



THE DIOCESAN TIMES



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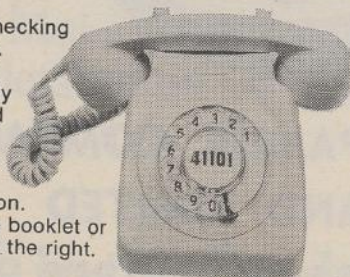
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Diocesan Secondary School For Girls

1971

The Diocesan Times

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EDITORIAL

We have great pleasure in presenting the tenth edition of "The Diocesan Times". During the year we have seen many staff changes. We all regretted the departure of Miss Richards, Miss Bussell, Miss Kidd, Miss Haughton and Miss Minion. Miss Richards is now doing part time teaching in Alexandra College, where, we hope, she is very happy.

Also we were all very sorry to hear of Miss Bussell's recent illness, but she is now well on the road to recovery and we all send her our best wishes.

We welcomed, in September, Miss Hutchinson, Miss Vaughan, Miss Mullins, Miss Graham, Mrs. Baird, Miss Malcolmson and Miss Robb. We also have two new male members of staff, Mr. Burns and Mr. O'Neill, much to the delight of the girls.

This year we have seen much extending done in the field of Physical Education. Many new adventures, such as fencing, hill climbing, cycling and sailing have started and I am pleased to say that the majority of girls take an interest in at least one, if not more of these. We would like to express our thanks to Miss Williams, Miss Caird and Miss Daunt, for all they have done in promoting these activities.

The New Year, 1971, brought in with it, a threat of a Teachers' strike, much to the dismay of many people, especially those who will suffer most, the Sixth Formers. If it comes to the worst and the teachers decide to go out, it is hoped that some Diocesan Staff will be able to stay in and continue teaching. The girls in school appreciate very much what the school is trying to do for their sakes.

We thank everyone who contributed to the magazine, the Committee, especially, thank Miss Jagoe, Miss Stewart and Miss Hoare who have done so much work in collecting articles, in checking and correcting, in organising and guiding us through the publication of this, our tenth edition.

Elizabeth Moyter

MUSIC SOCIETY REPORT

President : Miss Jagoe.
Chairman : Susan Barry.
Secretary : Susan Graham.
Assistant Secretary : Joyce Marsh.
Treasurer : Valerie Carroll.
Vice-Presidents : Mrs. Baldwin, Miss Good,
Mr. Watson, Mrs. Poynton.

On the 30th April, 1970, the Music Society held its first Piano Féis. Eighteen girls entered, in five groups, according to the length of time learning. Mrs. Alice Quirk came to adjudicate, very generously giving up her whole afternoon to listen to the competitors and judge their playing. As each girl had been given freedom of choice, the judging cannot have been easy. Yet Mrs. Quirk most ably gave the competitors sound advice and personal encouragement. We are most grateful to her, and consider the Society is fortunate in having many accomplished people willing to help us. The certificates awarded at this competition were, under Miss Bell's guidance, designed and drawn by the seniors in Art Classes.

The most outstanding performance of the year was organised by Mrs. Baldwin, and her musicianship classes. About fifty girls of 2nd and 1st Year gave a splendid rendering of the Toy Symphony by Romborg. Some instruments were lent by a friend of Mrs. Baldwin's, while others belonged to the performers. Helen Beardsley assisted by playing some of the piano accompaniment and Deirdre Fincher was conductor. The result was excellent, and held the audience spell-bound.

In May, Mr. William J. Watson, F.R.C.O. invited the Society to St. Ann's Church, Dawson Street, where he gave the members an illustrated talk on the parts of the organ followed by a short recital. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Watson for this privilege and for his interest in the Society and his readiness to assist in its progress.

In September we were sorry to learn that Miss Haughton, one of our keenest promoters, had left. She had given piano lessons in the school since 1960 but found herself unable to continue to give the required time to Diocesan each day. We wish her well and thank her for her interest. We extend a welcome to Mr. R. O'Neill, her successor, who from the beginning has shown a great interest in the Society.

It has been difficult to arrange full meet-

ings since September as this year the senior classes continue till 4.30 p.m. and our first meeting was the Annual General Meeting in October. Susan Barry was elected Chairman for the 1970-71 Session and Susan Graham, Secretary. The Assistant Secretary is Joyce Marsh and Valerie Carroll, Treasurer. Most forms are represented on the Committee.

Members who wished to learn to play the recorder were invited to a meeting on 6th November. This invitation was accepted enthusiastically and since then two groups have been at work during the lunch time breaks. Some recorders were presented by the School and others bought from Society funds. Susan Graham has worked hard and given her energy willingly to instruct both the girls who can read music and those who cannot, so good progress has been made week by week.

The December meeting took the form of a short concert given by artistes from 3rd, 2nd and 1st year who played the piano, the recorder and the Jew's harp giving us a delightful half hour's entertainment. Then followed an opportunity for discussion and suggestions were given for future programmes.

We held a competition at the end of the Autumn Term. Members were asked to write projects on a composer or composers of their choice. Entries came in from varied age groups and these essays were judged by several members of staff. Mr. Watson presented book prizes to the girls whose projects were considered the best. Susan Barry, Gillian Jackson and Hazel Tyrer came first in their three respective sections.

Miss Williams kindly accompanied a party of members to listen to excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" and Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" performed by the Trostan Singers in the Presbyterian Hall on the 19th December.

We have several good suggestions for future programmes and hope to use these ideas for meetings of Easter and Summer Terms. One of our ambitions is to build up a collection of percussion instruments, and another to organise a second Piano Féis. In all our efforts we receive help and encouragement from members of Staff. We are grateful to all who have contributed time or talent to promote an interest in good music throughout the school.

Susan Graham 6A
Susan Barry 6B

THE CEOL CHUMANN NA nOG ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

This is an educational concert which takes place during school hours. It was given by the Telefís Éireann Symphony Orchestra conducted by Eimear O Broin, on 20th October, 1970, at 10.30 a.m. in the St. Francis Xavier Hall. Most of the members of the musicianship classes attended.

A few days before the concert, Mr. James Blanc came to the school to tell us about the concert. He showed us pictures and played us tapes of each instrument in the orchestra. He also explained the music that the orchestra was going to play.

Before the concert the players began to tune up their instruments. At last everyone was ready to start. A man came on to the platform and introduced us to the conductor Eimear O Broin. We were asked to stand for the National Anthem. When we had sung it and all was quiet again, the conductor introduced us to each of the instruments individually.

Each of the instruments played a piece of music so that we would know what each one sounded like by itself. I think the conductor was surprised when the piccolo played "Yan-kee Doodle". Also he told us that the Symphony Orchestra is divided into four groups. The Strings: Violins, Violas, Cellos and Double Basses.

The Woodwind: Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet and the Bassoon.

The Percussion: Cymbals, Bass Drum, Kettle Drum, Triangles and others.

The Brass: Trumpets, Horns, Trombones and the Tuba.

The Percussion is called the "Kitchen of the Orchestra". The Celesta and the Harp do not belong to any group.

Included in the programme were "Mise Éire" by Gerard Victory. "The Grand Canyon Suite" by Grofe in two parts, (1) "On the trail" (2) "Sunset". In "On the trail" a sound of donkeys hooves was heard, this was made with two hollowed out coconuts. Two other tunes were "The Overture to Tannhauser" by Wagner and "España" by Chalmers.

When it was over the conductor thanked us for coming and we went out to our bus to go back to school.

I think it was a very enjoyable concert and that it was an excellent idea to introduce each instrument separately.

We thank Mrs. Baldwin and Miss Mullins

for their help in teaching us and escorting us to the Concert.

Margaret Myers (2A)

THE SENIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

When school was resumed in September, 1970, we found that, due to the fact that many senior girls remained in class until 4.30 p.m., a debating society was, for the moment, impractical. However, just before the Christmas holidays, it was decided that meetings could be held on a Tuesday afternoon, for all senior girls free at that time.

Since then we have held debates once a fortnight with Miss Hoare in charge, Jean Hosford as the Chairman and Susan Eager, Annette Dalby and Heather Collie forming the Committee. These meetings have been well attended and are gradually becoming more lively, as the speakers and audience are gaining confidence. It is hoped that, before long, many more girls will be prepared for public speaking as was Linda Jones, our representative in The Irish Times Oratory Competition, and the six girls who took part in the Aer Lingus Debate.

For all the encouragement, assistance and opportunities we received, our thanks are due to Miss Jagoe, Miss Hoare and to Miss Good, for the use of her tape recorder.

Jean Hosford (5A)

THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

At the beginning of the school year the Junior Debating Society started by electing a new committee — Joyce Bainton (chairman); Teresa Lynch (secretary); Joyce Coates (treasurer); committee members are Lesley Smith, Michèle Souter and Hilary Switzer.

Our first debate was on October 1st, 1970. The motion was "Charity Begins at Home." There was an attendance of twenty-five which was quite good. Since then we have had three more debates on "This House believes in Ghosts", "Women are the slaves of fashion designers" and a "Balloon Debate" which proved to be a very lively one. The people portrayed in this "Balloon Debate" were Rev. Ian Paisley, Doctor Barnard, John Lennon, Racquel Welsh, Queen Elizabeth and Bernadette Devlin.

Deirdre Fincher as Ian Paisley said that she believed God had put her on the earth to help the people in Northern Ireland, and nobody else would be as good.

Dr. Barnard who was portrayed by Carol

Quill said that without his skill there would be more deaths, for she had saved many people's lives in performing heart-transplants.

Lesley Smith, as John Lennon, said that there would be no pop-singer worth listening to if he were killed as he believed he was the greatest pop-singer ever.

Olive Noblett as Racquel Welsh said that there would be no interesting pictures for people to watch and all the men would be heart-broken if she were to be killed.

Hilary Switzer as Queen Elizabeth said that England would collapse without her to guide the Government and approve the laws.

Miriam Birney as Bernadette Devlin said that there would be nobody to fight for the honest people in Northern Ireland and people like Paisley would take over and cause more riots.

Ian Paisley proved to be the worthiest to stay in the balloon by receiving the highest number of votes.

The Junior Debating Society have now started a "Suggestion Box" in which suggestions are put for debates.

Teresa Lynch (3 A)

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SCHOOLS' ORATORY COMPETITION

To join or not to join? Such was the issue relating to the possible benefits and detriments accruing to Ireland as a member nation of the Common Market, which was considered at the Eleventh Annual Schools' Oratory Competition held in the Mansion House on February 1st. Twelve secondary school students competed, and enthusiastically spoke on the motion that "Ireland should remain outside the European Economic Community".

The opposition optimistically declared ever increasing trade, prosperity and production to be imminent results if Ireland and Europe united in this economic community. The more idealistic speakers of the opposition anticipated Ireland being one of the founder nations of a United States of Europe, thus forming a confederation of non-Communist countries. It was stressed that Common Market membership would free Ireland from all tariffs and import quotas among the member nations, thus promoting the free movement of goods which encourages efficiency and consequently lowers costs and prices. The opposition accused those who decried the Common Market entry of depriv-

ing Ireland of the buoyant economic growth which is the most coveted consequence of membership. Some of the pro-Common Market speakers prophesied that unity with Europe would provide more employment, promote industrial expansion and increase the purchasing power of wage earners. Hence, the opposition were willing to sacrifice Ireland's independence and neutrality for the advantageous implications for our agriculture and industry and for the other material benefits pertaining to Common Market membership.

The proposition ardently claimed that Ireland's bid to join the Common Market was simply to risk poverty for prestige. These anti-Common Market speakers equated economic union with political union and Brussels rule. Consequently such an alliance would drain Ireland of her hard-won nationhood. Some fatalists even enunciated that Common Market membership would gradually obliterate our culture, replacing it with an alien culture and undermine our freedom and all those ideals for which our revolutionaries died less than six decades ago. The more politically-minded speakers of the proposition declared that Ireland would be denied her freedom and subjected to the rulings of a foreign commission which would demand our total commitment to the Common Market. They foresaw that the Mansholt Plan, which advocates a type of collective farming, would rapidly abolish many small farms. Others claimed that membership of a corrupt, capitalistic club like the Common Market would drastically reduce Ireland's industrial output, increase redundancy, create a general price increase and encourage mass emigration. Their more cynical colleagues even warned us that Ireland had no hope of surviving membership. They suggested that a link-up with Scandinavia on an economic basis was a better plan. Therefore, the proposition seemed to regard Ireland's probable entry into the Common Market as pursuing a policy of national suicide.

The adjudicators, Senator Mary Burke, Deputy, Doctor Garret Fitzgerald and Mr. Brian Dawson, chose Gary Bannister of Mountjoy and Marine School as the winner of the Irish Times Cup. Heather Bell of Masonic Girls' School was judged to be the best girl speaker. Both these successful competitors proposed the motion and the overall winner was a most entertaining and composed speaker, Linda Jones, who represented Diocesan won third place for girls and must be

congratulated for she delivered her speech with admirable calmness.

Nevertheless, to join or not to join remains an unanswered question, since the Common Market is a debatable point!

Joyce Marsh (6 A)

LIBRARY REPORT

Committee: Miss Hoare, Hilary Blake-Knox, Joyce Marsh, Maeve Douglas, June Leach, Alison Smith, Meriel Crosse, Barbara Dowds, Hilary O'Neill, Natasha Souter and Elizabeth Plunkett.

We are very sorry that Miss Richards is no longer with us. She has given years of service to the welfare of the library and we are wholly indebted to her. It was she who built up the library to what it is today, giving up much of her spare time both in holidays, free periods and lunchtimes to organise it and keep it going, so we would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation of all her hard work.

We now have a new notice board in the library and on it are pinned book lists, newspaper articles and brightly coloured posters, painted by the girls in Art classes with Miss Bell's kind permission and assistance. This advertising has increased the number of members considerably and we now issue a membership card to each girl who joins.

The extra funds have enabled us to buy many new books and others were very kindly donated by Dr. Perry, Canon Johnston, some members of staff and girls themselves. These new books were put on display around the room. We have also begun class libraries for fifth and sixth years. The girls of these forms bring in books for the other members to read.

All this has meant that some re-arranging and labelling of shelves was necessary and at present we are also repairing damaged books. We thank Miss Hoare for assisting us with this work and for helping us to run the library efficiently.

Elizabeth Plunkett 5A

THE YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB 1970

President: Miss Jagoe.

Vice-President: Miss Good.

Organiser: Miss Williams.

Chairman: Helen Franklin.

Vice-Chairman: Amie Waldron-Hamilton.

Secretaries: Deirdre Fincher and Joyce Williams.

Treasurers: Hazel Whittaker and Naomi Faulkner.

Magazine Secretaries: Karen Foxall and Sandra Johnston.

Y.O.C. members have had an enjoyable year. In January Miss Jagoe and Miss Good invited members to a meeting in school. They first entertained us to tea and Christmas cake, and then each girl was asked to tell us something about birds she had seen in her area.

In February girls from 2nd., 3rd, and 5th Years attended a lecture in the R.D.S. on Conservation given by Professor R. A. McCabe of the American Ornithologists' Union.

On Saturday, 28th February, the Club took part in the European International Oiled Bird Count in co-operation with other clubs and societies. Twenty two girls patrolled Portmarnock strand with Miss Williams finding one dead guillemot (not oiled). Fifteen girls counted on the Burrow strand, Sutton, with Miss Caird, and found bodies of five gulls, not oiled. Mr. Miller of the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, very kindly took four of our senior members to Clogagh Strand, Arklow, where 12 oiled birds were found.

The March meeting was held in school. Members carefully pulled apart old nests of several species of birds, including robin, blackbird, swallow, chaffinch and eider duck, listing the materials used, and writing short accounts of the construction. This was very much enjoyed. At that meeting we were asked to take part in a project run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to find out which species of bird sings first in the morning. This involved getting up before dawn on Saturday, 21st March and noting the species, the exact time, the weather and the type of habitat. Miss Good played records of bird songs to help us to identify them, and a dozen girls succeeded in getting up next morning and making the observations. We sent their results to the R.S.P.B.

We visited the Zoo in April, mainly to study the bills, feet and colouring of birds, but we spent time looking at animals, too.

Y.O.C. members visited Ireland's Eye again in May. This expedition has become so popular that we unfortunately had to limit the numbers, as the boat could not take all who wanted to go. We saw many herring gulls all over the island, and some greater and lesser black backed gulls, and nests and eggs of all three species. Kittiwakes were nesting on the cliff ledges, and so were

some guillemots and razorbills. Girls who had visited the island before were surprised to see that there were fewer guillemots and razorbills nesting than in former years. This is probably due to deaths caused by oil spillage at sea and to P.V.C. pollution in the Irish Sea.

In June we visited Howth Castle Demesne, and though we saw few birds the rhododendrons were beautiful, and this was one of the most enjoyable outings.

We elected the new committee for 1970-71 in early October, and later that month we went to St. Anne's Estate, studied trees in the lovely grounds, saw a few woodland birds, and ate our picnic lunch there before moving on to the Bull Island. On the island many birds and hares were seen which delighted everyone.

A few days later, the 2 A.Y.O.C. members entertained the new 1st. Year girls to coffee. Slides of the work of the R.S.P.B. and of our own club were shown by Miss Williams, including some pictures of the new R.S.P.B. Reserve at Castle Caldwell, Co. Fermanagh.

The November outing was to Knocksink Woods. It was a lovely sunny day, but few birds were seen, so we turned our attention to trees, their leaves, fruits and buds. The autumn colouring was very attractive and to our surprise we found two clumps of primroses in full bloom.

We thank Miss Caird who has given up many free Saturdays to help us, and the parents, friends and 6th form girls who have helped with expeditions so willingly; without them our outings would have been less enjoyable, and some would have been impossible.

Joyce Williams.

A VISIT TO PORTMARNOCK

On Thursday, 10th September, Form 2 A met at school at 9.00 a.m. We were going to Portmarnock to study seashore life. There were about twenty of us including Miss Williams, Miss Caird, June Babington and Hazel Preston who were escorting us.

When we arrived at the rocky shore beyond the Martello Tower it was windy and raining, so Miss Williams suggested that we kept close to the low cliff for shelter. We started by collecting seashore flowers and plants. After fifteen minutes we grouped together and tried to identify the plants with the help of books and the members of staff. When we had done this we put our plants into plastic bags which we had

brought for this purpose.

Next we collected seaweeds from different zones of the shore from high tide mark to low tide level, and also weeds from deeper water which had been washed up on the beach. Again we gathered together, looked at each other's specimens and tried to identify them using reference books. We found brown tangle weeds, ribbon weeds, bootlace weeds, serrated wrack and bladder wrack; green sea lettuce, red coralline weeds and a red weed which is parasitic on serrated wrack. We put these specimens in plastic bags and went off to collect shells. We found various types of winkles, razor shells, cowries, cockles, dog-whelks, whelks, limpets, mussels and barnacles.

