provinces. From the very moment he stepped into the College, the prejudice whfch he had against the school was obvious. He ignored all courtesies of a formal welcome and told the tutors and students to set to usual class work4. From all indications, Mr. Butler did not appear to have a kind word for the swoat and labour put into the pioneering work of the teachers and the students. He despised the qualifications of the teachers and poured scorn on their teaching abilities,

When the report of the Inspection came, it was as it had been predicted. The College was stopped from moving to Class III beeause "only one of the tutors was qualified to teach". This was Mr. M.B. Lapite, who possessed the Senior Teachers' Certificate (STC) and had passed the London Matriculation Examination. The other two were not so "highly"qualified. The Report brought about a panic among parents and students alike. All but five of the students dispersed, to look for admission in other Colleges. It is worth remarking that those who remained did not do so out of choice. Their parents were intimately connected with the founding of the College and they were prepared to stand by her, through thick and thin. If they withdrew their sons, as others had done, the College would collapse.The parents nurtured the hope that the College would move to the next class, come 1949. Such was the admirable commitment of the founding fathers to the establishment and development of the College that no personal sacrifice was considered too much for them to make.

Meanwhile,leaders of the Owo community had, in 1943, offered to sponsor Mr. M.A. Ajasin for a degree course at the famous Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone. Mr. Ajasin was a product of St. Andrew's College,Oyo. Besides the Higher Elementary Teachers Certificate, he possessed the Senior Teachers Certificate and had also passed the London Matriculation Examination. He had had several years teaching experience in Sapele under

4ljalaye, D.A. op. cit. p. 3

the CMS. Mr.sin left for Sierra Leone late in 1943 and successfully completed the Degree course in 1946. He then proceeded to the Institute of Education, University of London for the Diploma Course in Education.He returned to Owo and was formally appointed Principal of Imade College, Owu with effect from 1st August, 1947.5

With the asnumption of office of the first Principal, the fortunes of the College chang c for the better. Mr. A.S. Olanusi joined the staff early in 1948, even ugh Messrs llogu and Leyimu, who were declared unqualified to teain a Secondary School by the Butler Report, had to leave.Early in Froruary of 1948, Mr. W.T. Mackell, Chief Inspector of Educaconoun out an inspection, the report of which was very favoureble and ercouraging. On the standard of work in the school, he wyrote "both cla sses consist of bright boys and all are willing and anxious to work" and noder General Remarks he wrote "the Principal has sound ideas about edation".° In that same month, the school was recognised for grant-in-aid under Regulation 25 whereby all expenses of the College ware met by the Government.

Thare were now, altogether, 47 students - 23 boys in Class II-and 24 boys in Cless P. Nineteen of the boys were boarders. For games and athletics, the boys were shared into two Houses; Olagbegi House and School House. Football was the only game played and that only locally,because of the tender age of the boys. There were two societies - the Liorary and Debating Socity and the Young Farmers Club. To mark Fonders Do:on March 15, the students went on pilgrimage to Oke-made,the first settlment of Olowo Imade, the founder of Owo, after whom the College was named8.

The aival of a graduate Principal to head the College restored lost hopes. Not cnly was there a rise in the number of candidates seeking admission, the catchment area quickly extended to all theAdministrative Divisions of the then Ondo Province and much of the Benin Province.When,in 1952, the Holy Trinity Grammar School, Sabongida-Ora ran into similar problam as did.Imade College in 1947, five of the students came

5 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors, Imade College,Owo. 2/8/47

6 Principal, Imade College, Owo. Annual Report of Imade College Owo for 1948.

7 Ibid.

8 lbid.

er to lmade College to complete their studies. Even before then,scores f students from the Western Boys High School, Benin-City had sought and nad been given admission to various classes in the College.1° The reputation for hard work and discipline, which Mr. M.A. Ajasin had built up as a Headmaster for sixteen years in the then Benin Province, stood Imade College in good stead at this time.

Even though Imade College was the brain-child of Owo people, its gates were thrown open from its very inception, to indigenes and non-indigenes. In subsequent years, especially with the arrival of Mr. M.A.Ajasin as Principal, admission and other amenities were thrown open and obtained strictly on merit. For example, of the 41 stuu nts offered admission against January, 1952, Owo had 10 while Ikole-Lkiti had 7,Idoani 3, Oka 2, Idanre 2, llawe-Ekiti 2, Ifon 2, Imoru 2, and each of Sobe,Imeri, Okeluse, Ipogun-llara, ljagba, Idogun, Isua,Emure-ile, Ora-Osogbo,Abeokuta and Ozalla-Ora had 1.

Meanwhile, in recognition of the need to build up the staff strength,Owo Community awarded Mr. A.S. Olanusi a scholarship to read for the Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University Coilege, Ibadan. He left for Ibadan in October, 1948. Similarly, Mr. Lolade Aderibigbe was sent for training at the Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, under Regulation 31.These two would, on completion of their courses, return to lmade College to teach.

From the results of the entrance examinations, a number of brilliant but indigent students had emerged. The leadling ones among them were awarded Regional Scholarships, covering board and tuition, on the recommendation of Mr. M.A. Ajasin, the Principal. Others were given the Native Authority Scholarships and Bursaries. This measure helped, in no small way, to enable these bright boys to eroy the benefit of secondary education. Merit was the yard-stick in these wards. The boy who topped the list of the successful candidates in the 1551 entrance examination, for example, though from Ozalla-Ora in Benin Pce, was recommended for and he eventually won the Regional Government Scholarship.11

9 Imade College, Owo. Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal. 12/3/52

10 Ibid.

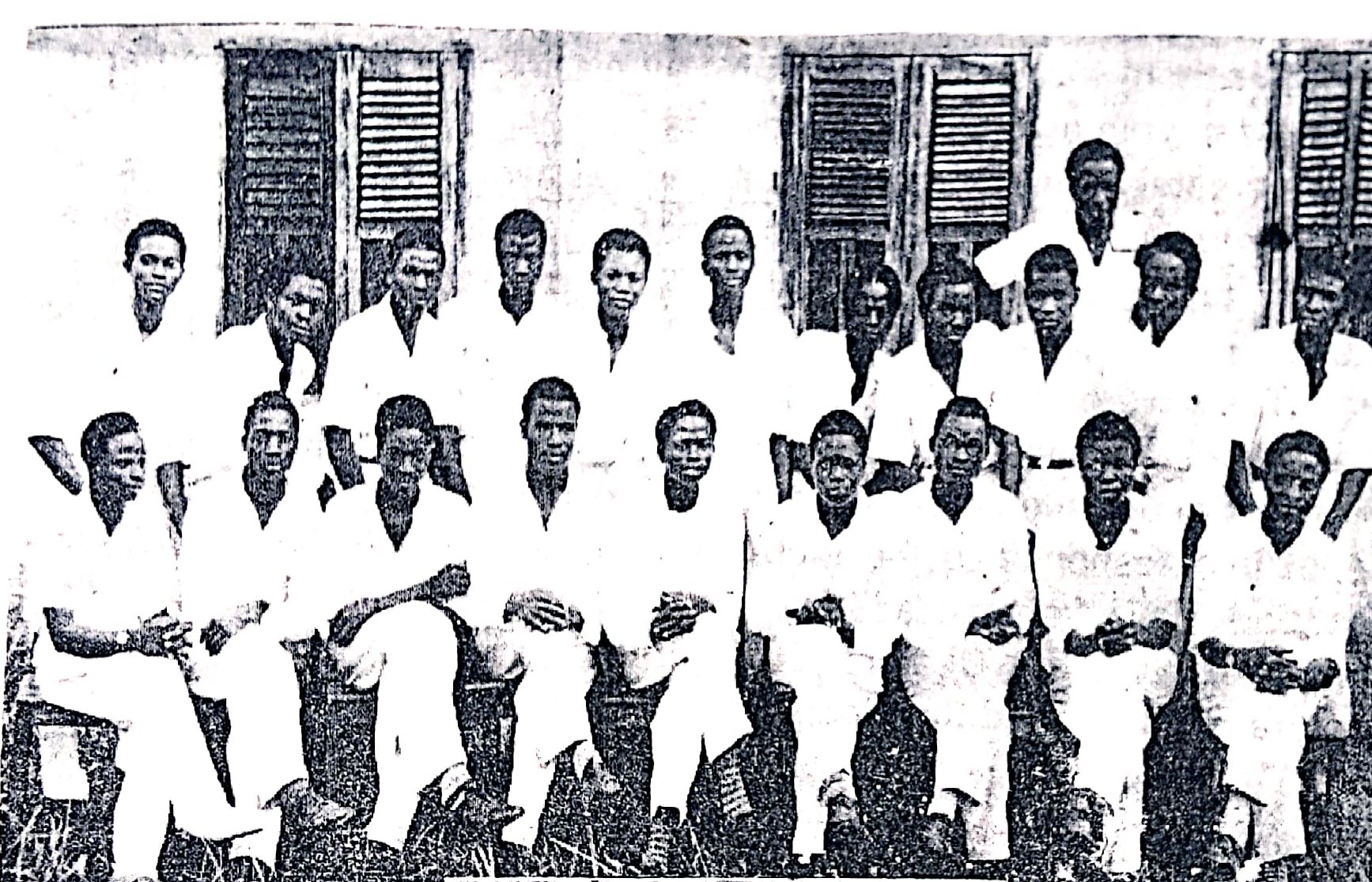
11 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors, Imade College,Owo.

The first set of Imade College students to sit for the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate Examination did so at the Oduduwa College,lle-lfe Centre in December, 1952. Twenty candidates in all put in for the examination but only ten were successful - two in Grade I, three in Grade Il and five in Grade III.

The rump of the foundation set of 1946, including the 1947 intake,were exposed to untold hardship and challenges. The College being new and the first of its kind in the whole of Owo Division, there was no "tradition" for the boys to follow or copy. On the contrary, they struggled against odds to establish a tradition which was followed by the generations after them.

Against the back-ground of an 'academy' in the jungle, inadequate and unqualified teachers, poor and insufficient funding as well as excessive manual labour on the fields and in the farm, they struggled on.Distinguished visitors to the College remarked very glowingly on the state of cleanliness, the politeness of students to visitors and staff and their discipline and hardwork in the classroom and on the farm.

Their legacies in actualising the College motto of OMNIA VIRILITER FAC12 have become the beacon light for successive generations of Imade College Students. The success attained in life by individual students of the first generation, in spite of the daunting odds, bears testimony to what Imade College has made of them.



The College 1952 Set

12 "Omnia Viriliter Fac" i.e. "In all things be a man".or "Do everything like a man". Mr. R.S. Eruosanyin, an old student and a former Principal of Imade College, Owo, gives an insight as to the origin of the Motto. Hear him "The motto was handed down to the School one early Monday morning in 1950. On the previous weekend, the School team had played St. John's College team in a football friendly March. We lost to them by 1 goal to 7.Although our team was the first to score, as soon as our opponents equalised and increased the tally, our team became dispirited. The following Monday, the Principal, Mr. M.A. Ajasin, summoned us and scolded us for the poor spirit. He encouraged us to train hard to be able to face future challenges with courage. He then gave us the motto."

