

SCHOOLMASTER'S RETIREMENT.---An interesting presentation took place at the Bettsworth-road School on Friday last, when Mr. G. A. MILLETT, on behalf of the staff and past and present scholars, presented Mr. J. W. TRODD, the retiring headmaster, with a gold watch-chain. In asking Mr. TRODD's acceptance of the gift, Mr. MILLETT referred to the retiring head's 40 years' service in Ryde schools and to the cordial relationship that had ever existed between him and the staff. He said the scholars would ever remember their headmaster as one who had always taken a keen interest in their welfare; inside the school he worked energetically for their educational advancement and outside for their physical improvement and enjoyment. The old scholars still looked upon him as "Father TRODD," and the present scholars, if at any time in need of help and advice, could always go to Mr. TRODD, and he would willingly assist them. He wished Mr. TRODD every happiness in his retirement, and hoped that he might long enjoy the well-earned rest after a strenuous life spent in furthering the interests of many hundreds of Ryde boys and girls. Mr. TRODD acknowledged, with obvious and sincere feeling, the gift and the kind things said about him on his retirement from active service. That was the first present ever given him during his long service. He always had a strong objection to receiving any reward for his work, but he accepted the present one because he knew that it was given with every kind of wish. He should prize it as long as he lived, and hand it down to his children and grandchildren as something he greatly valued during his life. He thanked the staff for their ever-ready support during his long term as head teacher of that school, and assured the scholars that he would be always prepared to give them any advice or assistance he could.

---A correspondent writes: As an old scholar of the Bettsworth-road Schools, I was very pleased to note that the Ryde Teachers Association had taken "strong exception" to the remarks recently made by Mr. W. R. TAYLOR, J.P., at the meeting of the Education Committee. Such a slur on the services of an old and faithful servant, whose life-long aim (realising that the boys of today would be the men of tomorrow) always for the future welfare of the boys entrusted to his care and training, was, I consider, ungentlemanly, and obviously uttered without forethought. Apparently Mr. TAYLOR has forgotten the old School Board prize-giving days and the flattering remarks he was then so delighted to make when commenting on the excellent training administered to the boys by Mr. TRODD and his staff. One is led to think that had Mr. TAYLOR, when a boy, received a similar training to that which many hundreds of boys have been privileged to receive during Mr. TRODD's headmastership he would never have uttered such an insult.