The tide by now was fully out and we went over to explore the many rock pools. We found many of the common red sea anemones, called beadlet anemones, but one girl noticed some green and brown anemones which are not seen very often on the East Coast. These were snakelocks anemones, which cannot retract their tentacles. In the pools were living specimens of winkles, dog-whelks, mussels and barnacles.

It was lunch time and so we went back to the cliffs to have lunch. It was raining slightly but no one minded. After lunch people went their separate ways, some going to look for the snakelocks anemones, others going down to the waters edge. Then we all went back to the rock pools where a star fish and a hermit crab had been found.

After this we had to pack up and go home. Everyone had enjoyed the day's outing. We were very grateful to Miss Williams and Miss Caird for bringing us and for the competition they arranged. Joyce Williams won a prize for the best essay on "Seashore Life" and Ruth Babington for the best collection of specimens from the shore, which she had identified accurately and displayed attractively.

Edwina Mundy (2A)

THE SEA

I love to roam along the shore
Upon a winter's day,
And listen to the crashing waves
And feel the stinging spray.

Then when the summer comes around
I laze upon the sand
Or paddle through the gentle waves
With my shoes held in my hand.

Helen Franklin (3A)

THE WAXWING

The Waxwing rarely comes to Ireland, as it nests in Scandinavia and does not emigrate regularly every year in winter, but at irregular intervals, it appears suddenly and unexpectedly in the British Isles. Some people think that shortage of food during a severe winter or few berries following a bad summer may force the birds to leave Scandinavia; others think that if the Waxwing population increases too much, some birds must go away.

This year a flock of waxwings came to Dalkey in January, and separated, going to different parts of Dublin. It was mild weather and there were many berries for food but if the birds then tried to go home again, it is probable that many would die on the journey. On Saturday 16th January, Mr. V. Styles was reversing his car from Braemor Grove to Braemor Avenue, when he saw a waxwing lying on the side of the road. He picked it up, brought it into the house and put it in a bird cage. The bird looked hungry and weary and could not fly, but after a while it began to peck at the bird seed and drink water. It revived quickly after this.

On Monday morning there was a notice in the Irish Times saying, that Mr. Styles had found a waxwing on Braemor Avenue, Churchtown, and had brought it home and fed it. The notice also said that after the bird had been shown to the girls of a Dublin College, it would be given to the Dublin Zoo. The Waxwing was brought to our school and shown to the girls. The bird did not seem to mind a bit when nearly 300 people gave it their attention but kept pecking away at his bird seed. Actually, Waxwings are very tame as they have few enemies in Scandinavia and so in this country they are easily caught by cats. The bird was nearly the same size as a starling and was a greyish-brown in colour. The wings were beautifully coloured with bright red, black, yellow and white feathers. The tips of the wings had red waxy feathers. The tail is short and wide and has black and yellow along the tip. The head was topped by a beautiful crest of brown and black feathers.

Our Waxwing was then photographed and taken to the Zoo. The people there were only too delighted to have it as they said it was the first Waxwing they had ever had, and they will look after it properly to the end of its life.

Helen Beardsley (2B)

SPORTS DAY 1970

Last year, the School Sports were held on Wednesday, 24th June, at 7.30 p.m. Fortunately, the weather was fine and the grounds were looking their best having had good attention from Mr. Dawson. Many parents and friends came to support us and we were delighted to welcome them.

We thank Miss Daunt, who organised the sports splendidly, introducing two new items—the Discus and the Shot—in which many girls were glad to take part.

Mrs. Gargan very kindly supplied the refreshments which were sold by the Past Pupils and gratefully appreciated by all.

We were glad to see present and former members of staff, many of whom helped Miss Daunt in numerous ways. Mr. J. B. Good was responsible for seeing that the electrical equipment provided us with a public address system, which was used by Miss Caird in her position as announcer. We also thank Miss Gill O'Callaghan for giving up her evening to come to help with the long and high jump.

We were honoured to have Mrs. F. C. Young, a physical education expert, present to distribute the prizes. For the first time, we received green and white badges as prizes. This idea was introduced by Miss Daunt and has proved a popular one.

The Taylor Cup was won by Rhona Merrey; the Staff Cup was won by Wendy Orr, and Emily Torrans; the Diocesan Cup was won by Helen Franklin; the Mathers Cup was won by Linda Matthews and the Form Cup was won by 5 A. Elizabeth Flewett was acclaimed Senior Hockey Player, and Jasmin Gaw, Junior Hockey Player. Rhona Merrey won the Belgrave Cup for coming first in the 440 yards.

The Anti Litter Committee was very active and appreciated the co-operation received from the schoolgirls in helping to clear up so efficiently and quickly.

J. McLindon and H. Myles 6 A.

BIRDS

From the Window I could see,
Little birds on the Lilac tree.
The wind was blowing them to and fro
They did not seem to mind it though.

Now and again they flew to the ground,
To the heap of crumbs piled in the mound.
I could have stayed there all day long,
Listening to their happy song.

Helen Beardsley (2 B).

THE BADMINTON CLUB

The 1969/70 badminton season has been one of the most successful since the club began five years ago.

Four teams entered for the Badminton Schools League, and of these, three were highly successful. The Second and Third team won the Shield in their respective sections. The Second team won their section by beating Wesley College in the final, and the Third team won their section on points, by winning all their matches. The First team reached the final of their section and after a difficult match lost to Wesley College. Unfortunately the Under-15's won only one match in four.

At present, 1970/71 there are approximately forty members in the club and membership is increasing all the time. We thank Mrs. Orr and Mrs. Duggan for giving up Monday and Thursday afternoons to coach us, Miss Caird for helping the organisation of the club and the trustees of Charleston Road Methodist Church for giving us the use of the hall.

Muriel Jackson, Ruth Blake-Knox.

SWIMMING

About eighty girls attend swimming on Saturday mornings at the Church of Ireland Training College in Rathmines. The girls are grouped into four different classes according to their ability, and are coached by Miss Daunt, Miss Caird and two Ling students. The more advanced girls enjoy diving from the diving board.

All the candidates who entered for the Bronze Medallion Award, the Advanced and the Preliminary Safety Awards of the Royal Life Saving Society, in June, received their awards.

We express our thanks to Miss Daunt, Miss Caird and the Ling students for coaching us.

Susan Barry (6B)

SWIMMING GALA

During the summer holidays Miss Daunt and Miss Caird, gave much thought to the drawing up of plans for our first swimming gala. The competitors entered and the programme was arranged. One Saturday in October, the Gala was held. Some parents and friends came to make the event more important, several members of staff were there

to help, and there was suppressed excitement in the changing rooms and on the brink of the pool.

There was a very exciting programme for both juniors and seniors. There was a pyjama race where the competitors swam in pyjamas and this seemed to be just as amusing for the competitors as for the spectators. There was a novelty race for both juniors and seniors which was entered for in pairs and one person held on to the other person's feet and raced along like one long body. There were also junior and senior relay races which were very exciting.

The whole swimming gala, which consisted of twelve events and the presentation of the prizes, was wonderfully organised to go through within the hour 9.30 to 10.30.

The following girls won prizes:

1. Junior Freestyle — 2 lengths — 1st Irene Graham; 2nd Gina Quin.
2. Senior Breaststroke — 3 lengths — 1st Anne Graham; 2nd Dorothy Babington.
3. Junior Candle race — 1 width — 1st Gina Quin; 2nd Avril Payne.
4. Senior Pyjama race — 1 length — 1st Wendy Orr; 2nd Janice Durham.
5. Junior Breaststroke — 2 lengths — 1st Barbara Cambell; 2nd Vicki Kilpatrick.
6. Senior Freestyle — 3 lengths — 1st Wendy Orr; 2nd Jennifer McLindon.
7. Junior Backcrawl — 3 lengths; 1st Gina Quin; 2nd Barbara Cambell.
8. Senior Backcrawl — 4 lengths — 1st Wendy Orr; 2nd Dorothy Babington.
9. Junior Novelty (in pairs) — 1 length; 1st Deirdre Fincher - Joyce Coates; 2nd Wendy Vincent - Helen Beardsley.
10. Senior Novelty (in pairs) — 2 lengths 1st Gillian Jackson - Olwyn Crosse; 2nd Jackie Ross — Dorothy Babington.
11. Junior Form Relay — 4 lengths — 1st 2a Linda Salisbury, Gina Quin, Ruth Babington and Irene Graham.
12. Senior Form Relay — 4 lengths — 1st 6b Jackie Ross, Susan Barry, Anne Graham and Dorothy Babington.

As lady member of the Committee of Management, Mrs. R. H. Dowse kindly came to present the prizes. We thank her sincerely for her keen interest and words of encouragement.

Dorothy Babington (6b).

SAILING

Last Summer Term, six senior girls, accompanied by Miss Williams, greatly enjoyed sailing lessons. They were held after school on Fridays, and we were instructed by Mr. Donald Archibald.

Susan and Hilary and Miss Williams were the first group that Mr. Archibald took out in his yacht, a Mermaid. It was a lovely sunny day with a good breeze, suitable weather for sailing. He taught us some of the "tricks of the trade" sailing inside Dun Laoghaire harbour around the other yachts. As we were making for the open sea, the mail boat Hibernia arrived from Holyhead. We felt very small below her great hull! Once we were outside the harbour we had fun manoeuvring the yacht towards Sandycove and then back to the harbour again in a lively sea. We got up great speed and had many a thrill as the boat heeled over.

The next group to go consisted of Ingrid Misstear, Dorothy, Daphne and Miss Williams. They were not so lucky with the weather and sailed round the harbour in thick mist. There was hardly a ripple on the water and at one stage they were becalmed.

At the end of June, Christina Attwood, Annie (Christina's French friend) and Dorothy went out. It was raining at first and they had to put on the oilskins so thoughtfully provided by Mr. Archibald. There was a large yacht from the United States in the harbour, and they sailed around it and also around a converted Galway hooker. The weather made sailing tricky as there were periods of no wind and flat calm, interrupted by occasional sudden gusts which whipped waves and could catch one off one's guard. There was much to be learnt about controlling the boat and steering under these conditions.

We would like to express our thanks to Miss Williams and Mr. Archibald for making it possible to have such an enjoyable experience.

**Daphne Hughes, Susan Barry,
Dorothy Babington, Hilary Maguire**

FENCING

This year in the Autumn term, girls from sixth form were lucky enough to have the opportunity to learn fencing. We were invited to join Trinity Fencing Club and are grateful to Mr. Thomas Connelly-Carew and to Miss Daunt for making this possible. We enjoyed the classes and mixed with a cross-

section of students who made us welcome. Unfortunately, none of us is able to attend this term due to the pressure of work.

H. Myles (6A)

HILL WALKING

Dublin, like many other cities in the world today, is a city of factory smoke and petrol fumes; not a healthy environment to live in, you will agree. But Dublin is also a fortunate city, for around it lies some of the most beautiful countryside in Ireland. Do we see enough of it? A certain pastime has become increasingly popular over the years which enables one to see more and more of beautiful parts of the country around us — that pastime is hill-walking.

In the past year, walks have been arranged by Miss Williams and Miss Caird for the fourth, fifth and sixth years to encourage them to appreciate these surroundings, and these have been very successful. Miss Williams and Miss Caird decide where the walk is to be, and by going on it by themselves first, find out the most suitable route, the time it will take, and take note of points of interest on the way. Then the girls who are interested are taken on this walk, to which we usually give a whole day, taking lunch with us.

So far we have climbed the Big Sugar Loaf and the Little Sugar Loaf, we have walked from Bray to Greystones over Bray Head and we have also visited Tow Rock and Three Rock Mountains. As well as having a lot of fun and enjoyment on these walks, we have seen some breath-taking views, places of historical interest, and many kinds of plants and animals. There are also many interesting features for those interested in Geography, and often when one sees a Geographical feature one remembers it more easily than if one is just told about it. On these walks we have had sunshine and freezing winds, we have had to climb up steep slopes against bracing winds, to put it mildly, and climbing down them is no easy job either, but it is all part of the fun. Our highest point so far is Two Rock where we were at 1763 ft. above sea level when we reached Fairy Castle.

We personally would recommend this pastime as it is a very enjoyable one, and we are very grateful to Miss Williams and Miss Caird for spending the time to give us this opportunity to take part in a very beneficial hobby.

Susan Rufli and Emily Torrains (4A)

THE HOCKEY REPORT 1970/71

This season we have three teams — the 1st XI, Junior and Minor — two of which entered for their respective Cup Matches.

In the Christmas term we had very few opportunities to play our matches due to the wet weather. Those which we did play were enjoyed by all the players, although we were not successful in all of them.

Two teams, a senior and junior, participated in a seven-a-side tournament in Belfield one Saturday in October. The junior team was not very successful, but they played with good spirit. The senior team were more successful and came second in their section.

The junior team, captained by Olwyn Crosse, won the first round of their Cup tournament by beating Holy Faith Convent, Finglas 3-1, but were beaten in the second round by Mount Anville. The 1st XI captained by Marie Davis, were beaten in the first round of their Cup by a much stronger team, Loreto Convent, Navan.

Last April the 1st XI team enjoyed a visit to Ballycastle, County Antrim, where they played a team from Ballycastle High School. We also travelled to Coleraine where we played a match against the 1st XI team in the Loreto Convent. Both matches were enjoyed by the players and they finished in a draw. We thank Miss Jagoe and Mr Jagoe, headmaster of Ballycastle High School, who made this trip possible, Miss Daunt and Miss Williams who accompanied us, the parents of the Ballycastle team who gave us hospitality, the Staff who showed us so much of the North Antrim Coast, and the Staff and girls of Loreto Convent, Coleraine who made us most welcome. We look forward to Ballycastle High School's next visit to Dublin, which we hope will be in the Spring of 1971.

We thank those who have showed an interest by supporting the teams but we should like to see an increase in the number of supporters at our matches.

Jennifer McLindon (Games Captain).

1st XI VISIT TO BALLYCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

On Thursday, 9th April, 1970, the 1st XI escorted by Miss Daunt and Miss Williams, travelled by train and bus to Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, arriving at the High School at 5 p.m. The hockey team and Mrs. Henry, the games mistress, were there to meet us, and after introductions they showed us round the

modern school. Then the headmaster, Mr. Jagoe, welcomed us at tea in the school canteen, where we were joined by the Vice-Principal, Mr. Boyd, and Mrs. Hoey, the Senior Mistress.

After tea, two mini-buses were waiting to take the two hockey teams on a three hour tour of the Glens of Antrim, guided by Mr. Boyd, who pointed out much of interest in the beautiful countryside which he knows and loves so well. We stopped above Murlough Bay which is preserved by the National Trust. There we saw a monument erected to the memory of Sir Roger Casement and looked across the North Channel to Scotland. We were driven through seven of the nine Glens of Antrim, stopping in Cushendun and Cushendall, and we also walked up to a Penal Altar in a wood in Glengariff.

Parents of the Ballycastle girls were waiting for us on our return, and each Diocesan girl was welcomed into one of their homes for the duration of our visit.

We were warmly welcomed by Mr. Jagoe at morning assembly on Friday morning, after which the Diocesan team went on a mini-bus tour of the North Antrim Coast, with Mr. Boyd as our guide again. Unfortunately it was sleeting most of the morning, but even so, we stopped at Ballintoy to see the white chalk cliffs containing flint nodules, and to look at a huge fossil ammonite at the harbour. We paused to look down on Whitepark Bay, another beautiful National Trust property, and admired a fine new Youth Hostel about to be opened, and some of us resolved to return to this lovely coast. We also stopped at the ruins of Dunseverick Castle, an impressive site on a rock, and at Portmoon, where there are six-sided basalt pillars in the shape of organ pipes. In spite of the rain we had a good walk at the Giant's Causeway. We climbed over some of the hexagonal columns of basalt rock and looked at the strange formations. The Ulster Museum's display boards with excellent notes and diagrams helped us to understand the geology of the region.

We then proceeded to Coleraine via Portballintrae and Bushmills.

Having been shown round St. Patrick's Church, Coleraine, we had lunch in the Lombard Café, and then went to Loreto Convent, situated on a hill overlooking Coleraine with fine views of the town and the River Bann. The rain had stopped, and the sun shone. We played an exciting hockey match, ending in a

draw, on their all-weather pitch. Then the girls showed us over their school, and gave us an enormous tea in their new canteen.

That evening some members of the Diocesan team were brought by their hostesses to a Christian Aid concert in Ballycastle, in which every school in the town took part. Others climbed Knocklayde and attended a barbecue there, which was also run to raise funds for Christian Aid. At both these functions we witnessed the harmony between the Protestant and Roman Catholic people of Ballycastle.

On Saturday morning, which was bitterly cold, we played the Ballycastle High School 1st XI, this game also ending in a draw. We had a substantial lunch in the school canteen and left Ballycastle at 12.45 p.m. After tea in the Presbyterian Hostel in Belfast, we left for Dublin, arriving tired but happy at 7.30 p.m. at Connolly Station where Miss Jagoe and Miss Good met us.

We thank Miss Jagoe, Mr. Jagoe, Mr. Boyd and Mrs. Henry, who put much effort into organising such a full and varied programme, Miss Daunt and Miss Williams for accompanying us, and the girls in Ballycastle and Coleraine who gave us such friendly welcomes. We are most grateful to parents and members of staff in Ballycastle who made us so welcome in their homes.

Hilary Myles (6A)

OLD DIOCESAN HOCKEY CLUB HOCKEY REPORT SEASON 1970/71

We ended last season with very satisfactory results which were quite a boost to our morale. The first XI finished 4th in the Middle League, the second XI finished 3rd in the Junior League and the third XI finished 2nd in the Minor League. The third XI also reached the semi finals of the Badges.

We began this season with a slight drop in members due to Emigration and Marriages but are still able to field three teams. We had hoped to welcome some of last years Six Form into the Club but we were rather disappointed that none of them joined us. It will be very hard to keep Old Diocesan Hockey Club going if we do not have the support of the School leavers in future years as in past years.

We are well under way with this years League and Badges matches. Unfortunately, our third XI were knocked out of the Badges in the second round. Our second XI reached the third round while our first XI are due to

play the Semi Finals of their section of the Badges on March 6th. At the time of going to press we have no idea how we stand in the Leagues.

In February last year we held our second session of Bowling in the Stillorgan Bowling Alley with supper afterwards in Mrs. Cicily Vincent's house. Unfortunately, this night was not very well supported but was, nevertheless, very enjoyable. In April we made up a party to go to a Dinner Dance in the Green Isle Hotel, Clondalkin. This was very badly supported by club members for no apparent reason, but those who went had a good time.

A trip to Cork was organised for a weekend at the end of April. Seventeen of the club went, two matches were played and altogether it was a fantastic success, so much so that we are organising another trip this season.