CHAPTER THREE

A DECADE OF CONSOLIDATION, EXPANSION

AND DECLINE,1952-1962

The founding fathers of Imade College, Owo were visionary patriots who knew the value of education and were desirous of having a first-class secondary school for the training of highly disciplined, well-behaved and well-educated youngsters.The founding fathers appreciated that education would be a catalyst in the rapid overall development of Nigeria which was already struggling to become an independent sovereign nation. The need to found a secondary schoo which would be comparable in standard to the few existing similar institu ions in this part of the country had become urgent. They were therefore prepared to put in all the resources at their disposal towards achieving this objective.

The people were, accordingly, mobilised to support the undertaking.The positive response to the mobilisatian efforts is attested to by the quotation below from an address delivered to wish His Highness, the Olowo of Owo, Oba Obateru Olagbegi Il, farewell on the eve of his departure to the United Kingdom on the 25th of September, 1950:

"The idea of a Seconclary School materialized after arduous struggle which entailed moral, physical and financial expenditure of resources by Your Alaiye, the Chiefs and Owo people. Today, Imade College stands as a monument of self-help, determination and cooperation of the Olowo and Owo people..."

The sustenance of the unalloyed commitment of all concerned in this endeavour was responsible for the glorious nineteen-fifties of Imade College which could be said, without any fear of exaggeration, to have witnessed tremendous rapid development in all its ramifications.

During the period under consideration, the Owo District Council was exceptionally generous to the College through the provision of building and equipment grants, subsidization of the training grants of prospective teachers and the award of scholarships and bursaries to deserving students of Owo and District origin. The speed with which requests from Imade College viere attended to by the Council was very encouraging and commendable. It is believed that the cooperation enjoyed was made possible by the calibre of members of the Board of Governors and the Management of the College which will now be briefly examined.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors was really high-powered. The District Officer for Owo was initially the Chairman with Oba Alayeluwa, Olateru Olagbegi ll, the Olowo of Owo, and a few of the High Chiefs as members.The other members included Councillors of the District Council. The District Officer later volunteered to step down as Chairman in order to give effect to the communal ownership of the college. The Olowo of Owo subsequently became the Chairman of the Board in April, 1951.

Two other points that may be mentioned as having helped the Board are its relatively stable membership and its rather long tenure.Records show that the first set of members served up to November, 1957.Even when the Board was reconstituted in 1957, at least 10 of the members of the dissolved Board were re-appointed to serve on the new Board. Those re-appointed included the Chairman, the High Chiefs and a few of the Councillors. It is also on record that the Board, as reconstituted,was still serving as at the end of 1962 when this chapter closes. The foregoing factors facilitated the speedy execution of the college programmes.

THE TOP MANAGEMENT OF THE COLLEGE

This relates largely to the Principal, who was the chief executive officer of the College, and his top aides. The Principal was the Secretary to the Board of Governors until the late nineteen fifties when a Secretary,who was not a staff of Imade College, was appointed from outside.The position of the Principal on the Board and in Top Management facilitated effective communication between the two organs which in turn facilitated the implementation of programmes. Records show that this was in fact the situation until things began to turn sour about 1960.

STUDENT POPULATION

Imade College started in 1946 with 18 students all of who were day students. By 1953, the population had risen-to 161, 103 of who were boarders while 58 were day students. By 1959, when the school became double streams from Form I to Form V, the student population had risen to 280, comprising 226 boarders and 54 day students. By the end of 1962,the population was well above 300.

The steady rise in the population of students was attributable to the reputation which the young institution was building up as a result of the

STAFFING

The traumatic experience of Imade College Owo with regard to staffing had been highlighted in Chapter Two especially at the time Mr.F.K. Butler inspected the school in 1947. There was hardly any Board of Governors meeting held in the 1950s when staffing matters were not copiously discussed. To buttress this point, two quotations are made from the minutes of the Board of Governors meetings held on the 21st of July,1953 and 5th November, 1954 respectively.

"The Principal felt that if sufficient number of boys were trained by the school with a view to their returning to teach in the College, the present difficulty of dearth of sufficient qualified staff particularly for the science subjects would be obviated."

(paragraph 4, lines 11-14 of the meeting of 21/7/53)"Oba Alaiyeluwa, Olagbegi Il, Olowo of Owo, on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation for the untiring efforts of the Principal to get qualified staff for the school."(paragraph 7 of the minute of 5/11/54)

The policy to sponsor teachers was adopted and faithfully pursued.The school used its internal resources, the District Council took over the sponsorship of a few teachers, so also did the Regional Government under various Regulations. At a later stage, attention was focused on the sponsorship of old students in the belief that their loyalty to their alma mater would make them serve sincerely for the whole duration of their bond. By and large, the hope was not misplaced.

In spite of the rapid turnover of staff, the college invariably had a crop of teachers who kept the institution going. Even when a few of the teachers were not fully qualified to handle the subjects they were teaching there was glaring evidence of commitment and dedication to duty on their part and the reciprocal hard work on the part of the students enabled them (the students) to do well in their examinations.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Theprimary catchment area for admission into Imade College was Owo and its District. The catchment area soon expanded not only within the then Ondo Province but also in the entire·Western Region, which included Lagos, because of the numerous primary school pupils seeking admission into the very few existing secondary schools coupled with the reputation which Imade College had built so soon after its establishment.The bulk of applications nevertheless still came naturally from Owo and its

environs. Admission was based strictly on merit as had been highlighted in Chapter Two with respect to the 1952 Form I intake. Providentially too, the geographical spread of the intake was such that made the College cosmopolitan.

A number of factors facilitated the rapid development of the boarding system. The students entered the college at early ages and many came from distant towns. Even for indigenes of Owo, the college was relatively far from the town in the 1950s while public transportation was not fully developed. Furthermore, the social setting in the boarding house was so fascinating that many students naturally wanted to belong.

There was a bit of regimentation in boarding house life. The morning bell would call students to do their morning pieces of work between 6.00 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. This would be followed by a few minutes "silent hour" spent in bed before the preparation for school. The school session for the day would open with morning devotion at which the Principal, assisted by all teachers, was the chief celebrant. A roster of all final year students was usually prepared indicating who would read the Bible passage during the devotion. After school hours and lunch there was the compulsory siesta and the day's "prep." Other activities thereafter were supper, evening studies (known as evening prep), the compline and light out. The inculcation of these practices in the students at their formative stages was a most invaluable training for time budgetting, which was crucial for success in later years.

The faithful compliance with the foregoing practices implied among other things, hard work, discipline, honesty and respect for constituted authority. The first layer of supervisors to enforce compliance with the laws was the senior. In the 1950s, respect for seniors in Imade was a serious business, the breach of which attracted punishment which could be light or very severe, depending on the gravity of the offence. It was made compulsory for a junior student to refer to another wo is his senior,even by one year as "senior" so and so, and never by his name without the word "senior". It did not matter if the junior student was many years older than the senior one. That culture was so imbibed that even up till now,the generation of students of the 1950s still do not 'call their seniors by their names without due deference to the respect accorded them at Imade College.

The students were taught to live according to the tenets of the College motto: "In everything be a man". Integrity was the watchword.While respecting constituted authority, the students were usually courageous to articulate points of principle and resistinjustice. There were cases of unjust treatments of juniors by seniors but they were in turn punished by higher authorities. Although a non-denominational institution,there were fora for various christian religious instructions in which students

were encouraged to participate.

With regard to academics, efforts were made to provide the facilities within the limits of available resources. Efforts made at providing a well-equipped science laboratory and other buildings have been highlighted. That is also true about the recruitment and retention of teachers. The commissioning in 1955 of an electricity generating set donated by the late Chief A.T. Asaboro added greater impetus to the reading efforts of the students. In view of the limiting factor which the problems already highlighted constituted to academic excellence, students had to put in extra efforts which were usually rewarded in their examinations. The very brilliant ones came up in the first grade while the bulk of the others came up in the middle grades. One point that needs to be mentioned is that the ability to study very hard on the part of the students even when not being supervised, proved a most invaluable asset in their academic pursuits in later life.

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY AWARDS

The commitment of the Principal and the Board of Governors to the award of scholarships and bursaries to deserving students was heart warming. There was hardly any Board of Governors meeting at which the subject was not copiously discussed. Evidences abound from the records that the Principal, Mr. M.A. Ajasin, truly promoted qualitativs and free education. Recommendations for the award of Regional Government Scholarships were based on merit regardless of the town of ongin of the prospective beneficiaries. For example, in the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on the 15th of April, 1952, it is recorded:

"The Principal reported that the boy Aidalemo recommended by the Board at its last meeting tor Government Scholarship has been awarded a scholarship covering Board, Tuition and Games. The members were happy about this as the boy though belongs to Ora District in Benin Province could be able to get Secondary School education in Owo District through the broadmindedness-f the Board of Governors."

Similarly, in 1953 a scholarship which was awarded to a boy who eventually did not report at Imade College was re-awarded un merit to Caleb lgeleke, a Form II student aiso from the then·Benin Province.

With respect to the scholership andbursary awards by the Owo District Council, a comprehensive table of beneficiaries was usually prepared showing their names, class, number of students in each of their classes and their positions in their examination. This information usually received the attention of the Board which on many occasions decided that

awardees who were not doing well in their studies should bewarned to improve or lose the award.

Another area of assistance which the Principal suggested and the Board approved was the grant of a rebate of 20% on the tuition fea payable by each student to a parent who had more than two students in the school. In effect, such a parent would pay full fees on the first twa students and enjoy 20% reduction in the tuition fee on each of the other students whose fees he was paying.

It is apt to close this section with the undernoted quotation from the Principal's 1953 Annual Report:

"I wish parents and guardians would realise that it would yield better dividends to them, the country and humanity if they spend their money on the education of their children and wards rather than on mere frivolities."

SPORTS AND GAMES

Imade College was conceived to give an all-round secondary education and so, right from its inception, attention was paid to the mental,physical and spiritual dlevelopment of the students. The completion of the field was a big boost to football and athletics development.As there were few secondary schools in the Region in those days, the main focus was inter-house competitions.

Attention will be given to this subjct in greater details elsewhere in this book. It is mentioned here mereiy as part of the activities that made the 1950s glorious and memorable. On this note, one may recall that lmade College first played host to the AIONIAN group of schools in 1956. There was total academic recess for the duration of the games. The limited infrastructural facilities made playing host to such a stupendous games fiesta rather strenuous. But the thrilling experiences more than compensated for the attendant strains. Not only the college but the entire Owo town felt the impact of the games.

