In the Jubilee booklet issued in connection with Kelvin Grove Primary School's fiftieth jubilee and in the history of Kelvin Grove College, now the Brisbane College of Advanced Education, there is a most interesting quotation used as a reference to this locality. Many of you must have passed this particular wall memorial frequently for it is to be found on the wall of the Tourist Bureau at the corner of Adelaide Street and Edward Street. It is a memorial plaque to the Old Normal School which once stood on that site. At the end of the inscription are the Latin words "Est genius loci," which freely translated means "There is a spirit in this place." There is a spirit in Kelvin Grove too. I do not think you should ever forget your youthful beginnings here in this place. You may, like most of us, have treated your studies heedlessly and carelessly at times, but there were some rare occasions when you "glimpsed great vistas and were aware momentarily of being part of a great and ageless tradition." You worked not for money, but as your motto implies, for the pursuit of knowledge and excellence and those ideals which were so far above us and beyond us as the stars of the night sky. We still feel this spirit here today as part of the inspiration of our earlier years; for most education, as Agnes de Mille said is "a means of inspiration." "Inspire" meaning to breathe in. It occurs between living minds. And such I believe was the inspiration and education which was and is to be found here at Kelvin Grove. It was something breathed in; it was part of the spirit of the place. I trust also that this early inspiration will inspire you again to serve this school community and thereby the wider community of the world, in the present and in the future, by whatever means or association is available to you. I refer you with a half smile to lines written probably two centuries ago about the Old School. Certainly they are sentimental and nostalgic.

THE OLD SCHOOL

Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise;
We love the play-place of our early days;
The scene is touching, and the heart is stone
That seals not at that sight, and feels at none.
The wall on which we tried our growing skill,
The very name we carved, subliming still;
The bench on which we sat while deep employed,
The nation sacred, hallowed, and bewared, not yet destroyed:
The little ones, unbuttoned, glowing hot,
Playing our games, and on the very spot:
As happy as we once, to kneel and draw
The chalky ring, and kneel down at low;
To pitch the ball into the grounded hat,
Or drive it devious with a dexterous pat-
The passing spectacle at one excites
Such recollection of our own delights,
That viewing it, we seem almost to obtain
Our innocent sweet simple years again.
This fond attachment to the well-known place,
Whence first we started into Life's long race,
Maintains its hold with such unceasing sway.
We feel it even in age, and at our latest day.

KELVIN GROVE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

23rd November, 1985

By Miss M. Green
Senior Mistress
1963 - 1984
These few printed pages are put simply as a means of welcoming you, the first Students of Kelvin Grove High School, to this Jubilee celebration on November 23rd, 1885. For those of you given to a little bit of nostalgia, they may be regarded as a memento of this day, because these pages glance at the past, while acknowledging as always, that it is on the present and future school that our hopes rest. If as a result of this day, a Permanent Past Students Association results, then I hope that some of you will be leaders in that Association, so that the past may ever live in the present life of the School and in a wider sense, the life of our community.

As Shakespeare wrote "What's past, is prologue"—merely prologue, I hope, to an even greater future for the School, than twenty and forty years on.

In regard to the immediate past and to the growth of the School situation in 1961, who is better qualified to write of it than Mr. Pettenlost? His admirable summing up of the progress of the School in those twenty-five years is to be found in the School Magazine which I feel sure you will want to purchase. As a School, Kelvin Grove has been peculiarly fortunate in its Principals and also in its Deputies) down to its present incumbent. Under Mr. Sparks the Standards of the School were set. Under him the idea that manners (in the widest sense of the term) make man was adhered to, and his successors, Mr. Sainsbury, Mr. McCann, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Fynes-Clinton and Mr. Hanly have presided over a School growing in numbers, in prestige and in confidence. Modesty did not allow Mr. Pemberton to say too much of the part he played in the growth of the School. Particularly, of his influence as Principal, but mainly because of his vision, his energy and his good humor, cogency, most of the building added to theoriginal School area was under his regime. He was a part of him. He helps to personify "the Spirit of the place" which I hope to write of in the days yet to come. I should also like to say here that Kelvin Grove has also been peculiarly fortunate in so many dedicated members of its Parents and Staff, and our Ladies Auxiliary, working unstintingly with its School Principals, giving freely of their precious time and energy for the betterment of the School. This harmony too has been part of "the Spirit of the place".

In the Jubilee booklet issued by Kelvin Grove Primary School at their Fifty and their Seventy-fifth Jubilee celebration, there has been in each a notable section devoted to the history of the Suburb of Kelvin Grove and to this particular locality within the suburb.

"From the heights and valleys round about, we came to gather on the hill."

As the school song has it, and I defy anyone to drive up or walk up Herston Road from the hospital and cast a quick glance upwards, yet not feel that this school does indeed crown the hill, with its many buildings. Similarly, my fears are alleviated by attending this School and walking along its corridors without remembering how they sometimes looked onto the circle of blue hills which surround this school to the north-west, and not "echo the words of the first whiff of air going up to the roof of Kelvin Grove Girls and Infants School" as the old Roberts, who wrote the Jubilee booklet of 1937, recorded her first impressions of the site of the present school. "The new school on the hill was beautiful for its situation, commanding a magnificent view of the city of Brisbane from one page, while the lights and shadows over the Cap and onto Waterworks Hill were fit subjects for the painter's brush." Not only is Kelvin Grove High School beautifully sited it is quite unique in an educational sense. Its links with education go back to the early days of Brisbane. In the 1850's and 60's, parents petitioned for the setting up of a School which finally was opened on the last May, 1875—after the residents agreed to subscribe a specified amount towards the cost of this school of Kelvin Grove to be a part of the early Provisional School in the History Unit of the Education Department, one looks at the clear signature and then looks below the date 13/5/76 with a kind of time-machine shock. It was not '76 of this century. It was 1876. It was just this past century. I think of course a mixed school but later, as many of you know, the present site of this Kelvin Grove High School was occupied, firstly by the Kelvin Grove Boys School in 1887 and still later it became an Independent School in 1930, the Primary School in 1930 to Kelvin Grove in Glasgow in Scotland. The river Kelvin runs through these gardens and the University of Glasgow crowns the heights above them. Lord Kelvin, the famous scientist took his title from this same river. In the grounds of Kelvin Grove in Glasgow in Scotland, he was also a distinguished scientist and a public spirited citizen who was behind every movement for Brisbane's advancement. He had a passion for natural history and was keen horticulturist. He laid the foundation on which he is remembered, on which he was subsequently distinguished. I like to think that he would thoroughly approve of the school's plans for the landscaping of the grounds in 1986.

A newspaper article, written fairly recently, headlined us as the School on Education Hill. The links with education are not only to the old and new educational establishments. Like the old Kindergarten Teachers College, merged to the bigger campus of Kelvin Grove College, the Primary School and the old Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, now part of the Kelvin Grove Campus, they are also to be found in such links as that with Sir Charles, who was as Mrs. Roberts, who was the founder of our Queensland educational system, which made education in Queensland "free, secular and compulsory"—a concept he fought for most tenaciously, his son, Mr. Edwin Lilley, who was one of the leaders of Mrs. Roberts Parents and Citizens Committee, and his grandson Dr. Charles Lilley was one of the famous old boys of Kelvin Grove Primary School.

One of the most interesting educational links with the past is the fact that Victoria Park and the hill was on the short list of sites for a new university. However in 1920 the Mayne bequest enabled the city to purchase 200 acres at St. Lucia. Now at least we may enjoy the benefits of this background of advantage. The Dr. Bancroft to enthusiastic praise, when he first came here in the middle of the last century.