In September we opened the season with a Wine and Cheese Party in the Hon. Secretary's house to introduce new members. Another Bowling session followed in October with supper in Mrs. Deirdre Steward's house. A much more successful evening was held in November when we organised a Table Tennis tournament in Mayfield lawn tennis club. Everyone had a hilarious time whether they could play or not. In December about twenty of us went Carol Singing in the Cabinteely District and raised over £16 for the Dun Laoghaire Old Folks Association. Mrs. McDonnell kindly invited us to have supper at her house which finished off the night very nicely. At the end of January a party went to the Pantomime in the Olympia. For the rest of the season we hope to have a "Travelling Supper", another trip to Cork, a return visit from a Cork team and most important, a Jumble Sale on April 8th, so please keep your jumble for us. We have been kindly invited to an evening with the Senior School members which we look forward to.

As you can see we have quite a good social side to our Club, very capably organised by our social secretary, Mrs. Ethni Seymour and her Committee. We hope this will encourage some of this year's sixth form to come and join us.

Patricia Williams, Hon Secretary.

BELLEVUE WOODS

A few days before school opened in September, 1970, the new girls of first year met Miss Williams, Miss Caird and Mrs. Poynt-

ton in school and were introduced to each other. Joy Taylor—1970/71 Head Girl—had made name-badges for each girl to wear so that all names would be known. The three members of Staff, Joy, and also Susan Barry and Dorothy Babington had brought in illustrated books and specimens of trees and spent a little while showing these and explaining what we might see in the woods. We set off by special coach to the Glen of the Downs to visit the Nature Trail in Bellevue Woods. When we arrived, Mr. Maher, who is in charge of the Forestry Department in Bray, and two other foresters came to meet us and gave us leaflets about Conservation Year and told us about it. Then one of the foresters came as our guide on the trail.

He told us that the oaks at stop 1 are 140 years old and grew from stumps, after the previous crop had been harvested. The oak supplied the timber for houses, boats and furniture for many centuries. Near these oaks you can find holly, rowan and hazel.

On our way to the next stop we passed a rock which is hundreds of millions of years old. It is a very hard rock called quartzite. At stop 2 is an oak tree which is dying because someone broke off some of its branches in the past. This tree has made an effort to heal the wound and keep out the rot.

At stop 3 you can see an exposed root where the soil has fallen away. Throughout the trail you can hear the songs of birds which live in the woods. Jays and magpies live there all the year round.

If you look through the gap in the trees at stop 4 you can study the opposite side of the Glen. On the steepest slope is found the oak. Above this is furze and above the furze, on the highest elevation, grow heather and mountain grasses.

Every time we came to a stop our guide would explain what was to be seen there. When we came to post No. 10 we all stopped and were quiet because we hoped that we would be able to see, or even hear a squirrel skipping through the trees with great speed, but to our disappointment we did not, though on the ground we found fir cones that had been chewed by squirrels.

At stop 14 there is a clearing which was once a garden. Nearby was the house which is now made into a shelter. We stopped there to have a snack.

When we had finished we went on, and whenever we saw blackberries we would pick and eat them. We did not eat any other

kind of fruit just in case it was poisonous.

We followed the trail downhill until we came to a fork, we then followed the trail uphill, and it was so steep that we were exhausted when we at last reached the top. At the bottom of the hill was a box which had fire beaters in it, just in case there was a forest fire. We continued along the path for a short distance, and we arrived at the end of the trail.

We thank Miss Jagoe for organising this expedition, the members of staff and sixth form girls who accompanied us, and Mr. Maher and his colleagues who made our visit to Bellevue Woods so interesting and enjoyable.

Jennifer Cole (1D)

ACCOUNT OF SCHOOL TOUR OF THE LIFFEY VALLEY

On April 10th, at 9.30 a.m. Second Year set off on a tour of the Liffey Valley accompanied by Miss Minion, Mrs. Perry and Miss Stevenson.

The first town of importance was Blessington, which has a population of 500. We were taken along the lake drive and came to the Poulaphuca Reservoir, which is a reserve reservoir for Dublin. The Poulaphuca Falls are harnessed for electricity. From here we went to Kilcullen via Ballymore — Eustace which is a Norman town. Kilcullen is a country market town.

In the afternoon the Curragh was visited. The Curragh is the largest unfenced field in Europe, it is a hummocky region of 5,000 acres. On it sheep are grazed by the neighbouring farmers and there one sees a race course and a Military Camp. We then proceeded on a tour of the Japanese Gardens, which tell the story of Man's life from birth to death.

We went homewards then by way of Newbridge, Maynooth, Leixlip and Lucan, stopping at Maynooth to be told the history of the college. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this interesting tour.

Helen Franklin 3a

A TOUR OF THE LIFFEY VALLEY

On the 23rd April, 1970, the third year accompanied by Mrs. Perry and Miss Caird, set out on a tour of the Liffey Valley.

On reaching Poulaphuca we took a different route to Kilcullen, passing by the Ballynochan district whose granite quarries supplied the materials for the building of

Nelson's Pillar, the original G.P.O., Trinity College and some of Dublin's pavements. We then passed through Ballymore Eustace, a country village whose houses were originally thatched with straw.

County Kildare has many stud farms, the most modern being Ardenade Stud. The owner has given a considerable amount of money for Cancer Research in Ireland.

Having made a land use map of the streets of Kilcullen we had dinner and then proceeded to Old Kilcullen which consists of a round tower, parts of three Celtic crosses which indicates the existence of an ancient monastery and a graveyard. The view across miles of the Central Plain is breath - taking.

On our journey to the Japanese Gardens we passed through the Curragh, also known as St. Brigid's pastures. This is a fine example of undulating land and was formed by the depositions of ice sheets during the Ice Age. The Government owns the 5,000 acres of the Curragh, some of which is hired to the neighbouring farmers for grazing sheep. It is also the site of seven military camps and rifle ranges. Sometimes County Kildare is known as "The Backbone of Irish Racing" as there are over two hundred racing establishments on the Curragh alone.

After visiting the Japanese Gardens which depict man's life from the cradle to the grave, we went to see the cathedral named St. Brigid. This stands where an immense oak once grew and St. Brigid established her nunnery beside this tree. The Cathedral consists of two parts, one of which is older than the other, and has beautifully tiled floors and stained glass windows which depict scenes from the Bible. There are many remnants of the old church i.e. tomb facings, vessels and sculptured figures still to be seen inside.

Heading for home we passed through Clane, Sallins and crossing the bridge over the Liffey in Celbridge, we were once more in Co. Dublin. It was not long until we reached school and our very enjoyable trip was over.

We thank Miss Jagoe for arranging this tour for us and Mrs. Perry and Miss Caird for accompanying us.

Joan Ellis and Emily Torrans 4A

OUR TRIP TO ARMAGH

On May 1st, 1970 the members of fourth year, accompanied by Mrs Perry, Miss Kidd

and Mrs McMahon, went on a geographical outing to Dundalk and Armagh.

We travelled from Dublin to Dundalk by train noting on the way the geographical aspects of the landscape and the ways in which it varied from region to region.

We duly arrived in Dundalk, where we toured the city and surrounding areas, and were shown factories and historical buildings such as Saint Nicholas's Church.

Having seen Dundalk, we travelled by bus to Blackrock, a sea-side resort, passing Saint Brigid's birthplace, Faughart Hill, from where we had a wonderful view of the region, and then had lunch in a restaurant on the sea-front.

After the meal, we went to Armagh by coach, crossing the border without any fuss or commotion, and enjoyed the journey immensely as we saw the countryside at its best.

Slieve Gullion, a ringdyke, which is a large peak surrounded by low hills, was pointed out to us, among other striking features.

We toured Armagh city on foot, visiting the two cathedrals, which tower above the city on opposite hills and then went to an unusual and interesting show at the Planetarium, "The Theatre of the Stars". This Planetarium is the first of its kind in Ireland and in the bee-hive shaped building, the night sky was projected on to a large hemisphere and the legends of the constellations were illustrated.

Then we returned to Dundalk by coach, glad to be back in our native Republic, had tea in the Lorne Hotel and from there returned home by train, educated and exhausted.

We thank Miss Jagoe for making this trip possible, Mrs Perry for instructing us and Mrs McMahon and Miss Kidd for accompanying us.

**Jean Hosford and Elizabeth Plunkett.
(4th Year).**

A TRIP AROUND LOUGH NEAGH

Lough Neagh is the largest lake in Ireland. During the summer a small steamer, called "The Maid of Antrim" takes parties of people on trips around the lake. Last July, I was taken on one of these trips. Having been informed that the steamer left at eight o'clock we set out from Bangor in good time. We pulled into the car park at twenty-to-eight, just in time to see the steamer chugging

slowly out of sight. It took us a minute to realise what had happened but when we did we roared with laughter. Obviously we had been told the wrong time. The man who owned the steamer was very sorry about the mix-up, so he promised to take us on a trip when the steamer returned.

Two hours later we were boarding the steamer and off we went. There were two cabins, one at the front and the other near the back. In the latter, tea, coffee, minerals and biscuits were served. There were seats over this cabin where one could sit in the open, but unfortunately it was very cold and after sitting for a while we had to go below.

As the steamer went along, the skipper pointed out many interesting things as well as telling us something about the history of the steamer. He showed us Shane O'Neill's castle and lands and told us of his life. We saw settlements, but because it was getting dark we could not see very well. Added to the darkness, it began to get foggy and so visibility was extremely poor.

Then the skipper asked if anybody was interested in the radar system, and we were shown the equipment. We knew by this means that the steamer was heading for the coast. Minutes later we disembarked.

I enjoyed the trip very much and hope to go again.

Caroline McCamley 4A.

A TOUR OF ENNISCORTHY AND NEW ROSS

On 16th September, 1970, fourth year were taken on an educational tour. Miss Stewart, Dr and Mrs Perry, Mrs MacMahon and Mr Burns accompanied us. We set off at about 9.30 and although the weather was not promising it did not rain. We made our way south through the suburbs and crossed the Wicklow border into Bray. We had a lovely drive through the lower slopes of the Wicklow Mountains, near the coast, and the sun began to shine. The bus stopped at "The Meeting of the Waters" and we went on to the bridge to look at this famous beauty spot. This is where the two rivers in Wicklow — The Avoca and The Vartry meet, and the poet Thomas Moore is supposed to have been inspired to write his well known poem "The Meeting of the Waters" on seeing it. We continued our journey South and we passed through Arklow which is a popular holiday-resort and fishing port, the Arklow Pottery factory is also situated here.

From there we passed through Gorey but we did not stop until we had reached Enniscorthy, on the River Slaney. We first climbed Vinegar Hill which commands an excellent view of the neighbouring countryside. County Wexford is known for the part that its people played in the Rising of 1798. It was here on Vinegar Hill that the United Irishmen's rising was defeated by the English forces. We returned to Enniscorthy where we had lunch. Next, we spent a short while in the wonderful Castle museum. There are many relics of the Insurrection such as pike-heads (the Irish had no arms) and examples of the dress of that period. It would be impossible to list the number of interesting objects that were in the Castle museum. We returned to the bus and set out for New Ross, unfortunately we had no time to get out and see the town, but at least we saw it from the bus. It was only a short journey to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Park. We drove around the park for a while and then we strolled around the Arboretum. We saw some fine examples of some rare trees and shrubs which have been planted there recently. Dr Perry took some photographs of girls standing by the trees. We returned to New Ross and began our way North again via Carlow, Kilcullen and Naas. Unfortunately we did not stop at any of these places as the time had passed very quickly and the girls were becoming tired. We arrived at school at 8.30 pm.

We thank Miss Jagoe for arranging this tour for us and the members of staff who accompanied us, and made the day so enjoyable.

Carol Foxe and Linda Graham 4A.

FIFTH YEAR'S VISIT TO CORK

On 5th May, fifth year arrived in school at 7.45 to go on a trip to Cork. A coach came to take us to Heuston Station from where we caught the 8.45 train to Cork. Mrs Perry, Miss Stevenson and Miss Good accompanied us. On the journey we studied the land use and features of the surrounding countryside.

We arrived in Cork, had lunch and set off by coach to visit the famous St Ann's Church, Shandon. We climbed to the top of the tower to study the site of the city and some of us tried our hand at ringing the bells.

We then were brought to the Honan chapel of University College where we saw the beautiful mosaic floor. We walked round

the University grounds and remarked on its pleasant layout and appearance.

We went for a tour of Cork city to study the different regions, and we saw the docks and the industrial area.

Our next stop was the County Library where we saw maps dating from 1545, illustrating the development of the city, together with photographs from the beginning of this century. We are much indebted to the Library Staff, who not only closed the reference room to others for the duration of our visit, but also gave us of their time, energy and experience when showing us the material. We acknowledge, too, the long distance arrangements made for the viewing, and thank Mrs Greenwood for making a special trip from her home in the suburbs to ensure that all would be ready for us.

On the journey to Cobh, we studied the formation of the harbour and saw the position of the Whitegate Oil Refinery and the Irish steel works. We walked round Cobh and some girls visited the Cathedral.

The coach brought us back to Cork where we had tea before catching the train back to Dublin. We arrived back at school at 9.30 pm tired but well satisfied with our trip.

We are very grateful to Miss Jagoe for making this trip possible and for her arrangements which greatly added to the enjoyment of the day; and to Mrs Perry and Miss Stevenson for instructing us and to Miss Good for accompanying us.

Pat Coghlan and Juliet Ensor (6a)

GLENCREE FIELD TRIP

On Thursday 17th September, 1970, sixth form went on a field trip to Glencree, Lough Tay and Lough Bray to study geology, relief, soils and land use. We were escorted by Mrs Perry, Miss Stevenson and Mr Burns, while Miss Williams and Miss Caird followed the coach in their own cars.

We travelled via the Featherbed to the head of Glencree Valley where we were joined by Miss Richards, Miss Good and Dr Perry who instructed us. The cardrivers ferried us in small groups through Sally Gap to Lough Tay as the road is closed to coaches. On reaching Lough Tay we sat on a wind-swept slope high above the lake which stretched beneath us like a map. We studied the relief, land use and vegetation, and collected soil and rock specimens which were later put on display. Both Dr and Mrs Perry gave us an interesting talk on the surrounding

area and its formation. Lough Tay was formed when moraine blocked the upper part of a glaciated valley, which is now very attractive. One side of the lake is planted with conifers, while the other side is very steep and barren with scree at the bottom. There is a river which flows into one end of Lough Tay and out the other to flow into Lough Dan. The land through which the river flows before entering Lough Tay is pasture and some cattle were to be seen grazing there. Where the river actually enters the lake is a very attractive, small, clean, sandy beach.

We left Lough Tay by car and alighted again at a lay-by on a hill opposite Lough Bray to enable the drivers to turn back for more passengers. Mrs Perry explained the glaciology of the region to group after group as the drivers brought the girls from Lough Tay. Lough Bray is one of two corrie lakes, with an arrête between them. Unfortunately we had not sufficient time to walk over the bog to either Upper or Lower Lough Bray. We then walked back to the bus very ready for our lunch.

From the bus we studied, with Mrs Perry's guidance, the U-shaped valley of Glencree which provided an interesting cross-section of vegetation and land use. We wound up our field trip by going home through Enniskerry and the Scalp.

We thank everyone who contributed to making our field trip possible, particularly Mrs Perry and all the car drivers who gave their time and cars so generously.

Susan Moore, Hilary Myles (6a).

FIELD TRIP TO THE WICKLOW MOUNTAINS

On the morning of Monday, 14th September, 1970, some Sixth Year and Fourth Year girls went on a field expedition to the Wicklow Mountains. We were accompanied by Dr and Mrs Perry, who planned the tour, and Miss Stevenson, with Miss Williams and Miss Bell providing a car escort. The purpose of the trip was to make a general survey of the Wicklow Mountains, studying the geology, land use and settlement, relief and drainage, glacial features and vegetation. Apart from observing the landscape from the coach, we stopped a number of times in order to study parts in more detail.

Our first stop was at the Scalp, a gorge-like valley formed by the melting ice of glaciers.

At Long Hill, we got another taste of

mountain air by climbing to a good vantage point, on the top of which we had a fine view of the surrounding countryside. From this, piont Dr. Perry pointed out features of the landscape and one could see on the slopes of the mountain where fields had been deserted, and gorse and heather were invading.

We continued on the road to Roundwood, and passed the large reservoir on the raised Vartry plain. Roundwood is very attractive and apparently has a good deal of tourist attraction. We also passed through Laragh, another picturesque village, before we reached Glendalough. Here we visited the Upper Lake. Having left the coach at the car park, we spent a few minutes studying the various aspects of the landscape, which included scree, hanging valleys, and truncated spurs. We enjoyed the walk beside the lake, to the head of the valley, where a small waterfall was tumbling down the rocks. From this vantage point, we had a good view of the glaciated valley with effects of weathering very visible. There was also the remains of a settlement as many years ago, the lead mines there had been worked.

Having left Glendalough after lunch, we proceeded to follow the Wicklow foothills to the south, stopping at Rathdrum to inspect the site of this village; the old part in the valley, the new on the hillside. To the west of us, on steep slopes, were extensive areas of plantation forest which eventually gave way to fertile undulating farmland around the southern edge of the mountains.

We finally reached Blessington, where we made our final stop. We all walked down to the edge of the reservoir, which provides much of Dublin's water. Blessington itself is a small market town, with a wide street, and a church dating back to Plantation days.

We arrived back in Dublin, soon after 6 pm, and we all felt that the trip had been well worthwhile, and we all benefitted greatly from it.

We thank Miss Jagoe for sanctioning the trip, and the Staff who made such careful plans for our instruction and safety.

Daphne Evans (6A).

SIXTH YEAR'S VISIT TO THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

On Wednesday 28th October, 1970, 6B geography class accompanied by Miss Stevenson, visited the Meteorological Office in O'Connell Street. The following week, 6A

made a similar visit accompanied by Mrs Perry. On arrival, the classes were met by a senior member of the staff, who first of all, explained the use of all the equipment on the roof. The most noteworthy piece of equipment was the Stevenson Screen, which is a louvred wooden box containing thermometers — a maximum and a minimum thermometer, also a humidity gauge. The temperature and humidity are recorded automatically.

The classes were also shown rain gauges; a Campbell—Stokes sunshine recorder which provides a daily record of the duration of sunshine; and an anemometer which consists of four cups rotating on a vertical pivot to give wind speed and direction. Before being taken inside we were told about observations which the meteorologist has to make by simply looking around him, for example cloud amount and visibility.

In the meteorological office information was being received from other meteorological stations, and was being recorded on weather maps which were explained to us.

All of sixth year are very grateful to Miss Stevenson and Mrs Perry for arranging these visits.

Joy Taylor (6B)

FISH COOKERY COMPETITION 1970 Sponsored by B.I.M.