UNREALISED DREAMS

There were two subjects which were so much talked about in the 1950s which were not realised. The first was to make Imade College a co-educational institution so that the female children within Owo community would not suffer educational disadvantage vis-a-vis their male counterparts.The implementation of this scheme was hindered by the proposal of the Anglican Mission to establish an all female secondary school in Owo.Indeed, the Mission started St. Catherine's Grammar School in 1956 and the proposal by Imade College to admit female students was left in

meeting held on 7th October, 1961 however, "that the three labourers affected - Messrs Folarin Akinlabi, Abudu Sule and Samuel Olotu - be reinstated." The allegation of the labourers that the College Messenger, Mr.Adelegan, made them work in his private farm was ordered to be probed.It was revealed during the investigation that the Vice Principal, Mr. A.S.Olanusi, asked the labourers to work on a parcel of land along Ikare Road which the Principal, Mr. M.A. Ajasin intended to use for a proposed Grammar School. The Board asked that a query should be issued to the Vice Principal to exculpate himself in the matter. In a two-page letter, the Vice Principal explained that the labourers were paid for the job done. He challenged the Board for treating him in the shabby manner it did by issuing him a query in such a case without any regard for the sacrifices he had made for the development of Imade College, Owo as a patriotic son and a leader of Owo.

The foregoing was the scenario that prevailed until formal motions were moved at the Board of Governors meeting held on the 31st of May,1962 to dispense with the services of the Principal and the Vice Principal at the end of the school year in December, 1962. But for a counter motion which was moved at the meeting, it would have been difficult for a casual reader of the records to decipher what led to the strained relationship between the Board and the Principal. The counter motion was to the effect that the allegation against the Principal was motivated by the existing political situation in the town and there was no just cause for the motion.The original motion was carried by 8 votes to 2 while the counter motion was lost by 2 to 8 votes. Another revelation of the political nature of the disagreement. was given during one of the meetings of the Owo Descendants Union in Lagos with the Board to express grave concern about the fortunes of Imade College. As if to add insult to injury, the 1960School Certificate results were bad.

The Principal and the Vice Principal left Imade College at the end of 1962. The element of goodness in this apparent evil was the founding of Owo High School by Mr. M.A. Ajasin. That was an opportunity for more pupils to enter secondary schools. However, the departure of the two gentlemen had dire consequences for Imade College, as will be seen in Chapter Four.

CHAPTER FOUR

CRISIS AND POST-CRISIS DEVELOPMENTS,1962-1972

Mr. M.A. Ajasin left Imade College on 31st December, 1962. He had been pioneer Principal from 1st August 1947 till that date. The circumstances of his leaving the college have been given in the previous chapter.

The exit of Mr. Ajasin brought a spate of unprecedented crisis in the administration-of the college. Indiscipline among the students, which had been simmering in the last days, came forcibly into the fore. Several of the staff resigned their appointments and left the college. Partisan politics polarised the staff and adversely affected school administration.The finances of the college nose dived. The foregoing will be discussed hereunder.

INDISCIPLINE AMONG STUDENTS

Indiscipline among the students had become noticeable for some time, but it became outstandingly manifest in 1962, with the clash of the then Form V and Form IV students.' The Form V students disciplined Form IV students for some alleged offences by asking them not only to kneel down in the Assembly Hall, in front of junior students, but also to walk round the Hall on their kneels. The Form IV students did not take kindly to the humiliation and resolved that if it recurred, it would be resisted. Soon,however,the same thing happened.

The Form IV students protested and they all, to one man, refused to obey their seniors. The Principal was away in Lagos, but the incident was reported to the Vice Principal who, naturally, sided with the Form V students. The Form IV students stuck to their guns and the Vice Principal then issued orders that they be barred from dormitories and should not be allowed to draw water from the taps. The Form IV students then declared themselves free from college rules and regulations and stayed put in their class-rooms for three days. At the end of the period and since the Principal was not in, they decided to take their case to members of the Board of

I am grateful to Chief Oladipo Abitogun, a member of the 1963 set,for the story.

Governors. They left for town en masse at about 11.3O p.m. and, apart from seeing some members of the Board, they also saw the police. The Vice Principal was invited to the Police Station for questioning.

In 1963, the Form IV students of 1962 went up to Form V. Instead of allowing students to elect prefects freely from among them, as had hitherto been the practice, a "sole administrator" was picked from among them, but the others gave him neither recognition nor respect. Then,elections were conducted for the selection of prefects. The "ring leaders"of the 1962 disturbance were screened out of the election by the college authorities. Those eventually selected were regarded as "puppets"Indiscipline and contumacy continued unabated. Law and order broke down in the dining hall. As soon as food was served but before the bells were rung, some students would rush to the dining hall and scramble for the food. Quite often, they ate not only their portion but those of other students as well. Plates, cutlery, cups. and other items were thrown into the bush at will. The Vice Principal at the time, Mr. C.J. Smart, was reportedly locked up in the classroom one day where he went to take a Latin lesson. Even the Principal, Mr. Jenkin Jones, was given house arrest by Form V students late in 1963 for failing to send their names and other particulars to the West African Examinations Council before the closing date of the School Certificate Examination for that year.2 The 1983 set,for a variety of reasons that were obvious, recorded very poor results in that examination.

STAFF

The Board of Governors, at its meeting on 31 December, 1962,reaffirmed its decision taken on 5 November, 1962 to appoint Mr. Jenkin Jones as Principal, Imade College, Owo in succession to Mr. M.A. Ajasin.The Board also appointed Mr. C.J. Smart as Vice Principal, in succession to Mr. A.S. Olanusi, who left Imade College at the same time as Mr. Ajasin.Both appointments took effect from 1st January, 1963.

Mr.Jenkin Jones, a West Indian graduate of Cambridge University,has been described as "a man of society, friendly and approachable.However, his relationship with his teachers was distant and with the African members, detached."3 Staff meetings were few and far between

2 lbid.

3 Imade College, Owo (ICO) Report of the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Board of Governors, December, 1963.

and information and instructions were given through notice. In spite of the fact that he had been pre-warned that discipline in the school left much to be desired and that the college was rent by internal factions, he failed miserably to live up to expectation. He was reputed to be a drunkard and he often fell down dead-drunk in the public. He was a complete failure.4He threw in the towel after only one year service and left Imade College on 31st December, 1963.

Mr.C.J. Smart, a Sierra Leonean, was an elderly gentleman. He was, at first,feared and respected by all the boys. But he had in fact become senile and would often fall asleep in class where he had gone to take his lessons. The boys soon took advantage of his weaknesses, made friends with him and threw off his yoke of discipline. In the middle of the second term of 1964, he was asked to leave the college because his advanced age was considered by the Ministry of Education an impediment to productive work.

The Senior Tutor, Chief J.O. Ogunbodede, had become indifferent to the pervading indiscipline in the college. Hisattitude was partly as a result of a quarel between him and the head-labourer which was allegedly decided in favour of the latter and partly because his request for extension of service after the age of retirement was turned down. The next two most senior tutors were locked in bitter personality clashes which blew into the open after one of them was appointed Principal in 1964.

Meanwhile, the following tutors resigned their appointments between 1963 and 1964:

(i) Mr. J.A. Agbabiaka (v) Mr. T.O. Oduniyi

(ii) Mr. Z.O.Akindumila (vi) Mr.J.O.Omoyajowo

(iii) Mr. R.S. Eruosanyin (vii) Mr.J.O.Owa

(iv) Mr.J.I. Olaluwoye (viii) Mrs. M.R. Brooks

Most of these tutors had been sponsored by the college for training in the Universities at the instance of Mr. Ajasin, and so they left in sympathy with him and Mr. Olanusi.

PARTISAN POLITICS

The effect of partisan politics at this time on the administration of Imade College, Owo cannot be underestimated. In the Western Region of Nigeria, the party then in power, the Action Group, had been rent in two after the 1962 Jos Conference and Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the leader

nd Chief Ladoke Akintola, the deputy leader, had parted ways. At home n Owo, political differences had surfaced between two of the great ioneering fathers of Imade College - Sir Olateru Olagbegi, the Olowo of wn and Chairman of the Board of Governors and Mr. M.A. Ajasin, the rst Principal.

These differences culminated in each of them sponsorship a andidate in the Owo Constituency for the 1960 elections into the Western House of Assembly. Eventually, Sir Olateru and Mr. Ajasin parted ways olitically, with Sir Olateru going with Chief Akintola's new party (the Jnited Peoples Party) and Mr. Ajasin stickig to Chief Awolowo's Action Group.

Owo Community was, by and large, in much sympathy with Mr.Ajasin on his leaving Imade College in circumstances that could not be escribed as ideal. By the same token, therefore, Owo Community was hostile to Imade College affairs. Pupils from some primary schools were discouraged from taking entrance examinations to Imade College and those who had already been offered admission were not allowed to go. The land on which the Owo Divisional Training College was sited, which had been armarked for the Higher School Certificate classes of Imade College, was ost to the Methodist Church because of the community's apathy to lmade ollege.5

THE ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION

As stated earlier, Mr. Jenkin Jones, who succeeded Mr. M.A.jasin as Principal, resigned his appointment before the end of the year. On e 4th of December, 1963, the Board of Governors met to appoint a uccessor Mr. P.O. Adewole, a graduate of Fourah Bay College, who had een on the staff since 1958, was found adequately qualified and pointed Principal "with effect from the end of the current school term".6effect, however, his appointment was reckoned from 1st January, 1964.

Mr. Adewole's mission was that of re-construction: law and order ad virtually broken down on the campus; the massive indiscipline in the udent body was continuing, while the staff were resigning their pointments at an alarming rate. Those remaining were polarised by olitics; the community had by and large lost faith in the college while the

5 Interview with Mr. P.O. Adewole, former Principal of Imade College, Owo. 23/3/88

inutes of the Board of Governors. 4/12/636

books supplied but not paid for. Mr. Adewole applied his whole energy and wisdom to the task before him, but the path was very rough.

Partisan politics in the Western Region had become more volatile.Chief Ladoke Akintola's Party had joined forces with Chief Remi Fani-Kayode's National Council of Nigerian Citizens to form the government of the Western Region. The Action Group had to go into opposition. The duo of Chief Akintola as Premier and Chief Fani-Kayode as Deputy Premier were determined to rule and stamp their authority on the people of the Western Region. Scenes of arson, looting and killing of innocent people pervaded the entire stretch of the Western Region. At home in Owo, the atmosphere was equally charged, culminating in the Uso incident of 1965. It was not until the Army Coup of 15 January, 1966 that peace returned to the Western Region.

