

THE
SCHOOL LOG BOOK,

Ayton

Public School

R. M. CAMERON & SON,
PUBLISHERS OF SCHOOL BOARD BOOKS AND FORMS,
12 ST. GILES STREET, EDINBURGH.

DIMENSION OF SCHOOL-ROOMS.

	Length.	Breadth.	Height.
School Room.....	24 ft	32 ft	15 ft 9 in.
Class Room.....	39 ft 9 in.	18 ft 2	15 ft.
Infant Room.....	16 ft 3 in.	16 ft	15 ft.

Class Room from School Room 24 ft 23 ft 15 ft 9 in.
 RECORD OF CHANGES IN THE SCHOOL STAFF.

STATUS.	Name of Former Teacher.	Date of Leaving.	Name of New Teacher and Where From.	Date of Appointment.	Class of Certificate.
Assistant	Mary Jane Marshall	14 th Oct. 1893	Ethel Ellis - Newmarch	27 th Nov. 1893	3
Assistant	Ethel Ellis	29 th Dec. 1893	Agnes Stratton, Kerkendricks	8 th Jan. 1894	
Monitor	1		Rose Wood (Monitor)	3 Dec. 1893	

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

1893. 4th April - Resumed work after the Easter Holidays. The attendance at the beginning of the week was good, but towards its close it had decreased.

The work of the school has been performed with energy and thoroughness. Both ordinary and class subjects have received special attention, and where weakness has appeared extra care has been bestowed.

The infants received their usual object lessons, and the singing lessons were also given throughout the whole school.

14th April - The work of the school has been performed steadily. The bulk of scholars have shown considerable interest in their work, although the fine evenings have a tendency to divide their attention, to the neglect of home preparation of lessons. That is remedied by extra attention, and drill, in school.

Both attention, and time have been bestowed upon our pupils, so that all may derive the greatest benefit. Pupil-teachers gave a practical example of School Management in examining, and instructing Standard IV. in Geography.

1893.

21st April. Received Official Notification, that James Stewart, Junior, residing at Littledean had Typhoid Fever, as a consequence his sister Jessie is not allowed to attend school. During the past week several pupils have been absent, some having sufficient excuse, whilst others have the reverse.

If it be possible extra care has been bestowed upon laggards, so that full justice may be given to all, and their capabilities merit their true position.

The infants received their usual lessons, and Singing Lessons were given this afternoon.

28th April. With regard to the work of the school there is nothing needing special remark. Wherever any weakness has appeared special efforts have been made to strengthen what was weak, and thus to have a general equality in the classes, but success is not always attainable. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found that some could not give satisfactory reasons. The ordinary lessons were given to the infants, and the singing lessons were given as usual.

1893. 5th May. The work of the past week has mainly consisted of revising, and deepening work overtaken. Made inquiry regarding James Stewart, who was laid ^{with} Typhoid Fever, and heard that he was progressing favourably. Have not heard of any new cases. Charlotte Simpson, who has been a pupil for several years, leaves the district for Northumberland. The Pupil Teacher has had special exercise in School Management. Arithmetic for a considerable time has had special attention - from Standard III upwards; and the composition of the Higher classes has been minutely considered, and various plans adopted to improve it.

" 12th May. A fact of considerable importance to record, is that some have been absent during the past week, who ought to have been present. A list of irregular attenders during the past month was given to Clerk of School Board. The work of the past week has resembled in its main points, that of the preceding one. Was informed, that Elizabeth McNeil who was an Ex IInd pupil, had left the School, and the following new pupils Mary Winter, and Joseph Leavemonth were admitted.

1893. 19th May. A wet morning tells very much upon the day's attendance. Yesterday was an example when a good number of the country children were absent. No effort is spared to enable each child to take his or her proper place at the examination - there are exceptions to the general rule. Returned Schedule, which gave the approximate number of pupils to be presented &c. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and impressed upon them the necessity of regular attendance. The pupil teacher has had special exercise in teaching an advanced class.

" 26th May. With the approach of Whitsunday pupils leave the district, and some of the older pupils are engaged for farm and other work. From the beginning of March, when it becomes known, that removals will take place, pupils who will leave the district lose their interest in School work, and their influence has a baneful effect upon the efficient working of the school, and their attendances become irregular. During the past week several pupils have left the district.

1893.
May 31st Visited School, examined Registers, and
found all correct. Joseph Wood, Chairman.

2nd June. The work of the past week has been mainly revision.

9th " During the past week several new pupils have
been admitted, it is sometimes difficult to attend
to them and at the same time to give full attention
to the special work of the school.
Miss Ellis has had exercise in giving object lessons
to the Infants, also in teaching an advanced class.
There has been special practice of the songs
selected to be sung at the examination.

16th " During the past week nothing of special interest
has called for remark. The time has been
occupied with revision, and where possible
extending information. In a good many cases
the attention and interest of the pupils have been
marked, and where carelessness has appeared
active measures have been adopted to quicken
energy. Due attention has been given to the Infants.

23rd June

1893.

Received intimation from Clerk to School Board,
that the annual visit of H. M. I. would take
place on Thursday 12th June at 9.15 a. m.
The work of the past week has been similar
to that of the preceding week, consisting mainly
of revision, and where necessary giving additional
information. Singing lessons have been
given as usual, also Object Lessons to the
Infants. To-day, after school hours, the
children were entertained by incidents
from "Uncle Tom's Cabin".
W. Wood, Chairman of School Board was
present, and suitably addressed the children.

Joseph Wood
Chairman

29th June

School Inspected,
W. H. King. 11. m. 2.

School dismissed till Monday Morning.

1893. July 7th. The classes have been re-arranged, and the work for another year begun. The New Scottish Royal Readers have been introduced, also the Lower Grade English for Standards V to VI, and Parkin's "Round the Empire" and Higher Grade English for pupils above VI. In honour of the Royal Wedding, the children got a half-holiday. To-day there have been several absent. Intimated that a class for the study of Latin, and also for Agriculture would be commenced on Monday first.

" 14th. The classes are now into good working order, but progress was somewhat impeded by the rain of Wednesday, when a number were absent.

Was informed that some of the Senior Division had left school having gone to work. Object Lessons have been given to the Infants.

" 21st. From the examination till the vacation the attendance gradually lessens. During the past week several, whose excuses are unsatisfactory, have been absent. The classes are now into working order, and the scholars are showing an interest in their work. Standards III, IV and VI were examined in Arithmetic, Dictation & Composition. Miss Ellis was off duty yesterday, owing to illness.

142
4496.
Ayton Public School.

(Berwick.)
24th 7. 93. Summary of the Inspector's Report on the School and Remarks (if any) to be made.

