

Through Hibernian Glasses.

Our splendidly written contemporary, "The Hibernian Journal," in its April Number has amongst its "Through Hibernian Glasses" notes, the following: ABSTENTION AND ITS NEMESIS. I have been reading, with no little interest, the controversy in the daily Press concerning the Education Bill. Into the merits of that dispute I do not mean to enter. There have been able disputants in the lists on each side, and the clash of argument has been frequent and free. Did you notice, however, that one side wanted the Bill rejected, and that the other side wanted the Bill amended? As I read the attacks and rejoinders I could not help feeling amazed. Were both sides in a dream? Had they forgotten all about the realities of the situation to-day? It is mere blatherskite to be demanding the rejection or the amendment of a Bill whilst you elect a Party who will not enter the only arena where it is possible either to reject or amend. You may call up spirits from the vasty deep, but what if they don't respond? You may anathematise a Bill or formulate amendments, but it is only at Westminster your anathemas or your proposals can be changed into realities. But the majority of the teachers who are on the one side, and of the Bishops, priests, etc., who are on the other, voted at the General Election for the suicidal policy of abstention, and now all their fire and fury on either side is merely vox et praeterea nihil. They broke the sword that Parnell forged. Now they are alike helpless. Nemesis is already on their track.

ARCHBISHOP & PARLIAMENTARY ACTION.

Mr. Devlin's brilliant work in smashing Carson's Education Bill, in defeating the Orange attempt to victimise the Catholic licensed traders of Ulster and to confiscate their property, and in defeating the Government's attempt to force the Macpherson Bill through Parliament last session, stands out in telling contrast with the background of barrenness, futility, and farce associated with the Sinn Fein M.P.s. But there is apparently an organised conspiracy to refuse to recognise what Mr. Devlin has done. Nobody must say "Thank you," because a word of recognition would be a vote of censure on the hopeless "policy"—if I may so describe it—associated with the new departure. At last, however, there comes a glowing tribute to the work that is being done by Mr. Devlin and his Party colleagues. The following letter from the Archbishop of Tuam, which appeared in the Independent of March 13, speaks for itself:—

Sir,—I regret to notice that some remarks of mine, as reported in the Irish Independent, on the spiritual campaign against the proposed Education Bill, seem to slight the noble efforts which a few Irishmen are making in the British House of Commons to check legislation hostile to the interests of Ireland.

I hasten, therefore, to say that no such slight was intended, and that, in my opinion, the country owes a great debt of gratitude to those few members for their alert and effective action on many occasions, under very difficult circumstances. Furthermore, I feel sure that, should the Government proceed with their ill-considered and corrupt Education Bill those few Irishmen will not be wanting in their duty to Ireland.

T. P. GILMARTIN, Archbishop of Tuam.

Comment would only weaken the force of such a pronouncement.

POINTS IN PIG BREEDING.

One of the most important features of pig breeding is the selection and managing of the herd boar. The boar may be an extremely valuable individual, but if he is not properly cared for he will give very poor results. To give satisfaction the sire must have a properly balanced ration, the amount depending upon the degree of maturity to which he has attained and the number of services which he performs. His quarters should consist of a clean, dry, warm, well-lighted and ventilated house with yard adjoining for exercise and service. Exercise is important, and the boar should be penned up only during breeding season. It is essential that he be kept in a healthy, vigorous condition at all times.

In the selection of the brood sows it is essential that uniformity of size and quality be remembered. Select a gilt from a sow that is a good performer, one that gives a good quality of milk and produces vigorous, growly pigs; the performance of sire and dam should not be overlooked. It is essential that the young sow be fed a growing ration in order that she may as nearly as possible reach maturity before the breeding season arrives. As the breeding season approaches the sow should not be in high condition, but she should be on the increase a few weeks before breeding. An increase should be made in the feed, so that she will be in the most vigorous condition when bred.

Success with any ration is the result of watching the condition and health of the animal and regulating the feed accordingly. Just before farrowing feed the sow to avoid constipation. For 18 to 24 hours after farrowing she needs no feed; leave it entirely to her willingness to eat. She will be feverish and will drink a large quantity of water. The grain ration should be gradually increased for ten days to two weeks, when she should be on full

ration. As the young pigs make their most economical gains while sucking the sow, she would be fed for a maximum milk production.

Select breeding stock from large litters of vigorous pigs and from well-matured sows that are good sucklers. No individual possessing weak characteristics in any marked degree should be allowed to produce its kind. The importance of mineral matter in the ration of the growing sow cannot be easily over-emphasised. A large amount of protein is necessary to re-build the tissues of the sow and nourish the coming litter. Various experimental tests show that size and breaking strength of bone were increased and that gains were produced much cheaper when a ration containing a large amount of mineral matter was fed.

