

Brilliant Art Headmaster tenders resignation

One of the most distinguished art teachers in the country, Mr. Patrick McAvoy, Headmaster of the Municipal Art School, Limerick Technical Institute, has tendered his resignation to the City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee, and at the moment a mild furore over the loss he would be to Limerick is gaining momentum.

Very high distinctions for students

Four students of the Limerick Technical Institute who distinguished themselves in the Department of Education examinations were presented with the Department's prizes by the Chairmen of the City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee, Mr. P. J. Donnellan. They were: Roisin Daly, "Grishen," N.C. Road, Limerick, first prize of £3 and silver medal, for pictorial design, advanced 1961, second prize of £1 to Gabriel Wallace, "Rosevere," N.C. Road, Limerick, for pictorial design advanced, first prize in elementary building construction to Larmot Keene, 8 Wood Street, Limerick, and first prize to Thomas Collins, 4... on Lobb St., Limerick, for elementary book keeping.

At the meeting of the Committee on last Wednesday night, the Chairman congratulated, on behalf of the committee, the successful students.

Frank Wharton, who is attached to the engineering department of the G.P.O., London, was, as a former pupil of the "Tech." in Limerick, congratulated by the committee for the distinction he gained in London as the best student of the year in the North London Regional Technical College, which has 4,500 students on its rolls.

The C.E.O. Mr. J. C. O'Donnell, B.Com. and young Mr. Wharton was a former student of the Limerick Technical Institute. The members agreed that it was a wonderful achievement.

Frank is the son of Mr. Gerry Wharton, who is on the staff of the C.I.E., Loco, Limerick.

The first inkling that there was some difference between the Committee and the Headmaster came on last Wednesday night when, after disposing of all the other business on the agenda, the members went into Committee.

Mr. McAvoy was seen in the hall, writes a LIMERICK LEADER reporter, obviously awaiting in expectation that he would be invited into the Committee meeting at some stage. He was never invited in and it is known that he subsequently tendered notice of his resignation, which he had prepared.

Mr. McAvoy's action in tendering

his resignation has caused keen awareness already among his friends as to the great loss he would be to vocational education in Limerick and they express the hope, through the agency of the Limerick Leader, that some immediate move will be made to retain his services.

Since taking up appointment ten years ago, Mr. McAvoy has transformed the School of Art in such a way that the number of students has increased considerably and many of those who have been pupils are now occupying highly-responsible and lucrative positions in this country and in Britain, especially in the field of pictorial and technical design.

The present students are proudly maintaining the high standards and will, no doubt, take honoured posts in their chosen profession. "Many of the great industrial, publicity and advertising firms which employ former students of the Limerick Art School are most conscious of the efficiency of these members of the staffs and of the standard of teaching by Mr. McAvoy and the other teachers concerned," our reporter was informed by a local devotee of art, whose earnest hope is that Mr. McAvoy will be prevailed upon to stay in Limerick.

Successful radio officer

Mr. Andrew Kieran Smolle, who was very successful in the passing of his final examination held last month at the Marine Radio College, Limerick, is a past pupil of Saint Michael's College where he received his Leaving Certificate with honours. A fluent Irish speaker, he was awarded the Gold Binnie for his knowledge of the language by examination held at the Limerick Branch of the Gaelic League in 1959. He served for a number of years as a cadet and later as a volunteer with the Limerick Ambulance Units of the Order of Malta.

In 1959 he was selected to attend a special course in Civil Defence for instructors held at Rátra House, Phoenix Park, Dublin, and passed the Examination for instructors with very high marks. He was the youngest person to qualify in the State as instructor. On his return to Limerick he gave a course of lectures in Civil Defence and Basic Rescue under the Authority of the

Mental Handicap Congress

Final plans were announced in Dublin this week for a Congress on Mental Handicap, which will be held by the Brothers of St. John of God at St. Augustine's, Blackrock, Co. Dublin from Monday

Promoted to Principal