UNIVERSITY COURT OF ST ANDREWS.

This Court met last Saturday. The Very Rev. Principal Stewart was appointed Chairman. The other members present were:—Principal Herkless, Mr William Low, Dr Barrie Dow, Mr John M. Dawson, Professor Irvine, Scott Lang, and D'Arcy Thompson.

PRINCIPAL HERKLESS WELCOMED.

Principal Herkless presented to the meeting the warrant of His Majesty the King appointing him to be Principal and United College of St Salvator and St Leonard and Principal of the University, and the Court having received him as a member of the Court, he took the chair as Chairman ex officio of the Court. The several members of the Court individually congratulated Principal Herkless on his appointment, and expressed their desire to co-operate heartily in all measures for advancing the interests and prosperity of the University.

The new Principal, in briefly acknowledging the kindly welcome extended to him by all his colleagues in the University, assured the Court of his purpose to do all that he had in his power, with their assistance, to promote the welfare, efficiency and usefulness of the University.

It was intimated that the Senatus Academicus had elected Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson, C.B., D.Litt., Professor of Natural History in University College, Dundee, to be an Assessor of the Senatus on the University Court for the period of three years from 2nd April last, in place of Professor C. R. Marshall, whose term of office had expired. Professor Thompson having been welcomed by the Chairman in name of the Court, took his seat as a member of the Court.

APPOINTMENT OF LECTURER IN MATHEMATICS.

The Court appointed Mr William Saddler, M.A., B.A., to be Lecturer in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and Assistant to the Professor of Mathematics in the United College, in place of Dr D. M. Y. Sommerville, lately appointed to a Chair in Victoria College, Wellington, New Zealand. Mr Saddler was a pupil of Forfar Academy, and entered the United College as a student in 1907. He shewed very high attainments in his mathematical studies, and, after having held a Berry Scholarship in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, won a Guthrie Scholarship in Mathematics, with which he proceeded to the University of Cambridge. He studied in St Johns College, where he gained many distinctions in Mathematics. He graduated as M.A. of the University of St Andrews, with First Class Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. In Cambridge he graduated B.A., obtaining a First Class in each part of the Mathematical Tripos, was a Wrangler, and was elected a Scholar of St John's College. He is at present teaching in the Manchester Grammar School. His efficiency as a teacher, his capabilities as a Mathematician and his high character are abundantly testified to by his Professors and by the Head Master of the Manchester Grammar School.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS.

The nomination by Professor Waymouth Reid of Dr Ruth Wilson, B.Sc., as his Assistant in the Physiology Department, University College, Dundee, was approved by the Court. Mr Henry Barker, M.A., University of Edinburgh, was appointed *interim* additional examiner in Mental Philosophy for graduation in arts.

The following additional examiners for graduation in medicine were appointed on the recommendation of the Board of Studies in Medicine:—Physiology, Professor Starling, London Hospital Medical School; Pathology—Professor Shennan, Aberdeen; Materia Medica—Professor Stockman, Glasgow; Midwifery—Professor Cameron, Glasgow, these appointments being for three years from 1st January next.

The Court appointed the Very Rev. Principal Stewart to hold for a further term of five years a Governorship of the Trust for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Principal Mackay having resigned the appointment of representative of the University on the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland which he held temporarily, the Court appointed Principal Herkless to be their representative on the Carnegie Trust.

TO PROMOTE THE STUDY OF RUSSIAN.

It was resolved to send a communication to the Dundee Chamber of Commerce, drawing their attention to the desirability of promoting the study of Russian in this country, and stating that the Court would very readily co-operate by all means in their power in any scheme for the institution of a Lectureship in Russian.

PROPOSAL THAT CURRICULUM BE MODIFIED FOR SOLDIER STUDENTS.

A resolution was adopted, expressing the opinion that Parliament should empower the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus, to modify, as they may deem expedient, the curriculum and study required by the ordinances for graduation in any Faculty, in the case of any student who serves in the Navy or in the Army during the present war. It was agreed that this resolution be communicated to the Prime Minister, the Secretary for Scotland, the Chancellor of the University, the Member of Parliament for the University and the University Courts of the other three Scottish Universities. It was reported that the same course had already been taken by the University Court of Glasgow.