As if the foregoing was not enough obstacle, Mr. Adewole faced a major challenge to his authority at this time, from the senior science master of Imade College. The differences between the two started from personal and family relationships. However, these differences came into the fore with the appointment of Mr. Adewole as Principal. The senior science master probably had his eyes on the post, but Mr. Adewole had an edge,having graduated one year ahead of him. The quarrel between the two assumed such large dimensions that the Board of Governors at its meeting on 25 Apil, 1964 appointed a commission of inquiry into the relationship between the two. The commission found that the allegations of negligence of duty, carefree attitude to work, persistent absence from official engagements, failure to discharge his duties as House Master, among others,were proved against the senior science master.8

The Board of Governors was moved to resolve at its meeting of 26th September, 1964, where the Report was considered:

(i) that a strongly worded letter of warning to Mr. (name with-held) to be of good behaviour and to give the Principal his entire support in future be addressed to him;

(ii) that a meeting of a select committee of three members of the Board be summoned at the Afin where the Report would be read to him and his father.9

7Ebenezer Babatope and Segun Adegoke: "Adekunle Ajasin, Triumph of Idealism". Spectrum Books Ltd. and Layday Ltd. Ibadan 1955pp. 37-39.

8ICO.Report of the fact-finding Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Board of Governors. 25/4/64.

9Ibid.

Mr.Adewole's boat did not have a smooth sailing till well into the se ond half of 1966. By that time, law and order had returned to the Weste n Region with the take over of the Federal Military Government by the Armed Forces of Nigeria in January, 1966 and the appointment of Military Governors for the regional governments. The senior science master, who had continued to withhold his cooperation, had his appointment terminated at the end of the first term of 1966. The Board of Governors for Imade College was dissolved in August, 1966 and a Sole Administrator, Mr. F.S. Olafimihan, who was at the time the Principal Inspector of Education for Ondo Province, was appointed for the College.

Meanwhile, however, a number of achievements had been recorded by the administration. In the area of discipline, a code of conduct was prepared and used by the staff and Principal in the discipline of students.With the cooperation of both sides, firm and decisive actions were taken on the cases which reared their heads. In the boarding house, a trained Matron from the Baptist Teachers' College, Idiaba, Abeokuta was given a full-time employment to take charge of the kitchens. The dormitories were renovated. The House Masters cooperated by closely identifying themselves with the goings-on in their Houses. Order and discipline returned to the Dining Hall and both teachers and students made tremendous efforts to keep the compound clean. In academic work,replacement was found for teachers of Mathematics, Geography and English Languages while a course in French Language was started.10Graduates on the staff were adequate for the teaching of science subjects and Fine Art. Gradually, confidence in the College was building up again.

THE POST 1966 ERA

Financial solvency returned in August, 1967. A series of strict measures had been taken to husband the resources of the College. The huge overdrafts granted by the National Bank of Nigeria Ltd. had been paid off,while new methods of generating revenue, apart from raising tuition and boarding fees, had been introduced. In January, 1968, the teaching of Agricultural Science was brought back, after a break of ten years.

The year 1970 was very remarkable in the area of academic progress.Higher School Certificate courses were introduced in Arts and Science Subjects while College admission was expanded to take. treble stream. Also in that epoch making year, the College was converted to co-

1° ICO Annual Report of the Principal for 1964.

education status officially lit would be remembered that in the late fities,College for some years because that school did not have adequate qualified staff). In the same year 1970, approval was given by the Western Nigeria Ministry of Education for Imade College to start a course in Technical Education, a project sponsored by the International Development Association (IDA) In that year also, the Western Nigeria Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources entered into an agreement with the college to develop the fish pond under its 1970/74 Development Plan and make it a breeding and storage centre to serve the whole of Owo Division.11 In that same year, the Board of Governors for the College was reconstituted with Mr. M.A. Ajasin, who left the college in sour circumstances in 1962, as its chairman.12

In other spheres, a comprehensive land survey of the college land was undertaken by a licensed surveyor. Imade College Owo has a total of 1,029 acres of land, surveyed and registered. A bungalow used as staff quarters, a female hostel and a block of classrooms were built. Also, a new gate and a sports stadium were constructed.13

CONCLUSION

The period 1962 - 1972 can be described, in the words of Charles Dickens as "te best of times and the worst of times",14 except that the 'worst' came first. The crisis of 1962 - 1966 rocked Imade College to its very foundation. The College nearly went-under. Indeed, several people wished it would happen. But Providence willed otherwise. After the storm came the calm. The College survived, stabilised and resumed its role as the pioneer educational institution in the then Owo Division.

11ICO Annual Report of the Principal for 1972..

secondary school to be established must be co-educational and that existing schools must be mixed. Thus, Imade College admitted the first set of girls into the school.

This system no doubt had its salutary effects. It enabled boys and girls to live together since, in later life, they would live together as husband and wife. However, the system also had its reverses. While it made the girls bashful in the presence of the boys, if filled the boys with an air of vanity and pride. Students, especially the final year students, began to flout school regulations about "light out". Rudeness and hooliganism set in.They began to discard the wearing of school uniform. There was laziness everywhere. The senior students depended upon the junior ones for their personal duties like fetching water for bath, washing their clothes, fetching their food, even waking them up in the morning. Often, students held the authority to ransom, like when they threatened to go on riot if the P.T.A.bought them a lorry instead of another 26-seater bus to supplement the 26-seater bus provided by the Old Students Association in 1978. There was apathy to studies. Hence, the results of successive School Certificate Examinations were consistently poor. However, law and order, which broke down partly as a result of the introduction of co-educational system in the school, began to pick up when the school authority, the Old Students Association, the Board of Governors and the Parent/Teacher sociation began to work together for the good of the school.

THE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE COURSE:

PROGRESS AND REGRESS

In 1970, the Higher School Certificate Course was introduced in the older schools in the former Western Nigeria to teach Arts, the Sciences and Social Sciences. Imade College was one of such schools. By 1973,however, the Higher School Certificate (HSC) was phased out from Imade College by the same government which established it. After the creation of states in 1976, HSC was still operated in some of the other schools, but not at Imade College. This issue was raised along with other issues at a meeting of representatives of the Board of Governors with the State Commissioner for Education on November 24, 1977. The complaints brought before the Commissioner amounted to discrimination against Imade College.In explaining himself off, the Commissioner mentioned two factors that had been responsible for the situation:

(i) the apparent neglect of Imade College for a decade by the defunct Western State Military Administration; and

the diversion of funds to purposes other than those for which they were meant.

is arguments. While the HSC was phased out from Imade College, it was

In response to a request by the Principal of Imade College for a the school received a paltry sum of N5,000.00. When the succeeding Principal put up a claim of N 141,104.50 to repair six boys' hostels, forms three and four classrooms, three staff quarters, five additional classrooms and to carry out expansion to the girls' hostel, a meagre amount of N30,000.00 was given the school in 1978. These responses from the government were frustrating. The Principal persistently petitioned the Commissioner for Education and the Central Schools Board that his predecessor did not give him any handing-over notes and that he ought to have inherited N47,369.29 instead of N6,405.67. His petitions did not yield any result.

Later, however, all the H.S.C.'s in the state were phased out and replaced with the School of Arts and Science, located at Ikare-Akoko.

THE UPN ERA, 1979-1983

This was the era of civilian administration. The UPN, the party in power in Ondo State, headed by Chief (Dr.) M.A. Ajasin, had promised,during electioneering campaign, free education at primary and secondary school levels and hundred per cent transition from primary to secondary school. It had also promised to provide books free to students.

For the policy to succeed, competitive entrance examinations to secondary schools were no longer relevant. Admission into secondary schools was automatic and was based on catchment area of 5 kilometres radius. Boarding system was phased out. This created problems for students from distant places, who had to look for friends to stay with or rent suitable accommodation near their school. The provision of books was more of a dream than reality. More schools were established to cater for more intake of students. Teachers could not be provided in sufficient numbers to match the increasing number of schools. The standard of education fell miserably.

To worsen matters, teachers began to experience non-payment of their salaries. In fact, salaries were in two or three months arrears. The state government was stretched beyond its limits. The federal government,which perhaps should have come to its aid, did not, because of differences in ideologies.

THE 6-3-3-4 SYSTEM IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

In 1985, Ondo State started implementing the 6-3-3-4 system of education. A few states had started the implementation a year earlier.Simply put, the system means spending 6 years in the primary school, 3years in the junior secondary school (JSS) 3 years in the senior secondary school (SSS), and 4 years in the University.

The JSS is to provide basic education in Mathematics, Language (English, French and Nigerian Languages), Integrated Science, Social Studies,Introductory Technology, Fine Art, Home Economics, Agricultura Science, Physical and Health Education and Business Education. On th completion of the course, students could go to the SSS to continue their education or go to Teacher Training College, or the Technical Colleges.Those who terminate their education at the JSS level would have acquired enough basic education to learn any trade. Mode of examination is by both continuous assessment and terminal examination.

The 6-3-3-4 system of education is a laudable scheme. But like many other government policies, it lacked adequate planning. For example,before purchasing the technical equipment for Introductory Technology,government ought to have made provision for the workshops and for the training of teachers. Today, the 6-3-3-4 system is not being implemented in its true spirit. At the University level, the duration of courses is not 4years as expected, except perhaps in the Arts and Humanities. In Engineering it is 5 years, in Medicine, it is six, etc. However, at Imade College, a combination of the efforts of the Board of Governors, the Old Students Association and the P.T.A. has continued to sustain the system.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

The most significant improvement from the 1980's onward was in co-curricular activities. In sporting activities, Imade College represented Owo Local Government in state competitions and the state government in national competitions. For the first time since Imade College joined the AIONIAN group of schools, it won the 1980 Annual AIONIAN Athletics Competition held in Remo Secondary School, Sagamu. In the 1982AIONIAN sports competition, the girls from the school placed first and won the relay trophy, while a girl placed first in the 200 metre race. In 1981/82,the school football team played 8 matches, won 7 and lost one. A boy distinguished himself in high jump during inter-house sports and was absorbed by the Sports Council. In 1982/83, the school played 12 football matches, won 10 and lost only 2.

In essay and drama competitions organised during Children's Day Celebrations, the school performed well. The School's Literary and Debating Society won a T.V. debate competition against Oyemekun Grammar School, Akure, and Christ's School, Ado-Ekiti, in the 1979/80session. The Ewi Group, the Drama Group, the Historical and Geographical Societies and the Art Group always featured prominently. These aspects of the school life were very encouraging. In 1982, the 1956 set of Imade College Old Students Association donated a giant trophy for science quiz Competition. The state government also encouraged co-curricular activities through the number of competitions sponsored and the encouragement given the winners.

In conclusion, the apparent neglect of Imade College during the decade preceding the creation of Ondo State, and the seeming discrimination against it at the inception of the state were seen as a challenge and a call to service by the Board of Governors, the Old Students Association and the Parent/Teacher Association which had already identified themselves with the development of the school.

XJEmnut laving the college. The set donated books worth thousands of naira to the

In February, 1988, Mr. J.O. Ayaga of the Central Bank of Nigeria donated several copies of the following to the school:

(i) Twenty Years of Central Bank in Nigeria

(ii) Central Bank Annual Report

(iii) Statements of Account from 1982 to date.