The first round of this competition was held in school having entrants from 2nd to 6th years. One afternoon, each girl from Home Economics classes in the school prepared her dish which contained one of the four specified kinds of fish. Miss Williams and Mrs O'Donoghue judged these dishes and announced Shelley Anderson (5th year) and June Leach (4th year) as the girls who would represent the school in the next round. This took place a few weeks later in The Dominican Convent, Donnybrook. The following evening the competitors from Dublin attended a reception in the Gresham Hotel where prizes were awarded to the best fish cooks in North and South Dublin. Every school winner received a wooden plaque. Dublin was divided into two parts, north and south, because of the large number of competitors. Prizes of money were awarded to two girls from each fish section, amounting to eight prizes in all. June Leach was awarded five guineas for the best cod fish dish in south Dublin.

Two winners were chosen to represent Dublin in the County Final. Unfortunately, no one from Diocesan was chosen but I know the girls and teachers were pleased with their efforts.

We thank Mrs O'Donoghue who has given us the knowledge which makes it possible for us to enter these competitions and reach such a high standard.

June Leach (5A).

C.M.S. DEBATE

On Friday, 5th March an interschool debate was held in the C.M.S. Hall, Molesworth Street. The motion before the House was "That the main problem of our times is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting but that it has not been tried". Valerie Carroll and Maeve Douglas represented Diocesan, one of the eight schools competing. Valerie proposed the motion and Maeve opposed it.

The debate began at 7.45 pm and each speaker was called in turn. It was very interesting to hear the different views and attitudes taken towards the motion. Most of the speeches were serious and forceful.

The Chairman, Rev F. Kenny, then threw the debate open to the floor. The first speaker lightened the atmosphere by speaking in an hilariously satirical fashion. When a second speaker gave his opinion an argument arose between him and Elizabeth Plunkett. The argument was heated and both speakers spoke excellently. After contributions from the floor, tea and biscuits were served.

Then the Adjudicators, Miss B. Hoare and Rev D. Harmann, gave their opinions and nominated winners who were, Sean Lynch from St Columba's and Suzanne Potts from Masonic Girls' School. The evening was ended by a number of speeches from Celebrities.

The evening was very enjoyable and the motion was carried. We thank Miss Caird and the girls who attended the debate from Diocesan for their much appreciated support.

Valerie Carroll (5A).

BIOLOGY CONFERENCE

During the Christmas holidays, 1970, a number of senior girls attended a two day Biology Conference, arranged by the Institute of Biology of Ireland, at Belfield, Stillorgan. Specialists who are actively involved in pure and applied Biology gave of their time to stimulate and spread an interest among senior pupils at post primary schools,

in various aspects of the science.

The conference was opened by the Minister for Lands, Mr. Sean Flanagan T.D. at 9.45 a.m. on Monday 21st December. Lectures were given in the morning on Evolution and Genetics and in the afternoon on Behaviour Patterns in animals. From these lectures we learnt much which assists us greatly in our class work. The use of slides and films illustrating the topics added much to our interest. After each lecture time was given for questions which were answered by the experts. A break for lunch at 1.00 p.m. was refreshing and the food was good.

The second day was spent studying some aspects of Applied Biology. A slide-illustrated lecture entitled "On Looking at Trees and Seeing Them" proved very interesting during the morning session. The day ended with a talk on Careers in Biology where a panel of specialists answered questions asked by the students. The topics discussed dealt mainly with University studies and post graduate careers but also included Laboratory Technology and Veterinary Nursing.

The conference was most informative and gave us much food for thought. Of course, an added attraction to the conference was that a mixed body of students attended it. We are grateful to the Council of Institiúid Bitheolaíochta na hEireann for arranging this twelfth annual conference.

Valerie Carroll 5A.

CONSERVATION YEAR CARAVAN

On 3rd December last a Conservation Year caravan drew up outside school. It was an exhibition on wheels of the many aspects of European Conservation Year. Each class went out separately to see this exhibition.

On one side of the caravan were photographs of various places in Ireland, where wild life needs to be conserved such as the Wexford Slobs, Aran Mor and Aran Beag. Under each photograph was written a most interesting account of the area. There were also pictures of various animals and birds whose numbers are diminishing. This shows the need for the conservation of wild life. At the far end of the caravan were photographs of nature reserves which have been set up throughout the country. One of these was in the Glen of the Downs where one can see many different types of trees and wild life.

The most interesting part of the exhibition was, I think a survey of the behaviour of

certain species of birds, illustrated by diagrams and photographs. There was also a set of pictures showing otters, deer and squirrels which are not very often seen in Ireland.

On leaving we were given leaflets on Conservation Year and the Country Code.

This exhibition was very interesting and educational and made many of us realise the importance of Conservation Year.

Alison Smith (5A).

ALCOHOLISM

On Monday, 8th February, a lecture on alcoholism and its causes was given to the fifth and sixth years. The speakers were Mrs. Mary O'Hagan, director of the Dublin Service of the Irish National Council on Alcoholism (INCA) and her friend, a housewife, broadcaster, and reformed alcoholic. The speakers were introduced by Miss Williams.

Mrs O'Hagan told us that alcoholism occurs, not because of weakness of character, but because it is a disease which starts and grows like any other disease. Unfortunately, there is no cure for alcoholism and if a reformed alcoholic takes even one drink he will quite probably start drinking heavily again. This can be fatal.

The story was told of a seventy-year-old reformed alcoholic who took a drink at his daughter's wedding, his first drink in twenty years. Within six months he died of alcoholic poisoning.

In Ireland, Mrs O'Hagan told us, at least 20,000 people and possibly as many as 60,000, suffer from the advanced stages of alcoholism. Often their illness is not recognised by family or friends and the alcoholic is usually the last to admit that he suffers from this disease.

The other speaker gave us details from her own experiences as an alcoholic which pointed out to us how seriously the disease affects the alcoholic and how worrying it can be for his family. She said how delighted she was that she had no children because, very often, it is they who suffer most. Alcoholics tend to be very irritable. Alcoholic husbands often beat their wives. Alcoholic wives often beat their children.

Alcoholics may get heavily into debt. A husband may spend the salary on one night's drinking. The wives always manage to include some bottles of cheap wine in the week-end shopping.

Like many other alcoholics our speaker

did not realise she was suffering from alcoholism. For twelve years she thought she was "another hard drinker". When she read about alcoholism she realised that she had all the symptoms — a great capacity for drink, a complete dependence on it as some people depend on cigarettes, in fact an addiction to drink. The American Council on Alcoholism defines the alcoholic as a "person who is powerless to stop drinking and whose drinking seriously alters his normal living pattern".

The great disaster is that few people realise, or take the trouble to learn, just what alcoholism is and what it can do. We are grateful to Miss Jagoe for having invited Mrs. O'Hagan and her friend to lecture us on a subject which will quite probably affect us in some way in years to come.

Linda Jones (6A).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

On Saturday 28th November 1970, four members of 5A attended a conference at the Church of Ireland Training College, Rathmines. The subject for consideration was "Attitudes to Religion and Politics". It was a one day conference with lectures in the morning and discussions in the afternoon. The lectures were given by Senator Mary Bourke, Senator Neville Keery and Senator Tony Brown.

After lunch two discussion groups were formed to discuss the present government's policies. One group was presided over by Senator Keery and the other by Senator Mary Bourke. At these discussions we realised how little we knew about politics. However other members of the groups having a wide knowledge of the subjects made the discussions very lively and interesting. Different ministers and their work were discussed, we spoke of the housing problems and the Arms Trial. An interest was aroused in all of us to know more about Politics in Ireland. Then, having enjoyed afternoon tea, the group assembled in the hall to summarise the day's discussions.

The conference gave students a chance to express their opinions on Irish politics and the politicians a chance to listen and offer guidance. If there were more conferences like this, people would take a more active part in politics and would have more knowledge of the Government's policies. We think that the purpose of Senator Keery, Senator Bourke and Senator Brown giving

up their day to attend this conference was to impart some of their knowledge and opinions to students, to arouse their interest in politics and this they most certainly did.

Valerie Carroll (5A).

A DRAMA IN CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

"Murder in the Cathedral" written for the Canterbury festival of 1935, remains one of the great plays of this century. Like Greek drama, its theme and form are rooted in religion and ritual, purgation and renewal, and it was this return to the earliest source of drama that brought verse triumphantly back to the English, and in this case, Irish stage.

Although the dialogue was rather inaudible from the rear of the church due to the faulty acoustics, the impressive setting, the punctilious action and the astringent music were ample compensations. Christopher Casson was martyrdom personified, so much so that we suspected that he was the noble Archbishop Beckett, himself, reincarnated. The most remarkable feature of this production was the pattern of sanctity, which left us involved and aware of our involvement throughout the play.

When Becket's Christmastide sermon had been delivered by Casson from the pulpit, some of us had become so enraptured by it that we prepared to stand after the final blessing. Also, when the knights, brandishing their swords, raced up the aisle towards Becket, the audience quaked nervously and silence, interrupted by brusque footsteps, prevailed. Having murdered Becket, the knights stepped out of their twelfth century skins to address a twentieth century audience in contemporary jargon, euphemisms and circumlocutions. However, before doing so, they artfully surveyed the audience to prepare us for the forthcoming bland apologies, which effectively acted as activity-boosters to us, since they stirred us out of our complacency and left us with something to think about.

It was an excellent play, dramatic in its theme, and setting, and even the murder itself was entertaining!

Joyce Marsh (6A).

A VISIT TO DUBLIN CASTLE

On Friday, the 18th September, as it was a very wet day, instead of going to Bellevue Woods, about thirty girls of 3rd year and

Mrs. Stillman, Miss Stevenson, Miss Caird and Miss Williams, went on a tour of Dublin Castle.

This ancient Castle was built by King John and the main part was completed in 1215. On entering through the main gateway we stood in the Upper Castle yard. Directly in front of us were the State apartments which are reserved for state receptions.

We went in through the huge outer door into an outer hall. On either side of the room are benches covered in red velvet and in alcoves in the walls stand huge bronze statues of famous people.

A guide then showed us through the large glass door into the hall which is fully carpeted. A wide staircase stands in the middle of this large hall.

On reaching the landing we entered through the middle door and came into St. Patrick's Hall. This magnificent room with its painted ceiling (1778) has at each end of it a balcony, one for the musicians and the other for the onlookers. The room is carpeted in a deep blue from wall to wall and from the walls hang banners of different Knights. The room is lit by many dazzling chandeliers.

We then visited the Birmingham Tower room, the carpet of which corresponds to the designed ceiling above it. All round the room are Chippendale chairs with seats of matching material. In the centre is a round cushioned seat. All the carpets in the Castle were specially designed and hand-woven at Killybegs.

The next room we were shown was the Wedgewood Room, which is painted blue with white medallions on the walls. The carpet is oval-shaped and has the design of a phoenix on it.

After passing through a small room we entered the large Dining Hall. A large polished wood table with matching chairs takes up the centre of the room, and hanging on the walls are portraits of important people.

The next room we visited was the Throne Room. The huge Throne is covered with red velvet. The carpet in this room is yellow and brown and beautifully woven. Many beautiful ornaments are scattered round the room.

We looked into a Drawing Room then, but we were unable to enter it. Like all the other rooms it is specially carpeted and furnished. The room is rectangular in shape and leading into it are glass doors.

We were then shown the State Corridor, the rooms of which used to be bedrooms, but which were later converted into drawing rooms. Each room is exquisite in its own fashion. In two of these rooms the plaster ceilings were removed from Tracton House and Mespil House before demolition and have been carefully put up in the Castle. The ceilings represent knowledge and they are beautifully created to show this. In one particular room there is a huge vase from China which is very valuable indeed. The furniture in these rooms are Chippendale and Sheraton works.

At the end of the State Corridor is a door which led to the landing from which we had begun our tour.

After leaving the State Apartments we went to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity (formerly the Chapel Royal 1807-1814). This ancient Chapel has a small altar and pews. Upstairs are special boxes with family crests on them. Long ago each individual family used to sit in their special box with the family crest on it. The ceiling was elaborately designed and was built by James Stapleton, the Dublin Stuccadore. There are also heavy oak carvings in the chapel. Having had a most delightful and interesting tour of the Chapel we left and made our way back to the courtyard.

We then went back to the bus having had a very interesting and enjoyable tour of Dublin Castle.

Deirde Fincher (3 A).

TRIP TO FRANCE 1970

At 9 a.m. on the morning of 31st August we all assembled in the main departure building at Dublin Airport. Very soon we would be moving towards the lounge, one step nearer to boarding the plane for Paris. We said our last goodbyes and moved away. There were twenty one of us; eight girls from Diocesan and thirteen from Alexandra, escorted by Mrs. Meehan, who were going to visit our French correspondents who had been in Ireland earlier in the summer.

After a pleasant plane journey, during which breakfast was served, we arrived at Le Bourget Airport, Paris. Our baggage was checked through and it was then packed into the coach which would take us to Montparnasse Station. From the coach window we caught glimpses of the Eiffel Tower and saw many outdoor cafés, so typical of France. On arrival at the Station, however, we found we had to wait about three hours for our

train to Rennes, from where we would get another train to St. Malo. We ate our packed lunches in the station waiting room and were given many strange looks from station officials.

At last our train was called and we trudged along the platform dragging our cases after us, and we finally found ourselves compartments. The journey was unanimously pronounced too long, helped by the fact that we had simmered slowly in Paris for nearly four hours. There were more surprises — or should I say shocks? At Rennes station we found that we had to change trains again, but we didn't bargain for having to carry our own cases or walking across the railway tracks to find our appropriate train. Rennes by the way is the capital of Brittany.

At St. Malo we were met by our respective families and were ushered away amid excited chatter which was unfortunately, too fast for any of us to understand.

We were all installed with our "families" and did not see each other very much for the ten days, or so, we spent touring the Breton countryside. Barbara Dowds ventured further afield and visited Cannes and Vichy and was disgusted by the taste of the famous Vichy Waters. Most of us visited the historic places around about, Carnac with its famous menhirs, Cape Frehel and Fort de la Latte were seen by nearly all. Frequent trips were made to St. Malo and all the other shopping areas in the district, to Paramé, Dinard, St. Brieuc and St. Servan. The weather during this time was none too good and we had not many outdoor activities.

There was however, an Olympic Indoor Swimming Pool, in Dinard and it had every possible facility, even hair dryers.

During our second week, there, we had to go to school. Some of us went to one school in Dinard, others to another school C.E.S. Charcôt. The trip had been arranged from Lycée Jacques Cartier, but the classes there were too advanced for any of us to join. Barbara Dowds, Jasmin Gaw, Barbara Strachan and June Leach attended C.E.S. Charcôt while Christina Attwood, Gillian Jackson, Hilary O'Neill and I attended Lycée de Dinard, otherwise known as Bocage. The schooling itself was a great disappointment to the girls at both schools. We were put in at the back of any class in which there was room and were completely ignored. The schooling there was totally different from any we have in Ireland. For some of the classes, school

started at 8.30 a.m., but for others, particularly the younger ones, it did not start some days, until 10.30 a.m. Between each fifty minute class was a ten minute break when everyone congregated in the outside yard. These ten minute breaks, however, were made up at the end of the day when nobody left school 'till 5.30 p.m. and sometimes 6.00 p.m. This general disorder was due to the late commencement of the schools all over France. The new terms are all decided by the French Government and that year the school did not open until September 14th.

Credit is due to our French 'families' for any French we learned or any of the necessary confidence we gained during our stay. These families did their best to help us, often sacrificing their own summer holidays to bring us around the interesting places. Many of the French women have jobs when their families have grown up.

During our days at school we were taken on a few tours, all arranged by M. Le Ferrand, who had also arranged the "French" side of the exchange. One trip took us to Mont. St. Michel, the famous abbey, dating from Gothic times. This famous structure is composed of three floors each, unfortunately, joined by flights of stone steps. I say unfortunately because that climb rendered us helpless and we all had to rest for a while. We were shown all over the abbey, which has now become commercialised with small shops to attract the tourists. The cloister there has been glazed to keep out excessive rain and wind, but, on the day we were there the glass rattled and water streamed in around the edges.

The day we visited Dinan was picked especially because it was market day. That morning the coach left at 8.00 a.m. which meant that we had to rise very early. We all saw the viaduct over the R. Rance, Brittany's main river, and a Gothic-style church before visiting the market. Along one very steep street was a weaver's house. She invited us in and we watched while she wove the traditional pattern of the district.

On our way back to school we passed many farms and noticed how economically the fields were used. In a pasture field, there would be apple trees by the dozen with the cattle grazing under them. Maize seemed to be the chief cereal crop while divers vegetables grew in abundance.

We were also conducted around St. Malo Museum where we saw many historical letters

and documents.

The most blustery day of all the three weeks, had been chosen beforehand for a tour around the battlements of St. Malo, and we were all nearly blown away! In the distance we could see Chateaubriand's tomb and many fortified islands. St. Malo, incidentally, is said to have been founded by an Irish saint — St. Maerlow.

On the day before our departure, there was a reception in Lycée Jacques Cartier for the Irish girls, French girls and their families. Photographs were taken and a champagne toast was proposed to many more exchanges as successful as this one had been.

When we arrived back at the house from this, we had to pack — wondering where all the articles that would not fit anywhere had come from. We had to be at St. Malo Station for 11.00 a.m. on Sunday morning. We were all there in good time and were very sad at having to go. Our train was called and we moved towards it. We were still shouting "Goodbye" when the train pulled out of the station.

Again we had to change at Rennes. Compartments had been reserved for us but not enough and we had to squash about seven girls plus their baggage into one compartment. The journey to Paris seemed shorter than it had the first time.

On reaching Paris we found that since it was Sunday, there were no porters and very few trolleys. When we entered the station building there was no one there to tell us about our coach to take us to Le Bourget. Suddenly a drunkard came tottering over to us, telling us that he'd fix us up with transport. The next thing we knew, some irate taxi driver came in and told us there was a fleet of taxis waiting outside to take us to the airport. Poor Mrs. Meehan had a terrible job clearing up the misunderstanding.

Finally the coach came for us and we arrived at Le Bourget, quite a while before our flight. No plane journey would be complete without a hold up of some sort, ours, however, lasted for only ten minutes.

We were all sorry to leave France but glad to see our families and friends again.

We were very glad to participate in this exchange scheme and thank Mrs. Morgan for again inviting Diocesan to join Alexandra College on this trip. We also thank Mrs. Meehan for accompanying us and our parents for allowing us to go.

Shelley Anderson (6A)

THE AER LINGUS YOUNG SCIENTISTS EXHIBITION 1971

This was the Seventh Annual Young Scientists Exhibition sponsored by Aer Lingus. There were over two hundred and fifty entries from schools all over Ireland with projects in both Irish and English on Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics, Physics and Sociology, divided into twenty-eight sub-sections according to age and sex.

