

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SCHOOL NURSE

By Marie Rivers

The life of a school nurse is far from being a long holiday. Marie Rivers, of St. Jim's sanatorium, explains the "whys" and "wherefores" in this chat.

SOME people imagine that the life of a school nurse is one long holiday. All that she has to do is to sit by the bedside of a schoolboy patient, holding his hand, and reading stories aloud from THE HOLIDAY ANNUAL.

A very pleasant and touching picture, but very far from being the fact!

Of course, there are slack times in the "sanny," but they do not come very often. Seldom have I known the sick-bay to be deserted. St. Jim's has over three hundred scholars, and it would be too much to expect them all to be in a constant state of fitness. There are such things as influenza epidemics—seldom a winter passes without one—and common colds and chills, and strains and sprains, and a host of minor ailments.

There are five patients in the sanny as I write. Here is a list of them:

Name.	Complaint.	Probable length of detention.
D'Arcy minor ..	Mumps	Three weeks
"Curly" Gibson	Measles	Three weeks
Jack Blake	Leg injuries sustained at football	One week
G. A. Grundy ...	Swollen head (result of fighting)	Two days
Bagley Trimble	Overfeeding	Five minutes!

It is strange that D'Arcy minor should contract mumps at the same time as

his bosom friend "Curly" Gibson, contracted measles. What you might call a "queer" coincidence!

Blake is progressing favourably, and Grundy will soon be out and about again, though he will not be cured of his "swollen head." Grundy's vanity is incurable!

Trimble is suffering from a slight bilious attack—the result of too many meals



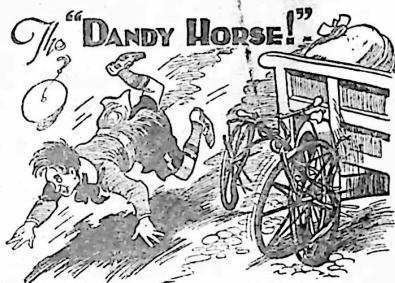
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between meals! He declares he is at death's door, and he wants me to keep him in the sanny for a month. But I know Trimble of old; he is an artful malingerer. I shall give him a mixture that will make him grimace, and send him packing!

There is a good deal of work to be done in the sanny. Special meals have to be prepared for the patients. Some are on full diet: others have to be content with "slops." They don't like it a little bit, but I tell them it is "gruel to be kind." There are beds to be made, and temperatures to take twice daily, and rooms to be kept spick and span. Then there is a

parade of "out patients" each morning: that is to say, boys suffering from trivial ailments which do not warrant their detention in the sanny. My cough-mixture is extremely popular with the juniors, and I have a shrewd suspicion that in some cases their "bark" is worse than their plight!

At all events, they keep me very busy in the dispensary. And when you have read this article you will realise that a school nurse has no time for the pleasant occupation of holding the hands of her patients, and reading to them extracts from *THE HOLIDAY ANNUAL*!



An Extract from the History of Greyfriars.

It is now slightly over one hundred years ago since the first bicycle arrived at Greyfriars. A Fifth Form boy named Renny was the happy possessor of the queer-looking machine.

The "Dandy Horse," as the bike was known, consisted merely of two wooden wheels, a crude wooden frame and a hard, narrow saddle. The rider propelled the whole contraption by thrusting at the ground with alternate feet, for there were no pedals.

Naturally, when Renny of the Fifth appeared at Greyfriars on this weird machine he created a tremendous sensation. Half the school flocked into the old Close to see him and his friends making trial runs.

Within a few hours Renny's "Dandy

Horse" was the one topic of conversation throughout the school, from the captain down to the smallest fag.

Poor Renny was overwhelmed with requests for the loan of his "jigger," and, although his was the only bike at Greyfriars, a cycling craze swept over the school. Indeed, a few enthusiastic spirits in the Remove attempted, without much success, to make their own "Dandy Horses"!

Possibly the masters of that day were none too pleased at all the excitement, but they had no grounds for interference—at least, not at first.

A few weeks later, however, the new craze evidenced a sudden and complete check.

Leslie Graham, a Second-Former, having been refused the loan of Renny's bicycle, decided to take matters into his own hands and borrow it without permission.

The fag carried out his plan one summer evening and all went well until he reached the brow of the steep hill near Friardale, and here he lost control of his clumsy mount—for the "Dandy Horse" had no brakes.

The runaway bike dashed down the hill and crashed headlong into a farmer's cart at the bottom, the terrified Graham receiving very severe injuries from which, happily, he recovered. The "Dandy Horse" did not recover—which was, perhaps, fortunate, cycling being prohibited for Greyfriars boys for several years after because of this accident.



"The Greyfriars Parliament is a first-rate affair," says TOM REDWING. Judging by his comments it's a tenth-rate parliament!

THIS is a first-rate affair. Everybody can take part in Parliament; but the whole proceedings are conducted with such decorum and gravity that rows and shindies are greatly looked down upon. Wonderful to state, the Remove takes its Parliament very seriously.

Parliament meets once a week in the Form-room, which is used by special permission of Mr. Quelch. All kinds of questions are discussed there, and they are discussed seriously for the most part.

Every fellow in the Remove is entitled to a seat in Parliament, and he may select whatever town he likes of which to call himself the member. He may also select which party he likes to represent.

Any member of the House is allowed to ask questions of the ministers; but he must put in a notice of such a question at the previous meeting. All members of the House—even Bunter and Fish—must be addressed in the proper way; such as, "The honourable member for Gluttonsville," or "The honourable member for Colney Hatch."

And now for the Ministers of State, etc. **THE SPEAKER** is Mr. Johnny Bull, who is responsible for everything that happens during the meetings, and must keep Parliament in order. **THE PRIME MINISTER** is Mr. Harry Wharton, the Form captain.

The Prime Minister's job is an important one. He is responsible for the policy to be

pursued in all cases by the Remove, and he dictates the course of action of his ministers.

THE HOME SECRETARY is Mr. Mark Linley, who is in charge of all the activities inside the walls of Greyfriars, and on the home sports grounds.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, Mr. Vernon-Smith, is responsible for the doings of the Greyfriars fellows in the village, in Courtfield, at other schools, at other sports grounds and during the holidays.

THE WAR MINISTER is Mr. Bob Cherry, and he deals with Highcliffe rags, pillow-fights, Form combats, boxing matches, snow-fights and rags generally.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, Mr. Frank Nugent, deals with all money questions, and is Treasurer to the Remove Sports Club, Remove Amateur Dramatic Society and Remove Publishing Society. He is responsible for getting in the footer and cricket subscriptions—some job!

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL is Mr. Peter Todd. He represents the Law in Parliament, and all law questions are settled by Toddy.

There is no opposition to support. All members are free to please themselves how they vote on any question. Each position in the Cabinet is voted for separately, and the best men for the jobs elected.

We have had many lively debates in the Greyfriars Parliament. May we have as many more.