CHAIR OF CHURCH HISTORY.

The formal resignation by Professor Herkless of the Chair of Church History in St Mary's College on his appointment to the Principalship of the United College of St Andrews was received by the Court.

It was agreed to approve of a proposal for the appointment of a Lecturer in Bacteriology and assistant to the Professor of Pathology, to teach in the Medical School, University College, Dundee.

The annual report of statistics of the University and the abstract of the University accounts approved by the auditor, for the year ended 30th September last, were submitted in print and approved by the Court, and, in fulfilment of the provisions of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889, it was directed that copies be transmitted to the Secretary for Scotland.

BRITISH FARMERS' RED CROSS FUND.

(To the Editor.)

SIR,—We have now received over £21,000 towards the sum of £100,000 to which this fund is committed, and we are sending out a *second hospital* to Serbia at an early date. This will cost £5000.

We are desirous of sending a further sum of £5000 to the "British Red Cross Society" to complete the "Farmers' Enteric Hospital" at Calais.

In order that these two projects may be carried out as quickly as possible, and be ready for both in very urgent, *further subscriptions are urgently required.*

All letters should be addressed to the "British Farmers' Red Cross Fund," Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.—I am, Sir, etc.,

HERBERT BROWN.

P.S.—We regret to inform you that no subscriptions have been received this week from the district in which your paper circulates.

Grand total to 7th May,	£19,992 18 5
Received this week,	1,045 16 2
Grand total to date,	£21,038 14 7

COUNTY NOTES.

[BY "STYLUS SWIFT" IN "FIFE NEWS AND COAST CHRONICLE."]

Giving the Liberal Government all the credit they are entitled to for their conduct of the affairs of State during the last nine months, the reconstruction of the Cabinet now on foot is gladly welcomed by all parties. Certain editors and writers have been unsparing in their attacks on the Liberal Government, which, no doubt, has mistakes; but fair-minded people will make allowance for the gigantic task they were called on to face when the Government came into office, and the country see now how wise and far-seeing was the late Lord Roberts, when, in face of the opposition of Lord Haldane and many others, he earnestly urged the need for military service. Had his advice been followed, Great Britain's position to-day would have been very different from what it is. There would have been far less talk about shells and munitions. But neither of the great political parties is free from blame on this score, and the power of the Press to make men of both sides to co-operate for the success of the issue that overshadows all else is now clearly shewn to be. We want the best brains we can command, no matter their politics, to form a strong War Ministry, and it is a relief to find that that object is in a fair way of fulfilment, judging by the names of the statesmen who have been mentioned in connection with the changes about to be made.

How short-lived are Germany's golden opinions of her allies! When the Lusitania "Triple Alliance" was intact she boasted of the culture of the Austrians and of the Italians, and it was our friends, the Russians, who she feared most of "our barbarians, but now that little Italy is on the eve of throwing aside her Teutonic friends, whose conduct in war has barred the doors of all nations against them, the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* comes forward to call upon all its allies, and refers to the Italians in the following words:—"People of Germany, prepare to fight against enemy races. From the caves of the Abruzzi, from the marshes of Sicily and Sardinia, from the forests of Calabria, from the court and alleys of Chioli and Margerina, an army of vagabonds, ruffians, and mandolin players is gathered together against you." As *Punch* wittily remarks on this passage, "It is astonishing how the Italians have deteriorated since they were active members of the Triple Alliance."

Germany's cup of bitterness must now be full and running over. Not only will its "Kultured" professors be being out a second hymn of hate because of Italy, but they would need to compose a third one for Britain's obvious and dependence. The report of the great patriotic meeting held in the Guildhall, London, on Wednesday afternoon, at which eloquent speeches were made by Mr Asquith; Mr Bonar Law; Sir George Perley, Canada; Sir Joseph Ward, of Australia; Mr Mackenzie, of New Zealand; Mr Sheiner, of South Africa; and others must prove painful reading for the German War Lords. Instead of disintegrating our Empire, as Germany fondly hoped and predicted it would, the war has brought our kith and kin abroad more closely to the mother country than ever, and has intensified their aversion to our large-hearted enemy. Another twenty years of German friendship, said Sir George Perley, said laughter, would have been more fatal to us than their friendship seemed, which he thought, were about the last word in diabolical cowardice. Britain can never forget the magnificent services rendered in her time of need by her sons across the seas. Their loyalty and devotion have succeeded in strengthening our union up a vista of a still more firmly consolidated Empire when the day of Germany's reckoning comes.