" In this school the work of the junior department, including infants and first and second standards is on the whole good in the elementary branches, and fair in the class subjects. The third passes well except in Arithmetic which is weak, the fourth very well, the fifth and sixth very fairly with the exception that the arithmetic of the sixth is very poor. In the third and fourth standards the class subjects are good; in the fifth and sixth Geography is good, English is very fair, History is fair. Singing by ear is very fair. Sewing is good."

E. Mc. Ellis - Arithmetic - She has failed to earn a grant under Article 19 (c).

H

26th July. School dismissed for Autumn Holidays which are to extend till the 11th September. The Chairman, Mr. Wood, addressed the children upon the necessity of regular attendance. Hearty cheers were given for the School Board, and Teachers.

1893. Sept. 15th Resumed work after the Autumn Vacation. Harvest operations being well advanced, the attendance for the first week has been good. Miss M. Ellis having been unwell, her medical adviser considered it desirable that she should have still further rest for another fortnight; her sister has taken her place during the past week. The other members of the Staff have been present. At the opening of the School on Monday last, Mr. Wood, Chairman of School Board, was present. He gave the pupils some valuable advice, bearing upon regularity of attendance.

- " 22nd Although our numbers were considerably augmented on Monday, yet the attendance has been low towards the close of the week, owing to wet weather, and absence on account of a Bazaar, which has been held yesterday, and to-day in the Volunteers Hall. Was informed, that Miss M. Ellis was improving in health. Revised the Geography, and History of Standards III, IV, V, VI and VII, also had an examination in Arithmetic and Writing (Dictation and Composition).

1893. Sept. 29th Miss Marshall was absent from duty on Monday, and Tuesday owing to illness, but was able to resume work on Wednesday forenoon. Admitted three new pupils during this week, and was informed that Alexander Cowe, and Euphemia Spence had left school. The attendance during the past week has been somewhat irregular, owing to the potato lifting. Miss M. Ellis was able to resume work on Monday morning. The Infants received a special Object Lesson, and the Senior Pupils were examined in Geography and History.

- " Oct. 6th Received intimation that Miss Marshall had gone to Chirnside and had become very unwell, and would be unable for duty during this week. Communicated with Mr. Joseph Wood, Chairman of School Board regarding the inconvenience, and it was thought expedient in the circumstances for Miss Wood to act as Monitor for the week. It is only right to say that her duties in the Infant Room have been very well discharged. Capital order has been maintained. My work has been considerably augmented, and Miss Ellis has been unable to manage Standard V. The ordinary examination of the Senior Division was held to-day.

1893. Oct. 13th. Miss Marshall has been absent all this week, being unable to resume work. The attendance during the past week has been irregular, owing to a number of pupils being engaged at potato lifting. To-day Miss Ellis was unable to manage a class of twenty pupils in Standard V. Her health does not appear to be confirmed. Miss Wood has continued in the Infant Room, where the work has been performed satisfactorily.

" 20th. Miss Marshall has again been absent all the past week, and in order that the work of the school might be satisfactorily performed Miss Ellis has had her attention confined to Standard III, which she has managed better than Standard V, but still the work is not what might be expected. There appears to be a lack of energy and interest in the performance of her duties, which may arise from indifferent health. Was informed that John Rankin, and his brother and sister had left school, having removed to Nottingham. Examined Standards IV, V, VI & ~~IX~~ VII in Arithmetic, Composition, Geography, and History. The usual singing lesson was given.

1893. Oct. 24th. Intimation was received, that Miss Marshall had resigned her situation as assistant teacher owing to ill health, and a prospect of inability to resume her work for a considerable time. The situation was offered to Miss Ellis, teacher at Burnmouth, and she has accepted the same. Miss Wood has been appointed by the School Board to act as Monitor. The work of the school during the past week has been similar to that of the preceding week.

visited school today found all the registers correct
 Joseph Wood
 Chairman

Nov. 3rd. There is nothing of special interest to record unless it be, that intimation was made, that on Monday first, and until further notice the school would be opened at 9.15 a.m. and that the mid-day interval would be half-an-hour from 12.30 to 1 p.m.; thus enabling us to dismiss the school in the afternoon at 3.30 p.m.

" 10th. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner, special attention being paid to Arithmetic and Grammar. To-day there was a revision of Class Subjects, and the singing lessons were given as usual. Made inquiry regarding absentees.

1893. It has been found, that from 12.30 to 1 p.m. is rather too short an interval, so we purpose making the interval from 12.30 to 1.15 p.m. which will suit all parties better.
 Was informed, that Grace Young, who had passed Standard V, had left school, as she was required to assist her mother.
 To-day the singing lessons were given as usual, and a revision of the week's work made. Made enquiry regarding absentees, and found, that some of them had satisfactory excuses for absence.

" 24th The above arrangement regarding the interval at mid-day has wrought very well. Mr. Wood, Chairman of School Board called and informed me, that Miss Ellis, formerly of Murrumbidgee would enter upon her duties here on Monday first as Assistant Teacher.
 Was informed that James Bowe had left the district for Dalkeith. Made inquiry regarding Magdalena Foster and was told that she would return to school.

Dec. 1st To-day has been very stormy, and has had the effect of reducing the attendance. On Monday last Miss Ellis entered upon her duties as Assistant Teacher. The Infants received a special Object Lesson this afternoon.

1893. Dec. 8th At this season of the year absentees are numerous owing to colds. The work of the school has now been put into regular form. James Bowe who had been absent for a considerable time has returned to school. The Infants received an object lesson subject "The Whale," and the Senior classes had their singing lessons.
 Held an examination to-day in English, Arithmetic, Composition and Dictation.

" 16th With the return of stormy weather the attendance has decreased, and there is considerable irregularity, a frequent excuse for which being "a cold".
 Miss Ellis obtained leave of absence, on Tuesday to meet with the Manager of a school, for which she was an applicant. On Wednesday morning she informed us that she had obtained the situation, thus causing another change in the staff.

" 22nd To-day commenced the Christmas Holidays. Mr. Wood, Chairman of the School Board called and requested the school to be dismissed at mid-day. The holidays are to extend until 3 January 1894. The holidays have been further extended till 8th Jan'y. 1894.

1894.

12th January.

School duties were resumed on Monday last. Miss Dunne, who had been ill, was able to resume work, and Miss Straiton entered upon her work as assistant teacher. Several pupils have been absent during the past week, some of whom have been laid up with colds. Singing lessons were given as usual, and a special object lesson given to the Infants.

19th "

During the past week, there has been nothing calling for special note. The staff have individually, and unitedly ^{been} earnest in their endeavours to do their duty to the pupils, under their charge. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found that in some cases, the excuses tendered were far from satisfactory.

26th "

The School Board Officer received a list of absentees. Made inquiries regarding such, and found that a good number of them were ill. The Higher Standards were examined in Arithmetic, Composition, Geography and History. The Infants received their Object Lessons, and the Singing Lessons were given as usual.

1894.

2^d February.

