

Although we have so far been spared the trials of winter snows and ice this term, the same cannot be said of illness, which at one stage almost reached epidemic proportions especially among the junior classes. Fortunately the worst seems to be over, although it has left not a few of us limping thankfully towards the Christmas break.

When staff illness created difficulties during the course of the term, welcome help was given by Mrs Robertson (Physical Education) and by Mrs Wyatt and Mrs McCallum (Science) and I take this opportunity of thanking them. It is good to see Mr Thomson, the school gardener, back at work after a long illness. Staff were delighted to learn that Mrs Novak-Solinska, formerly of the Music Department, has had a son, and that Mrs Oliver, formerly of the Maths Department, has had a daughter.

All of us in school were shocked and saddened by the tragic death in a road accident of Neale Angood of Third Year. Neale was a much-liked, kind, considerate boy who gave of his best both in, and outside of, the classroom. It is a grievous loss.

As usual, the term has seen much hard work in the classroom, culminating in the term examinations. Unpopular these may be, but they perform the valuable function of showing how far the learning process has been successful. I hope that the S.C.E. candidates in particular will use the examination results constructively to prepare themselves effectively for the S.C.E. examinations in May.

Compared with last session, we have had relatively little dislocation through reconstruction work. The Resources Centre in the Kilrymont Road building is well on the way to being completely fitted out, and several departments - Modern Studies, Biology and Classics - are already making use of it. Reprographics work is now based there under the charge of Mrs McIntyre, and work is going ahead on the massive task of cataloguing resources. In the South Street building, in the interests of energy saving, fluorescent lighting is being installed in some of the classrooms.

Extra-curricular activities, under the energetic co-ordination of Mr Broom, are in full swing. The Book Club packs out the Kilrymont Road Library, the Agriculture Club are busy on projects, the Current Affairs Club continues to put the world to rights, while the Scripture Union is going strongly with a lively programme of activities. Next term the Science Fiction Club (forgive the pun) hopes to get off the ground, though its explorations will be literary rather than extra-terrestrial. The Debating Society has taken part with commendation in the United Nations Public Speaking Competition and the Daily Express Schools Debating Competition. We have come to expect great things from the Chess Club, and in Alison Coull, who came first in the Girls' Championship, and in Ian Beaton who came first in his age group at the Perth Congress, we have not been disappointed. Helen Scott, one of our F.P. internationalists, kindly played simultaneous matches against pupils in a very successful fund-raising effort. Table-tennis is attracting a growing number of enthusiasts, and the Juniors have played successful matches with New Park. In the Small-bore Rifle Club, Gordon Winch came first in the Fife and Kinross Open Tournament. When the opportunity arises, Theatre visits are organised to productions which have a bearing on the English curriculum - this term to "Arms and the Man" and next term to the National Theatre production of "Othello" in Glasgow. In October, the Drama Club entertained us on the theme of Courtship and Marriage, and in early January we look forward to "Measure for Measure" in the Byre Theatre. One of Shakespeare's so-called "dark" comedies, it will be played with the emphasis on the comic rather than the 'dark' side. Tickets are available now from the English staff or at the School Office. The Music Department have been busy too, the brass section providing the instrumental accompaniment for the BBC broadcasts from Hope Park Church as well as for the Remembrance Services at the St Andrews War Memorial and at Moonzie. Choirs, wind band and Soloists are now hard at work preparing for the Carol Concert and for the joint concert with St Leonard's School during the St Andrews Festival.

As usual, thanks to the enthusiasm of staff, the sports fields have been in constant use. At soccer, the under-15 XI are still undefeated in their league, and though the other three XI's have had more mixed fortunes, these have been played with spirit and enjoyment. The eight rugby XV's have won 45 out of 55 games played. The 1st XV Have steadily improved since the start of the session, recording some notable wins. Congratulations to Stuart Imlach (VI) on being selected for the Scottish Schools Trials and to Simon Cowell (III) on being selected to play for Fife in the Midlands Under-15 trials. In Girls' Hockey, although both outdoor and indoor fixtures have gone well, the main achievement has been in the latter form of the game with 3rd Year and the Senior teams reaching the semi-finals of the Midlands Tournament. Congratulations to Sara Headen on being selected for the Midlands Schools Indoor Hockey team. In a new venture, a mixed 2nd/3rd Year team and a Senior team are now playing in the Fife Schools volleyball league. In swimming, Claire Braidwood has set up new records for the 100m and 400m in free-style events for Fife Schools, and Andrew Ferguson reached the finals of the breast-stroke and free-style events in the same championship. Finally the members of the ski-club are hoping for favourable conditions at Glenshee to enable them to sharpen their talents before setting off for the Easter skiing trip to Andalo in North Italy.

This week, at a special ceremony in school, Mr Burns, the Chairman of North East Fife District Sports Council, presented the Wilkinson Sword of Honour to last year's 1st XI Girls' Hockey team for giving the best sporting performance of the year.

I am sure that parents will, like me, be struck by the range of extra-curricular activities provided for our pupils, and will wish me to thank those members of staff and F.P.'s who give their spare time to make these activities possible.

Since the last newsletter, the following information has come in regarding degrees and awards gained by F.P.'s this year: Erica Carstairs - LL.B Aberdeen University; Colin Douglas - H.N.D. in Catering & Hotel Management, R.G.I.T.; Robert Inch - LL.B. Dundee University; Jennifer Lambert - B.Sc. Hons. Biology, Dundee University; Nicola Lee - Post-Graduate in Dietetics, R.G.I.T.; Stanley Mackay M.A. Hons. Economics and Kirkcaldy Tassie Medallion, Dundee University; Evelyn Scott - B.Sc. Hons. Pharmacy R.G.I.T.; Helen Sutherland - M.A. Hons. Psychology, Dundee University; Graham Thomas B.Sc. Genetics, Sheffield University; John Webster - M.A. Hons. Modern History, Dundee University; Graham West - M.A. Dundee University; Ann Wilson - B.Sc. Nutrition and Dietetics, R.G.I.T. Of our more recent F.P.'s, Peter Henderson has been awarded a National Engineering Scholarship. To all of these, congratulations and good wishes.

I take this opportunity of wishing parents, pupils and staff a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*J.D. Flory.*

Rector.

#### Holidays and Forthcoming Events

Christmas Holiday	Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January
SII Parents Evening	Monday 12th January at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Rd Building
Dessert/Theatre Party	Thursday 15th January in South Street Staffroom
SV/VI Parents Evening	Thursday 22nd January at 7 p.m. in South St Building
SIV Parents Evening	Thursday 29th January at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Rd Building
SI Parents Evening	Monday 9th February at 7 p.m. in the Kilrymont Rd Building
PTA	Thursday 26th February at 7.30 in Kilrymont Rd Building "Recent Trends in Education" H.M. Inspectorate
SIII Parents Evening	Thursday 5th March at 7 p.m. in Kilrymont Rd Building
P.T.A.	Tuesday 17th March at 7.30 in Kilrymont Rd Building A.G.M. followed by talk by Modern Studies Dept.
Primary Parents Evening	Wednesday 18th March at 7 p.m. in Kilrymont Rd Building
Easter Holiday	Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April
Summer Holiday	Monday 6th July to Wednesday 19th August (All holiday dates are inclusive)