

## *Miss Christina Wilson*

*M.A.*

Miss Wilson's retirement at the end of the year, draws to a close an association with Somerville House covering in all, a period of 43 years.

Miss Wilson migrated with her family from Scotland, arriving in Brisbane in 1922. When she left Aberdeen for Australia, Miss Wilson had just completed her examinations for the degree of Master of Arts in Classics. After teaching English, French, Latin and Greek at the Brisbane Girls' Grammar School for six months, Miss Wilson joined the staff of Somerville House at the beginning of the 1924 school year to teach Latin, Greek, French and Ancient History. Two of her Greek and Latin students in the 1927 Senior class, Betty Robertson, now Mrs. Owen Fletcher, and Phyllis Robinson, proceeded to the University of Queensland and both graduated with First Class Honours in Classics.

In 1929 Miss Wilson became part-time Secretary to the Principals in order to study modern languages, part-time, at the University. As the outcome of her studies, the University of Queensland conferred upon Miss Wilson the degree of Master of Arts, *ad eundem*.

This was a period of rapid expansion for Somerville House and it was at this time also that Clayfield College was founded under the aegis of Miss Harker and Miss Jarrett. These were the factors which turned Miss Wilson's appointment as part-time Secretary for one year into full-time Secretary for many years. Miss Wilson was responsible for the organisation of the School office and for setting up the system of School records which makes it possible to trace every scholar enrolled at Somerville House from its foundation. It was not until March, 1951, that Miss Wilson withdrew from the School office and returned to the class-rooms, teaching Latin, Ancient History and English.



Miss Wilson has been a member of both the Repertory Theatre (a foundation member) and the Twelfth Night and has played roles in the productions of both "little theatre" groups. Choral singing was another interest of the Wilson family which had its own quartet, specialising in Scottish and Sacred Music. Miss Wilson's love of the Arts and of the Theatre in particular, has been reflected in the School in her willingness to sponsor Drama and Play-Reading groups during the School's weekly Activity time, in her willingness to encourage and advise young actresses and in her care of the properties and costumes which contribute so much to the atmosphere and the colour of every stage production. In her own student days, Commercial Art was one of Miss Wilson's extra-curricular interests and each Commemoration Day, her past students admire again her calligraphy heading the signatures in the School's visitors' book.

Miss Wilson's life has been so rich in interest and accomplishment that we are completely confident that our wishes for her happiness and for the full enjoyment of her days of ease will be fulfilled in her retirement.