It is a common saying among foreigners that a Scotsman is devoid of humour. The falsity of such an assertion has been proved time and again, but a further proof can be found by a comparison of the Scottish sense of humour and that of our enemies, the Germans. Some German illustrated papers have recently fallen into my hands. They are filled with cartoons, in which humour is conspicuous only by its absence. Whether it is that the blood and iron diet of the German has produced a humour all its own which civilised people cannot see. I cannot say, but their artists' drawings lack all the refined expression which characterises the caricatures of our papers. They make no attempt at hitting off our failings and foibles. All they do is to make us appear as coarse as possible, and so well do they succeed that they have to label the figures in their cartoons with the countries they are supposed to represent. England they depict as an overgrown washerwife, and the female only resembles the ponderous German *frau*. The sole attempt they make on the Scotsman is to dress him in petticoats in mockery of the garb of our Highland regiments. This does not hurt us, but our regiments are teaching Germany the truth of our old saying "Let them that scorn the tartan fear the dirk."

The monkey story which Dr Nasmyth, the former medical officer of Fife, is credited with being about to publish abroad was made good use of by Mr Lloyd George in the House of Commons on Monday. It was one of the relative effects of old and new whisky, he gave the following humorous version of the tale:—"There was," he said, "the Barnet case of the two monkeys. Monkey A was given good matured whisky, and Monkey B was given instantly brewed whisky. They were both drunk, but whilst Monkey A was very friendly, Monkey B was violent and spat and clawed (laughter.) After a week the process was changed. The immature whisky was given to Monkey A, and the mature to Monkey B. The first monkey, which had been so kindly, so benevolent, and so mellow when given matured whisky, instantly became as violent, as offensive, and as disagreeable as any member he had ever heard attempt a speech in the House (laughter.) The other one had had the kindly, benevolent, philanthropic feeling towards the world such as matured whisky gives of whisky sold by the hon. Baronet (Sir Geo. Younger). (Laughter.)"

That was a very welcome message the Clyde Armament Workers sent the other day to Sir John French and Admiral Jellicoe, assuring them that there would be no further strikes on Clydeside. In the turning out of the munitions of war. The message was warmly acknowledged by both commanders, and, no doubt, the public, believing that a perilous situation had been removed, no doubt heaved a sigh of relief. Observers on the Clyde, however, are not so sure that the danger is past. A correspondent of the *London Times*, who has been making personal investigation into the facts says:—

"I have been through one shop after another and saw machines standing idle with men idle beside them, willing to work, but forbidden by the rules of the Engineers' Union. If a hand had been laid on these machines, all the engineers would have come out."

One can hardly conceive such a state of things to exist among Scottish workers at a time like the present. The local secretary of the Engineers' Union claims that when such charges are published names and full particulars should be given, so that immediate investigation may be made and an end put to the slacking if it really exists. It must be admitted that such a claim is only fair, and it is to be hoped that the wrongs, if all is said and done, however, there is ground to fear that things in the workshops are not altogether satisfactory, as the Armaments Committee have issued a warning that had time-keeping or any interference with the output of Government work will be paid for dearly. The Glasgow newspapers earnestly urge the manhood of the West of Scotland to free itself from the reproach under which it labours, and assist by every means in their power to push on with the production of armaments. We cannot believe that these appeals will go unheeded; or that Lord Kitchener's confidence of an early end to the war will be about shells will prove to be misplaced.

The casualty lists and the obituary columns of the newspapers bring all too plainly to the heart-breaking sorrow at present overshadowing many a home in the country. For the time it should be no see in the person of the wounded sent home to regain their strength what we have to endure and suffer, and, more often to come through. When these are men maimed for life, every heart is touched for the sufferers, and, more particularly and example of this on, Tuesday. In a motor car passing through Cupar was seen a soldier with his face to the front, who, I was told, had both legs shot away, part of a hand destroyed, and an eye knocked out.