Three Diocesan girls entered, all in the Geography Section. Susan Graham did a project "To establish if Dublin, as a city affects its own climate". Emily Torrans' project was "To establish the effect of the tourist industry on selected east coast towns and to try and discover future trends". Both of these were in the Senior Girls Section. Linda Graham made "An inquiry to determine the influence of re-afforestation on wildlife and natural vegetation in the Wicklow mountains", and this came into the Junior Section.

There was an eminent panel of judges and the judging was spread over a two day period. The winners were announced at the opening. The overall winner, the Young Scientist of the Year, was Peter Shortt, chosen from the Geography Section, who made a "survey of Lough Ballard with a view to determining the reason for the disappearance of an ancient lake." Susan Graham came joint second in her section.

The girls who entered thank Miss Jagoe and Mrs Perry for their aid and encouragement.

Susan Graham 6A

CIVICS

In Civics class in the past year we have had a variety of activities. We started the year learning all about the President, the government and Leinster House.

After the summer holidays we decided to help some of the old and some of the young people who are not as fortunate as we are. We are now in the process of making a blanket for the Irish Red Cross Society; it is progressing very well. Every girl in 4B has to knit six or more squares and then one girl sews them all together to make a blanket.

About a week before term ended for the Christmas holidays, we went to visit St. Joseph's Nursery Centre. When we arrived at the Centre, Mrs Walmsley met us and brought us in. We caught a quick glimpse of the children as we went into a small room where we had a

cup of coffee while Mrs. Walmsley told us all about the functions of the Centre. She had asked some other members of the committee to be present. The two women told us that their job was to look after the entertainment and all the catering for the other activities for which the Centre is used at night, e.g. the residents' social club. Mrs. Walmsley went on to say that there are forty children on the roll, but usually there are a few missing.

The children arrive at the Play Centre at 8.30 in time for breakfast and they go home after tea at 5.30. Mrs. Walmsley, stressed that these children were by no means neglected in their homes, but some of them have no fathers and the mother has to go out to work, leaving nobody to mind the child. The children at the Centre are well looked after and are taught many useful things. Each has his own place at a little table where he eats. At 12.30 the children go out to the bathroom to wash their hands and face ready for dinner. Then they all sit by the wall, collecting their fold-away beds when Mrs. Collins calls their names, and bringing them into the playroom where they each know their own place in which to put their bed. After that they have dinner. About 2 o'clock they all go to bed for a rest before tea and going home. We ourselves, had to be back in school for lunch and so we had to leave before dinner-time. Another visit is planned this term.

The same day, last term, we went to the Molyneux Home for the Blind to sing Christmas carols. After we had sung we went around talking to them, but many were also deaf. This term four girls go each week to visit the Home, and we all enjoy this very much.

Jasmin Gaw, 4B.

This year our Civics classes have been very interesting and enjoyable. We have studied our country's government and election system and have had many lively discussions on current affairs.

We had a very interesting talk by Mrs. Hennessy who used to work in the Dublin Central Mission. She told us about the social work she had done in Dublin and also about Margaretholme in Sandymount. The talk gave us a real interest in social work and we decided to visit this home for the elderly. The class decided that they would like to hold a short Service of worship some Sunday afternoon and with the help of Mrs Poynton the class planned the order of Service. Several

members of the form wrote the prayers and the Christmas Story which was illustrated by carols. We went to the Home on 6th December and the afternoon was a great success. Tea was served afterwards and then we were shown around the flatlets by some of the inhabitants. Some of us have since decided to visit the Home in pairs every Saturday.

We were given the names of two needy families we could visit. Some girls have gone to visit these families and have tried to help them by bringing food parcels and by doing odd jobs. Some of us preferred to visit the patients in the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook, and those interested have applied for permission from the Matron to do so. Others hope to visit an orphanage and "adopt" a child in whom they can take an interest and whom they can visit at weekends.

Last term we thought it would be a good idea to help some orphanage and so we placed a box in the classroom. Members of the class brought in old clothes which were brought to a Home in Greystones where they were gratefully received.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our Civics classes and have realised that it is interesting and rewarding to help others.

Sylvia Barker and Joan Ellis 4A.

We have had a very interesting Civics class this year. We started by learning about County and City Councils, their work and the system of elections. We also studied our system of government and the different government departments.

Next we learnt the history of Dublin from earliest times to the present day. We paid particular attention to buildings, the purpose for which they were originally intended and the various architectural styles.

We enjoy our class to the full and are looking forward to the next topic which is "Europe Today".

Jacqueline Doyle, 3B

Last term in Civics classes we learnt about the history of the school, when it was opened in 1902 and when and what new additions were made. In 1903 the Science Room was built, the Domestic Science Kitchen in 1905, in 1906 four additional classrooms. The division of the large hall in 1914, a new wing at the Hatch Lane end in 1952, one classroom over the large hall in 1958, and in 1961 three additional classrooms

over the large hall, another division of the large hall and the division of the singing room in 1966, the fire escape in 1967 and the sick bay and the vending machine in 1968.

We also learnt about who controls the school and school affairs — the Diocesan Board of Education, the School Committee, the Headmistress and the State. We kept scrapbooks in which we put this information along with diagrams and pictures.

This term we are learning about citizenship and what we must do to be good citizens of our town and country. We will also study our heritage and the history of Dublin.

It is a very enjoyable and interesting class.

Edwina Mundy, 2A,

DANCING

On 15th December, 1970, we entertained some of our parents and the rest of the School by giving a Dancing display. Eight girls from Form 2B danced Litenietis, a Latvian dance for boys and girls, the 'boys' wore bright coloured trousers and the "girls" wore long skirts. The rest of 2B danced Svspring, a Danish folk dance in which the dancers go round in circles gradually getting lower until their heads touched the floor. We practised hard in Gym classes and at lunch breaks for many weeks beforehand. We had fun learning these dances and the audience seemed to enjoy watching them.

Form 2B

Form 2A performed two dances, one was called Lot Is Dead, and the other I Lost My Stocking In The Brook. These were both German folk dances and some girls were dressed up as men and others as women. The "girls" wore pretty skirts and the "boys" wore trousers and shirts. The costumes were gay and colourful and we danced to music provided by a record player. It took much energy and time to reach the right standard and we thank Miss Daunt for having so much patience.

Fourth Year girls also danced a very quick Irish dance and an attractive Scarf dance in threes.

The two Drama classes gave amusing short sketches to show us a little of the kind of work they had done during the term.

Form 2A



SUSAN GRAHAM (6a)

GEOGRAPHY

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SENIOR



EMILY TORRANS (4a)

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Madam,

May I ask readers of Diocesan Times to contribute left-over pieces of fabric, wool, stranded cotton, wire, wood, or beads for use in Art and Craft classes? Materials most people throw away can be very useful for this purpose.

Muriel Bell (Art Mistress)
Diocesan Secondary School

AN ART EXHIBITION

Janet and I visited an exhibition of art, held in Mariners Hall, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, during the Christmas holidays, attended by children and students of the Dun Laoghaire area. We were lectured by Mr. Edward Delany, a well-known sculptor. He brought along his two sons, Colm and Eamon aged seven and nine years, who displayed some of their own work.

Mr. Delany then proceeded with his lecture on sculpture, which he explained was originally the process or art of carving or engraving hard material, such as stone, wood or marble. He told us about the casting of metal, which is making a mould with a hollow space the exact size and shape of the shape to be cast. Metal is then poured into the mould and left to set and the result is a model of metal.

Of course this is not the only kind of sculpture for there is also abstract sculpture which can be very pleasing to the mind.

My sister and I found this demonstration very interesting.

Gillian Knaggs 1S.

BLAITHIN'S ART CLASS

One day during the Christmas holidays, I went with my friend to the National Art Gallery, where they were giving free art classes. The day I went, Bláithín, the artist who has a programme on television, was there, to give the lesson. She drew two pictures, one of the Baby Jesus and the other was of Mary holding Jesus in her arms.

On one of the pictures she drew different shapes, and thick black lines dividing them, she then coloured them in different colours giving the effect of a stained glass window, with the picture in the centre. At the end of the lesson she gave away her two pictures, I was not lucky enough to get one.

Carole Bardon 1D

ART CLASSES

I look forward to Art Classes every Wednesday. We are very lucky to have the use of

the Presbyterian Hall in Adelaide Road. It gives us more room in which to work. For the first couple of weeks we painted flowers, which Miss Bell provided. Next week we were taught to make Christmas decorations, some of which were so good that Miss Bell included them in the Art Exhibition at the Prize Distribution. We thank Miss Bell for her help and patience with us.

Olive Noblett 3 A

ART IN THE FIFTH YEAR

Members of any fifth year class usually find that they are able to study the many very different and unusual aspects of art which perhaps had never occurred to them in previous years. This year's 5A girls were indeed no exception. Being a small class for Art, we found that we were able, with the help and interest of Miss Bell, to develop and practice our own ideas and we did not have to stick to quite as rigid a pattern of work as before. We also found more time to read and study many of the books from the large selection about art, which are now available in school.

Those girls who were interested in lettering and lay-out made some excellent posters advertising the school library and encouraging girls to make more use of it for reference as well as reading for pleasure. Some of these posters now adorn the library notice board and help to create a bright atmosphere in the room.

In October, Miss Bell took part of fifth and sixth year art classes to the Oireachtas Art Exhibition (Taispeantas Ealaíne an Oireachtas) which was held in the New Library in Trinity College. This was an exhibition of paintings, tapestry and sculpture. We took a great interest in all the exhibits and it made it even more interesting trying to work out and agree upon what each title meant as all the titles were in Irish. There were many which we could understand although in many cases we could not quite see why the artist had given such a title to his exhibit. We all offered explanations but I am sure that it is only the artist who could tell us the real reasons behind his exhibit and the title of it.

We were also very interested to see two exhibits which had been painted by the mother of one of our classmates.

A group of us were very fortunate to meet Mr. Peter Grant at the exhibition. He is a well known sculptor who has made

designs for churches and other buildings in the country. He himself had none of his exhibits on display but he was able to explain how many of them were made, especially some of the bronze exhibits which had puzzled us greatly. We all enjoyed this exhibition and I feel that it showed us how many aspects of art there are and that ordinary painting, although the best known, is by no means the only form of art to-day.

We all thank Miss Bell, not only for taking us to the exhibition, but for all her help and interest throughout the school term.

Gillian Large (5 A.)

TOM CARE EXHIBITION

On the 29th September, Miss Bell accompanied the Sixth Year Art class to David Hendriks' Gallery, St. Stephen's Green to see a very interesting display of water colours by the Belfast born artist, Tom Care.

The talented artist received his training at Slade School, and first exhibited in London in 1933, with a group of artists called the "Objective Abstractionists." He did not continue to paint in this abstract style but returned to naturalism. He has had numerous one man shows in Dublin, Belfast and London, and his work has also been exhibited in America and Japan.

In this exhibition his paintings were on a large scale for watercolours. The main characteristics in his paintings are realistic landscapes showing an awareness of the beauty of country life. In one of his paintings "Landscape at Apcanis" there is a tendency to follow the styles of mid-nineteenth century water colourists. His studies of plants and flowers are not as good as his landscapes, as his strongest aspect is creating and capturing the mood of Irish landscapes. He pays little attention to stylistic structure, but gains original effects by sensitive observation and emphasis of detail. He indulges in some abstracts such as "Lagan Evening". All depict the landscape which is familiar to him.

**Miriam White and Hilary Blake-Knox
(6 A.)**

EXHIBITION OF LIGHT ENVIRONMENT

Throughout last May and June several members of the Art Class visited Peter Sedgley's exhibition of Light Environment, which was shown in the new library of Trinity College.

The creative artist must explore new

media in order to keep ahead of the highly organised and skilful methods of the advertiser. In this exhibition Sedgley explored the possibilities and effects of artificial light combined with motion.

The following were the results.

The first exhibit was the Colour Ballet. This consisted of a chromatic shadow thrown on to a white screen. Long bars of colour merged slowly together, changing tone and depth all the while, eventually fading away and re-emerging as another colour. This process was repeated several times with different colour combinations, accompanied by a weird form of music which sounded not unlike a spasmodic creaking gate. Viewed as a whole, it was something akin to the probable hallucinations of an opium-eater. The second exhibit was the Black Colour Screen. This time the shadow was thrown on to a black panel in whole units, resulting in another fantastic mingling fading process. The third exhibit was the Colour Pulse. This was in the form of many colours projected on to a circular image. Again, colours pulsated in an ecstasy of fantasy. The fourth and perhaps most interesting exhibits were the Video Disques and Video Rotor ultra-violet kinetic fluorescent painting. The video disques consisted of small wheels painted with various colour combinations. These were turned by rotors, resulting in whirls of indescribable colours. The colours appeared to move and reach out towards the observer. The video rotor ultra-violet kinetic fluorescent painting was even more fantastic. A gigantic catherine-type wheel painted with hundreds of coloured squares and shapes was set in motion. The colours seemed to bubble into life and cascade ever outwards in a living glow. Once seen it could never be forgotten. Fifthly and lastly came the Water Film. The most appropriate description one can conceive is that of a bluish-tinted petrol thrown into a fast flowing river and pictured in slow motion. Ripples of bluish colour merged quickly together and drifted away in another changing shape, giving to yet more ripples and slurs which quickly followed suit.

According to Peter Sedgley, twentieth century art is on the verge of a tremendous revelation about light and vision, and in his exciting exhibition he has tried to give us a glimpse into this strange and beautiful world.

I am sure that all those who visited the exhibition will look forward to another of similar nature.

Jean Dalby.

OIREACHTAS NA GAEILGE

The Oireachtas Art Exhibition, held this year in the basement of the new Library, Trinity College, was very successful, displaying a pleasant selection of paintings, sculpture, tapestry and Kinetic art.

Michael Farrell, the popular hard-edge painter, had one of his works in the exhibition, but compared with some of his others, it was disappointing.

Nano Reid had two of her landscapes of scenes near Drogheda where she has lived and painted for many years.

Pauline Bewick showed a painting, though in style more in the nature of a coloured drawing, of a lady sitting in a deck chair.

The sculpture section apart from the winning entry of the delicately sculptured head by Gerda Fromel, I thought, was weak.

I thought the exhibits were well arranged and gave a pleasing appearance to the hall.

Michèle Souter (3A).

PHILANTROPIC WORK 1970/71

The girls have loyally supported a number of good causes and with the unfailing help of their parents and form-mistresses, raised money for Freedom from Hunger, for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. They made collections for Christian Aid, for the Royal Life Boat Association, for Baggot Street Hospital, Miss Carr's Home, The National Council for the Blind. Some classes made up parcels for the I.S.P.C.C., others supported the I.S.P.C.A. One class visited a Nursery Centre and others have visited elderly ladies. The girls show a ready sympathy for those in need and an eagerness to help in a practical way.

The girls have been busy organising lunch time activities in support of the Church Missionary Society. Many of us succeeded in gaining quite a lot of weight, by attending the various cake sales, because we could not resist the temptation of such delicious cakes. Some members of Staff created a diversion when they entered such competitions as "Grazy Gear", "Nursery Rhymes", "Paper and Pins", "Guess Who" and "Fancy Dress". We also saw the latest idea

in clothes in a Fashion Show. One of the most original ideas was a Fair, which provided all with great entertainment. Also one Form is making clothes during Lent, which will also be contributed to C.M.S. All in all, excluding Lent Collections, the girls raised £50.00 for C.M.S. funds. We thank the Staff and girls for all the work they put into these activities and we also thank Miss Jagoe for permitting us to hold them during our lunch hours.

Elizabeth Motyer (5 A).

THE DIOCESAN SECONDARY SCHOOL PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on 30th April, 1970, the following officers were elected for the season 1970/71: **President:** Mrs. B. T. Gargan; **Chairman:** Mrs. S. McConnell; **Hon. Treasurer:** Miss D. Kerr; **Hon. Secretary:** Miss J. Scott; **Assistant Hon. Secretary:** Mrs. R. Barrett. **Committee:** Mrs. N. Colin, Mrs. S. Kane, Mrs. B. McConnell, Mrs. K. Townsend, Miss H. Smith, Miss P. Kearon, Mrs. A. L. Taylor, Miss S. Hetherington.

The Season opened on Thursday, 17th September, 1970, with a Ballad Session when soup and rolls were served. There was a large attendance and everyone enjoyed the entertainment.

On Tuesday, 6th October, a member of the Decimal Currency Board in his talk entitled "Where's the Point?" very kindly explained the intricacies of our new monetary system. He made it all seem very simple. We were pleased to welcome past pupils from other schools to this meeting.

The Autumn Sale was held on Saturday, 24th October. Mr. Bill Golding opened the Sale. The proceeds were divided between the School Expansion Programme Funds and the poor and aged at Christmas. We are very grateful to the pupils of the School for their splendid help with the Cake Stall, the Bran Dip and "guessing the name of the Gonk competition." We thank them for their attendance at the Sale.

On Monday, 16th November, Mr. Andy O'Mahony gave a very interesting talk on the News Media on Radio Telefís Éireann.

On Tuesday, 19th January, 1971 Dr. Denham outlined the history of canals in Ireland in a very stimulating lecture, illustrated by beautiful slides showing parts of the canals and of the River Shannon. This

was a very pleasant occasion.

As this report was written in January we can only give dates of future meetings.

On Tuesday, 23rd February, the Reverend W. Wynne will answer the question "Why Samaritans?" As this will be Shrove Tuesday, pancakes will be served with cups of tea.

On Thursday, 11th March, there will be a Visit to Kilmainham Gaol.

The Annual Dinner will be on Thursday, 18th March, in the Marine Hotel, Sutton.

The Variety Show, 1970, was so successful that we hope to give a similar "Show" this year — on two nights — 23rd and 24th April. The proceeds will be divided—part to the work for Handicapped Children and as the funds of our Association are low, it will benefit by the remainder.

The Old Diocesan Hockey Club is enjoying another successful Season.

We are grateful for the use of the rooms in School and thank Miss Jagoe for her co-operation.

Extract from a letter received Christmas 1970 from Mrs. Heather Hamilton (née Erskine), East Doncaster, Victoria 3109, Australia:—

"You asked me once to send a news-letter for the School Paper but really everyday city life is not very much different here than in Dublin. I think the one thing that stands out the most is distance, especially in the country areas. Even in populated areas you can travel for several hours without seeing a house or passing a village, and in the Outback you could travel all day across one man's property. The entire length from the north of Scotland to the most southerly point of England is almost the same as from Sydney to Melbourne, and these are merely the Capitals of adjoining States. I remember when we went to Rockhampton in Queensland a couple of years ago we crossed the Tropic of Capricorn. There's a sign up about it and tourists get quite a kick out of having their photograph taken standing 'on the line'.

"Australia has been called 'The Sunburnt Country' and that is a very good description. After Ireland's lush greenness the paddocks (they're not

called fields here — too big) seem brown and dry, the gum trees seem forever dusty, and at first I couldn't get used to the Stringy Bark variety which sheds its outer bark in long strips and looks very untidy. The north of Queensland has had a bad drought for the last 10 years, and although it seems incredible there are 8 and 9 year old children who have never seen or felt rain.