Mr. Ayaga has since continued to send to the school Central Bank Financial Reviews.

In 1991 the 1956/60 set celebrated the 30th anniversary of leaving the college. The set instituted a scholarship endowment fund with a deposit of N10,000.00 in perpetuity from which four students in S.S.I were to be given an award of N400.00 annually. The 1988, 1989, 1990and 1991 sets also had their own part to play in uplifting the condition of Imade College. They jointly made a donation of the school fence extension towards the Adeolu end of the school.

One of the problems the school has had to grapple with has been that of chasing out trespassers from the school land which covers about 1,029 acres. The old students had worked tirelessly to check encroachment on school land. The planting of fast growing trees was embarked upon to redemarcate the school land. However the school was constrained at one time or the other to cede part of the school land to the following:

(i) N.I.T.E.L., Owo

St. Thomas's Church and Primary School, Owo

(ii)(iii) Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry took over the School Fish Pond.

(iv) Ministry of Youths and Sports. This Ministry constructed the new Sports Stadium, Owo.

The Parent/Teacher Association has not been left out in the scheme of things. The parents have been sufficiently mobilised by the school authorities to contribute their quota to the development of the school. In 1988 the Parent/Teacher Association donated soccer boots worth thousands of Naira to the school to encourage sporting activities. The Association also installed the Technical Workshops with burglary proof devices besides spending a huge sum of money in putting the school bus back on road. In preparation for the inspection of the school by a team of Federal Inspectors in June, 1989, the P.T.A. made adequate provision for extensive repair works on the school buildings. The P.T.A. also made funds available for the purchase of teaching aids, text-books, souvenirsand some

items of furniture.

The Federal Inspectors, led by Mr. C.N. Okosi, were in the School tor a vhole week during which time every facet of the school life was inspected.The inspectors interracted with the Principal, staff and students.The inspection report was quite encouraging. The report stressed,however, the need to vote more money for the provision of infrastructure to enable the school live up to expectation as one of the oldest institutions in the country. In the 1994/96 school year, Federal Inspectors again came and commended the tone of the school,

In 1990, the P.T.A. made a donation of the school fence extension towards the N.I.T.E.L. end of the school and later in the year, the P.T.A.replaced the electrical fittings carted away by men of the underworld while the J.S. I block was re-roofed by the P.T.A. at a cost of N15,000.00.The P.T.A. also carried out the re-roofing of the staff quarters which has been blown off by tornado. Next, the P.T.A. embarked on the construction of a block of six classrooms. The roofing of this block of classrooms and the concrete flooring were carried out during the 1994/95 school year.

The boarding system, which had been phased out by the civilian administration, was re-introduced by the joint effort of the Parent/Teacher Association and the Old Students Association while the admission of female students into the school was phased out at the instance of the old students. The bringing back of the school to its former 'all boys' school was one of the strategies mapped out by the old students to raise the standard of the school. There was an initial intake of 120 students into the boarding house.

The Ondo State Agency for Adult and Non-Formal Education, which oversees the Continuing Education Centre based in Imade College, carried out the wiring and electrification of hostels not in use and purchased 150chairs and 150 tables valued at N15,000.00 for the use of the students of the Centre. The agency occasionally arranges the supply of laboratory equipment and gives a token amount to the school for being allowed to use the school facilities. The college is also made a centre for the NATIONAL TEACHERS' INSTITUTE which runs the N.T.I. Distance Learning Sandwich Programme for primary school teachers aspiring to obtain the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE). Besides, the Ondo State Government made the school the Science Centre for Owo Local Government. Science equipment and materials worth N300,000.00 were supplied to the school.

One cannot but commend the efforts of successive school administrators during this period. This period began with the retirement of Mr. R.S. Eruosanyin whose resourcefulness, ingenuity and enviable administrative style paved the way for the success of Mr. M.O. Ojo who

look over from him in 1986. Poultry farming was introduced during Mr.Ojo's tenure. The Principal's quarters, staff quarters and the underground tanks were all rehabilitated while a new pit-latrine was constructed for the students. The general tone of the school was commendable as the students performed well both at the Junior Secondary Certificate Examination and the West African School Certificate Examination.

In January, 1988, the administration of the school changed hands and Mr. A.O. Akeju who took over from Mr. M.O. Ojo worked assiduously to maintain and improve upon the standard of the school. Under Mr. Akeju,the re-roofing of the Assembly Hall was carried out at a cost of N 15,000.00, using men from the Woodwork Department to supervise the repairs and funding the project from the savings realised from the school arms. Mr. Akeju's other achievements included the successful-hosting of the 53rd AIONIAN Games Festival in 1991 and the maintenance of a heaithy rapport with the old students on the one hand and the parents on the other. During Mr. Akeju's administration, the school received a donation of 5 microscopes worth several thousands of naira from the Federal Government.

In September, 1992 Mr. Akeju handed over the administration of the school to Mr. M.O.O. Jegede, who assumed duty with great zeal and determination. Mr. Jegede has, to his credit, the successful launching of a N10,000,000.00 Development Fund Project. A sum of N 75,000.00 was collected during the launching. The construction of a block of six classrooms, the sinking of two wells and the successful outings of students in both sporting and literary activities were all feathers in Mr.Jegede's cap. The encouraging 1994/95 inspection report written by a team of Federal Inspectors is a testimony to Mr. Jegede's adroitness in the management of the school.

Imade College, which is the third oldest secondary school in Ondo State, clocks fifty in March, 1996. Some of the buildings are crying for renovation as a result of old age. Similarly, the school environment needs a face-lift. One still hopes that the Federal Government will made good her promise of rsleasing the balance of the one million naira promised, so that Imade College can take her rightful place among the oldest institutions of iearning in the country.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE HISTORY OF IMADE COLLEGE OWO

OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (IMACOSA)

AND OLD STUDENTS' WIVES

ASSOCIATION (IMACOSWA)

HOW WE STARTED

The Imade College Owo Old Students Association is a body of loyal and dedicated alumni of this great coilege founded about fifty years ago.Members of the Association have, at one time or the other, passed through the gates of the college and have benefitted from the opportunities available in this pioneer educational institution in Owo Division. These people are familiar with the tradition of the school, they know where the shoe pinches, they are ready to take up the challenge of enhancing the quality of education in their alma mater and they spend considerable money, energy and time to achieve laudable goals for their alma mater.

A few students who left Imade College (since the first se came out in 1952) and were working in towns such as Zaria, Ibadan, Laos, Benin,Akure and Owo, to mention a few, started to establish branches of "The Old Students Association" in their various locations at different times.These branches brought together old students who resided in their environment and the opportunity of meetings encouraged joint social lives and consideration of the goings-on in their alma mater. Members of year-sets also organised themselves, regardless of their locations or place of work, to maintain the old link and ultimately to relate to the college. For example, each of the 1956, 1957, 1960 and 1962 sets had returned to the college to celebrate the Silver Jubilee Anniversaries of their leaving the college and had made significant contributions during such festivities. The excitements and joy derived during these returns to college after twenty-five years had been fantastic and memorable. The "MOTTO" of the College -"Omnia Viriliter Fac" meaning "In all things, be a man" has always been very inspiring and encouraging to all alumni as they go through hardships and tribulations to success and achievements.

The national body of the old students association was,launched on 20th March, 1971 during the celebrations of the silver jubilee anniversary of the establishment of Imade College. The first elected officers/members of the executive were the following:



and (iv) to work with any group of persons or body or bodies with similar aims and objectives.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMADE COLLEGE

Members of the old students association have never been happy at the poor image which the college presents to visitors as a result of the lack of development in physical and academic features especially from the nineteen seventies onwards. However, the contributions of the Association can be summarised under the following sub-headings:

Facilities and Equipment: One 25 Seater Coaster Bus, one overhead projector with speaker system, a refrigerator for use in staff room (1980)and the donation of 10 ceiling fans (1957 Set) for use in the Assembly Hall.

Physical Structures:Erection of college gate and construction of 100 feet fence on both sides; erection of a modern library building. The 1962 set renovated the Assembly Hall and replaced the window louvres. Also, Dr.Ogunrinde of the 1965 set donated 100 seedlings of gmelina to demarcate the college boundaries.

Academic Pursuit: Old Students have contributed, by way of support, the following:

(a) Donation of various books to the college to enhance favourable report during the Federal Ministry of Education comprehensive inspection in 1989. The 1962 set donated a giant cup for quiz competition plus 272books on various subjects.

(b)The 1956 set donated a cup for science quiz competition.(c) Dr. Alfred Isijola (1953 Set) donated N300 as annual prize awards (N100 to the best behaved student and N 200 to the best student in Mathematics in classes I - IV).

(d) Mr. J.B. Abegunde (1957 Set) donated N100 as annual prize awards (N50 to the best student in English Language and N50 to the best student in Literature in English, (Class IV).

(e) Dr. J.B. Adeyeri (1958 Set) donated annual prize awards of N60 to the best three students in Forms III - IV in Physics.

(f) Dr. Ade Abitoye (1964 Set) donated annual prize awards of N100 for the best three students from classes III - IV in Biology.

(g) Mr. B.O. Olowoyo (1953 Set) donated annual prize award of N50 to the best three students in Additional Mathematics, Class IV.

Dele Lasekan (1962 Set) donated annual prize award of N50 to

Dr. T.L. Olawoye (1965 Set) donated annual book prize awards to the

The Old Student Association members of Owo, Lagos and Akure Branches donated Oral English text books to students of the college to enhance their performance in English Language.

(k) The 1960 set has set up an endowment fund with which to award four scholarships worth N400 each to indigent but brilliant and morally fit SSI students annually.

Games and Sports: Our contributions are summarised as follows:

(i) Grading and Levelling of the Foot-ball Field: This was done by High Chief J. Ayo Akintoba, the first National President of our Association.He was Commissioner for Works in the defunct Western Nigeria.

(ii) Support for the hosting of the Aionian Games in the college (1991).

(iii) Contribution towards purchase of jerseys for use of the college footballers.

(iv) Lt. Col. Y. Anifowoshe (1962 Set), Mr. F.A. Adetula (1957 Set) each donated trophies to the Aionian Games. The entire association organised a cock-tail party for the Aionian Chiefs who were at Owo.

Other specific contributions relating to the hosting of the Aionian Games were:

High Chief Ayo Akintoba (1955 Set) provided lunch for Aionian Chiefs who visited Idanre.

Chief Ade Abitoye (1964 Set) provided water tanker service during the period and also arranged a party for Aionian Chiefs.

Dr.J.B.Adeyeri(1958 Set) supplied water, canopy and made available a bus for use during the festival.

Chief Ade Ojo (1958 Set) donated a beautiful trophy, was Chairman at the festival, donated various souvenirs and N5,000.00 cash.

Hon. Justice S.F. Adeloye (1952 Set) supplied water tanker, mobilised IMACOSA and IMACOSWA for participation.