The attendance, during the past week has been somewhat broken, owing to a number of the pupils being colded. Miss Dunne, owing to sickness, had to leave before the usual time to-day. Pupil Teacher prepared a special lesson upon "The Horse" for the Infant classes. Had a revision of the Geography and History of the Senior classes.

9th "

During the past week, Miss Dunne has been off duty, being unwell, and having left for home. In the circumstances, the pupil-teachers have acquitted themselves very well. Miss Straiton has taken considerable interest in her work. Several pupils are absent, owing to sickness, but some, judging from appearances, cannot have satisfactory excuses.

Feb 13th
1894

Visited school today and found
all going on in satisfactory manner

Joseph Wood
Chairman

1894.

16th February. Miss Dunne, being still unwell, has been unable to attend to her duties. Mr. Wood, Chairman of School Board, called and examined registers. Several children are absent on account of colds, and some have been absent without satisfactory excuses. This morning was wet and stormy, which has prevented some of the country children attending school.

23rd

" On Monday Miss Dunne was able to resume her work. Yesterday (Thursday) being the Spring Fast Day, the school was closed. To-day as often happens after a break, absentees are numerous. To-day the Senior Division was examined in Arithmetic, Composition, Geography and History. The Infants received their usual Object Lesson, and Singing was given as usual.

2nd March.

The weather has been rather stormy, which has had the effect of keeping children from school. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. During the past week the ordinary time table has been followed - allowing an hour for Dinner.

1894.

9th March.

Made out a list of irregular attenders, and found that several of them were ailing; others have not satisfactory reasons for their absence. Had the ordinary weekly examination of the Senior and Intermediate Divisions, in Arithmetic, Writing, English, Geography and History. Singing Lessons were given as usual. The staff very attentive to their work.

16th

" The work of the school has proceeded in the usual manner, there being nothing of particular interest to record.

23rd

" Mr. Wood, member of School Board called to say, that the school would be required for Election purposes on Thursday, of next week. Considering that there would be a break in the attendance, it was deemed advisable to have schooling to-day (Good Friday) and vacate next Wednesday until the following Monday. To-day extra attention has been given to Arithmetic (Standards V and VI) and Geography.

1894.

28th March.

The school was closed to-day at mid-day owing to preparations in the rooms for the County Election which takes place to-morrow. Not having had Good Friday as a holiday the School Board agree to give Friday the 30th as a holiday.

Informed the Pupil Teacher regarding the Examinations at Duns, on Saturday the 31st inst.

6th April.

Was informed that Peter Swanson, and his brother Walter had left the district; also that William Lowe had left school.

Admitted as new pupils Andrew Leith, and Peter Gladstone.

During the past week special attention has been bestowed upon backward pupils.

Clerk to School Board called with Papers, relative to the Examination for Admission to Training Colleges, which examination Miss Straiton intends to take in the month of July next.

1894.

13th April.

Had occasion to speak firmly regarding the irregular attendance of some pupils in the Senior Division. The following are samples of excuses offered: "Too late for school; going messages" "Helping his father" "At Ayton Law for chaff" "At Golf". The last is a frequent excuse for absence, on Thursday afternoons. The work of the School has been performed with regularity, and attention.

20th "

Archibald Fairbairn, his brother and sisters have left the district, and their names have been taken off the Registers. The work of the School has been performed in the usual manner - backward pupils have had every inducement of a just and proper nature, to advance with the rest. The Pupil Teachers, and Assistants have been attentive to their work.

27th "

The following new scholars were admitted this week viz. Jennima Spence, Adam Currie and James Currie all residing in Ayton. Had a special examination for the Senior Division, in Arithmetic, Writing, and English.

1894.

4th May. Gave a list to School Board Officers of irregular and very irregular attenders. Have had occasion to-day to correct boys, who absented themselves from school yesterday, and offered the excuse, that they were at the golf course "doing nothing".

There has been special drill in Arithmetic this week. Explained to Standard V and above the "Decimal Coinage".

8th May Visited School today found everything going on satisfactory, found, Registers all correct.

Joseph Wood

11th " " At this season of the year the Senior Pupils attend irregularly, in many cases. Some of them go to work, others are kept at home to assist their mothers with washings, and cleanings - in short a great part of the year's work is lost on account of absence, and irregularity of attendance. If H. M. I's examination was before the May Term, instead of after it, matters might be improved.

1894.

18th May. As the Whitsunday Term approaches, our numbers decrease, owing to some leaving the district, and others engaged by their parents. Made inquiry regarding absentees. Some of their excuses were very unsatisfactory. Miss Wood being unwell was unable to perform her duties to-day. Revised the Geography and History of the Senior Division.

25th

" Miss Wood having recovered from her illness was able to resume her duties. Wrote a note to the chairman of School Board regarding the irregular attendance of pupils, of the Senior Division. As the Term is on Monday first, several pupils, who are leaving the district have left. Singing as usual, to-day.

1st June.

Several pupils have left the school since the return, giving the approximate number of those, who will be presented for examination was sent to Her Majesty's Inspector. To-day fresh Registers were used for the New School Year.

1894.

8th June.

During the past week there has been a general revision of school work.

In the Senior Department special attention has been given to Written Work, also English, Geography, and History.

Four new pupils have been admitted.
Made special enquiry after absentees.

15th

"

The work of the school, during the past week has been similar to that of the preceding week.

Received intimation from Clerk to School Board, that the annual examination and inspection by Her Majesty's Inspector would take place on Wednesday 27th June at 9.15 a.m.

22nd

"

Examined the Senior Department in the Ordinary Subjects, also in English, Geography and History.

Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found that some were absent from illness.

Mr. Annandale, Member of School Board, called to inform me, that the children were to have a Pic-nic on Thursday of next week.

Remains the same
Chairman

June 27th

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ 15 \\ \hline 29 \end{array}$$

School Inspected,

W. G. King H. M. I.

Ayton Public School.

(14. 7. 94) (Berwick)

Summary of the Inspector's Report on the School and Remarks (if any) to be made.

"In this school the work of the junior department, including Infants, and the first and second standards, is fully good in all respects, and the slate exercises are very well done.

Singing is very fair. In the senior department the third is rather weak in arithmetic, but makes a good appearance otherwise in the elementary subjects. In the three higher standards Reading is good, but Dictation and Composition are not more than fair, and Arithmetic is distinctly weak.

The class Subject of English should receive more attention in this department. Geography and History are good with the exception that the girls of the third answered poorly in these subjects. Singing by ear is fair. Sewing is very good in all the classes. Discipline is quite satisfactory in the junior department, but there is considerable room for improvement in the behaviour of the older pupils while under examination."

Thos Thompson H. Correspondent

1894.

24th June School dismissed till Monday 2nd July.