"Western Australia is famous for its wild flowers and in the Springtime there are special tours to go and see them. Incidentally, rhododendrons which I recall growing wild on Howth Head and being used for hedges between fields, are greatly prized here and take pride of place in gardens.

"One of the most amazing sights I have seen was at a small town in Queensland called Currumbin, about 80 miles along the coast from Brisbane. Some years ago a man living there started feeding some lorikeets, small brilliantly coloured birds, in his garden and gradually the numbers increased until today it's a regular tourist attraction. The family bought up more land behind their home and set up a sanctuary and now every morning at 11 a.m. and at 4 p.m. every afternoon between **four and five thousand birds** arrive for their bread and honey. The noise is deafening as they descend on two large ferris wheel-like contraptions holding plates of food, but they are not a bit timid and land on your head and shoulders to eat from your fingers—you have to be careful or they nip your fingers too.

"The sunsets here are very spectacular and until you see them would find it hard to believe. The colours are magnificent but unfortunately fade all too quickly. Tasmania is about the only State that has twilight as you know it is in the northern hemisphere — on the mainland night comes quickly, but the stars are brilliant standing out like diamonds on black velvet. I can still pick out Orion although he's upside-down so Miss Scott's astronomy lessons were not all lost.

"We are just in our Springtime now and the weather is starting to warm up. The nights are chilly but during the day we are now reaching the low 70 degrees"

PUPIL AND TEACHER

I spent thirty years — 1907-36 — at Diocesan, as a pupil and on the Staff and I can safely say they were some of the happiest years of my life—even as a pupil!

We were a very happy family. I think the staff only consisted of about twelve and we had not the spacious building of to-day but each member loved every stone of it and was proud to have Miss Foster and Miss Latimer as our Headmistresses.

Diocesan has come a long way since those days, both in size and numbers, but I don't think it has lost any of its high ideals and I have always thought and still do that it is the best school for girls in Dublin.

I wish you all God's blessing in 1971 and pray that you will still go from strength to strength.

Isobel (née Mathers) Watkins.

AN ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN

Every afternoon if I look out of the office window I can see the girls from Diocesan making their way up Adelaide Road on their way home from school. I know then that I still have to work for an hour or two more, not that I mind really, as I enjoy my job.

Before leaving Diocesan I decided I would like to study Architecture. I went to see the principal of the College of Technology in Bolton Street to find out what subjects I needed in the Leaving Certificate. I brought some free hand drawings I had done, for good measure. I was informed, much to my surprise, that an ability to draw was not absolutely necessary, as it was a subject I would be taught there. The principal was very helpful and told me that each year the Office of Public Works sent a number of young people to the College to be trained as Architectural Technicians. I had to wait till the Government notice appeared in the papers, sometime in August, before applying for the course. I was very nervous going for the interview as I knew there would be an oral Irish test, but this in fact was not so bad at all. A couple of weeks later I was lucky enough to receive a letter telling me I had been accepted.

I reported to the Office of Public Works, or Board as we call it, on a Monday morning and was shown into a room where some of my future class mates were already gathered. In all there were sixteen of us, ten girls and six boys. We received all sorts of

strange equipment, a tee square and a set square, leads and inks and some text books. We were given a talk by the Chairman who explained the function of the Board of Works and told us that during the summer holidays we would be required to come into the drawing offices in the Board and put into practice something of what he hoped we would have learned by then. We also had to sign an agreement to stay for our four years training and for one year after that, that is, provided we passed the annual examinations. We were to be paid a small weekly wage which would increase as we passed each exam. This was certainly a wonderful opportunity as our books, equipment and college fees were paid also. Unfortunately the Board have discontinued this training scheme.

The years of training were quite exciting as each subject was so new. I was very thankful, and still am, for the maths training I received at school as it comes into my work so often.

The College "holidays" spent in the Board were interesting as each year I was sent to a different drawing office. I worked for a summer in the New Works section where drawings were being prepared for alterations and additions to Leinster House and the National Gallery. Another year I worked on drawings for post offices. I spent a long time working in the New Schools section where drawings for new national schools are prepared. This was an interesting section as there were opportunities to go away for a week at a time to the country to survey sites for new schools. Land surveying is good fun if the weather is right and there are no cows or nettles in the fields, but very often it rains or the cows get in the way when trying to take levels!

The four years' training came and went so quickly and there still seemed so much to learn even after we received our Diplomas. In fact the course was the ground work, but I know that I have still a lot to learn in the field of Architecture. I completed the fifth year working full time for the Board and I felt then I would like a change of work in a private architectural practice. In the present office we have a great variety of work from housing to factory design, and the main bulk of our work — designing secondary schools.

Stephanie Mahon.

THE HARCOURT STREET LINE

When I was a child we travelled to school by train every day.

Living in Churchtown which was then considered the country, with green fields and a few isolated houses, we had to walk about one mile to the nearest station, which was at Dundrum. It was very pleasant in summer, but a long, cold walk down past the graveyard in winter.

The train people seemed to be a special community of their own, one always knew the other passengers and everyone was friendly.

The train we had to catch was the 8 a.m. from Bray arriving at Dundrum at 8.30 a.m.

When the train left Stillorgan there was a very "long straight" down into Dundrum and when the Porter, whom everyone knew, saw the train come round the bend on to the "long straight" he would come out on to the station steps and bang on a huge metal sign. This could be heard quite a long distance away—then it was time to run. Before he locked the door he always had a last look to see if any regular passengers had still to arrive.

There was always a seat, because one's own friends would stick their heads out the window and call you.

Each compartment on the train was separate, with no corridors, so when the train arrived in each station all the crowd, boys from High School, St. Andrew's and Wesley, girls from Alexandra and Diocesan would crowd around the door to make it look as if the carriage was full. In this way strangers were not admitted.

Coming home we did not have to rush like the girls who had to catch buses, school ended at 3 p.m. and the train did not leave until 3.30 p.m.

Plenty of time to meet the gang, I am sure that many romances started on the steps of Harcourt Street Station.

The journey home always felt longer, and it was fun to see the backs of houses and wonder who lived there.

I had a season ticket which cost 5/6 per month and one could travel as often as one wished between the stations named. I wonder how much it would cost today and if with the way Dundrum has grown people would still use the train and ease some of the congestion of cars in the city?

As I write, I have a ticket in front of me

dated 31st December 1958 and the fare was sixpence, and threepence for a child.

It was the day my children and I made a sentimental journey on the last train on the Harcourt Street Line.

Victoria Large.

PUPIL AND TEACHER

When I was asked to write an article for the School Magazine I felt I could not refuse, for it isn't every past pupil who has also been a member of the staff.

I taught in School for seven years under Miss Latimer, and they were very happy ones. I left in 1963 to go to South India to teach in St. Hilda's School, Ootacamund.

St. Hilda's is an English speaking, international and interdenominational school within the united Church of South India. We had children of all races and sects including Indians (Christian, Hindu and Moslem), Americans, Canadians, Swiss, German, French, Jewish, etc., and British. Many of these were children of technicians working on various projects, and some were the children of missionaries. There were about 110 boarders (girls and small boys), and up to 30 day pupils. They all worked and played together very happily and successfully. There was certainly no apartheid there.

During my time in India, the Indian School Certificate Examination came into being, and as the Anglo-Indian secretary of the Examination Syndicate was a graduate of T.C.D. it was interesting to see similarities with our Irish Intermediate Certificate Examination. Each Indian pupil had to learn English, Hindi and her own State language, and this involved teaching many languages as pupils came from all over India. European pupils had to learn two languages as well as English.

There was keen interest in Sports and Annual Inter-Sports between schools in the Nilgiris were run on Olympic lines in the Army stadium, both girls and boys competing.

Guiding also had its place in our school, and at one time I was Bulbul Flock Leader, Guide Captain, Akela and District Commissioner.

I was in charge of the school for my last three years there, and it was a very interesting experience.

Holidays brought wonderful opportunities for visiting missionaries, and seeing vil-

lage life. Many of these missionaries were Irish: Drs. Trevor and Patricia Strong of Duncan Hospital, Raxaul (whose children were at our school); Miss Kitty White of Kazari-bagh; Miss Sheila Morgan (now Mrs. Hennessy) of Alir; the Rev. Ernest and Mrs. Gallagher of Medak and Secunderabad, the Rev. Anthony and Mrs. Hanson at Dornakal, and last and certainly not least, the Rt. Rev. Bishop A. B. Elliott who devoted his whole life to India, and died there on December 19th last year. It was through him that I, as a young child in Harold's Cross parish, heard the call to go to India.

I left St. Hilda's in 1964 and returned to Dublin. I intended to go back and to teach in a school in North India, but for health reasons that was not possible.

Since then I've been on the staff of Clarendon School, North Wales, and of St. Michael's School, Surrey. I am now very happily teaching in Park House School, Donnybrook. It is good to be back in Dublin and to meet many of my former pupils and their children.

May I say to all young people who read this and who are thinking of teaching, go ahead. It is a grand job and if I were starting all over again I'd still do the same. If you get an opportunity of going overseas, perhaps with V.S.O., seize it, and it may be that some of you will feel the call to devote your lives to God's work overseas.

Ivy Golding.

A VISIT TO ISTANBUL

In June, 1969, I visited Istanbul for the first time to stay with my sister who had spent the previous year teaching in one of the city's schools. On sailing up the Bosphorus on our way from Athens, having sailed through the Greek Islands, I glimpsed for the first time at the breathtaking silhouette etched against the skyline by this city of five hundred mosques. When we landed at Galata Bridge we were besieged by customs officials but were rescued by Turkish friends of my sister who recovered my uncle's car from the hold of the ship and we were soon driving through the crowded streets to my sister's flat. I shall never forget my first experience of traffic conditions in Istanbul, it was absolute chaos, even worse than Dublin, and everyone knows how bad that is! The fact that the city is built on seven hills and most of the streets are cobble-

stones doesn't help! We finally reached my sister's flat on the seventh floor of a big new apartment block. As the lift hadn't yet been installed we had to toil up several flights of narrow marble stairs to the top. It grew rather wearisome doing this several times a day, very often in the dark, since the lights couldn't be trusted to stay on for more than one flight of stairs. One soon got tired of leaping ahead like a mountain-goat to press the next switch before there was a "click" and the whole building was plunged into gloom!

We spent that afternoon sitting on the balcony of the flat gazing at the panorama of the city, spread out below us, whilst sipping cool drinks and making friends with my sister's pet squirrel, named Chewy, for obvious reasons! That night we went out to dinner to one of the many restaurants built out on the Bosphorus and watched the ferryboats glide up and down, their lights twinkling in the darkness. Occasionally we'd see the lights of a Russian ship as it passed in the night on its way to the Black Sea having come from the sunny Mediterranean.

During the next few days I was to visit the Oriental Bazaars; the spice bazaar outside which all kinds of interesting people can be seen. A man sells leeches from a bottle and another pieces of mandrake root for rheumatism. This should be applied to the skin with discretion as it is apt to remove it! You can have your fortune told by a pigeon or a rabbit which will pick out a piece of paper for you. The covered Bazaar is a maze of about a thousand shops in little alleys and squares. Particular goods ranging from jewellery to leather goods, from pop-records to Turkish carpets, are sold in special sections of the Bazaar. Many of the shops are not much bigger than the lockers that used to be outside the office in Diocesan! As you walk through the narrow streets the shop-keepers who are lurking in their doorways will come up to you and catch your arm trying to entice you inside to see their wares. Once inside, they will often send a messenger off to buy cay (tea served in little glasses an inch and a half in diameter and about three inches high) or perhaps fresh cherry or peach-juice for you to sip while you sit and look around you and discuss prices with the shopkeeper.

We spent days lying on the white sands of Kilyos, a popular resort on the shores of

the Black Sea, listening to the chatter of many foreign tongues around us; Russian, Greek, German and French, sometimes Arabic, and, of course, Turkish. My sister, who had picked up quite a bit of Turkish, was often able to translate for us some of the remarks made by Turkish people sitting beside us about "them foreigners," this was sometimes very amusing and I'm sure the people concerned though we were crazy as we lay there literally in "screeches of laughter"! We passed a beautiful day riding around Buyukada, a little island in Marmara, in a "pretty little surrey with a fringe on the top." We saw many gorgeous mosques, the Blue Mosque, so-called because of the mosaics covering its walls, Aya Sofia, the city's first Christian Church, later turned into a mosque by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1453 when the Turks captured the city. As the Moslem Turkish people are required to touch their foreheads to the ground during worship you must remove your shoes before entering a mosque and tread barefoot on the luxuriously carpeted interior. As short skirts are frowned upon by the Turks, many of the older women wear long black robes with trousers underneath and covering their hair and faces, my sister and I took down the hems of our dresses before visiting a mosque. We went to a night club to see a belly-dancer and drink raki, the national Turkish drink, and were met at the door by the head-waiter with a request to choose a lobster to be cooked for us from a pool of them in the courtyard outside!

Everyone should visit Istanbul, climb its ancient and historic walls, see its beautiful palaces in one of which is the room where Ataturk died, left as he left it, with all the clocks in the Palace at five past nine. Everyone should sit out under the stars in the evnig listening to the imam or Turkish priest sing the muezzin in arabic to call his people to prayer; take a fishing boat across the Bosphorus from the European side of Istanbul to the Asian side at night time and see the lights of Asia glittering and experience the thrill of setting foot in Asia for the first time when you reach the other side, pity the dancing bear, have a gipsy girl dance for you in the woods while her lover scrapes the fiddle and her mother tells your fortune, drink tea from a Russian samovar, and if you smoke, go the whole hog on a narghile (a Persian hookah). Then, and only

then may you even begin to know Istanbul.
Daphne Cunningham.

MISS BUSSELL

I first met Miss Bussell at a Committee meeting in the early 1950's. As she came briskly into the room and sat down opposite me, my first impressions were of a friendly smile and bright, alert eyes. This smile and the happy knack of making people feel at ease are characteristic of Miss Bussell.

Some years later, in September 1957 she joined the Staff of Diocesan, where she taught until her retirement last summer.

Although attacked by arthritis Miss Bussell carried on cheerfully and uncomplainingly, and rarely was absent, even though at times she suffered much pain. Her interest in her pupils never flagged — an interest in them as individuals, and not merely in their progress in Irish. She never spared herself, and gave generously of both her time and advice and many of our 'Old Girls' will remember with gratitude her unfailing patience and the help and encouragement she gave them. She held a special place in the affection of her pupils and I am frequently asked, "How's Miss Bussell?"

Both Staff and Pupils will wish her many happy years of retirement.

E. M. Cairns.

MISS RICHARDS

We were all very sorry when Miss Richards decided to retire last June. Miss Richards came to us in September, 1951 to take charge of the History Department. Not only did she give of her best to class teaching, but she was ever anxious that her pupils should increase their knowledge by attending lectures and exhibitions and on many occasions she led educational expeditions to places of historic interest, in many parts of the country.

Her interests extended to international affairs also and for many seasons she took her pupils to meetings of the Fellowship of International Goodwill at Alexandra College.

Some time ago when the school library required to be re-organised and re-stocked Miss Richards undertook the task, with great vigour, spending much of her spare time and achieving great success.

We greatly appreciate Miss Richards' work for Diocesan and heartily thank her. We miss her pleasant company, her sense of

humour and her kindness towards us all.

We wish her many years of happiness and good health to enjoy her busy retirement.

S. Stewart.

1970-71

Head Girl : Joy Taylor.

Prefects — Susan Barry, Juliet Ensor, Adeline Gordon, Susan Moore, Hilary Myles, Miriam White.

NEWS COLUMN

Marriages : We send our very good wishes to :

Mr. and Mrs. William Stuart (June Orr).

Mr. and Mrs. David Mahood (Patricia Ingram).

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Martin (Iris Foster).

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mullock (Avril Kent).

Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Plant (Barbara Flower).

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Beck (Joan McLaren).

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Richardson (Patricia Moore).

Mr. and Mrs. K. S. McConnell (Mary Kenny).

BIRTHS :

We were delighted to hear of new arrivals
Mr. and Mrs. Kane (Patricia Bland) a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutton (Ann Hobson) a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Knott (Patricia Hinchliff) a son.

Mr. and Mrs. McLaren (Valerie Smith) a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Homan (Janice Kemp), a daughter).

Mr. and Mrs. Cochran (Isobel Little) a daughter.

Dr. and Mrs. Brady (Jean Mackenzie), a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Dagg (Norma Colin) a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong (Patricia Price) a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown—McKeen (Janet Dowson) a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Gauld (Joan Wilson) a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher (Joan Paine) a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Milsom (Elizabeth Synnott) a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Linney (Helen Henry) a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Higgin (Marilyn Price), a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Young (Hazel MacAlpine) a son.

Death : We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Sylvia Elizabeth Tallon (August 14, 1970).

SUCCESSSES IN TRAINING

We congratulate Deirdre Hosford on gaining the highest aggregate marks in 2nd Year Hotel Management in Cathal Brugha Street Training College.

EXAMINATIONS 1970

Of the thirty candidates for the Leaving Certificate examination last June, twenty-nine were successful, and have left School with a foundation for varied further trainings. Some are in Kevin Street College of Technology, one girl is now in Ling College of Physical Education, some have commenced Nursing training, one is working with animals, another is learning the art of designing, and several are becoming proficient in Secretarial skills

The following gained their Leaving Certificates: June Babington, Caroline Coulson, Vanessa Curtis, Pamela Davis, Hilary Dunn, Kathleen Eager, Elizabeth Flewett, Ola Foxall, Heather Hodgins, Jennifer Kearon, Catriona Kelly, Susan Kenny, Linda Large, Grace Matthews, Valerie Moore, Carole O'Neil, Hazel Preston, Sylvia Wilson, Jean Dalby, Karen Durham, Hilary Farrell, Marilyn Gutkin, Ann Hickinbotham, Lorna Kemp, Hazel Mathews, Denise Moore, Hilary Moore, Marilyn Stuart, Linda Webster.

The long awaited "Intermediate" results brought good news to fifty-one girls who had gained a Certificate. The remaining six girls passed in Irish and three other subjects.

The following gained their Intermediate Certificate: Peggie Allen, Isobel Atwell, Ruth Blake-Knox, Lorna Bolster, Amy Boyle, Lynda Brown, Valerie Carroll, Meriel Crosse, Maeve Douglas, Barbara Dowds, Susan Eager, Jean Hosford, Muriel Jackson, Gillian Large, June Leach, Deborah Marchant, Elizabeth Motyer, Sally Noble, Hilary O'Neill, Elizabeth Plunkett, Lesley Powell, Daphne Singleton, Alison Smith, Natasha Souter, Judith Wilkinson, Avril Young, Gweneth Attwood, Janet Chapman, Heather Collie, Jillian Craven, Carol Cunningham, Harriet Davis, Susan Ingram, Sandra Johnston, Sheila Matthews, Wendy Orr, Susan Rogan, Pamela Skelton, Annette Dalby, Glynis Dunbar, Ann Graham, Carol Jenkinson, Sylvia Johnson, Hilda Lanigan, Catherine Michie, Karen Morton, Peggy Moyse, Eleanor Rowe, Sandra Salisbury, Hilary Verso, Carol Whittaker.