The Territorial district of the Red Cross has accomplished a practical work on behalf of our County Battalion which warms the heart towards the members of the Red Cross movement. Immediately the men had reached France, all the organisation of the Red Cross was employed in providing them with medically treated respirators. Of these 1500 were dispatched last week to Colonel Allen, who, it will be seen, in sending a grateful letter of acknowledgment, mentions that they have been pronounced by the heart specialist who examined them to be superior to the respirators provided by the Government. Mrs R. Balfour Graham, Leven, and all who assisted are to be complimented on the prompt and thus given. Every Fifeman is to feel convinced that the Battalion is engaged in the big flanking movement which will before long, it is hoped, completely alter the situation in Flanders.

KILRENNY CHURCH CASE.

A *pro re nata* meeting of the St Andrews Presbytery was held in the Session House of Kilrenny on the Isle of Isleburgh on Monday, "to determine whether the Presbytery should be represented by counsel at the bar of the Assembly in the Kilrenny case."

A lengthy discussion took place. It was pointed out by those who objected to the engaging of counsel that, as the Presbytery had not come to any decision on the case, there was no case to present. By 13 votes to 11 it was agreed to appoint a small Committee with power to engage counsel if they thought it desirable, sustained in the General Assembly. The Rev. Dr Playfair, Professor Scott Lang, and the Rev. Mr Bonar, Cupar, were appointed the Committee. Five members, including the minister of Kilrenny, protested against the appointment of the Committee.

THE GERMAN MENACE IN BRITAIN.

Some Revelations. Dockyard Fires not Reported.

Writing to the *Morning Post* of Saturday, Mr Ian Hay Beith makes the following alarming assertions:—

Ever since the beginning of the war I have been keeping a close watch on the East Coast and in the Isle of Wight, and what I have to say is not the result of conclusions but of intimate knowledge.

First, as to signalling. I can only speak of those parts of the coast I know, that is to say, the cliffs and foreshore of Littlehampton, near Clacton-on-Sea, Southend, and the Isle of Wight, and Ventnor. Since the war started, signalling has been going on constantly from the cliffs and shore of Little Holland. It is going on now, and it cannot be stopped. That sounds strange, but anyone who knows anything about the difficulty of locating night signalling and capturing the offenders will understand what I mean. Signals have also been going on from Sandown Bay, and was going on actively when I left there some months ago. I have also gone on from Ventnor, and substantiate all these statements, and my sister, who lives on the cliffs at Little Holland, can bear witness.

We have, then, two sections of the South Coast where lights have been seen and the Isle of Wight coast. On both of these sections the enemy is constantly signalling to sea. Am I to believe, including that from large stretches of the coast, of which I know nothing, messages also being sent constantly to Berlin? But, someone may ask, what are these messages about? I don't know at all, but I do know that they are being sent, and that this activity on the coast indicates a huge system of spying in our midst. So much for signalling.

Now, as to the control of the East Coast ports. There is some blackness in parts of the country I know. Time and again I have motored down to Little Holland in a car that might have been crammed with bombs and pigeons and wireless plant, and never have I been questioned by a sentry, yet motoring to Windsor some months ago I was stopped by a carrier and a policeman and made to give an account of myself. On the East Coast you can do anything, as the alien Zeppelin leaders have proved. I was asked some time ago by a Magistrate to investigate the case of an alien living on the East Coast. I said he ought to be interned. Nothing has been done, because the "authorities in London are satisfied that the man is all right."

Mine is a hard lot, for I am a gravely alarmed man. How many acts of military importance have been committed against us by the aliens in our midst, and how many of these acts have been hidden from the public by the Government? Last year I was in Sandbury, above the terrible fire at Portsmouth Dockyard early this year? I saw that the fire was due to the reflection of the sky at Ventnor many miles away. Not a word of this appeared in the newspapers till a month ago, when a reward of £100 was offered for information as to the author of it! Only this morning I got a letter from a friend that in one of our shipbuilding yards the sea-cocks of a vessel just constructed were found to be so arranged that she would cut only just in time to avoid disaster.