6th July. After the examination several pupils have left, also new pupils have been admitted. As Miss Straiton has gone to Edinburgh to attend the "Admission Examination", her work has been shared by Miss Dunn and myself. Classes have been re-arranged and new school books obtained, which are the property of the pupils. The Singing Lesson given as usual.

13th " The work of the School during the past week has progressed satisfactorily. All the Staff were at their posts, and have performed their duties very heartily. Made inquiry regarding absentees.

The Infants received an Object Lesson on "The Sheep" to which they paid marked attention. The Singing Lessons were given as usual - the first of the New Song being "The Boatie Rowers."

1894.

20th July.

The Clerk to School Board called with the Report of H. M. Inspector on the school for past year, copy of which is on page 24. Made inquiry regarding absentees. The Infants received a special Object Lesson, and the Singing Lesson was given as usual.

24th "

Yesterday being the half-yearly Fast Day the school was closed. To-day several pupils are absent, which generally happens when there is a break at the end of a week. The School Board Officer received a list of absentees for the period of time embraced from 2nd July till 25th July.

3rd August.

The school was dismissed to-day, for the Autumn Vacation, which is to extend for six weeks - resuming on 14th September. Messrs Henderson, and Wood called this afternoon and gave the children suitable advice regarding the holidays, and particularly showed the desirability of all commencing work when the school re-opened.

1894.

21st Sept.

Resumed work after the autumn vacation. The attendance was fair for an opening day. Mr. Joseph Wood, member of the School Board called, and impressed upon the pupils the need for regular attendance. All the staff were at their posts. Miss Straiton informed me that she had passed the Examination for Admission, but not being sufficiently high, she was prevented from attending the Training College.

28th Sept.

During the past week a good number of pupils have returned to duty. There is still a number absent. The classes are now into regular working order. The Infants received a special Object Lesson, and Singing Lessons were given.

5th Oct.

Absentees are gradually being reduced in number, although several pupils have not yet put in an appearance. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Mr. Menzie, a blind man called, after School hours, and interested the children.

1894.

12th Oct.

The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. The attendance of scholars has been good. The Infants received an Object Lesson on Flax and Hemp. Singing Lessons were given as usual. The Metric System was explained and illustrated to Standards V and VI and Ox VII.

19th "

This being the season when potatoes are lifted in the fields, some of the older pupils have been employed at farm work. The attendance has on the whole been good. Made inquiry regarding absentees and the parents did not give very satisfactory answers. Singing lessons were given as usual, and the Infants received their special lessons. The Pupil-Teacher received special drill in Mental Arithmetic.

26th "

Gave a list of irregular attenders to School Board Officer. During the past week, the absentees have been numerous, owing to the older children being engaged at potato lifting. Gave the pupil-teacher hints regarding the conducting of a class and the mode of putting questions.

1894.

2^d Nov^r.

The attendance during the past week has been irregular, especially in the senior department since the older children are engaged in lifting potatoes, at the farms in the neighbourhood.

Infants received their usual object lesson, and the singing lessons were given.

To-day a goodly number of letters was given in as composition exercises.

9th "

Again the attendance especially in the Senior Department has been much reduced owing to the engagement of children in farm work.

Visited the Infant Room and found work going on satisfactorily. Gave the pupil-teacher information regarding the teaching of writing, she gave as an exercise on School Management notes upon Writing, and this afternoon they were turned to practical account.

16th "

Now that the potato crop is secured, the attendance has been better during this week. The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Pupil-teacher gave an object lesson to the Infants - which was supplemented.

1894.

23^d Nov^r.

The School Board Officer received a list of absentees for the past month. The Clerk of School Board, called for information regarding a programme of religious instruction, and received a detailed syllabus of course followed in the Senior, and Intermediate Departments. Pupil Teacher got practice in teaching the girls of Standard III. A Reading lesson was given, and explanation thereon.

30th "

On and after 3rd December and for two months the school will open at 9.30 a.m. Interval from 12.30 to 1 p.m., and dismiss at 3.30 p.m.

Only the Register containing the names of boys above 4 or Register D (boys) to be sent round daily. The other Registers will be checked and examined occasionally by the Headmaster.

All the Registers as usual to be sent round on Friday afternoon

1894.

30th Nov.

General Rules for the Pupils of Astoria Public School.

- 1st Be punctual and regular in your attendance at school.
- 2nd Promptly arrange yourselves in the playground and march into the School in an orderly manner.
- 3rd Avoid all coarse games and rude language.
- 4th Boys and girls must keep to their respective playgrounds.
- 5th There must be no markings on the wood work or buildings.
- 6th All must see that there is no waste of water.
- 7th No waste paper nor nuisance of any kind to be on the playgrounds.

29/11/94.

William Cook,
Headmaster.

30/11/94

The above were read in all the Departments in presence of the Chairman of School Board.
 Examined Registers All the Registers and Found correct. At 2 Henderson

1894.

7th Dec.

Absentees have been more numerous this week, owing to pupils being laid up with colds, and sore throat. All the Registers of the different departments have been examined and checked and found correct. The boys of Standard II got special lessons in Writing, and Drawing. The Infants received their usual Object Lesson - the subject being "Dogs", and the Singing Lessons were given as usual. The Hour for the Pupil-Teacher's lessons was from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

14th "

Like the preceding week the attendance has been much reduced owing in many cases to illness - colds, and sore throat being common. Examined all the Registers of the various departments, and found them correct. Standard IV was examined in Arithmetic, and Dictation, and communicated results to Miss Straiton. The Infants received a special lesson in Mental Arithmetic, and gave some hints to the Pupil-Teacher regarding the same. Singing Lessons given as usual.

1894.

21st Decr.

The attendance during the past week has improved. School Board Officer received a list of absentees and irregulars.

Examined Standard III in Spelling, Geography, and History - and reported the results to Miss Straiton. Received intimation from Clerk to School Board that the Christmas Holidays would extend from 22 December till 2 January 1895. Intimated the same to the teachers and pupils.

1895.

4th January.

The school was re-opened on 2 January according to order. Several pupils were absent although the attendance has improved at the close of the week. Admitted Alexander MacKinnon as a new pupil. Miss Straiton having gone home to Kirkcudbright, obtained leave of absence during this week. Her place has been taken by Miss Lait.

Revised the Arithmetic of Standards V, VI and VII by drilling in Simple and Compound Rules, also in Reduction, Practice, and Simple Proportion. Examined the Registers and found them correct.

1895.

11th January.

Wet weather and severe wintry weather have a great effect in lessening the attendance.

During the past week several new pupils have been admitted from a private school, which has been carried on in the village for some time. Pupils were examined, and classified accordingly. Directed the attention of the joiner to certain repairs, which were needed.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic and informed Miss Straiton as to results.

Infants received their usual Object Lesson and the Singing Lessons were given as usual.

