Northamptonshire Education Committee.

Telephone No. 138.
Telegrams: "Education, Northampton."
All Communications must be addressed to "The Secretary."
Postage must be prepaid.
Separate letters must be written for each subject, but may be enclosed in one envelope.

COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICES,
NORTHAMPTON.

In your reply please quote reference Number
ES/11878/23.

Nn.

July 31st.,1923.

Mr. T. Beecroft,
Cottingham,
MARKET HARBOROUGH.

Dear Sir,

Cottingham-cum-Middleton School.

I am directed by the Committee to inform you that they have heard of your resignation of the post of Head Master of the Cottingham-cum-Middleton School with feelings of great regret that your long association with the School is now to be severed. They desire you to know that they have placed on record their appreciation of your unsparing and long continued service, and their wish that you may have many years in which to enjoy the rest you have so fully deserved. Since 1886, many generations of children have passed through your hands, first at Rushton, and then, since 1894, at Cottingham-cum-Middleton, and the Committee are confident that the respect and affection of your old scholars will follow you in your retirement.

Your relations with the Committee and their staff have always been cordial, and we all trust that you will carry happy memories of work well done into the holiday which you are now about to enjoy.

I am,

Yours very truly,

J. L. Harris

The Retirement of Mr.T.Beecroft of Middleton.

With the present issue of this Journal Mr.T.Beecroft ceases duty as headmaster of the Cottingham-cum-Middleton School, after nearly thirty years of service. Mr.Beecroft has had a very varied career, owing to dislocation of family affairs, his old ancestral home dating from 1170 was given up and the subject of this sketch was sent away to School. After 2 years he chose teaching as his profession and while serving his articles, among his tutors was the Rev.Dr.R.P.Hills of Bolsover. At the age of sixteen Mr.Beecroft was appointed organist and choirmaster of Whaley Thorns Mission Church and he retained this post until leaving the neighbourhood five years after. During his apprenticeship he studied music with his headmaster under the late Dr.Keaton of Peterboro' Cathedral. On obtaining his certificate in 1882 Mr.Beecroft was appointed first assistant in the St.James School Derby, a school of nearly 400 boys.
The year 1883 saw him appointed to the charge of Metfield Church of England School, Suffolk. In 1886 Mr.Beecroft removed to Rushton and had charge there until 1894 when he was appointed to Cottingham-cum-Middleton. It will thus be seen that Mr.Beecroft has been headmaster for 40 years and organist for 47 years, whilst no fewer than 37 years have been spent in Northamptonshire. Sport, particularly Cricket, has always claimed his attention and he takes pride in being the "father" of Rushton Cricket Club, which he formed in April 1886. One who has known Mr.Beecroft since he first came to Northamptonshire writes hundreds of children who have passed through Mr.Beecrofts hands during his lengthy scholastic career have cause to bless him for the scholarly tuition and the kindly thoughfulness which ever marked his methods.

His scholars ever regarded him more as a friend than a schoolmaster and his interest in his pupils did not cease with them leaving school. In the twin villages of Cettingham and Middleton he has been the guide, philosopher and friend of all. No good cause ever sought his aid in vain. In his well earned retirement he will carry with him the good wishes of all sections of the community.

C O T T I N G H A M - CUM - M I D D L E T O N.

P R E S E N T A T I O N.

A large number of the parishioners of Cottingham - cum- Middleton were present on Saturday evening in the school when Mr. T. Beecroft, the retiring headmaster was presented with a testimonial in recognition of his 32 years work in the school. The Rector was in the chair and spoke of the patient and valuable work done by Mr. Beecroft. He called on Mr. Walter Spriggs, a former pupil, and one who had taken the lead in collecting for the gift, to make the presentation. This took the form of an oak and silver tea tray. with a suitable inscription, a silver cream and hot water jug. and a large standing cabinet for holding them. The Rector then called on Madeline Buswell as head girl of the school to give to Mr. Beecroft the childrens gift. which was a handsome silver sugar basin to match the set. The Rector then presented Mr. Beecroft with two handsome volumes of "HASTINGS DICTIONARY OF THE GOSPELS". This gift came from the diocese. and is given only to a few notable headmasters in the diocese. As Mr. Beecroft had been unable to be at Peterborough when these books were given by the Bishop, he was presented with them on this occasion.