Mr.Fola Abiloye (1956 Set) co-ordinated activities and was the liaison between the Principal and the Old Students' Association.

Mr.J.B. Abegunde (1957 Set) made available his car for use.

The 1962 Set offered to print the sports programmes and donated N5,000.00 in addition.

Mr. Dele Lasekan (1962 Set) served as link between the college and the Old Students Association, Owo Branch. He also donated N250.00.

Engr.C.A. Aladewolu (1965 Set) donated N 1,000.00 cash.

nee students in Additional Mathematics, Class IV.The old Student Association members of Owo, Lagos and Akure casr student in Integrated Science in JSS III.Branches donated Oral English text books to students of the college -2.to enhance their performance in English Language.four scholarships worth N400 each to indigent but brilliant and morally fit SSI students annually.

Grading and Levelling of the Foot-ball.Field: This was done by High He was Commissioner for Works in the defunct Western Nigeria.Contribution towards purchase of jerseys for use of the college footballers.

v)Lt. Col. Y. Anifowoshe (1962 Set), Mr. F.A. Adetula (1957 Set) each organised a cock-tail party for the Aionian Chiefs who were at Owo.

Other specific contributions relating to the hosting of the Aionian Games were:

Hüigh Chief Ayo Akintoba (1955 Set) provided lunch for Aionian Chiefs -who visited Idanre.period and also arranged a party for Aionian Chiefs.a bus for use during the festival.

a bus for use during the festival.at the festival, donated various souvenirs and M5,000.00 cash.

IMACOSA and IMACOSWA for participation.between the Principal and the Old Students' Association.

The 1962 Set offered to print the sports programmes and donated N5,000.00 in addition.Mr. Dele Lasekan (1962 Set) served as link between the college and N250.00.Engr. C.A. Aladewolu (1965 Set) donated #1,000.00 cash.

Other contributors included Mr. J.B. Olatigbe - N 500, Mr. Alamudun -

B.A. Oloyede - N200, Major 1.O. Oluwabusola -N 250.00.

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE ASSOCIATION

The Old Students Association has contributed in no small measure to the upliftment of the College especially in areas that relate to policy formulation and allied matters. Specifically we have been involved in the following:

(a) Board of Governors: For a long time now, the Board has had an old student as Chairman (by way of Government policy) as well as two other nominees of the Association to project its interests. Many other old students are on the board representing community and other interests. We have used this opportunity to canvass and redirect policy situation as regards some crucial issues such as a return to unisex institution as perceived by the founding fathers, a return to boarding system to allow for broader admission principle (not necessarily restricted to catchment areal and spear-heading the reclamation of illegally acquired college land and ensuring redemarcation of boundaries of the landed property of the college.

(b) Headship of Imade College: It has been the ardent wish of this Association to have an old student of the college as its Principal. It is our belief that such a person would be more committed and dedicated to the goais of the college and would muster support from all and sundry to face challenges in the college. We were successful only once in this ambition when we had Mr. R.S. Eruosanyin (1954 Set) in the saddle from September, 1979 to 1986.

(c) College Anthem: The Association considered the need to have an Anthem which is to be a unifying and rallying point among current students and old students alike. To this end, Mr. J.O. Owa (1954 Set)was commissioned to get this done and he produced the song.with its tonic solfa. A few tapes of this were produced and the song was taught to the 1982 Set of students which they sang once a week during assembly.

(d) Support Teaching by Otd Students: When it was discovered from the results in core subjects that the standard of education was far from encouraging, some dedicated old students arranged to coach the students in their spare time. Some of the subjects handled included Mathematics, English, Biology and the Sciences. A systematic analysis of results of students in the SSCE examination as far as they relate

to taking r remedial action, where necessary.riew

ROLL OF HONOUR FOR OLD STUDENTS

As a mark of respect for diligence and contribution to the ideals of the honour some of our members, year-sets and other persons that have done us proud. Some of those honoured so far are:

At the 1993 Annual General Meeting:

(a) High Chief J.A. Ayo Akintoba (1955 Set)

(b) Mr. Jacob Olayoriju Owa (1954 Set)

(c) Chief Michael Adeniyan Ojo (1958 Set)

At the 1994 Annual General Meeting:

(a) The Pointers - "Point 62" (1962 Year Set)(b) Mrs. Bimpe Adeloye - Vice President (IMACOSWA)

(c) Mr. G. Afolabi Eke (1957 Set) - President, Lagos State Chapter.IMACOSA.

The modalities for choice of people for honour are being further considered to ensure greater participation and. to take care of various interests from time to time. The names of those honoured would be carved in a plaque and displayed in a conspicuous place such as the Library for generations to see. The Lagos State Branch also has a programme for honouring deserving old students regularly.

HIGH FLIERS PRODUCED BY IMADE COLLEGE, OWO

The college has produced very many high fliers and the list can never be exhaustive. However, an attempt is hereby made to mention, for records, the following:

(a) Politics/Political Appointments: Imade College has produced High Chief J. Ayo Akintoba (Commissioner for Works- Western Nigeria); Dr. M.O.Olasehinde (Commissioner for Works, Ondo State); Prof. A.S.Adedimila (Commissioner for Works, Ondo State); Mr. Owolabi Afuye (Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General, Ondo State); Prof.D.A. ljalaiye (Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General, Ondo State); Prof. G.O. Iremiren (Commissioner, Edo State) and Col. R.O.Fashina (rtd), Chairman, Ose Local Government.

(b) Legal Luminaries/Judicial Officers: Chief S.M. Olakunri SAN (the first produced by Imade); Hon. Justice S.F. Adeloye, (Chief Judge, Ondo State) - also the first from Imade; Hon. Justice W. Kuyatsemi (Judge of the High Court, Borno State); Hon. Justice V.B. Famakinwa, (Judge of the High Court, Lagos State); Messrs J.O. Tomisin, J.K. Olagbegi and J.O. Ajakaiye all successful lawyers. The list includes the late M.B. Alonge (the first Chief Magistrate from Imade); Chief P.G.Ogundare, Company Secretaryand Prince Fola Olateru - Olagbegi.

(c) Administration and related fields: Imade College has produced among others, Chief J.B. Abegunde (former Secretary to the Military Government and Head of Service, Ondo State·and the first of such from Imade College); former Permanent Secretaries/ Directors-General such as Mr. Franklin Imoukhome, Mr. F.A. Adetula, Dr. Julius Makanjuola,Dr. H.T. Aladesawe, Mr. J.B. Alakuro, Mr. M.S. Akinola,etc. Mr. Fola Abioye was the first Director and Liaison Officerfor Ondo State Government in Kaduna while Mr. Olu Daramola was the first Registrar of the University of llorin.

(d) Academics: Prof. A.A. llemobade (FUTA), Prof. Olu Olorunda (UI);Prof. B.O. Adelana (OAU); Prof. D.A. ljalaye (OAU); Prof. I.O. Agbede (UNILAG); Prof. D.F. Adene (UI); Prof. R.A.B. Fatuyi (ABU); Prof. A.S.Adedimila (Ondo state Polytechnic) Prof. Aje (UNIJOS); Mr. J.A.Arikembi (OSUA).

(e) Education: Mr. J.O. Owa (Director of Science Education); Mr. R.S.Eruosanyin, Mr. T.A. Adeyefa, Alhaji A.A. Omoloja, Mr. A.Y. Akinola,Mr. J.O. Omoyajowo, Mr. B.O. Olowoyo, Mr. S. Olu Adeyeri (Principals of Colleges).

(f) Professionals:Chartered Accountants: Mr. J.I. Adeloye, Mr. Godwin Adewumi.

Estate Surveyors & Valuers: Mr. Tunde Adegbemile, Mr. Tope Oloyede.

Licenced Land Surveyors: Mr. S.F. Aladeniyi

Engineers: Kola Sheidun, J.K. Ogoh, C.A. Aladewolu, Tunde Okunrinboye, Dr. J.B. Adeyeri, J.A. Ojo, Yemi Falade, Tunde Famakinwa, Tunde Kassim.

Quantity Surveyors: Prince Taye Olagbegi Medicine: Dr.A.R. Isijola, Dr. Aladesawe, Dr. Agidee, Dr. Ajomo, Dr.

Ibidapo, Dr. Okunrinboye, Dr. Fatogun, Dr. Akeju, Dr. Abitoye.

Pharmacists: Mr. Dele Lasekan, Mr. B.O. Taiwo.Divinity:Rt. Rev. J.O.A. Fabuluje, Rev. Canon D.O. Oladugba, Rev. Z.

Akindumila, Alhaji Ahmed Aladesawe (Chief Imam of Owo).

subject as it was observed that most students could not afford to buy the text books. The Vice President, (Mrs. Adeloye), on her own arranged to teach Oral English to students in the college to improve their performances.

The IMACOSWA through Mrs. C.L.K. Adeyeri donated a complete set of the 1979 World Bank ENCYCLOPAEDIA to the college.

(d) Games and Sports: As a group, IMACOSWA supported two sports the programmes during the 1987 the 1987 sporting week. It also made a of contribution of N500.00 towards the hosting of AIONIAN '91 at ols,Imade College, Owo. ar.ern the ee the

(e) Support Services: The efforts of IMACOSWA in this respect include:Membership of the Board of Governors of Imade College.

IMACOSWA in represented there by Mrs. Funke Ogunmola.

Membership of the PTA of the college.

Organising, wwith the male counterpart, christmas parties to bring families together during festive periods.

ee

len

HONOURS RQLL of

vn

he

The efforts of IMACOSWA in supporting the development efforts of IMACOSA were recognised in the award given to Mrs. Bimpe Adeloye (Vice President of IMACOSA) at the IMACOSA 1994 Conference.

he

FUTURE CHALLENGES: re IMACOSWA promises to continue its effective support to IMACOSA in all development projects.

se

k,

of

ts

of

Is

in

le

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PARENT/TEACHER

ASSOCIATION IN IMADE COLLEGE, OWO

The Parent/Teacher Association is a body that has grown up with the establishment of education in many parts of the country.

The genesis of this Association can be traced to the proprietors of schools inviting parents to the end-of-year activities of the schools,including the merit awards ceremonies for the best students in each year.Political development in Nigeria and most especially in the old Western Region (Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Edo, Delta and Lagos States) enlarged the scope of this informal association of parents during the era of free education policy introduced by the Western Region Government under the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

After many years of implementation of the free education policy, free books supply and free tuition, the government discovered that the burden had become too enormous for her to shoulder alone. It-was the failure of the government, therefore, to meet the needs of schools which had grown so large in their establishments and students enrolment that led to the giving of prominence to the Parent/Teacher Association, which the governments envisaged could be a partner in progress.