18th "

The School Board Officer received a list of irregular attenders, and absentees for the past month. Certain small repairs, on the premises were sanctioned, and carried out by the joiner. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and was informed that Jemima Dalgetty, had left the school, also that Robert Mills had left the district. Examined Standard V in Arithmetic, and Dictation, and informed Miss Straiton as to results. Examined all the Registers, and found them correct. Singing lessons given as usual.

1895.

25th January.

During the past week, the attendance has on the whole been good, there have however been exceptions, who have been unable to give satisfactory reasons for their absence.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, Reading, and Intelligence, and informed Miss Straiton as to the results, along with information on important points.

Pupil Teacher received her lessons as usual, along with a special lesson on the Teaching of Arithmetic, with practical illustrations.

1st February.

During the past week owing to the severity of the weather, the attendance has not been good. Cases of illness have been reported, and country children have been prevented from attending on account of the roads being blocked. It was reported, that Elizabeth Maddell had left school on account of illness, and Thomas McBrow was past school age.

Examined Standards V, VI and ~~IX~~ VII, in Reading, Intelligence, Grammar, Geography and History. Registers examined and found correct. Singing lessons given as usual.

1895.

8th February.

With a return of severe wintry weather our attendance has suffered. At mid-day on Wednesday the storm was so great, that after consulting the Chairman of School Board, the school was closed that afternoon.

On Monday forenoon Miss M. Ellis assisted Miss Wood in the Junior and Infant Departments. Miss Dunne having gone from home. The school hours have been the same as those of the previous two months.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic and Geography, and showed Miss Straiton, the kind of sums that might be required for Arithmetic under the New Code. Singing lessons given as usual, and the Infants received a special Object Lesson.

15th

" Give a list of absentees and irregulars to School Board Officer, which, ^{list} was longer than ordinary, owing in a great measure to the severity of the weather. Messrs Henderson and Annaudale, members of School Board called to inquire regarding the comfort of the children.

1895

22nd February.

Made inquiry regarding absentees, and specially enquired after Maggie Paterson who resides in a neighbouring parish, found that the cause of her absence was her mother's illness. Yesterday being the Spring Fast Day - the school was closed. To-day examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, Grammar, and Spelling - and informed Miss Straiton of defects in Grammar. Checked all the Registers and found them correct. Special Lesson given to Infants and Singing Lessons given as usual.

1st March.

Intimated that the school would be opened on Monday, and until further notice at 9 a.m. that there would be an hour for dinner, and that the school would be dismissed at 4 p.m. Informed the Pupil Teacher, that the hour for her lessons would be from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. also that we would revise the work. Examined Standards V, VI and ~~IX~~ VI on Geography (physical included) and History. The Infants received their usual lesson, and the Singing Lessons were given as usual.

1895

8th March

During the past week there have been several cases of illness. Revised the History and Geography of Standards V and VI; also examined Standard V in Arithmetic, and Dictation, and Sentence Building. Reported results to Miss Straiton. Infants received a special lesson on the "Pec". Singing Lessons were given as usual. Found all the Registers properly marked.

15th

"

During the past week the attendance has been greatly reduced, owing to illness. Sore throats and colds have been very numerous. Yesterday the school was closed, the School Board agreed to give a holiday in honour of the Ordination to the Gospel Ministry of the Rev. D. S. Cairns, M.A. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, Dictation, and Geography. Singing Lessons were given as usual, and a special Object Lesson was given to the Infants.

1895.

22 March. The attendance for the past week especially in the Senior Department has been greatly reduced. Illness has not been confined to scholars. Miss Straiton has been off duty during the past week owing to illness. A Piano has been placed for the use of the Junior and Infant Department. Special Lesson was given to Infants subject "Water". Singing Lessons given as usual.

29th " The attendance in the Senior Department is still very irregular; colds, sore throats and such like are the excuses that are tendered. Such irregularity has a very baneful effect upon the progress of the classes. Miss Straiton was able to resume her duties on Monday morning. The pupil-teacher was informed regarding her Examination at Duns to-morrow, and in order, that she may be in time, she purposes staying with a friend over the night. The Railway train is sometimes late. The Infants received a special Object Lesson, and the Singing Lessons were given as usual.

1895.

14th April

The school was closed on Tuesday, being used in connection with the Parish Council Election. The attendance has somewhat improved this week, but the list of irregulars for the past month is rather heavy.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Dictation and reported results to Miss Straiton. The singing Lessons were given as usual, also the Infants received their weekly lesson. Registers examined, and found correct.

11th "

The attendance during the past week has improved. Miss Straiton obtained liberty on Tuesday to leave before the school was dismissed. Yesterday afternoon for a short time Miss Straiton had full charge of the Senior Department, as I required to attend the funeral of my father-in-law. The School Board gave liberty to close the school to-morrow, it being Good Friday, and Miss Dunne got liberty from me to arrive from Edinburgh with the 9.20 train. The names Mary Redpath, and Mary Craik were deleted from the School Register.

1895.

19th April

During the past week the attendance has on the whole been good, there have however been irregulars, who could not give satisfactory reasons for their absence.

Examined Standard V in Arithmetic, Dictation, and Geography. Informed Miss Straiton regarding defects and how to remedy them. Miss Wood gave an object lesson upon the Flax Plant, in my presence, which was fairly done.

Examined and checked all the Registers and found them correct.

Explained very fully to Standards V and VI, the application of decimals, to the Metric System.

26th "

The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner, all the staff at their posts. The attendance during the week has been good, although to-day, I had occasion to check certain boys in the Senior Department for their absence yesterday afternoon. The excuse offered being that they were at the Golf Course.

The responsibility for their absence rests with their parents. Singing and Musical Drill were given as usual.

1895.

3rd May.

During the past week, there has been a general revisal of school work. Standard VI was examined in Arithmetic, and results reported to Miss Straiton. All the Registers have been examined daily and weekly and they were correct. The Infants were examined upon Mental Arithmetic. Mr. Allan has entered upon her duties as School cleaner. Made inquiry regarding absentees.

10th "

The work of the school, during the past week, has been like that of the preceding.

Standard III was examined in Arithmetic, and Miss Straiton was informed as to results. An object lesson was given to the Infants by the pupil-teacher. Subject - "The camel". The School Board Officer received the monthly list of Irregulars. Sent a note to Mr. Thompson, Clerk to School Board, that the Ashpit was full, and that a joined would be required for the woodwork at the closets.

The attendance for the past week has been good; there has however been a tendency for some of the Senior Pupils to be absent.

1895.

14th May

Received from Clerk to School Board the Government Forms which are necessary for the approaching examination.

Gave the required information regarding the (approximate) number of pupils, for presentation. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic.

Gave Intermediate and Senior Departments, instruction in School Drill.

The Infants received their usual lesson the subject being - "Wheat."

Examined all the Registers, and found them marked up to date and correct.

24th "

During the past week, several pupils who are leaving the district, have left the school.

