The Limerick Corporation recently announced plans to rebuild the Johnsgate part of city. This rebuilding scheme will, it is hoped, bring new life and vitality to the old, historic place. There is no reason why, with proper planning and design, the building of new houses and cluster industries should not harmonise with the old walls of Limerick, under the shadow of the neo-Gothic tower of St. John's Cathedral.

In the centre of Johnsgate area is a street that has long and varied associations with Limerick's educational history. Brian Merryman, the eighteenth century Clare poet and author of The Midnight Court, conducted a school at 5, Old Clare Street. When he died in 1805, the Limerick Chronicle described him as "a professor of mathematics."

The Lancastrian School, situated near the present Good Shepherds, is still recalled by the everyday use of the popular name for the steep extension of Old Clare Street, the "Long Can", an abbreviated corruption of its original title.

The third educational academy, Old Clare Street Boys' National School, became generally known as "Broderick's School", because of the long association the principal teacher Denis Broderick had with the school. A native of Milford, Co. Cork, Denis Broderick acquired a B.A. degree when such a qualification was rare amongst national teachers. After a period at a school at Newport, Co. Tipperary, he joined the teaching staff of the Old Clare Street School and remained there until his retirement in the late 20s.

My association to Broderick's in the early spring of 1915 was as inauspicious as my hurried departure from Quay Lane C.B.S. the day previously, when I did my "Leaving" at the tender age of 10 years! However, I soon settled down in my new surroundings and it was not long before I could count among my friends - even to this day in 1980 - boys from every part of the city. It was our good fortune to have such teachers as Patrick Haugh, Willie Duggan, Patrick Kirwan, Patrick Quinn (music teacher) and, of course, the principal himself. Denis Broderick imparted his lessons thus:

The area of the Sahara Desert is 3 million square miles or 261 times of Great Britain and Ireland. The biggest mountain in the world is Mount Everest (29,141 ft.). The area principal towns in China are Peking, Nanjing, Amoy, Foochoo, Hong Kong and Ningpo. The area of the Pacific Ocean is 77,000,000 square miles. The first and last books of the Bible are Genesis and Revelation.

The principal also insisted that every boy should be able to recite the 48 States of America and the names of all the principal towns in China - Peking, Nanjing, Amoy, Foochoo, Hong Kong and Ningpo. The area of the Pacific Ocean is 77,000,000 square miles. The first and last books of the Bible are Genesis and Revelation.

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