There have been fires all over England and Wales, and I know something of one which the public know nothing or next to nothing, and I can safely say this: that if they did know what has been going on, and what has been barked, the Government would be out of office in twenty-four hours. Men are ringed with spies, and riddled with enemies seeking to destroy us. I am no alarmist, but I plainly see a huge disaster coming if we do not free ourselves entirely of the people who are waiting to help in our destruction. How long can collect these people in the short hours of an unusual mess so armed? Wireless Berlin sends its wireless message of the moment to us, we will find our telegraph wires in fe-tons, our bridges blown up, and troop trains derailed, and the Army fighting half paralysed by broken communications.

I see Mr Asquith says now that the steps which have been taken have been adequate in "preventing communications between alien enemies here and their Governments abroad." That is absolutely untrue—unless these coast dwellers are sending private messages home as to the state of their health.

There is only one measure of safety—the expulsion of all Germans except those of military age.

INDUCTION AT DAIRSIE AND GUARDBRIDGE.

THE REV. JAMES CAMERON MINISTER OF UNITED CONGREGATION.

The Rev. James Cameron was on Monday inducted to the charge of the United U.F. congregation of Dairsie and Guardbridge, the induction service was held at Dairsie, and social's thereafter took place both at Dairsie and Guardbridge.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Lonie Fraser, Ceres.

The Rev. Stewart Crabb, Cupar, in addressing the Rev. Mr Cameron, said that, as a country minister, he would never have the inspiration of a crowd. This might be either a temptation or a source of inspiration to him. When congregations were small, there was a temptation not to give adequate preparation throughout the week. Mr Crabb said a colleague had once told him that a country minister would generally be found wanting on an archangel to go on doing his best every week. It is were true, God would never have called one to country minister. On the other hand, the lack of a crowd might be an inspiration, as it made possible a more personal and individual ministry. It was hard to speak naturally of religious matters to a single individual than to preach from the pulpit. Mr Crabb said he would ask questions to the new minister, and these having been satisfactorily answered, declared him to be inducted.

At the close of the service the congregation had an opportunity of shaking hands with Mr Cameron.

DISTINGUISHED CAREER.

The Rev. Mr Cameron, who is a native of Govan, has had a very distinguished scholastic career. As an arts student at Gilmore Hall, Glasgow, Mr Cameron highly distinguished himself in classics and philosophy. He was first in the examinations of the senior and the honours Latin classes, while in the senior and the honours Greek classes he was bracketed with another for the second place. At the public distribution of prizes his Latin course was described by Professor Ramsay as "brilliant." But logic and moral philosophy were Mr Cameron's favourite subjects, and in the essays for the logic class Professor Veitch described him as *facile princeps*. He was a pupil in Lord Kelvin's class of natural philosophy. He gained the "Muirhead Latin prize," value £10; the "Duncan Wright scholarship," value £125, and the "Law scholarship," value £90.

After finishing his course of study at the Free Church College, Glasgow, Mr Cameron went to the University at Halle, in Germany, and pursued his studies under Professor Kautzsch in Hebrew and Old Testament theology, under Professor Kuhler in eschatology, under Professor Beyschlag in the New Testament, and under Privat Docent Bruno Meiner in Arabic.

For six years Mr Cameron held the chair of sub-Librarian in the Free Church College, Glasgow, and for a still longer term the post of Tenement Trust tutor in classics, and examiner in classics and philosophy. He also acted as examiner in apologetics and in moral philosophy for the scholarship examinations in the Free Church College.

Mr Cameron then became assistant in Springburn U.F. Church, Glasgow, and in the West Church, Perth. From Perth he became minister of St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Birkenhead, a position which he held for over ten years. After leaving Birkenhead he was for a time unsettled, until coming to Guardbridge in October 1913, which was then a district under Hope Park U.F. Church, St Andrews. On the retirement of the Rev. John Murray he took over the pulpit of Dairsie as well as that of Guardbridge.

PRESENTATION TO REV. JOHN MURRAY.

At a social meeting at Dairsie subsequent to the induction, the Rev. John Murray, who for over 40 years was U.F. Minister at Dairsie, was presented with a cheque for £50, the presentation being made on behalf of the public of the parish, as well as the members of the congregation with which Mr Murray was so long associated.