Examination success helps to build up confidence, and also acts as a stimulus. It is gratifying both to the successful candidates and to those who teach them. The new Leaving Certificate Courses make specially heavy demands on all who attempt them and usually success is only achieved by the sustained hard work of teacher and taught. The gaining of a Certificate may open the way to further education and is an important milestone in a young person's career.

We rejoice with those who have been successful, but let us not place too much importance on examinations. Sometimes we adults can cause needless anxieties to build up in our young people. They become fearful of failing, because failure would disappoint someone they would like to please. Let us remember that to have a good purpose in life, to have a zest for living, to live useful full lives is more important than examination success. In Diocesan, we aim to train girls to lead happy disciplined lives of true value to the community and country in which they live, and in pursuit of this aim, Staff and girls co-operate readily.

Special Prizes list: June Babington, Pamela Davis and Hazel Preston won Miss Latimer's Prizes for Geography. Kathleen Eager won Dr. Anderson's Prize for Home Economics. Heather Hodgins won the Casserley Memorial Prize for English.

In 5th Year Rhona Merrey won Mr. R. G. Price's prize for Gymnastics. Joy Taylor and Susan Barry won the Foster Memorial Prize for Helpfulness (awarded by vote of the Staff).

Barbara Dowds won the Casserley Memorial Prize for History. Elizabeth Plunkett won the Emily Latimer Prize for English, and the Foster Prize for Mathematics.

In 3rd Year Emily Torrains, Joan Ellis and Susan Ruffli won The Evelyn Riley Memorial Prizes. Emily Torrains and Lesley Gibson shared the McNay Prizes for English.

In 2nd Year, Heather Groves, Deirdre Fincher and Susan Hanna won the Evelyn Riley Memorial Prizes. Helen Franklin and Susan Hanna shared the McNay Prizes for English.

In 1st Year, Joyce Williams, Valerie Henderson, Ruth Babington, Shirley Evans, Georgina Quinn, Wendy Vincent, and Valerie Pickett won the Etheline Brady Prizes. Helen Fincher won the Jellett Memorial Prize for Irish.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS 1970

Seven choirs were entered for the Department of Education's choir examination in March 1970. The total marks gained varied from 89 per cent to 95 per cent showing that a very high standard has been maintained. As we go to Press, the eight choirs for 1971 examination on 31st March are working enthusiastically and hopefully.

Piano pupils were again entered for the examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music with success. Juliet Ensor, Linda Salisbury, Gillian Jackson, Annette Coote, Jasmin Gaw, Michèle Souter and Amy Boyle, all passed successfully during the year.

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE 1970

Adeline Gordon was awarded a prize of £15.00, one of the Ferns Exhibition Prizes, as she gained 70 per cent in the Fifth Year Section of the Special Awards Religious Knowledge Examination held in 1970.

WHY ?

War, c'est la guerre
Is it really fair?
War, c'est la vie
Not for you or for me!
War, in strange countries
So far from us here,
Therefore for us, no need for fear
But please, spare a thought
For those who have fought;
Have pity for families of those who have died,
For widows, for mothers,
For all who have cried.
Again I beseech you to open the door
All that I ask is "Make Love not War."

Elizabeth Motyer (5 A).

THE STAG

He stood with his head up high
How still and proud he was.
The other, dead, lay by his side
He'd fought the noble cause.
The conquest now was over
The conquest he had gained.
The proof of that lay on the ground,
The corpse with blood was stained.
His triumphant call through the valley rings,
And the herd around him flock
And silently they follow him,
Away from the lonely battle spot.

Susan Eager (5 A).



The Badminton Teams 1969-70



The First Year Players and Producer, 1970

FASHIONS GOOD AND BAD

If a female star, with a great number of fans, appeared on a television programme or a fashion show wearing a "way-out" outfit, or maybe a grass skirt, I wonder if it would catch on as a new fashion.

Many of the teenage fashions are started by pop singers or groups and of course the Kings of the pop world as the "Beatles." If it had not been for the "Beatles" parents would, perhaps, not today have to force their sons to go to the barber to have their hair cut, as they think long hair, even well kept and well groomed, is not for their son and probably, if they had their way he might end up with a crew cut, although a lot of boys have what is known as a "skin-head haircut"; with this they wear heavy boots, faded jeans, and bleached denim jackets.

In about 1965 "The Who," another pop group made a few appearances wearing black and white outfits with matching shoes. Many of their fans started to copy them by wearing their clothes in the contrasting black and white, thus starting a new fashion craze, called op-art. Business men then started to manufacture handbags, shoes, jumpers, dresses, earrings, etc. . . . all in black and white. It wasn't long before every second teenager one looked at, was dressed in "op-art."

Fashion is like the weather — it's very changeable. For instance, at the moment the mini skirt has gone out and the midi and maxi are in. One sees girls and boys going around in long coats in the style that one's grandmother would have worn. Clothes create one's mood. If you are wearing a nice new midi dress or skirt, and you think you look nice, you will feel nice. This is partly what hippies are trying to convey, and I think that 90 per cent of all young modern teenagers would be like the hippy and dress to suit their mood only their parents are stopping them.

No one wants to be the odd one out, so that means one must dress according to the fashions, and clothes probably play the most important part in a person's life. It might be tomorrow or next month or maybe even today that someone will do or wear something thus starting a new fashion craze. No one knows what it will be until it happens, but when it does, there's no doubt everyone will know.

Barbara Jones (3B)

A VISIT TO MONDELLO

I have a few interests, the main one is motor-racing. Nearly three years ago a motor-racing circuit was built near Naas, and it was called Mondello Park. Whenever there is a race meeting on, I always go to it. One of my favourite events was in 1969. It was the first "Grand Prix" to be held in Dublin. In fact it was called the "Rothmans Grand Prix." It was the 1st July and a blistering hot day. My family and I arrived at Mondello Park at about 1 p.m. and had a light lunch.

The first heat of the Grand Prix began at 2 p.m. There were top drivers from Sweden, Scotland, England, Italy and other countries. One very famous man racing there was the former world champion motor-cyclist, Mike Hailwood. All the competitors were racing very fast machines, the like of which had never been driven on this small circuit before.

In fact the day was so hot that the stall-holders ran out of ice-cream and lemonade but no-one cared because the racing was so exciting and interesting. The second heat of the Grand Prix began at 4 p.m. After a lot of dicing and a few spins it was confirmed that David Hobbs, a well known racing driver, had won the Grand Prix. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the racing and there were no accidents for which we were all thankful, because one never knows what to expect in motor-racing.

Yvonne Dawson (3 A).

JANUARY SALES

Staggering through "Mason's Stores", a large clothing store, I walked on gloves, scarves, cardigans, blouses . . . The January Sales were on. People and goods were flying in all directions. Busy women were rushing and pushing against counters and against each other, and children were licking sticky lollipops and crying.

Every woman enjoys the January Sales. Being such a woman, I left the house early on order to be first in the queue. As usual there were others before me. We stood there at 8.45 a.m. waiting anxiously for the doors to open, with heavy rain beating down on our umbrellas and huge shopping bags.

At nine o'clock the doors opened. We rushed in, all dispersing in the direction of the counters which interested us most. What had appeared to be a united crowd of women had now become a disorganised group of self interested greedy shoppers. In pursuit of "the

best bargains" and "the give-aways", the people, myself included, did not appear to know exactly what they wanted. Garments and other articles of clothing were being sifted through by every individual; unwanted items were thrown back on the counter, those that were wanted were flung at the assistant, and no doubt, the odd one was pinched. After a while, the assistants, who had looked so fresh as we stormed through the doors, were now fatigued. Their crisp blue overalls were creased, and their eyes were already heavy and tired; they did not seem to be enjoying the sale as much as the buyers.

It was still raining outside. More and more shoppers swarmed in, their coats drenched, and their umbrellas dripping on to the floor which had become a complete mess. Even those, like myself, who had dried off, could not avoid another wetting as they brushed against the crowds. People were coughing and sneezing; the atmosphere was heavy and hot.

Moving from hosiery to handbags, I observed two incidents which show that sales make us thoughtless and greedy. An elderly lady carrying a multitude of parcels collided with a young teenage girl carrying just a small package. The parcels tumbled to the dirty, wet ground, the crowd moving in head-long fashion, trod on many, tearing the wrappings as they went by. With some assistance, the lady gathered her parcels and unhappily continued on.

The second event was also unfortunate. Two rough women both snatched up a red cardigan from the counter. One grabbed a sleeve, while the other the neck. Neither was prepared to let go. By the time I reached the 'handbags' I observed the two women again. One was holding a red sleeve, the other a cardigan of the same colour, suitable perhaps for a one-armed man. The colour of their faces matched that of the cardigan which between them they had torn.

Having purchased the handbag of my choice, it occurred to me that I had not had any breakfast. It was twelve o'clock and I was very tired. My feet were in agony, my arms were weary and my head spinning. As I staggered towards the doors, I felt that I was a fine example of the typical shopper. To verify this thought I looked around and discovered that I was right. A good selection of soiled goods were visible scattered all over the floor. On seeing articles of clothing being walked on by busy women, I reflected on the

fact that a sale is really a "free for all" on which the old saying "may the best man win" can be applied to women.

Pamela Bloom 6 A

DAY DREAMING

Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! The curtains of the huge theatre went up after the third encore. It seemed as if the people would never cease clapping this wonderful artiste. The tall, radiant, young girl, stepped gracefully out once again on to the enormous platform, which looked as if it could engulf her, but as she opened her mouth and let the music flow out, all the audience fell silent and listened entranced by the most beautiful voice ever heard.

When she had finished, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers from someone in the Royal Box. As she glided off the stage after the performance she was greeted by crowds of admirers and well wishers. The Press seemed everywhere and light bulbs flashed as photos were taken of her as she smiled beautifully at the cameras.

During her Press conference, the dark-haired young girl in orange chiffon was flooded by questions, "Is it true you are going to marry the King?" "Will this mean that you will make no more films?" The girl blushed slightly and answered, as she sat beside her fiancé, the tall, dark haired, sun-tanned man who could buy her anything he wished as he was so wealthy.

The next day the newspapers all over the world had headlines saying "Girl With Golden Voice to Marry A King". Millions bought the papers and cried when they heard she would not keep on her career fully after her marriage.

Hand in hand down the isle, the handsome couple stepped, and out under the archway of swords. People cheered and . . .

Suddenly a familiar roar brought me back to life. I looked up and saw Mr. Watson's angry eyes glaring at me. Ugh! sent out of the choir for day dreaming again. Ah well! We can't all be perfect.

Deirdre Fincher 3 A

ADVICE ON MAKING SOFT TOYS

One of the best ways to modernise one's bedroom is by having "aonks" furry things and cushions of all shapes, sizes and colour and description. strewn around it. This can be very expensive if you go out to a shop and buy these things ready made. I decided

after accidentally finding a pattern for a "humpty dumpty" gonk, that I would make some soft toys and gonks myself.

When you start making things yourself, it would be a great advantage if dressmaking was carried on in your home as you would be able to use scraps of material left over, instead of having to buy material, even remnants can be costly. Friends and relatives might contribute left-over pieces of fabrics. A sewing machine is another advantage, especially when making big toys.

Ribbons, felt and braid can be expensive but it really depends where these things are bought. If you want soft cuddly toys it is best to use foam rubber chips or kapok. Both are very light in weight. Scraps of material can also be used but they make the toy both heavy and hard to the touch. Useful things for stuffing also, are scraps of wool and old laddered pairs of tights.

The toys themselves can make lovely presents especially as you can suit the toy to a person's taste. When making a humpty-dumpty for example you can alter his colours to suit the bedroom of the person to whom you are giving him. You can be patriotic and make him green, white and orange; or if your boy friend is football mad you can give him one in the colours of his favourite team. At least he can take it to the freezing football pitch instead of you!

Patterns for toys can be found in most magazines. The best thing to do is raid your doctor's waiting room, he usually has plenty of out-of-date magazines. You can enlarge and decrease patterns if you want as they are usually drawn on squares. After some practice at making the toys from patterns you find in magazines, you can start creating your own weird toys using your imagination.

Karen Mellor (4 A).

MY TRIP TO "OUR CHALET" IN SWITZERLAND

On 5th January, I was one of the lucky girls who were chosen to go, as Guides, to "Our Chalet" near Abellboden, Switzerland. We flew to Zurich where my first impressions were of the cleanliness of the streets and the coldness of the weather. Everyone was wearing midis, maxis or trousers and we looked silly and freezing in our short Guide uniforms.

From Zurich we travelled to the Chalet by train and bus and when we got there, we were so exhausted that we could do nothing but eat and go to bed. Next morning, however, we

were up early and ready for anything. We needed to be, because we had our first ski lesson in which we spent most of the time falling and trying to get up. The instructress had a hectic time with us, especially as she was Danish and couldn't speak English very well.

One thing I really liked about our stay was that while trips and activities were organized one could do what one liked. There was a ski-lesson most mornings and gradually we began to fall less and ski more, though we never got much farther than the beginner's group. In the afternoons we could stay at the Chalet either practising ski-ing, tobogganing, reading, or writing letters home. We also went on walks to the village and once we went to a woodcarver who had some really exquisite hand carved ornaments, utensils, bowls, etc. He even gave us a demonstration of how he carves.

We also walked to see a beautiful waterfall and another day we went shopping in a town called Thun where we went on a wild spree, buying something in nearly every shop. In the evenings we had a campfire or games and once we had a Swiss evening. In return, we decided to organize an Irish evening. We gave our guests Irish stew (which turned out brown, but tasted lovely) potato cakes (a bit burnt) and apple crumble. Later we taught them some Irish songs and dances — very energetic entertainment!

Everything we did was great fun because though there were girls from all over the world — Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Finland, U.S.A. and Mexico, we managed to get along fine, speaking a mixture of everything. We even taught the others some words of Irish in return for some German. We all enjoyed ourselves very much and were sorry to have to come home and return to school.

Elizabeth Plunkett 5 A.

A VISIT TO AN IRISH COLLEGE

Last summer my friend Yvonne and I spent a very enjoyable holiday in an Irish College, in the Gaeltacht area of County Kerry. There were about one hundred other girls and boys at the course. We stayed in a very comfortable guest house.

Every morning we had Irish classes which proved to be very interesting. In the afternoon we all went swimming or walking. If it was wet, we played cards (in Irish), listened to records, read books, or wrote letters. At night

we had a céilí where we learnt various Irish dances. On Saturday nights we were allowed to have a "pop" night, dancing to pop records. One night we had a concert. Various people sang, acted small plays, played guitars or told jokes. Prizes were awarded by the staff.

During our stay we went on various outings, the most enjoyable being a trip to Valentia Island. We saw the slate quarry and the Grotto, which was very beautiful. There was a magnificent view.

We were sorry to leave after our Irish speaking holiday. It was my first educational holiday.

Valerie Coghlan 3 A

A NARROW ESCAPE

I went to Spain with my family during the summer holidays. There were many people from different countries —France, Germany, England, Sweden and Denmark.

One day I was in the swimming pool playing ball with my friends. As I am not a very strong swimmer, I did not realise that I was out of my depth. I started to panic and as I could not put my feet on the bottom I went under water. When I came up I screamed for help then I went under again. A girl who was nearby happened to hear me screaming and so she came and rescued me.

If that girl had not heard me screaming, I might have drowned. It taught me a lesson not to go out of my depth. Through that experience I have overcome my fear and I am quite a good swimmer now.

Joy Danker 1 D

AMUSING MOMENTS

The telephone rang. I answered it. Usually I repeat my 'phone number but instead I recited "Our Father which art in heaven." Then realising what I had said, I stopped and said my 'phone number.

Joyce Taylor (1 D).

One day when my mother had come back from the shops, she had to rush to get the dinner ready. She knew that my brother would be back from work soon and he would have to return in half-an-hour. When she saw him coming up the path she shouted "Here's dinner coming in and Billy's not ready!"

Jennifer Cole (1 D).

One day a girl was sitting in her seat during class, with her feet sprawled across

the floor. She was eating sweets when her teacher came along and said, "Fiona, take those sweets out and put your feet in."

Gilliam James (1 D).

One day I went fishing with my Dad. We had all the fishing gear with us and I was all set to catch some fish. We went down to the river and sat on a wall. Dad turned around to get something and the next minute I was in the water. He had to fish me out and drive me home, so that was the end of our fishing trip.

Carole Bardon (1 D).

One day while I was walking home from school through the rain a car which was passing by, ran into a puddle and nearly drowned me!

I shouted and shook accusing fists at the driver. I was soaked to the skin. How I blushed, when I found out later that the driver was the clergyman of my parish!

Jacqueline Sisk (1 D).

One Christmas, when my sister was three, she got a present of a Bible Story Book with the Good Shepherd on the cover. Later that evening she left it on a chair. My father came in to watch the news and sat on that chair. Carole appeared and kept pulling his arm. He ignored her until she said, "Get up Daddy, quick, you're sitting on Jesus!"

J. Hemmingway (3A)

My sister at the age of four spent a week-end with her Gran, just before Easter. She had just got an Easter egg, made to look like a small hen-egg. Gran had never seen one before. Next morning, her neighbour called to give her a present of a pullet's egg for Carol.

Gran, thinking it was the same as the previous one, gave it to her in the bedroom, whereupon she cracked it on the wall. You should have seen Gran's face when the yolk ran down the freshly papered wall.

J. Hemmingway (3 A).

I would like to tell you about a funny incident that happened to my Grandmother in a furniture shop. She took a fancy to a lovely coffee pot and asked the assistant the price.

"I haven't a clue," said the assistant. "Eleven and two, that's very cheap." "Is it

second hand?" The assistant laughed and said, "Not eleven and two — I haven't a clue!" "Oh," said my Gran and laughed. We all thought this was very funny when she told us.

Jacqueline Sisk (1 D).

MY PET

I am very fond of keeping hamsters. In the past few years I have had two hamsters. The first hamster I had, died after a month because I kept it in my bedroom which was very cold.

Their usual life span is about two years. They live mainly on green vegetables and household scraps. They need a strong cage because they can often chew their way out, if it is not very strong.

One Winter when my second hamster was over two years of age, I found it lying in its nest. I thought it must have hibernated because the weather was so cold. I put it in front of the fire to get warm but it did not wake up. I was very upset thinking it was dead. I put the cage in the garage with the hamster still inside. That night my father went out to bury it. He opened the cage and went into the garden to dig the grave. When he returned to the garage the hamster had disappeared. He looked around and saw it running around the garage. I was delighted to see my hamster alive and well after his long sleep.