This was an era when the government made it mandatory that before a new school was established, some conditions had to be met. These conditions included evidence of a certain amount of money in the bank,availability of spacious land, readiness to build classrooms, provision of science laboratories,among others. The conditions which the governments demanded forced the community and the Missions to invite the parents of students to contribute their quota towards meeting them, since their wards would benefit from the establishment of the schools.

Without mincing words, the role of the Parent/Teacher Association in education today cannot be over-emphasized. It can be said that but for the Association, many of our schools and colleges would have collapsed.

THE GROWTH OF THE P.T.A. IN IMADE COLLEGE

Going through the history of this great college, one will discover that the founding fathers had good foresight, for they played roles being rendered by the present day Parent/Teacher Association.

mst and foremost, this school was established through community S1/e mention mobilized the ief Sasere,Chief Ojumu, Chief Aboluwodi Adeloye and Chief Asara. The moulded blocks and successfully erected buildings (hostels) in the present site of the college.

The government recommended and recognised the P.T.A. of Imade College in 1973 when Chief Fasuba was Principal. The first Chairman of the body was late Chief Falana who jointly put together resources with the Principal to utilize the contributions of the Association and government grants for the development and facelift of the school buildings. Many principals have since served at Imade College with some of them using the advantages of the formidable P.T.A. to improve on the image of the college physically, academically, socially and morally.

In the area of infrastructural facilities, the contribution of the P.T.A.cannot be over-emphasized. Reference can easily be made to the following:

(a) Building of a large dining hall for the use of the students, thereby allowing the college to boast of two halls. Currently, besides serving as the dining hall for the boarders, it is being put to other uses as well.The value of this hall, at present, is a little over two million Naira.

(b) The P.T.A. bought a 25 seater Toyota Coaster bus in 1978 for the use of the college. It is significant to note that the bus is still currently in use because of the maintenance culture of the P.T.A.

(c) In 1992, the P.T.A., realizing the expansion and numerical increase of students, launched a five million Naira building fund for a six classroom block. With the cooperation of the P.T.A., well wishers, and the hard work of the P.T.A. executive under the leadership of Mr. J.A. ljalana,and the current Principal, Mr. M.O.O. Jegede, the laudable goal was achieved.

Socially,the P.T.A. readily comes to the aid of the school during sports competitions e.g. inter-house sports, AIONIAN sports and cultural activities through free donation or sponsorship. It is on record that on several occasions, the P.T.A. sponsored the students' participation outside the state in various activities.

Academically, the P.T.A. acts as a check and balance between the students and staff. It frowns at lazy teachers, while its representatives visit the school to check and warn students over acts of indiscipline.

The P.T.A. shows great concern for how well the students perform in the WAEC examinations yearly. To this end, the P.T.A. sometimes engages

services of external teachers to assist the college in teaching subjects re there are not enough hands. This is done most especially at the roach of the Senior School Certificate Examinations. Apart from the ementioned, the P.T.A. pays regular visits to the school and puts all ght behind the school to maintain discipline.

In the area of technological development in line with the new National cy on Education, the P.T.A. assisted the school in purchasing needed chines in the Technical Department of the school to augument vernment provisions.

Without mincing words, it can be said that the introduction of the T.A.into the secondary school system has been a blessing, for if the T.A. had not existed at Imade College, the expansion and maintenance structures, academic and recreational pursuits, plus the discipline of tudents would have suffered great neglect.

CHAPTER NINE

ORTS AND GAMES IN IMADE COLLEGE, OWO

FROM 1946 TO 1996

t from the inception of Imade College, Games and Sports have en pride of place in the School Curriculum. The first Games Master E.C. llogu(1946).

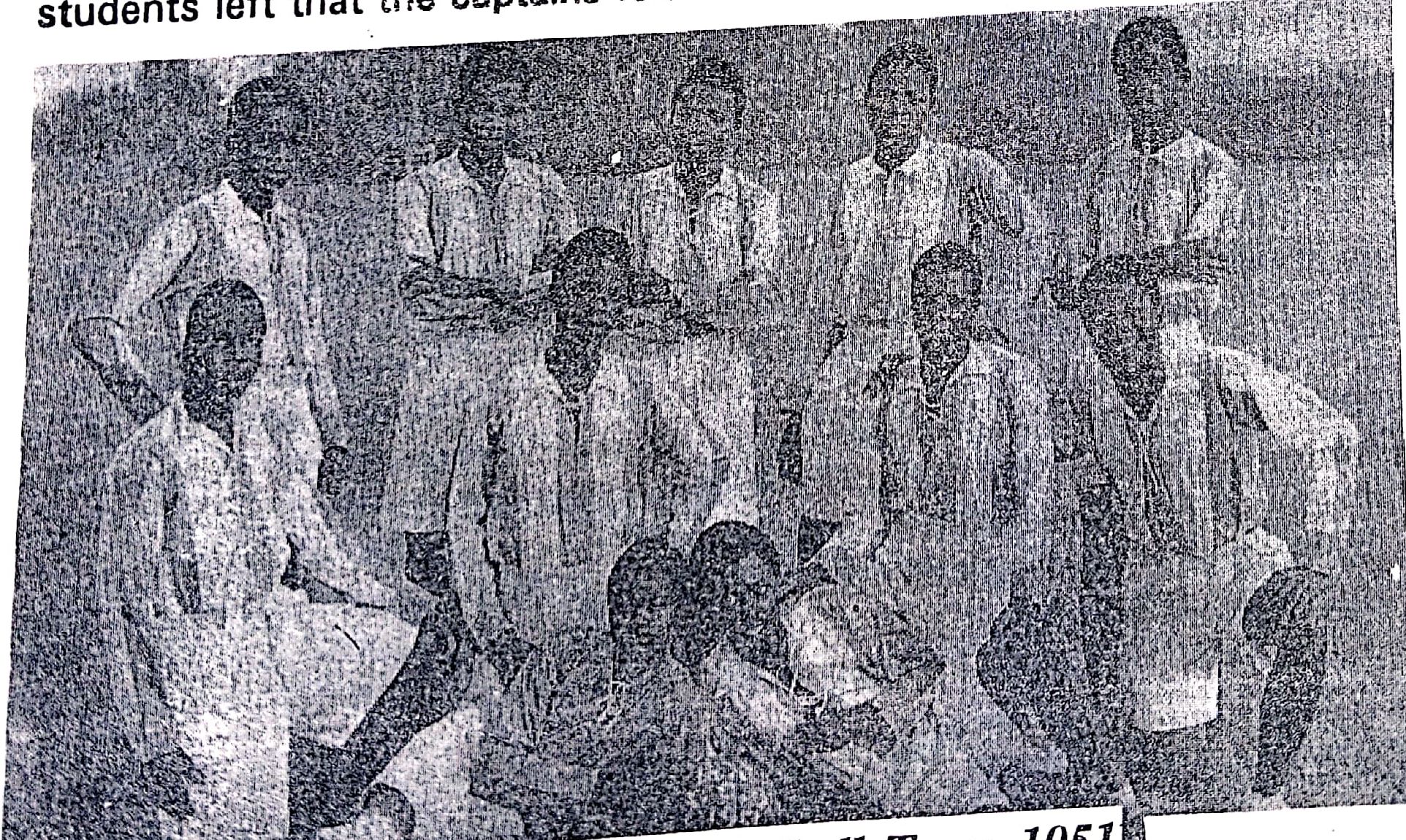
the Principal, Mr. M.A. Ajasin and the staff showed very keen in games and sports. On many occasions, the Principal refereed matches, while Mr. A.S. Olanusi, who succeeded Mr. llogu as Master, played with the team as the centre forward. The ment of the two teachers was very encouraging to the students.was a set back in sports and games when Mr. A.S. Olanusi left for studies in 1948 in the University College, Ibadar,. Things, however,d for the better when Mr. R.O. Aseneme joined the staff in 1951.he School's first outing in sports was on 12th March, 1948. It was the sporting activities marking the Olowo of Owo, Oba Olagbegi II's ation anniversary. The school took part in the 440 yards open race etition and the Imade College athlete was placed first.

made joined the AIONIAN group of schools in 1951, The Principal, Mr.Ajasin and Mr. R.O. Aseneme led ten students as observers to kuta at the AIONIAN Sports meeting and Reunion of that year.On Saturday, 5th April, 1951, the first Annual Inter House Sports ting was held on the college grounds under the chairmanship of Oba yeluwa,Olateru Olagbegi II. Mrs. F. Ajasin, the wife of the Principal,ibuted the prizes. Ehinogbe House came first.

During the period between 1951 and 1953, Imaderepresented Owo ivisional and provincial levels in both sports and games. The Principal e the school the College Motto after the school football match with St.n's Teachers' Training College, Owo. The School was defeated but the ege put up a good show. On Monday, following the Saturday that the tball match took place, at the morning assembly, after praising the rts of the school team, the Principal told us that the school motto uld be "Omnia Viriliter Fac" - 'In all things be manly.'

For purposes of sports and games competition, the school was divided o four Houses - Ehinogbe House, lloro House, lgboroko House and gbegi House. For the first two years, 1951 and 1952, Ehinogbe House n the shield but in 1953, lloro House won the shield.

When one talks about sports in general in the history of Owo Division,beginning from 1951, had been the supplier of renowned sportsmen for Ogunmola alia 'Senior Boarder', B.O. Olowoyo alia 'Esi Bi Olo', Josiah Omotoso Adetula alia H. Omot' and Bose Adetula alias 'Thunder'. In the area of football, we have names like Frank Imoukohome, Felix Otuogbai,Felix Johnson, Cornelius Olajiga, Eric Ogunoye, and Sunday Babalola.Victor Famakinwa was football captain in the early fifties.

In 1951, the school adopted a method for sports competition. The school introduced preliminary competition. Standards were set in each event, any student that reached the standard earned a mark for his House.The method, apart from involving every student, was advantageous to Houses that had many students who were good in sports. In this way,some Houses did accumulate marks running to two hundred or more. The marks were later added to the scores based on positions in events.I remember, when students were distributed ino Houses in 1950, House captains called in turns students they knew were good. There were six students left that the captains felt' were not likely to do well in sports.

The College Football Team 1951

The Igboroko House Captain-David ljalaye, called one of the remnants and said, "who knows, this could be useful". In 1951, as a result of the method adopted by the school, whereby it was compulsory for every student to take part, the particular student picked reluctantly by lgboroko House,turned out to be the school miler that year and also in the following year.

SLHOds≥、

lal

As stated earlier, Imade College joined the AIONIAN group of schools of schools. The motto of the group is "Brotherhood"

in

There are twelve schools in the group, four schools from each of the 2.three states previously carved out of the Western State of Nigeria.