The work for the week has consisted mainly revision, with additional information bearing on the subject. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, and reported results to Miss Stratton. The Infants received their usual Special Lesson - the exercise was in Mental Arithmetic. Yesterday some pupils, who were absent, brought lines from their parents, intimating the Cause of their absence.

1895.

31st May.

During the past week there has been revision of work. Being Term week, several pupils have left the district. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, and informed Miss Stratton as to the results. The Pupil-Teacher gave a Special Lesson - subject - "The Elephant" - in my presence - gave additional information bearing upon the Subject. The Higher Standards have had exercise in Map Drawing from Memory.

7th June.

Several new pupils were admitted. Made inquiry regarding absentees, some excuses were satisfactory and others were not. There is a pretty prevalent notion which is - that after the May Term it is immaterial whether pupils attend school. The work of the school has been performed on the same lines as those of the former week.

Examined Standard III in Geography, Intelligence, and Spelling, and mentioned certain matters which would be improvements. Pupil-Teacher gave a lesson to the Infants the subject being "The Ostrich." Examined all the Registers and found them correct.

Alfred Henderson Chairman.

1895.

14th June.

Received information from Mr. Thompson, Clerk to School Board, that the Inspection, and Examination would take place on Tuesday 18th inst at 9 a.m. - gave notice to the members of the staff. All books, and schedules relating to H. M. Inspector's visit were examined, and signed by the School Board.

During the past year, although the school has not been closed, illness, and severity of weather have told materially upon the attendance of pupils.

Examined Standard IV in Geography and History and informed Miss Straiton as to the results. The pupil-teacher gave in my presence, a special lesson to the Infants - subject - "The Bee".

The various Registers, of each Department, were examined, and found correct.

Alfred Henderson
Chairman

Thos. Thompson

Clerk

18th June

School Inspected,

W. H. King. H. M. I.

Staff.

William Cook, certificated 2nd class.Elizabeth H. Dunne " 3rd "

Agnes Straiton Ex. P. T.

Rose Wood, Pupil Teacher of the 1st Year.

Agton Public School, Berwick, Summary of the Inspector's Report on the School and remarks (if any) to be made.

14^A
4496

(514.95)

The children in the Junior Department of this School have made very creditable progress. The practice of counting by units in the first and second standards must not however be allowed in future. The third and fourth standards make a good appearance in the elementary subjects with the exception that Mental Arithmetic is weak. The class subjects in these standards are very fair. The fifth and sixth standards read well, and have a satisfactory knowledge of Geography and History. There is still considerable room for improvement in these classes in Composition, Arithmetic, and English. Agriculture is good. Singing by ear is very fair; Sewing is excellent. Discipline is much better in the Senior Department; but the higher grant is still withheld on account of the indistinct answering of the girls. No payment can be made for the passes in Agriculture as article 21 (c) is not satisfied. R. Wood has passed a fair examination.

Donaldson Junior
Clerk.

W. H.

1895.

21st June.

On Tuesday the annual inspection of the School took place, since then several of the senior pupils have left school. The clerk to the School Board called to-day with the Duplicate Examination schedule, and the classes have been re-arranged. Intimated to Assistants, and pupils that Monday and Tuesday would be holidays, as it is customary to give a holiday after H. M. Inspector's Examination, also Midsummer Holiday which takes place on Tuesday first. Miss Straiton who is going to Edinburgh next week for the Certificate Examination obtained leave of absence this afternoon, also the whole of next week.

28th "

Resumed the work of the school on Wednesday. Miss Straiton having gone to Edinburgh, her classes were under my charge. Informed the pupils of the various standards, what books would be required. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found that the excuses of some were very unsatisfactory.

1895.

5th July.

Received information that Jane Paterson, Elizabeth Young, and Sarah Dalgetty had left school all having passed Standard V. Admitted several new pupils, and Robert Mills who left the district some time ago was re-admitted. The various classes are now into working order. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, Dictation, and Geography, and mentioned certain weak ones to Miss Straiton. Singing and Drill Exercises were resumed. The Infants received their usual lesson.

12th "

Received from clerk to School Board Report of H. M. Inspector on Aytoun Public School for 1894-95, copy of which is found on page 46. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, Spelling, and Geography, and informed Miss Straiton regarding weakness in the Arithmetic. The attendance during the past week has been rather irregular and inquiry has been made regarding absentees. Singing and Drill exercises given as usual. Registers examined and found correct.

1895.

19th July.

The attendance during the past week has been fair, with the exceptions of to-day which was very wet in the morning and the consequence was, that the attendance was greatly reduced. Some pupils or rather the parents of the pupils have the absurd habit of keeping their children from school, from the date of the examination, till the autumn holidays - this refers to pupils in the Senior Department. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, Spelling, Meanings and Geography. The Infants received their usual lesson, and the singing was also given.

26th

"

During the past week, there has been an almost continuous break. On Monday afternoon we had to vacate, owing to the joiners erecting polling booths in the school. On Tuesday the Parliamentary Election took place. Thursday was the Sacramental Fast Day, and this morning the attendance was so much reduced - the morning being very wet, that after consulting the Chairman of the School Board, it was considered advisable to close the school for the week.

Henderson Chairman
Jul 31/95

1895.

31st July

Today the school was closed for the Autumn Vacations. Messrs Henderson and Wood visited the school. The matter of regular attendance at school - the duty and benefits were impressed upon the pupils by Mr Wood and myself. Mr Henderson examined all the Registers, and found them correct.

20th Sept^r

The school Duties were resumed after the autumn vacation. The attendance on the whole was good. A number of the older scholars were absent. Messrs Henderson and Wood members of the School Board called, and expressed their pleasure at seeing such a good attendance, although it was regretted that those who had most need to attend, were absent. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, Spelling, and Grammar. Registers were checked and examined.

24th

"

The attendance during the past week has increased, although some of the Senior Pupils have not yet returned to their work. Introduced a new Geographical Reader. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, Spelling, and Geography. Registers correct.

1895.

October 4th

With a change in the weather, there has been a falling off in the attendance. A wet day has the effect of reducing our numbers, and besides there has been a cheap trip to Edinburgh - when parents go to the city and the house is left in charge of the older children.

Made inquiry after absentees - and found some of the reasons unsatisfactory.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, and Grammar, and informed Miss Straiton as to the results. Mentioned also some points with reference to discipline. Registers found correct.

" 11th

During the past week there has been stormy weather which has prevented country children from attending school. Made inquiry regarding absentees - some of the older pupils are working and it is doubtful if they will return to school. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, and Geography, and informed Miss Straiton regarding the results. Examined and checked the Registers. The Infants received a lesson subject - "A Garden." Children much interested.

1895.

October 18th

The attendance during the past week has been poor in the Senior Department (Standards V, VI & VI). The causes are varied - some pupils are unwell, but the majority are employed at potato lifting. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, and Geography, and gave some hints regarding the Teaching of Geography. The Lesson of last week was repeated to the Infants.

