



PLC  
PRESBYTERIAN  
LADIES' COLLEGE  
SYDNEY  
— 1888 —

## STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES:

### EXAM TIME

In June 1912, Bessie Twigg was studying hard for the upcoming mid-year examinations. Bessie, a boarder from a property near Cowra in the state's Central West, was 13 years old when she enrolled at PLC Sydney in 1911.

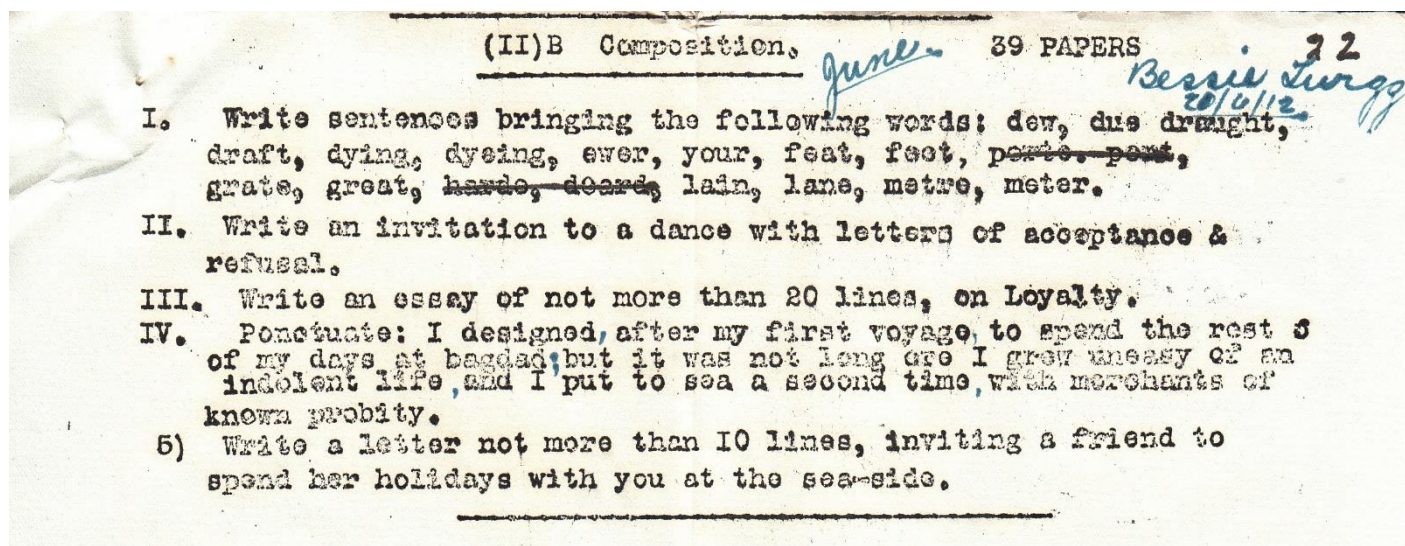
In 1912 Bessie would have been in the equivalent of Year 8. These were some of the questions posed to her for response:

- Composition: Write an invitation to a dance with letters of acceptance and refusal.
- Botany: Give 5 ways in which leaves may be arranged or inserted on plants.
- History: Relate the story of Charles Sturt's expedition to explore the interior of Australia.



College Hall as it looked when Bessie Twigg sat her exams in 1912.

Earlier this year her niece donated some of Bessie's examination papers, exercise books and school reports to the Archives. Some of the exams are shown here. Sadly we don't have Bessie's answers, but you may like to have a go yourself!





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II. BOTANY.

I4.

*Bessie Swigg  
19th June 1912.*

- I. Describe how a bean seed germinates, and tell how young plants are fed.
- II. Name four flowerless plants and explain how any one of them is reproduced.
- III. Give 5 ways in which leaves may be arranged or inserted on plants
- IV. Draw diagrams of ten distinct types of leaves and write shortly about each.
- V. Explain 1) sessile, 2) peduncle, 3) axillary,
- VI. Describe and draw diagrams to illustrate 5 methods of inflorescence
- VII. Explain the difference between a pinnate and a palmate leaf. Illustrate by diagram.
- VIII. Explain the following modes of venation, 1) circinate, 2) twisted or spiral, 3) involute.

II.B History.

*Bessie Swigg  
17th June 1912*

- I. Write a short account of the explorations of the following in Western Australia:- (a) Sir George Grey, (b) Sir John Forrest. Give a short account of the Government of Western Australia.
- III. Give an account of Governor Cawler's work in South Australia.
- IV. Relate the story of Charles Sturt's expedition to explore the interior of Australia.
- V. Give a full account of the Federal Constitution.
- VI. Outline the principal events in the history of New Zealand.
- VII. Give a short account of Governor Phillip.