1. Abeokuta Grammar School, Abeokuta all

2. Egbado College, llaro 2.1e 3. ljebu-Ode Grammar School,ljebu-Ode

4. Remo Secondary School, Shagamu te

1e

5. Ibadan Grammar School, Ibadan

6. Oduduwa College, lle-Ife

7. llesha Grammar School, llesha

8. Gbongan/Odeomu Grammar School, Gbongan

心135

9. Ondo Boys High School, Ondo

10. Imade College, Owo

11. Victory College, Ikare

12. Manuwa Memorial Grammar School, lju-Odo.

te se Imade College. took part for the first time in sports competition at the 0Aionian Festival in 1952 at Oduduwa College, lle-lfe. The College did not er feature prominently but two students came up in their events. They were is Master llemobade (Pole Vault) and Master Akinkugbe (High Jump). te is d

Imade College hosted the festival in 1956 and in 1968 when the school came second overall. Imade College won the Aionian Competition at Sagamu in 1980, the honour which had eluded her for decades thus came to her. This achievement could be traced to the untiring efforts of Mr. Femi Lasekan,the Games Master, and the changes brought about by Mr. R.S. Eruosanyin on the scene of sports soon after his arrival at the college. Apart from stamping out indiscipline which had stood in the way of success in sports, he encouraged the sporting activities not only by making sports equipment available, but also by being present physically with his sports wear at almost all practices, especially at football practices.This was not surprising, as he was a good goal keeper in his student days at Imade College.

ed

In 1991, the College hosted the Brotherhood for the third time. This time, the school won gold medals in soccer, tennis and some of the athletics events. This festival was spectacular in that it brought Sir Olateru Olagbegi,the Proprietor and Chief M.A. Ajasin, the first Principal together,after many years, to celebrate the festival with the Brotherhood.

e

S

e

In 1992 at Oduduwa College, lle-lfe, the college bagged 5 gold medals,silver and 2 bronze in athletics. At Victory College, Ikare in 1994, the college won gold medals in soccer, handball girls and 5 athletics events.

In 1995 at Egbado College, llaro, Imade College won a bronze medal

NATIONAL COMPETITION

Miss Olatigbe Catherine represented the State at National level in Under-15 National Amateur Athletics Championships held in Lagos in 1992.She won bronze and silver medals in 100m. and 200m. respectively.

Ebun Eniyantunni represented the State Under-17 basketball championship held in Lagos in 1988. Eight Imade Students represented the State in Under-13 National Football Competition held at Abeokuta in 1992.Olatigbe Catherine won the best Athletics price donated by the State ANCOPSS in 1992. In 1993, the college qualified for the state finals of the female soccer.

SPORTS AND GAMES DEVELOPMENT

Many people and groups of people have in the past contributed immensely towards sports development in the college: When lawn tennis was rare in secondary schools, except in government colleges, a concrete tennis court was erected in Imade College compound in 1955 for the use of the staff and students by Chief S.B. Aruwajoye.

A model stadium with a mini-gallery was planned during the tenure of office of Mr. P.O. Adewole with the help of an old student, Mr. Ayo Akintoba, himself a good sportsman, who at the time was Commissioner for Works. Work started and the levelling of the field was completed. It is hoped that we shall have other old students coming forward to complete the work well started by an old student.

Recently, Sir Olateru Olagbegi donated a trophy for the lawn tennis competition. The following people have at one time or the other donated a trophy to the college:

A Cup

Mr. F.S. Akinrinbola A Cup

Mr. J. Olanitori A Cup Lt. Col. Yakubu Anifowose (Rtd.) - A Shield

Chief Abiuwa Fagbemi A Cup

Mr. Oladewobi Lasekan A Shield

Point Sixty-Two

Both the present and past students of Imade College will forever be grateful to those who by donations have kept the torch of sports and games glowing in the college.

Imade College deserves to win Aionian Shield more than once. The parents, the Principal and staff, the old students and all other well wishers should please come to the aid of lmade so that the shield will come once again to Imade House.

CHAPTER TEN

DE COLLEGE OWO: AN INSIGHT INTO THE FUTURE

The likely future of Imade College may be discussed under two broad headings:

1.by the authorities of the College and the likely effect of these

and 2.

The repercussion of the present dowvn-turn in the country's

conceived after a disagreement with the CMS Church Authority on the site the people finally mobilised themselves to found the school, dissension still its growth both academically and structurally.

Owo was to have been established by the CMS in 1935 but a rov The Mission reneged in its promise of a secondery school. The incident District Superintendent of the time to the Diocesan Bishop in Lagos;The school to be built in a section of the town, different from that which was Schools in Enugu on their side but the District Church Superintendent Wa the CMS,withdrew the proposal to establish the secondary school. Shortly superintendent. Rather, Owo District was to be overseen from Ado-Ekiti by he loss of the secondary school in 1935 was caused by the politics own the church superintendent wanted the school to be sited.As a result,

CHAPTER TEN le

Y

n

IMADE COLLEGE OWO: AN INSIGHT INTO THE FUTURE

n

y

0

The likely future of Imade College may be discussed under two broad headings:

n

h

1. The effect of internal dissension and disagreements on issues by the authorities of the College and the likely effect of these old scores on the future well being of the College;

r

g

e

and 2. The repercussion of the present down-turn in the country's educational system on the future progress of the College.

0

9

1

Y

A brief survey of the history of Imade College shows that it was conceived after a disagreement with the CMS Church Authority on the site chosen by the towns-people under the leadership of their Oba. Even when the people finally mobilised themselves to found the school, dissension still trailed its administration to the extent of stultifying its growth both academically and structurally.

The earlier chapters of this write-up show that a secondary school for Owo was to have been established by the CMS in 1935 but a row occurred between the authorities and the members of the CMS Church.The Mission reneged in its promise of a secondary.school. The incident.which constituted a drawback to the ambition of the patriarchs of the time,was recorded in a letter dated 6th September, 1935 reporting the CMS District Superintendent of the time to the Diocesan Bishop in Lagos. The bone of contention was that the District Superintendent preferred the school to be built in a section of the town, different from that which was offered by the then Olowo, in his position as the trustee of Owoland. The Olowo and the church congregation had the then government Inspector of Schools in Enugu on their side but the District Church Superintendent was adamant. Rather than yield to the choice of the Olowo, the CMS,represented by the District Superintendent, the Rev. Captain J.G. Byrnell,withdrew the proposal to establish the secondary school. Shortly thereafter, he was recalled to England and was not replaced by another superintendent. Rather, Owo District was to be overseen from Ado-Ekiti by Archdeacon Dallimore who had established Christ's School at Ado-Ekiti.The loss of the secondary school in 1935 was caused by the politics between the Olowo and the Ojomo of ljebu-Owo, in whose area of the town the church superintendent wanted the school to be sited. As a result,

Owo did not have a secondary school until eleven years later when Imade College was founded in 1946.

Another drawback came in March, 1947 when the college was barely a year old. It was subjected to the scrutiny of the then Nigerian Education Authorities to determine its standard for advancement to a higher class in the following year. The Inspector of Education who performed this very important test expressed dissatisfaction with the incompetence of the two teachers managing the school. The next class which was to be class Ill (in modern parlance, JSS III) was disallowed and the students were left with the choice of either repeating class Il or staying away for a year after which the college would advance to the next higher class or seeking admission to other colleges outside the town. 1948 therefore saw the dispersal of the foundation students of eighteen. Only one remained to repeat the class with the 1947 set, four returned to the school in 1949when it was allowed advancement to class lll while the remaining thirteen either sought admission to other schools or terminated their secondary school ambition.



Hon.Justice S.F. Adeloye

President, Imade College Old Students Association

The third and most devastating disagreement arose between the founding principal of the school and the chairman of the Board of Governors, who also was the Oba and firs't citizen of Owo. The effect of the disagreement and the consequences on the town and college are still very much with us. The politics of the then Western Region which has now become the divisive politics of the country created a dividing line between the proprietor-chairman Board of Governors (in person of Oba Olateru

,vegi, a very strong personality) and the first principal of the college,nief M.A. Ajasin- an equally indomitable figure). The effect of the 1947disruption was the scattering of the foundation students. The 1962disagreements saw the exit of the first principal and almost all the teaching staff who had all been very loyal to him. The dispersal of the staff of the college in 1962 stultified further physical development as well as put discipline in the reverse gear: Thus can hardly be found as at today in Imade College, any new building except those put in place before 1962 by the college authorities. The only visible efforts after 1962 at new constructions were made by the parent-teacher association, the old students' association and some aids programme of which the college was a beneficiary.

The overall effect of the dissention and disagreement of the two most prominent figures in Owo whose influences radiate to most parts of Nigeria is to create a permanent dividing line between the interests of the two indomitable figures. Right from 1963 when Chief Ajasin established his own school in Owo, parents who believed in his politics and policies preferred his new school for their children. Such parents, and there was a large number of them, would rather have nothing to do with anything in which Oba Olateru Olagbegi had interest.

The rebuilding of Imade College after the 'war' between the two giants has continued to be adversely affected by the attitude of those who see themselves as belonging to one side or the other of the dividing line. The efforts of the old students' association have continued to be dampened by the lukewarmness of several sons and daughters of Owo who are old students of the college. Even though the two protagonist of the feud are now advanced in age, the hardline is still maintained by those who feel adversely affected, however slightly, by past events.

The effect of the unending feud in Owo on Imade College is to discourage co-operation and enthrone disunity even amongst 'parents' of the college especially those of them that are of Owo origin. The physical development of the college has been neglected to the extent that it casts a poor image beside other pioneer secondary schools in the old Ondo Province.

If internal dissent makes the future of Imade College gloomy, the present degeneration of education in the country especially in Ondo State casts a spell of uncertainty on what happens next.

It must be admitted that the Federal or Western State Government policy of schools takeover from private proprietors, when Government did,saved Imade College from the internal feud that almost wrecked the college. The takeover policy, however, as it applies to the whole country,

has now been admitted as a failure. Various State Governments especially in the West declared education free without the funds to sustain schools or salaries to pay teaching and non-teaching staff. The result is stagnation,if not dilapidation in infrastructural development. There have been strikes and even unrest of teachers and non-teaching staff, resulting in total instability of the country's education sector. A solution being proposed to this misadventure is the return of schools to their former owners.Missionaries -have indicated preparedness to resume their former proprietorship but what happens to schools established by communities and private individuals? The old urge to develop an enlightened community by establishing schools and colleges has been satisfied by and large.Perhaps the only attraction left for school establishment or proprietorship is monetary. I envisage this will give way to quality in education, as healthy competition for standards among the established ones is in swing.

A solution to the present degradation in education is perhaps the registration of schools by Government and transferring or selling those not functioning properly to viable proprietors. Whoever buys a school would be left to charge enough fees for running it and for the payment of staff. For the protection of public interest, inspection hy tha govemnment education department must be strict and thorough. Standards must be set in such a way that those who fall below the expected level would be deprived of ownership of the school by a transfer or sale to more reliable individuals or organisations. Universities may even be privatised. I see the private ownership of schools with government strict supervision as the distant way out of the present degeneration of education in the country. This may be the ultimate device to resuscitate Imade College and hundreds of ailing institutions around us.