The presentation was made by the Rev. D. G. Webster, minister of the parish. Mr Webster said the presentation was, in the first place, an important acknowledgment on the part of Mr Murray's own people of their thankfulness for his ministry. During that period ties had been formed between minister and people which no lapse of time could sever. There was not one present who knew Mr Murray's years of devoted ministry, for they knew it as well as he did. Mr Murray, too, had left his mark in a wider field. He had taken his full share of the public work expected of a minister. He had been a member of the School Board ever since it had been Board, and consequently he was perfectly familiar with what to most people were the deep mysteries of the Education Department (laughter). He had also been a member of the Parish Council since the inception of this body, and had of late been chairman of the Parish Council and librarian of the Pitcairn Institute, he had been instrumental in gathering together the fine library contained in that institute. They owed a great deal to Mr Murray for what he had done for the public life of the parish.

MR MURRAY'S REPLY.

Mr Murray said it was difficult for him adequately to express his thanks. It was just 41 years and 2 days since he had come to Dairsie, but he was not yet done. On the previous day, for example, he had preached three times, and could nearly twenty miles. Had he known that the war was to break out, along with other incidents, he might have remained for a few more years, but he had a feeling that after forty years' ministry, more especially forty years in one place, it was time for a minister to give place to a new worker.

Presentation of Gown to New Minister.

Mr Cameron, who was inducted to the congregation by the Rev. A. Scott M'Pherson, Oxendon, London, was presented with pulpit robes and bands by the Session and Dairsie Mains. The robing ceremony was performed by Mrs Skinner, the oldest member.

Miss Nelson, the organist, was presented with a bangle.

At the social held in Guardbridge another presentation was made to Mr Cameron, the presentation being made by Mr Robert Brown, while Mrs Brown gowned Mr Cameron. The Rev. Mr Cameron, the Rev. Mr Lindsay, clerk of Moderator, was presented with a handsome obeque, and Miss Wilson (the organist) was presented with a Bible, the presentation being made by the Rev. Mr Cameron.

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SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

CURTAILMENT OF SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION.

MEETING AT CUPAR.

A meeting of the Fife and Kinross Secondary Education Committee was held at Cupar on Thursday.

Mr Wm. Low of Bicho presided.

CHILDREN EDUCATED OUTSIDE COUNTY.

Professor Edgar, St Andrews, raised the question of the increasing number of children who were attending secondary and intermediate schools outside the county, and a sub-Committee was appointed to deal with the matter. The sub-Committee reported that they noted with regret and misgiving that the number of secondary pupils who were attending schools in counties of Fife and Kinross, who attend schools outside the limits of the counties has increased from 192 to 295 during the past year, and that the grant payable on their behalf has increased from £1005 to £1222. In 1910-11 the numbers were 168, and the amount paid £812 18s 11d. It is the duty and desire of the Committee, the report added, to provide facilities within the counties for the secondary education of pupils whose homes are within their border, and to assist in maintaining their secondary schools in a high state of efficiency. The realisation of this desire is made more difficult if the pupils prefer by the schools provided near their homes and attend schools in neighbouring counties. Not only are the fees of the pupils and the grant lost to their schools, but the example which these pupils set in leaving their schools, and the fact that the local schools are inefficient or unsatisfactory, and to lessen the confidence of parents in their locality, and to discourage them. At the same time the teachers in these schools are discouraged by the absence of these schools and their results are seriously affected. The Committee are further of opinion that railway travelling necessitated by the attendance both at the physical and to the moral welfare of young people of adolescent age. They add that on the leader room railway travelling is necessary, but in view of the fact that they have organised and helped to equip schools in suitable centres, they submit that the evil of travelling might be considerably reduced. The Committee noted that the cost per pupil for education in some of the schools outside the counties was exceptionally high. For example the cost per pupil of George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, was approximately £12, and of the Holy Cross School, Perth, approximately £11. These sums were much above the average cost per pupil in the schools provided within the counties, and the Committee felt that the expenditure on fees and grant in payment of cost was exorbitant. The Committee, in view of the facts, appealed to the Scotch Education Department to re-consider the method of appropriating grants, and to take such steps as were necessary to economise expenditure, and at the same time to further the interest of secondary education within their bounds.

The Rev. Dr Sloan, St Andrews, said this was all they could do until the Act of Parliament was altered.

Mr James Mitchell (organising secretary) said that in the case of pupils from Newport and Dayport it was cheaper to send them out of the county, as it would cost much more to send them to Cupar or St Andrews than to Perth.

