

CHANGES IN SCHOOL LIFE PRIOR TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Various changes were taking place in school life in the decade before the outbreak of the First World War. For example, more concern was being shown for the health of the pupils. A school doctor was appointed and we hear of the children's eyesight being tested from 1907. School lunches were introduced in 1911. Teaching methods were becoming a little more varied. An epidiascope, or "Magic lantern," the fore runner of the slide projector, was obtained. Organized excursions to museums and art galleries are mentioned in the Log. It became the practice to hold an annual school concert at the end of the session in Portobello's newly-built Town Hall. Another innovation was the School Magazine which first appeared in 1912, priced 2d. The style of writing in those days was somewhat flowery, the following quotations being taken from the editorial of the 1912 edition:-

"We shall not apologise for adding our weight to the book-stalls. Let us explain that we were requested by a number of influential scholars to become the vehicle of their meditations, an outlet for their suppressed humour, and a repository for their poetic effusions."

The magazine ceased to appear after 1916, perhaps because of shortage of newsprint and paper owing to the war, and there were no further issues until 1921.