

## **Cottingham College and University School**

**These two establishments claimed to have been founded in 1889.**

It seems that the original school was at Plumstead, according to a report in the Bexleyheath Observer of 17 May 1962 and that it was transferred to 24 Crook Log, Bexleyheath in 1929 under Mr. L.J. Cottingham. It was then known as Cottingham College. The earliest local reference to it is in the 1929 rate book.

By 1931 the school also occupied a house called "Mardale" in Brampton Road but in that year it was moved to No. 66 Crook Log, "Clovelly". We have no rate books for years later than 1931 and it is impossible to fix the date or cause of the division of the school into two parts, Cottingham College and University School. It is known that in 1936 University School occupied Nos. 64 and 66 Crook Log, from correspondence between estate agents and the Clerk to the Bexley Urban District Council. In 1938 the Bexley local handbook gave the address of Cottingham Commercial College as 54 Crook Log, "Menindic". Possibly a new principal divided the school into a grammar section (University School) and a commercial section (Cottingham).

University School moved in 1937 to new premises in Brampton Road. Both schools were bombed out in 1940. University School moved to 232 Upton Road South and closed in 1988.