The report was adopted, and it was agreed to forward copies of it to the District Committee of Perth.

The Secretary reported that the first squadron of the men trained in motor transport under the Fife Scottish at Cowdenbeath had left for the South on Wednesday, and had been given an enthusiastic send-off. They had had 106 men in training, and there were still 106 at the school. They had received great assistance from the Fife Office, and had sent down a motor car and a sergeant-instructor.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

The annual report of the medical examination of school children was submitted by Dr G. Pratt Yule, principal medical officer. The report stated that the report stated, the sanitary conditions are excellent, and in the majority satisfactory. Defects are brought to the notice of School Boards in the course of medical inspection throughout the year. Lighting and ventilation are good in older schools, often combined with faulty seating arrangements; in certain instances minor alterations and re-arrangement of desks would remedy wholly or in greater part such errors. As heating arrangements are the only unsatisfactory in certain rural schools during winter, it tends to follow that every aperture for the admission of fresh air is closed during cold weather. Reasonable ventilation of schools during the colder months depends on the observance of the principles of heating arrangements. "Warm and dirty" has invariably the preference of "cold and clean." In the case of the new schools lighting and ventilation would be improved at little expense by the insertion of windows in blank external walls.

In the first years of school medical inspection very few cases of ringworm were reported throughout Fife county. Of late several outbreaks have come to notice, and the disease is apparently becoming more common.

PREVENTING TUBERCULOSIS.

An increasing number of children, the report stated, are being brought under suspicion of pulmonary tuberculosis in such cases are investigated by the tuberculosis officer, and are frequently are granted sanatorium treatment with satisfactory results. The "shut windows" fetish is in the minority schools, window area and ventilation arrangements are usually satisfactory, and the open window and the open door are a simple and efficient compromise without swinging the pendulum as far as open-air schools. Considerable and increasing number of school children who are suspected of or definitely diagnosed as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and those with local tuberculous lesions are excluded partly or wholly from school attendance for the benefit of the treatment of their education. The question of establishing a central school and hostel for such children was discussed, and tuberculous and pre-tuberculous children therefore worthy of consideration. Such a school would be in a healthy and suitable and economically administered at Glenlomond Sanatorium, where there is abundance of open air, and there is a dry sandy sub-soil at a good elevation.

NECESSITOUS CHILDREN.

The definition of "necessitous" as applied to school children in need of medical (including surgical and dental) treatment, the report stated, varies widely among the Boards subscribing to the County Education Committee's scheme. So marked is the variation in interpretation of the word "necessitous" that it does not unreasonable that some definition of the word in its application to school children should be formulated, preferably as an approximate guide to Boards in an endeavour to secure some approach to uniformity. That, in some prosperous industrial centres, a large proportion of all the children found suffering from defects may be deemed "necessitous" where, as in rural and agricultural districts, in which the average family income will probably not prove to be the chief of the of the industrial areas, few if any of the families may be declared "necessitous in respect of the requirement of treatment; yet, in the latter areas, despite a probable higher standard of thrift, there is, in many instances, no obvious reason why the parents or guardians being in a position to furnish medical treatment for such of their children as have defective teeth or vision, adenoids, enlarged tonsils, etc. Commenting on the report, Professor Edgar said the parents who through ignorance insisted on windows being closed for fear their children caught cold were a danger to the community. He asked Dr Yule if he could explain why ringworm and suspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were on the increase.

Dr Yule said he was unable to give an explanation as to ringworm. In Fifeshire they had hitherto been very free of the disease. The increase in the number of suspected cases of tuberculosis could be accounted for by better diagnosis. Doubtful cases which might have been passed over in the past were now referred to the tuberculosis officer for expert examination.

Referring to the discrepancy between the industrial and rural districts in the grants given to necessitous children, Professor Edgar said a ploughman was surely not so able to provide medical necessities as a skilled workman, who, in these days, was making bigger wages than many professional men.

The opinion was expressed that urban School Boards were probably more progressive in this matter than rural Boards, and the matter was allowed to drop.

Mr D. Strath, Cupar, said that there was often a difference of opinion between the visiting doctors and the local practitioners in regard to cases of eyes, teeth, and so on, reported by the former. The local doctor frequently said that there was nothing the matter, with the result that it was difficult to get the parents to take action.

