

bank dug away to street level. This ground was then put up for auction on the site and bought by Lorna's mother who in 1950 built Weavers Hotel, still the best hotel in town. I remember going to the sale and were surprised at the low price. Today that ground would have fetched thousands.

Stickel's shop was well known to visitors. Here one could buy all one's requirements - fishing gear, foodstuffs, sweets, toys, bathing costumes, etc - a veritable Harrods. The only thing was that the goods were not very well displayed - just higgeldy-piggeldy. However, he must have done very well being then the only shop on the Esplanade. The only hotel on the front was the Beach run by old Fritz Hoppe - a wonderful host. Everyone knew Hoppes. The old hotel was of course demolished and the present Kennaway built. There were several boarding houses, however.

We did a lot of bathing in the old fashioned costumes, covered from neck to knee and at the bathing hose one could hire a costume for 6d. Nice navy blue with 'Orient Beach' painted in red across the back. Those old folk would be shocked to see the present day costumes. Why such a fuss about bare tops when the top is hardly covered by a tiny bit of material and nothing is left to the imagination. The men have practically nothing on except a G-string.

The sea front has changed quite a lot. The site on which the Windsor Hotel now stands was a sand hill which was removed and that and the Marine Hotel were built, as well as the three blocks of flats in Brighton Street. Before being shifted, there was on top of the sand hill, a small building in which there was a sort of telescope which enabled one to sit and look around. Then there was a helter skelter etc. The site of the present aquarium was a pagoda tea room run by Mr and Mrs Tattersal who was also a pawnbroker. Between the Beach Hotel was the camping site where there were many shacks and tents. A favourite shack was one or two motor cases for cars came out ready assembled in cases. Then further on the sand hill on the Marina Glen site was removed and the blind river which ran round this hill was diverted to its present course. In the Marine park next to the Kennaway Hotel was a band stand where the local band played every Sunday and holiday and was well patronised. One could either pay a nominal fee and sit on the benches in the enclosure or walk around. There were trams along the front and at one time there was a service along Inverleith Terrace to the Front but after a tram ran down hill out of control that line was closed. No motor cars as today except for a few of the idle rich; we walked and it did us good.

Well, I will not dwell on our holiday but the time came for my parents return to the Protectorate and so arrangements were made for my brother and I to enter Selborne College as boarders. It was going to be tough going for my Dad and Mother as there were blazers and other items of clothing to be bought and that alone was a big expense. Then there were the school fees - schooling was not free as today - £3 - and the boarding fee of £10 a quarter. In addition there were all the books and then there was the long train journey twice a year. For the short

holidays/