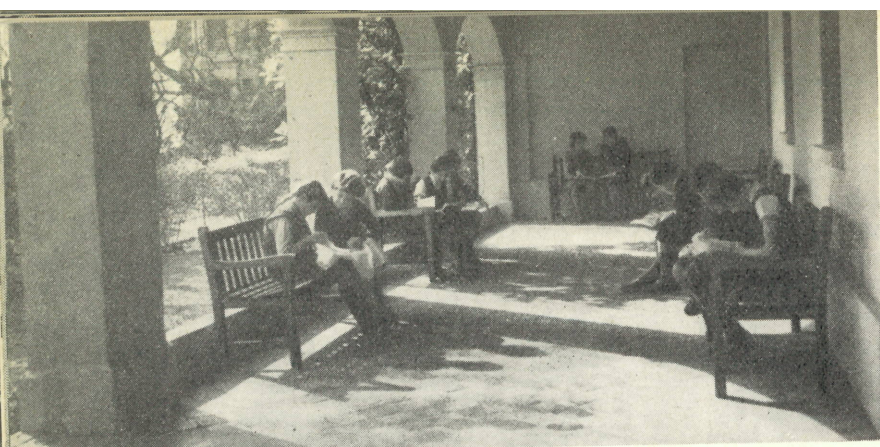


THE SPARK



All are keen Electrons at St. Leonards-on-Sea. This is the Loggia just as it was in Mother Cornelia Connelly's day

Dear Electrons,

Nothing could have made Electra happier than to get your letters about all the new Electrons and all you are doing for the Missions - nothing, that is, except to hear about even *more* new Electrons and *more* little sacrifices for the Missions! If only you could fly to Africa to see for yourselves the good you do. AND TO SEE THE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF WORK YET TO BE DONE IN CHRIST'S NAME. To tell the truth, we have not even scratched the surface of this part of His

Vineyard... So pray for Vocations - for generous young men and women to teach the Divine Word in these pagan lands - and put extra push into that *Electron push!*

Special blessings from the Holy Child on those of you who wrote Alice Edet (see Winter, 1959-'60 issue of *The Pylon*), and sent her pictures and other nice things. Many, many thanks in Alice's name. You will be glad to hear that, in answer to prayer, she can walk a bit now and was able to go home for Christmas.

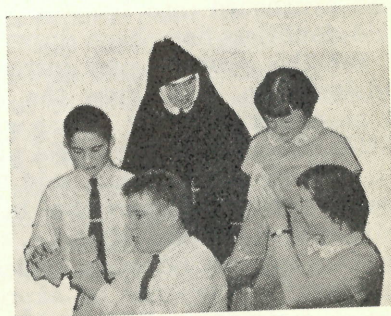
Bless you all,

Electra.

Spiritual Dynamos

The first news to be received from our AFRICAN ELECTRONS was as welcome as a breath of Spring. (The students in our big Secondary Schools and Colleges in Nigeria and Ghana are also making every effort to help the thousands of children in the poor bush schools, many of whom are still pagan.) From the **Cornelia Connelly Secondary School in Uyo** a letter came from Theresa Okure. "We are keeping our promises as Electrons," she writes, "by saying the *Our Father* with the priest at Mass each day, and offering up an hour's work for the conversion of all Africa."

Another student, Patricia Tagbo, says, "We recently received the Holy Child prayer books and the prayers in it are



Mother John Cantius finds a ready response in missionary zeal at Melrose, Massachusetts

very beautiful, especially the prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God (Cornelia Connelly) which we say often. This is because we wish her to be canonized soon." Very interesting letters came also from Felicia Achdonu and Teresa Obinna.

The Sophomores of **St. Mary's High School, Melrose**, have a Mission Club that is another little spiritual dynamo. Four of them have written to Electra about their activities and here is a composite of the letters:

"This year the Electrons chose Nigeria for their limited objective because it will soon gain its independence and needs many prayers to combat the threat of Materialism. Our members divided into units of four or five girls with a Leader and a Secretary. Each unit adopted one of the Holy Child Missions in Africa and a special month is dedicated to each one of these Missions. During that month the unit makes an appropriate bulletin board to remind the whole school to pray for their intentions. (For example, January was dedicated to Calabar, February to Lagos, March to Afikpo, etc.)... Each group looks up past issues of The Pylon to learn as much as possible about their Missions... We thought that the Sisters from our own parish who are now in Africa should be remembered in a special way too, so a special month has been dedicated to Reverend Mother Ronald (Ifuho) and to Mother Mary Kentigern (Takoradi). We also collect things such as rosaries, baby clothes, medals, and holy cards to send to the compound.

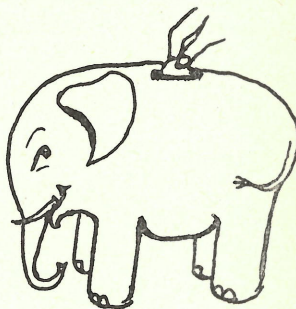
"The new members of the Club were given their Electron pins at a beautiful ceremony in the Convent Chapel after Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. All the girls, wearing their blue and white dress uniforms, processed into the Chapel singing 'Little King.' They walked up to the Altar rail and received the pins from Reverend Mother Helena, then they recited the Electron prayer and one to the Immaculate Virgin Mary for the African Missions.