LOCAL INSPECTION.

Dr W. Maccwen, medical inspector for the County of Fife, gave a report on the work of Nurse C. F. Aikman, St Andrews, school nurse for the Cupar and St Andrews divisions, which was afforded assistance in the routine inspections in a considerable number of schools, carried out the regular follow-up work in connection with the medical inspection, and during the course of school medical inspection. In this connection she paid 943 visits to the homes of children, and 1500 visits to the schools where it is often more convenient to see those children whose defects do not necessitate their attendance at school. She reports that as a result of the follow-up work performed 745 cases received treatment.

CURTAILMENT OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The Secretary reported that Dr A. F. MacBean, Medical Officer for the West Fife and Kinross district, had resigned, and Dr. W. L. Ross, *interim* doctor for the Kirkcaldy district, had also tendered his resignation, as he was leaving on military service, and that Nurse A. Whitehead had requested to be relieved of part of her duties, as she was undertaking the work of the Kirkcaldy Nursing Association, all the other nurses in the district being on war service.

The Chairman said it was evident they could not continue the complete scheme of medical inspection owing to the war. The Fife system was among the first established, and they should not lightly abandon it, but everything must give place to the great matter of the war. At present they only had Dr Stewart left, and that the continuity of the scheme should be asked to take over the whole district, and examine cases reported by the headmasters. They were to ask the co-operation of the teachers in reporting suspected cases.

On the motion of Mr J. L. Imes, Kirkcaldy, it was agreed that, owing to the great demand for doctors on account of the war, the scheme of medical inspection should be modified; that the continuity of the scheme should be carried on by Dr Stewart's being instructed to endeavour to cover the whole area; and that the places of the doctors now on active service should not be filled in the meantime. It was also agreed to notify the Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline District Committees that, owing to the curtailment of the scheme, it would be impossible to continue the follow-up work by the County Council health visitors, and a Committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr Sloan and Messrs Innes, James Livingstone, Leslie, George Batt, Dunfermline, and James Terras, Dullounair, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements with the District Committees.

COUNTY LICENSING APPEAL COURT.

MILTON OF BALGONIE PETITION SUSTAINED.

Provost Balfour, Leven, presided at a meeting of the County Licensing Appeal Court, held at Cupar on Tuesday.

One appeal only fell to be dealt with, that by the burgh of Edinburgh Royal Institution for the Blind against the refusal of Boards Children as proprietors, and Miss Helen Matthew as present holder of the licence, to transfer the licence to Mrs Grosset, of Milton of Balgonie, as applicant for the transfer and the licence for grocer's premises in Milton of Balgonie.

The Kirkcaldy District Licensing Court refused the application, the Court stating that having raised objections on the grounds that Miss Matthew was unfit to carry on the business, owing to her age (73) and the frail state of her health; that there was no public business to justify a licence, that the premises were unsuitable, as there was only one entrance for the shop and that it was doubt that requirements of the district were amply met by a public-house in the village.

Mr A. E. Grosset, solicitor, Cupar, who appeared for the applicant, said it was not a rather a serious thing for the Institution if they lost the rent of the premises. He did not know whether the fact that a charitable institution was the proprietor would weigh with the Court. Regarding the other objections which the Chief Constable had advanced, his client had had a plan drawn up, making extensive alterations on the premises, and these included a separate entrance. Mr Grosset was willing to admit that the state of Miss Matthew's health did not qualify her to continue to hold the licence, but she was not applying for it. She would only be able to continue the business if the licence went with it, and, if she could not do so, her financial position would be serious. The business was a considerable one, Mr Grosset said, was vouched for by the fact that the premises had been licensed for nearly a century, and all the tenants had made a profit on the shop and business, and that the requirements of the district were amply met by a public-house in the village.

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FIFE LICENSING CLOSING ORDER.

Major-General G. G. A. Egerton, C.B., commanding the 52nd (Lowland) Division, has made an order for the closing of premises for the sale of intoxicating liquors for a specified period during the present week. The order applies to the burgh and parish of Dunfermline, and the districts of Boath, Ballingry, Auchterderran, Largo, Kennoway, Markinch, and Leslie.