Valerie Coghlan 3 A

CATS ALIVE!

I know a cat called Mac; just Mac, nothing else; whether or not this was a rather bitter reference to Macavity, the criminal cat, or not, I do not know. But at all events, there it was. And there he was!

He is a ginger cat with four white "socks" and a white "vest." He has wide, innocent amber eyes and rather ridiculously long white whiskers—at least, his left whiskers are noticeably longer than his right; and his right are as nearly correct in proportion as they can be for such an extraordinary example of a cat. This particular freak is peculiar to his family—his ancestors had exactly the same type of whiskers, greatly to the mortification of their owners, who never really took to being referred to as "the one that has the cat with the peculiar whiskers."

Mac was forcibly accepted, in the neighbourhood, as the Supreme Power amongst the cats. He won every battle he fought,

allegedly, but if he met a particularly fierce tom, his cronies usually joined in and helped, with the application of the "safety-in-numbers" maxim, to put the antagonist to flight. Few of Mac's gang actually fought because they feared invasion by even one intruder, but most of them did it because they liked to make a lot of noise very late at night and listen to all the windows being thrown up and the splashings of buckets of cold water aimed at them by guess-work about fifty yards away from them in pitch darkness. This is when the howling stops and the actual fighting begins. One cat takes hold of the back of another's neck in its mouth and growls through it. This menacing gesture lasts for a few minutes, then the cat is released, and they set on each other, tooth and claw. They turn round and round, twisting and turning and leaping and chasing until soon they seem to amalgamate into one solid ball of fur which presently rolls away, strange hoarse shouts issuing from it, intermittently, all the while.

Mac's gang has a first officer who is the next important to Mac. This is a Siamese called Smut. He has a violent squint, and a kink in his tail, both of which, unfortunately went decidedly out of fashion quite a long time ago. However, Smut is a born leader; he can always be depended upon to rally his forces, should anything happen to Mac, and charge into the attack, even in the face of the fiercest foe. The most embarrassing victory Smut ever had was when he was left in charge while Mac went down the country to spend the holidays with a friend of his owners while the latter party went abroad. Smut had come in considerably bedraggled and muddy, having encountered a terrier on his way home. Because his mistress was worried that mud in such quantities would hurt his insides, she would not let him wash himself; instead she plonked him straight into a bath with, unfortunately, an overwhelming dose of bath salts, because he reeked so violently of terrier. By the time his mistress was satisfied with the condition of his fur, the bathroom walls and ceiling were covered with muddy paw-prints, his mistress with scratches, and he himself—well, as she said to her friend next day, he was "half-drowned, but still standing."

In spite of the efforts of the bath salts, Smut still did not seem to have got rid of that awful smell of dogs, so his mistress

sprayed him with a little perfume; the smell reluctantly left him. Later, he made a bid for escape, but his mistress did not want him to get so smelly again so soon, so that he was house-bound for the rest of the day.

That night, he escaped through the pantry window and met his gang as arranged. Their latest enemy was a bulldog, of a ferocious type, towards whose residence the cats were now heading. The dog came bounding out, prepared to battle to the death; but when he came close to Smut, he stopped dead in his tracks with a metaphorical squealing of brakes; for the perfume, about which the tactful cats had kept respectfully silent, was too much for him; he fled, with his tail between his legs.

A few days later, Mac returned, and law and order were restored, greatly to Smut's relief.

Barbara Dagg (3 A).

THE BOILING OF EGGS

Many thousands of years ago there lived a happy couple called Isaac and Isabelle with their little son John. They were very poor but very happy. They were very fond of John. Everything was done to his advantage. Isaac used to make toys of all kinds for him to play with and Isabelle made clothes for him. These did not always look very smart but they were the best they could afford. They could not afford to eat very well but Isabelle tried to plan the meals so that they would be both nourishing and satisfying. They had a small garden in which they grew a few vegetables. Meat to them was a luxury, this was substituted by eggs which they could only afford once a week.

Isaac used to watch his little son progressing daily and looked forward to the day when he would see him walking. John was at the crawling stage; he would crawl around picking up things and throwing them. One day Isabelle was out getting in the supplies for the next day, she was delayed and had to rush back to get a meal ready for Isaac. She left the supplies neatly in a corner but little John found them and of course he threw everything in all directions. Isabelle had put on a pot of water to boil so that she could cook the vegetables when they were washed, in those days there were no gas or electric cookers, there was only an open hearth which was level with the floor. While John was throwing the supplies about

what should land in the water but an egg. This was not discovered until Isabelle was about to cook the vegetables. When she saw the egg she could have cried, she had only been able to afford two eggs, one for herself and Isaac. When Isaac came home she told him what had happened, he was equally dismayed as he looked forward to his weekly luxury of an egg which was eaten raw. Isabelle had taken out the egg and left it on the table. After they had eaten Isaac was helping Isabelle to clean up. He put John down on the floor and gave him the egg to play with because he thought it was no good now. John played happily with the egg. He would throw it and go as hard as he could after it, he must have knocked the shell off while he was throwing it because when Isaac came in little John was sitting there taking little bits out of the egg.

Isaac's immediate reaction was to take the egg from John, but John cried because he was enjoying the egg. Isaac did not know what to do so he called Isabelle, she tried to comfort John but in vain. Isaac could not understand why John had enjoyed an egg which had been ruined by water, so he took one bit and then another. He gave it to his wife and she liked it, so from then on they ate boiled eggs instead of raw ones. The word got around and soon everyone was boiling eggs.

Violet Moulton (4 A).

THE SMOKING OF TOBACCO

Apparently, it is the Red Indians of North America who discovered this habit of recent years. In fact we could be even more explicit and start in Louisiana, where several Indians had settled down to live a pastoral life different from their usual nomadic lives. When they were nomads they were unable to cultivate the wild tobacco, which they had hitherto eaten as some people eat cabbage, but when they settled down there was plenty of time for cultivating the land. They formed a community on the slopes of the hills where they, at long last, cultivated the uncultivated tobacco.

Two such Indians were Heavy Storm and his squaw, Pale Flower. They had a flourishing tobacco plantation in their village of Taqua-kee, and when their son, Little God, was old enough he, too, helped on the plantation. He was paid in skins and food at each new moon. His job was spraying the plants

with water from the stream by the use of bamboo tubes tied together with leather thonging, with a cloth over one end. The tubes led to the river where there was a pump. This could be controlled by a switch in the handle of the spray.

One day, on shooting a bird — a lesser spotted speckled frump — and leaving it to roast on an open fire while he sprayed the tobacco, his fire got out of hand and made its way towards the tobacco plants which appeared to welcome it eagerly. He sprayed water on the fire and as he did this the tube smouldered away till nothing was left but a small charred piece. There were only a few pieces of tobacco still smouldering, so, with a flash of inspiration, he decided to blow through the pieces of tube to put them out. On taking a deep breath through the tube, part of the plant became stuck in the tube and he inhaled a powerful foul-looking smoke. He spluttered and coughed vehemently. He "sucked" at this surprisingly tasty smoke. He lay under a tree and smoked and smoked . . .

His father found him jovially "sucking" the pipe. He objected strongly:

"Son of Heavy Storm! Why lie you under um tree? Why not work? What suck you? Tobacco! Ha! you suck plant squaw cook. Ha!

"O father of your witless son—taste and say no more!" He too "sucked" the tube under the shade of the tree.

His squaw, Pale Flower, found the two of them lying under the tree and perceived that there were devils invading her husband and son. She ran back to the village and told the chief, who ordered that the two men be burnt at the stake.

They took one last smoke of the tobacco before they were killed.

Silence! The chief rose. He looked around and took a deep breath of the tobacco. All eyes watched him. The fire flickered. He released a puff of smoke and a broad smile seeped across his face. He took another puff, and another! The tribe relaxed.

Little God was a martyr for the sake of tobacco smoking. Was it worth dying for?

Lesley Gibson (4 A).

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

This year I decided to make my own Christmas presents. My young sister wanted a doll's house, so I looked through some of

Mummy's books and found a pattern for one.

I needed a large shoe box, wallpaper, felt and sponge. First I covered the shoe box with wallpaper and stuck on a post card view which looked like a window. I constructed the window frame with lollipop sticks. Next I made curtains of flowered material. The bed was made from the sponge and covered with fitted sheets. When I made a dressing-table, I covered it with wood-patterned paper.

When I finished making the house I put a doll which I made from felt and wool at Art Classes at school, into the house. My sister was very pleased with the doll's house.

Wendy Vincent 2 B

"SMOKING"

Smoking is a habit, a disease, a corruption of mind and soul,

It kills your taste for life.

Blackening your lungs and making you choke,

It takes away your life.

I used to smoke those long white silent murderers,

Really just for show.

When I think back on it, I never enjoyed them fully,

It was all for show.

By now I have learnt a bit of sense which came with time and thought,

I no longer smoke.

I've rid myself of those deceitful sly attractive killers and,

I no longer smoke.

Some people have no sense to realise that smoking is an early death sentence,

They just don't care.

But for the sake of others who try to help them,

They should care.

If people wish to kill themselves, if life for them is unsatisfactory,

Why smoke?

Suicide is quicker, with tablets or a knife, so

Why smoke?

They harden their lungs and burn their tongues,

As they puff away.

The cigarette held with burnt brown fingers,

As they puff their life away.

Sylvia Rowe (4 A).

BREEDING MICE

My hobby is breeding mice, and making sure my cat does not get near them. I have a hut in our garden, where I keep my mice. I started breeding mice with about four, and after a week, I bought four more.

Keeping mice is quite easy as long as you clean the cages out once a week, and make sure they have some hay, and paper and bits of material. The mice root up their bedding, and make tunnels leading into one big hole, where they sleep, and have their litters.

Mice do not eat very much; they like to eat oats, bread and cheese, and drink milk and water. They are very careless because they trample over their dishes and knock them over. It takes three weeks or less for a mouse to have a litter. They can have up to ten mice in a litter, but if you touch the youngsters, the father normally will eat some of them.

In six weeks I had about forty to fifty mice, and when they were three weeks old, I was able to sell them to the pet shops, or swap them with my friends, for different coloured mice.

Valerie Cookman 3B

THE LONELY MAN

He sits alone there on the seat
Watching the children play.
His shoes so very old, his feet
Show through the open toes.
His coat is long, his cap is torn,
His hair is scarce and grey;
The passing people stare with scorn
At the lonely man.

Day after day he sits alone
Thinking of his life;
His children leave him quite alone,
His wife, no longer with him.
Before, his wife was good,
He had a home and friends
Who cared as true friends should,
And kept him company.

He sits alone and opens a pack
To eat his lunch, alone;
He takes a bottle from his mack
And drinks the lukewarm tea.
What, to him, does this life mean?
Nothing but fading dreams;
Like others, Death for him is seen
As a very friendly spirit!

Judith Wilkinson (5 A).

ROBIN REDBREAST

Robin Redbreast is very proud,
He sings his happy song so loud,
And every morning on the dot
I see him in the same old spot,
Up in the tree he seems so free,
Sitting there so charmingly.

Hazel Tyrer 2B

DAYDREAMS

I wish I were a princess
Of many an eastern land,
I'd have servants who would
Obey the clap of my hand.

Imagine me an actress,
I would glide across the stage,
I would play every part
From a King to a page.

I wish I were an air-hostess
For all the world I'd see.
Hong Kong, the Alps and Timbuktu
Oh, just imagine me!

These are all but dreams
That never will come true,
I'm just a growing schoolgirl
And work I have to do.

Avril Spendlove (3 A).

SIT DOWN AND THINK

Just sit down and think!
It's a good idea,
Stop rushing around
Solving your little problems.
Just sit down and think.
It's a good idea.
And, when you sit down,
Think on these
As you recline in your plush leather chair,
Out there in the world are people—
Some starving,
Some dying of awful diseases,
Some dying in bloody battles.
And think of yourself,
A nervous wreck, worrying
Did you ask the milkman for four pints?
Or was it five?
And what colour hat Mrs. Jones
Will wear to the wedding next week?
Sit down and think!

Linda Graham (4 A).

SUFFERING

In a world such as ours where wars never cease

Starvation is bound to exist.

It comes, harsh and cruel, to add to its list

Of people, now robbed of life's lease.

Its power is majestic, its revenge complete,

Its choice falls on more than one man.

In Hell or in Heaven its victims will meet

To watch "Christians" do all they can

To make death less painful, to bring sweet release

From thirst, from the sun's scorching rays.

Have thought for the suffering, but do

SOMETHING, please,

They need peace at the end of their days.

Their one final plea, the end of their song

Is contained in a pitiful prayer,

"Oh God, stop the fighting, it's lasted too long.

We're human—we can't stand much more."

Jean Hosford (5 A).

NIGHT NOISES IN THE COUNTRY

To a townsman the most blood-curdling sound in the countryside at night is the cry of the owl. It is made worse by the fact that the bird makes no sound in flight. You can hear the beat of the wings of all other birds, and a sort of hiss as they cut through the air, but the owl moves in complete silence. He floats like a ghost along the hedges and every now and then gives that unnatural blood-freezing cry.

In the middle of the night you may hear a grunting and sniffling in the grass, like a tiny bad tempered man with a cold. This is a hedgehog. He will take no notice of you unless you touch him, and then he will roll up into a tight bristling ball. If you leave him alone he will go nosing away, grunting and complaining.

If you are very lucky you may see a badger. He is a very shy animal and never has his "earth" near a dwelling-house, but when he moves about the woods at night he makes as much noise as a pig. He grunts just like a pig and crashes through the bushes with no regard for quietness.

I hope you will have a chance one night to see a fox. You will certainly hear him barking in the distance, mocking the farm dogs. His bark is quite different from that of the dog and you will be easily able to distinguish it. He may come across you one night if you have been quiet for a long time. You will see

him come along a path sniffing about like a dog until he sees or scents you. Then he will freeze with ears pricked and one paw uplifted, brush erect. You will get tired first and break the spell with some slight movement, at which he will leap lazily away into the bushes and you will not even hear him go.

Patricia Fox (3 A).

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN 'EM

In a quiet street, on the south side of Dublin, the World of Soccer finds two of its most devoted fans—my father and my brother. "Football Crazy" only describes them very mildly, I'm afraid! I suppose it is only natural that there is some interest in the sport in our house, as my father was a professional player when he was young, playing for Airdrie (Scotland). But honestly, there must be a limit! Wherever there is a foot with a ball at the end of it, whether it is on television, in a book or on a pitch, Dad and David will always be somewhere near.

It used to be so exasperating in the beginning! The females of the family would be just sitting down to relax and enjoy a romantic film or some other programme, when Dad and David would casually mention that Leeds and Chelsea were playing on some other Channel. If we put our foot down and refused to change channels, we never had it down for long! Just to look at their dismal faces would prick the conscience of the strongest willed woman and in the end we would be fated to a night of watching twenty-three men running up and down a pitch and listening to our two devoted fans trying to tell a referee, two hundred or so miles away, that Billy Bremner fouled Peter Osgood!

Wednesday nights, Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons are still spent around the television and if they are not watching it they are taking part in it. David plays for his school and for Life Boys and proudly achieved a hat trick—(a magnificent one, according to my Dad), at the age of nine. My father helps to run a football club which takes up his Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons. We have boxes and boxes of football magazines also—if it's not the "Shoot," it's "Goal." David's bedroom is just a mass of George Best, Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton and numerous other players' pictures.

I must admit, however, after years of

being forced to watch it, I find myself enjoying a good football match on television and I won't begin to describe the excitement in our house during the World Cup. I am sure you can imagine it! I have even been known to join Dad, David and a few of his friends at the local park for a game, though I usually arrive home hoping I will never see a football again!

At the moment we are hopefully following the Nation's Cup and Rathgar's Life Boys are not doing too badly either! I am afraid we do not succeed in beating the "Two Best Footballers in the World," but we certainly do not regret joining them!

Emily Torrans (4 A).

UNCLE BENJAMIN

Everyone thinks my uncle Benjamin is slightly crazy. I know him better than most and I have found that there is method in his madness, but he certainly behaves most extraordinarily at the best of times.

Meeting him in town one day with the rain pouring down I saw that he had his hat tucked under his coat. I asked him why he hadn't got his hat on, as it would keep his head dry, and he said that the rain would probably ruin his hat where it would do his head no harm.

As my uncle Benjamin is a bachelor he has to do all his cooking and ironing. There are many funny incidents concerning these, for instance, every morning, while making his breakfast, he sings three verses of "O Come

All Ye Faithful" without fail. His inquisitive next door neighbour asked him if he liked that hymn very much and he retorted, "Not at all, but by the end of the third verse my boiled eggs are done beautifully!"

While we were having tea one evening, (which consisted of delicious home made bread) we saw him listening to the radio very intently, which happened to be a lecture on Ancient Egypt. "I didn't know you were interested in Ancient history," I said. "Oh, I'm not listening to it," he replied, "but the valves get just hot enough to make the dough of my home made bread rise in the bowl on the top of the set."

While doing his washing one day I saw him hanging up four or five drip dry shirts. As I watched he took each shirt down, made a swipe at the collar with the hot iron and put it back up again. He saw the bewildered look on my face and finally explained: "Oh, I always do this. I'm pressing down the little tags that say, "Never Needs Ironing."

My unce has quite a sense of humour. He makes people laugh without really trying. While in a barber's shop, one of the young assistants nicked him badly with the razor. "Do you want your head wrapped in a hot towel," the assistant asked nervously. "No," said my uncle, "I'll carry it under my arm."

It would take me years to tell you all his funny ways as this is only a sample, but I thought you would like to know a little bit about him.

Grace O'Donovan (1 D).

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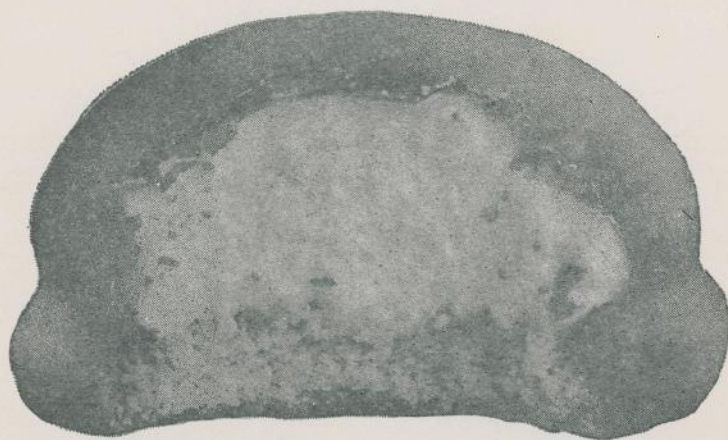
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