"This year of 1960 began with zealous intentions. Please pray that this zeal will never fade away..." (Signed): Joan Walsh, Charlotte Mahoney, Judith Gregorio, and Emily McGowan.

The Seventh Grade at **St. Mary's** has started a *stamp-ede* in saving stamps for the Missions and it has become a school-wide program. They will have a "Stamp Champ" banner just as they do in a number of our other schools, including Ss. Peter and Paul's, Fleetwood; Portland; and Washington, D.C.

St. Leonards-on-Sea is now not only 100 % Electron but rather more! There is a suspicion that some Electrons have enrolled more than once! We think *Jumbo* (the new elephant) must be responsible for this; he has won all hearts

**JUMBO, the
irresistible**



and, so far as collecting funds for Africa goes, has "knocked piggy into a cocked hat." He lurks by the door of the Prefect's room on the days when pocket money is given out and took £10 last term. (N.B. *Jumbo* is ebony black, but the artist could not manage it in the picture because he lost his smug smirk when black.)

Christine Moran writes from **Layton Hill** that the raffle they held at the end of last term netted the grand sum of £8.13.10d. There is promise of renewal of energy in the collection of milk-tops and other foils.

Eighty-five new Electrons were enrolled last December in the two Sixth Grade classes at **St. Edward's** in Philadelphia. They are very keen mission helpers with a very generous spirit. (Electra should know; once upon a time she was at St. Edward's.)

And tell me have you heard the news that's going all around about our school in **Killiney, Eire**? Last term it was a case of "all hands on deck" to help in the big Mission Draw in Dublin... and they sold nearly 3000 tickets. That IS big news.

The Seventh Grade at St. Mary's, Melrose start a stamp-ede.





Biscuit Rush

The Electron Committee and the Aloysians at **Combe Bank** have found that the sale of chocolate biscuits at the Sunday break is as lucrative as it is popular, and they have been doing a roaring business. They also have a scarlet-covered notice-board that STOPS one and all. Cuttings from missionary magazines and home-made posters blazon the board and give incentive to the drives for tinfoil, milk bottle-tops, and stamps. Nor did the children forget that prayers are MORE IMPORTANT than pennies, and at their last conference of the term prayers for the missions were more stressed than any other holiday activity.

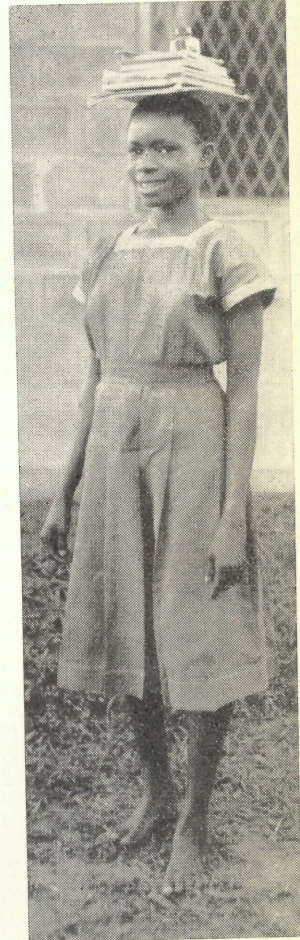
A Candle to Burn

One of the loveliest traditions in connection with the ceremony of enrolling Electrons was carried out at **Edgbaston** when many new members were given pins. As they knelt before Our Lady's shrine an old Electron passed on the light from her candle to those about to be enrolled... Three Elizabeths (Marshall, Anderson, and Garfield) from this school wrote to say they were "offering up our Doctrine lessons for the Missions," and that they wished *The Spark* would come out oftener with more stories of Africa. Vicky Tudor says she loves being an Electron and is so proud of her pin.

An excellent Puppet Show at **Harrogate**, organized by the Aloysian Electrons, brought in more money for the purchase of linen for African Altars. The most amusing item of the programme was about two little poodles, a skit written by Susan Smith. Posters on available wall spaces advertised the show very cleverly... Three sacks of "Bottle-Tops" have gone off already, and it is hoped to raise enough

funds to buy material for a washable vestment (into which every Electron will be invited to put some stitches.) Harrogate is very specially proud of Mother M. Elizabeth, H.H.C.J. who has just been elected an Assistant General of the Handmaids, as she spent so many weeks there.

Thomas Gardner (7th Grade) in the **Holy Family School, Portland**, writes: "We are forming a habit of praying for children in all the countries we study." A grand idea!... James Rundle, a member of the same class, is justly proud of the fact that the children have raised \$ 22 in sacrifice money, towards a burse for the Missions (See inside cover. And Paul Bocci says, "Since the beginning of the year our one intention has been to have at least ONE MISSIONARY PRIEST OR NUN FROM THIS CLASS." You cannot have a better intention than that, or one closer to the Sacred Heart of the Holy Child.



Mary Teresa can now attend Secondary School - thanks to the St. Leonards' burse.



THE ELECTRONS' BADGE which is for Electrons *only*, is obtainable at your school or from Electra for 9d. or 10 cents. Each badge receives the blessing of the Holy Father, and Electrons are urged whenever they look at it to say "Thy Kingdom come" to which an indulgence of 100 days is attached.