

The Indian Summer that we enjoyed earlier in the term seems far behind now as the dark days of winter close in, but in spite of the cold and the vagaries of the heating system in the South Street building, attendance has been excellent this term. I am concerned, however, at the number of pupils, especially in SI and SII, who instead of taking school meals buy snacks of little nutritional value, not always, I suspect, with the approval of parents. A well-balanced school meal is still good value at 25p.

The examinations for years I, II and III are over, and it is hoped that parents will have report sheets by the end of term. Those for years IV, V and VI will be given out early next term. This is an important stage for those sitting S.C.E. examinations next May. For them a steady work-rate is vital, but it is no less so for those who are not taking S.C.E. courses. Employers tend to consult school about applicants, and it is always a pleasure to say that a pupil is reliable and hard-working whatever his or her level of attainment may be.

The publication of the long-awaited reports of the Munn and Dunning Committees on the curriculum and the assessment of SIII and SIV is involving staff in a good deal of study and discussion. Though much will depend on the extent to which the Secretary of State decides they should be implemented, they may well result in major changes for pupils in IIIrd and IVth years, though not for some time yet.

Early in November, the school had a brief visit from Dr Andrew Cruikshank. He talked to Vth year on the theme of language, and watched with considerable appreciation the Drama Club rehearsing for their forthcoming production of Brecht's "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" in the Byre Theatre on 11th - 14th January. At lunch-times in the Kilrymont Road building work has started on another production - H.M.S. "Pinafore" - due to be staged in June. In another medium, Mrs Thirkell's team of Springboard course pupils has been recording on film the leisure activities that make up the informal curriculum of the school. The Debating Club is now well established under the guidance of Dr Richardson, and the Chess Club is as strong as ever. Congratulations to Helen Scott on sharing first place in the girls' section at the Glasgow Chess Congress, and to Timothy Upton, a former pupil, who won the Scottish under-19 championship. In the Small-Bore Rifle Club, J. Ward and G. King were in the team gaining 4th place out of 200 entries in the Junior National Winter Competition. Earlier this term VIth year pupils visited the Modern Languages Departments of St Andrews University and this month, parties from the school will attend the Christmas Lectures provided by the universities of St Andrews and Dundee. The VIth year Mathematics class have enjoyed a series of classes taken by Professor Howie, whose interest in fostering links with the school is much appreciated.

Rugby in school is flourishing, inspired both by the success of the F. P. teams and by the coaching of Mr Edie and Mr Wemyss. Though similar success has eluded the soccer and boys' hockey teams, the spirit of sportsmanship that they bring to their games does them credit. In girls' hockey the outstanding feature has been the success of the 1st XI in winning the St Leonard's Centenary Tournament, the Fife Schools Tournament and the Midlands Senior Championship. Three girls, Margaret Blatchford, Elaine Makein and Heather Fraser are representing the Midlands A team. Two of the team, Heather Fraser and Elaine Makein have been considered for trials for the Scottish Schoolgirls. The strength of the Indoor Hockey is shown not only by the fact that the team won the Fife Championship, but that six of them will represent Fife at the Midlands tournament this month.

Much saving is going on in preparation for school trips next year. A party will visit Paris at Easter, another will go to Kiel in June, and in July one group will go on the "Uganda" cruise to Scandinavia, while another will spend a week

at Stratford-upon-Avon on a Shakespeare course.

Lengthy though it is, the above list is inevitably incomplete, but it will perhaps illustrate the quality and the amount of work undertaken by the staff over and above their regular duties.

Since the last newsletter we have lost the services of Mr Bulloch of the P.E. Department and Mrs Delaney of the French Department. Mrs Delaney has unfortunately been obliged to resign owing to ill-health. We thank her for all that she has done and wish her a speedy recovery. Mr Bulloch, who came to Madras two years ago from Jordanhill, has resigned in order to travel the world, and takes with him our good wishes in his journeying. This term we welcome to the staff Mr Ronaldson who joined the P.E. Department in place of Mr Bulloch, and Mrs Clarke, who came from Auchterderran Junior High School to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr Petrie. I should like to thank Mrs Logan who, at the cost of no little inconvenience to herself and her family, filled the gap until Mrs Clarke took up her duties. Regretfully we shall say goodbye at the end of term to Mr Lawson of the Technical Department when he retires after over sixteen years' service first in Tayport School and then in the newly-opened Kilrymont Road building of Madras College. Mr Lawson came into teaching after a fine career in the R.A.F. and in his characteristically unassuming manner has made a valuable contribution to his department and to the school. We all wish him every happiness in his retirement.

It is with regret that we learned of the death of Miss Nell Ferguson who taught for many years in Madras College.

The following forthcoming events are listed for the convenience of parents:

Meetings with Parents

10th January, 1978	Parents of SII - 7.00 p.m. Kilrymont Road.
26th January, 1978	Parents of SV, SVI - 7.30 p.m. South Street.
31st January, 1978	Parents of SIV - 7.30 p.m. South Street.
15th February, 1978	Parents of SI - 7.00 p.m. Kilrymont Road.
7th March, 1978	Parents of SIII - 7.30 p.m. South Street.
5th April, 6th April, 1978.	Parents of SII - 6.30 p.m. Kilrymont Road.
19th April, 1978	Parents of Primary VII pupils - 7.00 p.m. Kilrymont Road.

Concerts/Drama

11th - 14th January at the Byre Theatre at 7.30 p.m. - The Caucasian Chalk Circle.

June - H.M.S. Pinafore.

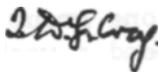
P.T.A.

1st February, 1978 - Mr Wills & Mr Macgregor - Modern Language Teaching Today.

February - Social Function - Dessert Party and visit to university production of Gilbert & Sullivan.

March - Annual General Meeting.

I take this opportunity of wishing staff, parents and pupils a happy Christmas and good fortune in 1978.



Rector.