Examined and checked all the Registers.

" 25th

Varied excuses have been given for absence during the past week - some are ill - others are engaged at potato lifting - others beating the coverts for sportsmen - and some have no excuse at all. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Grammar, and mentioned to Miss Straiton the benefit that would result from the use of problems in Arithmetic; also to teach Grammar so that the mental faculties would be exercised. The Infants received a lesson - the subject being "The Elephant." Singing Lessons were given as usual. All the Registers were checked, and examined. Desk Drill was given to the pupils of the Senior & Inter^{med} Departments.

1895.

1st Nov^r

Potato lifting not being finished is made the excuse for absence in a number of cases, - there are also some real cases of illness. Intimated to Assistants and pupils the change in the hour of meeting in the morning, also the shortening of the interval. Examined Standard IV in Grammar, and Geography, and suggested to Miss Straiton how these subjects might be improved. Singing and Drill were given as usual. All the Registers were examined and found correct.

8th

"

Some pupils whose names are on the School Registers have not yet returned to school, and the answers, sent after making inquiries regarding their absence, are so vague that it is doubtful whether they purpose returning to school or not; others have a very satisfactory excuse viz illness. Examined Standard III in Grammar, and Geography. The Pupil Teacher gave a lesson to the Infants Subject - "Garden - Gardening - and Gardening Implements."

1895.

15th Nov^r

During the past week there has not been anything remarkable to record, the work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Have not received definite replies from absentees. Examined Standard IV in Writing, Intelligence, and Geography, and gave some information to Miss Straiton regarding these subjects. Infants received a Special Lesson the subject being "Ice and Snow" - "Skates" - "Skating". Revised the Desk Drill Exercises. Examined the Registers and found them correct.

22

"

The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner. Yesterday being wet - country children were not fully out. Made inquiries regarding absentees.

Examined Standard III in Writing, and Spelling and reported results to Miss Straiton. The Infants received a Special Lesson the subject being "Forms of Water" - "Fishing" - "Ship". The youngsters were much interested. Registers examined and found correct. Singing Lessons were given as usual.

Copy as to Teaching of Agriculture
and Botany 29th July 1895.

Ayton Public School (Berwickshire)

Specific Subject - Agriculture.

Class Subject - Botany (under Art 19 A 5.)

Course of Instruction.

Standards I and III. Simple Object Lessons.

Standards III and IV. Characters of the
Root, Stem, Leaves, and Parts of the Flower.
Illustrated by Specimens of common
flowering plants.

Standards V, VI and VII. Structure of
Wood, Bark, and Pith. Cells and Vessels.

Food of Plants, and manner in which
a plant grows. Functions of the root,
leaves, and different parts of the flower
with a little Agriculture.

The above illustrated by diagrams and
plants collected by the pupils.

Reply from Scotch Education Department.

13th August 1895.

Ayton Public School.

S. Berwick.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge
the receipt of your Letter of the 7th instant.
I am directed to state that my Lords
have approved the proposed Scheme of
instruction in Botany as a class
subject.

My Lords assume that Agriculture
is to be taught as a Specific Subject
according to the Code.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. Craik.

J. Thompson, Esq.,
Clerk to the School Board
Ayton.
N. B.

J. Donaldson Junr.
Clerk.

1895.

29th Nov.

Attendance has been better during the past week. The School Board Officer received the monthly list of absentees. Examined Standard IV in Grammar, and Geography, and informed Miss Straiton as to the results. Formed a class for the study of the First Stage in Agriculture. Pupil-Teacher gave a lesson in Writing to Infants in my presence - to which was added supplementary information. Singing lessons given as usual.

6th Dec.

Received the following certificate:- Nov. 30th 1895.
"This is to certify that Mary Burns is at present unable to attend school owing to illness".

David R. Taylor.
L.R.C.P. & L.C. etc.

Examined Standard III in Map Drawing, Geography and Mental Arithmetic, and informed Miss Straiton regarding the teaching of the same. Singing lessons given to the classes as usual. Examined all the Registers and found them correct.

1895.

13th Dec.

Made inquiry regarding absentees. Examined Standard IV in Intelligence, Geography, and Mental Arithmetic, and informed Miss Straiton regarding the examination. The singing lessons and lesson in Drill were given as usual. Registers were all checked and examined and found correct. Had occasion to impress upon the pupils the benefits of loyal obedience to their teachers, and to regard education as a delight, not as a burden.

20th "

"

On Tuesday and Wednesday several of the boys in the Senior Division were engaged beating the coverts for game. The attendance during the close of the week was better.

Examined Standard III in intelligence, and mental arithmetic and reported the same to Miss Straiton.

The singing lessons were given as usual and all the Registers were examined and checked. The Infants received a special lesson subject "Pins".

1895.

Decr 24th

Dismissed for Christmas Holidays, which are to extend till the 6th January, 1896. All the Staff received Christmas Gifts from the Scholars, which were very valuable, and much appreciated by the recipients.

Mr Wood, in the absence of the Chairman, who was sorry that he could not be present, occupied the Chair, and addressed some suitable counsels to the children.

After giving three cheers for the School Board, the children marched off in great glee.

1896.

January 10th

Resumed work after the holidays. the attendance on the whole has been good. Some however have not satisfactory reasons for their absence. All the members of the Staff were at their posts, and progress has been made with the work of the School.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Geography (Map Drawing).

The Infants received a special lesson subject "Water". Singing Lessons, and Exercises in Physical Drill were given.

Registers examined and found correct.

1896.

January 17th

During the past week the attendance has been good. As the days are lengthening the interval has extended to three quarters of an hour - and the School was dismissed at 3.45. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic and Geography (Map Drawing), and informed Miss Stratton of the weak ones. Singing Lessons, and Modified Desk Drill given as usual. Registers examined and found correct.

" 24th

During the past week there is nothing of special interest to record. School Duties have been performed with diligence and attention.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic and Geography. The East Coast of Scotland was drawn from memory which in several cases was well done.

The Arithmetic was on the whole well done.

The Infants received a special Lesson, the subject being "Sea", and Drill and Singing Lessons were given as usual.

Registers were examined and found correct.

1896.

31st January.

Impressed upon the pupils, that the primary duty of scholars was to attend school, and also to remain the full time so as to secure two attendances each day.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic and Composition, and informed Miss Straiton as to the results.

The Infants received a special lesson - the subject being "The bat." This of considerable importance, that subjects are chosen that the pupils have some knowledge of - and thus their intelligence can be amplified.

7th February.

With a continuance of favourable weather, the attendance has been good - cases of absence have been inquired into - and illness has been the excuse. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, and gave them special instruction in Compound Addition. Find it to be an advantage to give a little desk drill each day. The singing lessons were given as usual. The Infants received their usual Lesson the subject being "Bread". Registers examined and found correct.

