

# Manx Notes 553 (2021)

ANNIE I. CAINE (1938)



[12c] This week I had an opportunity of talking to Miss A.I. Caine, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Caine, of Brighton Terrace, Douglas. She is head teacher at Ballamodda School, and seems to enjoy it very much. Teaching in country schools, I should imagine, is altogether different from the towns. There is more of a personal touch about it. One knows the parents, one gets to know one's pupils better. You know where Ballamodda School is, of course. It commands the finest view from any school in the Island, its pupils are hardy individuals, they walk to school, and have their lunch there. They enjoy the lessons, and they love the soil. It is important to love the soil when one has been reared in the country. On all sides we hear that the land wants workers, and, it seems to me, that in the country schools the workers of the future may be found. If we go on centralising everything, re-organising everything, and bringing the children up in the towns, will they have that inherent love of the soil which is so essential to the keen agriculturalist? The children at Ballamodda School are extremely healthy, and they say the Lord's Prayer in Manx every morning. I asked Miss Caine how she taught them this, and she informed that she bought a record made by Mr H.P. Kelly, High Bailiff, and the children had become quite proficient. The scholars competed most successfully in the Cruinnaght in the Manx language class. The school has quite a tradition behind it. It is fifty years old, and at one time had over a hundred scholars. That was when Grenaby was a flourishing village! Miss Caine has to motor to her work every day, and she has lots of other interests in her life besides teaching. She is a member of a most gifted Manx family as you know. She is a past President of *Aelagh Vannin*, and her chief hobbies

are singing and folk dancing. She is also interested in all the Manx societies. She has been several years at Ballamodda, and before that at Laxey, and has also taught in Sheffield. I asked her why she came back to the Isle of Man, and she replied simply, "I had to—there is nowhere like it." In search of further information. I asked Miss Caine if she had travelled at all. She has. She is a firm believer in travel. It broadens the view and [12f] helps to make one see the other man's point of view; still it has forced her to the conclusion that "home is best." She finds beauty in looking from the school window at Ballamodda, and her favourite tramp is up to the top of South Barrule. Miss Caine is a most experienced European globe-trotter, having been to Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Denmark, France, Italy, and North Africa, as well as paying a visit to Oberammergau for the Passion Play.

Pseud [signed as "Femina"]. "[Woman's Sphere] Teaching at Ballamodda." *Isle of Man Weekly Times* 12 March 1938: 12e–f.

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