1896.

14th February.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, and Geography and informed Miss Straiton as to the results. It was found that Map Drawing assisted the Geography a good deal.

Introduced a new kind of Drill for Girls viz "Skipping Rope Drill" which they all enjoyed. Grecian Exercises have been given to both Boys and Girls during the week.

Examined all the Registers, and found them correct.

21st

"

Yesterday being the Spring Fast Day, the school was closed. To-day the attendance has not been so good. A little Desk Drill has been given each morning, and Special Drill to the Boys has been given this afternoon.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, and Geography including Map Drawing from Memory. Informed Miss Straiton, what points would require special attention.

The Infants received a Lesson in Mental Arithmetic, all the Registers were examined, and checked, and found correct.

1896.

28th Feb^y.

The attendance on the whole has been good, the weather which has a material influence being favourable. The School Board Officer received a list of absentees.

Examined Standard ~~IV~~ in Arithmetic, and Geography also Map. Drawing - informed Miss Straiton as to the results.

All the Registers examined and checked.

6th March.

It has been found that the most convenient hour to meet in the morning is 9.30.

The Interval during the past week has been an hour, and the school dismissed at 4 p.m.

There are some irregulars, who require a weekly visit from the School Board Officer.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, and Geography and directed Miss Straiton's attention to points which would be improvements. Drill and Singing given as usual.

1896.

13th March.

Yesterday afternoon the School Board granted a half-holiday to the pupils in connection with a Sale of Work that took place in the Volunteer Hall. When there is a break in the School Work on a Thursday, the attendance is much reduced on the Friday. Gave the Senior Division special drill in the Compound Rules, so that they may acquire the habit of accurate and speedy calculation. Examined Standard ~~IV~~ in Arithmetic and Geography. Informed Miss Straiton as to the results.

Registers examined and found correct.

Infants received a special lesson in Geography.

20th

"

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic both slate and Mental, and informed Miss Straiton as to the great utility of Mental Practice.

The attendance to-day has not been so good. The School Board Officer received a list of absentees. The Infants received a "General Information Lesson". The singing lessons were given as usual, and a little Drill has been given each day.

1896.

27th March.

The attendance during the past week has on the whole been good. Absentees have been carefully enquired for, and some of the reasons have been satisfactory.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, Rate, and Mental, and informed Miss Stratton as to the benefits to be derived from a systematic course of Mental Arithmetic.

The pupils have all had Drill. In the Intermediate and Senior Departments, Boys and Girls have had "Modified Desk Drill" also "Grecian Exercises." The Boys have had "Gun Drill" and the Girls "Skipping Rope Drill," all of which have been relished by the pupils. The Infants received a special Geography Lesson. One which drew out their intelligent observation. All the Registers examined, and checked, and were found correct.

Informed the pupil teacher to be in good time for her examination, at Duns to-morrow.

1896.

2nd April.

To-morrow being Good Friday, the School Board decided that the School should be closed, also on the Monday following.

Yesterday afternoon and this afternoon several of the Senior boys have been absent - yesterday they attended the funeral of their Sabbath School Teacher (Mr. James Locher) - to-day the Golf Course has been the attraction.

The work of the school has been performed in the usual manner.

10th

"

The attendance during the past week has been irregular. When the school re-opened on Tuesday, there was a good attendance, but towards the close of the week, there has been a considerable decrease, owing to a Sale which has been going on yesterday, and to-day. A common excuse from the girls has been "I was keeping the house, my mother was at the sale." In the case of boys no satisfactory answer has been forthcoming. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, and Geography, and gave some instructions to Miss Stratton with reference to these subjects. Registers examined and checked.

1896.

14th April

The attendance during the past week has been better than that of the preceding, although there have been cases, when very unsatisfactory excuses have been tendered.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, and Grammar (Analysis and Parsing) and pointed out to Miss Straiton certain lines of thought, which would be profitable to the pupils.

A special lesson was given to the Infants — Subject "The Horse"; and the Singing Exercises and Drill Exercises, have been given as usual. Registers were examined, and checked.

24th

"

There has been considerable annoyance with regard to non-attendance at school.

Yesterday a number of the Senior Boys were employed on the Golf Course, and two in the Junior Department have been absent without satisfactory excuse.

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic, and Sentence Building, and Analysis. Informed Miss Straiton, that great benefit would result from such an exercise. Infants received a Special Lesson, and Singing and Drill given as usual.

1896.

1st May.

So far as attendance is concerned, I have to repeat the remarks made last week.

The excuses advanced for non-attendance at school are very unsatisfactory.

Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic (Slate) (and Mental) and the results were good.

Examined and checked all the Registers and found them correct.

8th

"

Informed Chairman, and Clerk to School Board respecting the absence of boys on Thursday afternoons at the Golf Course.

The Chairman called and informed me, that measures would be taken to prevent the recurrence of the same, and on Thursday afternoon last there was a distinct improvement.

The boys were warned, and the warning has had a good effect. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic (Slate and Mental) and informed Miss Straiton regarding the results.

Miss Hood feeling unwell required to leave her duties for a short time. Examined, and checked all the registers. Singing Exercises and Drill Exercises were given as usual.

1896.

15th May.

This afternoon several pupils have been absent having gone to Berwick to see an exhibition of trained horses. Made inquiry regarding absentees, and found that Christina Shearlane had no proper reason for her absence. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic, and revised the Geography of Standards V, and VI. The Infants received a special lesson, and Drill, and other Physical Exercises, also the Singing were given as usual. Registers examined and checked.

22nd

"

Examined Standard III in Arithmetic (Slate and Mental) and informed Miss Straiton as to the results. Found that simple Mental Arithmetical sums had a good effect in sharpening the mind, and a strange result was that some who were rather behind with their sums on the slate were the best Mental calculators. Mr. Doughty, Interim Clerk to School Board called to-day with the various schedules relating to the examination of the School. Gave the information desired for Form 8.16. Also a list of Irregulars.

1896.

29th May.

Gave a list of absentees and irregulars to the School Board Officer. During this Term several pupils have left the district. There has been a general revision of school work. Examined Standard IV in Arithmetic (Slate and Mental). Messrs Henderson and Nisbet, Members of the School Board called yesterday and made a general survey of the premises. Singing and Physical Drill were given as usual. Infants received a Lesson in Mental Arithmetic. Registers examined and checked.

5th June.

During the week several new pupils have been entered. The newly appointed School Board Clerk (Mr. John Donaldson) called to see if Form 8.16 had been sent to H. M. Inspector, he was informed that the date of despatch of the same was 23rd May. Examined Standard III in Arithmetic (Slate and Mental). The joiner has given the closets a coat of paint which has improved their appearance. Singing and Physical Drill have been given as usual. Registers examined and checked.