Exercise for breeding stock and growing pigs is scarcely less important than breeding or feeding. It promotes good health and thrift.—Farmers' Gazette.

Six Month's Jail for Cutting of Girl's Hair.

The outrage near Tuam, when the hair was cut off Bridget Keegan, Cloondara, by masked men, who entered her father's house on April 30th, was strongly condemned by magistrates and solicitors at Galway, when three brothers named Jack, Frank, and William Jordan, all labourers from Tuam, were sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for the offence. Peter Joyce, a married man, was discharged.

Mr. Golding, C.S., said it was a blackguardly action. Seven men entered the girl's house at 12.45 a.m. One had a revolver, and the others had what looked like hand revolvers. They took the girl, who had fainted, out to the yard in her night-dress, and cut the hair off with a shears, telling her sister, whom they threatened with the same fate, "that is what she got for going with Tommies."

While the man, whom the girl's sister alleged was Joyce, was cutting the hair, he sang "We are out for Ireland free." All I can say, said Mr. Golding, is, God help Ireland if these are the acts of Irishmen, and God help Ireland if these are the men to free her. Having attempted to free Ireland, he continued, by cutting off the girl's hair, to complete the freedom of Ireland they proposed to cut off her ears, but they didn't do so.

Dr. Thompson, Tuam, said the girl was suffering from shock, and was still under his care.

Margaret Keegan, sister; Thos. Keegan a brother, and Madge Keegan, niece, gave evidence of identification.

The defence was an alibi. Mr. Gabriel Guy, solicitor for the accused, said the occurrence was a blackguardly act.

Mr. J. Kilbride, R.M., who with Mr. Hill, R.M., adjudicated, said it was the worst kind of case that ever came before two magistrates. They inflicted the maximum penalty allowed.

Mission in Ballymahon.

On Sunday last a week's mission was opened at St. Matthew's, Ballymahon, by two of the Capuchin Fathers. The initial sermon was preached at 11 o'clock Mass, and the attendance of the parishioners was remarkably large, as was also the case at the devotions on Sunday night. During the week the religious services were also remarkably well attended. Mass each morning was celebrated at 8 o'clock followed by a short instruction. Confessions were heard from 10.30 to 3. The evening devotions commenced at 7.30, and consisted of Rosary with sermon and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The mission closes on to-morrow (Sunday) evening at 7 o'clock, with Rosary and sermon. Renewal of the Baptismal vows. Papal Blessing and Benediction of the most Blessed Sacrament.

INIQUITOUS DIVORCE PROPOSALS.

"Hell In England."

"Iniquitous" was the term which the Duke of Northumberland, who presided, applied to the Divorce Bill, at a large meeting in London on Monday, when a resolution was carried, with enthusiasm, on the motion of the Earl of Shelborne, condemning the Divorce Bill and declaring that if carried into law, it would be a source of public morality and destructive of family life. Every man and woman who took Christ for their guide, Lord Shelborne said, must oppose the Bill. If the Bill became law the Church of England and the other Churches in the country would be left to make their own rules in the matter of divorce. He was a strong believer in the Established Church, but he would welcome its disestablishment rather than the State should impose upon it so terrible a position. He denied that the promoters of the Bill had the right to abrogate the laws of Christ, and the logical outcome of the Bill was that of divorce by mutual consent. The Bill would institute a state of affairs worse than existed in many States of America to-day. They were face to face with a great social and religious crisis, and the Bill would undermine the very existence of home life. Who cared most for humanity, Our Lord or his modern critics?

Father Vaughan, S.J., in seconding the resolution, said he looked at the question not as a Catholic priest but as a British citizen. As a Catholic, he held that death alone could divorce any person, but as a member of the great British Empire he maintained that the Bill was a menace to the State and their glorious Empire. This Bill would let loose the worst passions of men, and undermine and destroy the whole fabric of home life. This Bill was going to be the ruin of woman, and the women of the country must see that it is put in the fire. "You are going to give us hell in England," said Father Vaughan, who added that from his knowledge of the working-classes there was very little desire among them to resort to divorce. They should refuse to legalise prostitution. Mr. J. Sexton, M.P., in supporting the resolution, said the country was being asked to sacrifice a great and underlying principle, and to replace it by the worst features of American law.

Ballymahon Union.

The usual weekly meeting of the Ballymahon Board of Guardians was held on Thursday week, Mr. John Elvers (in the chair).

Sister M. Antonia went tendering her resignation as schoolmistress which was accepted with regret, and the Guardians desired to do her a good turn by offering her a position as a schoolmistress (a Sister of Mercy preferred), at a salary of £42 per year, and £25 in lieu of rations.

There was a cheque for £184 0s 8d received from Athlone Guardians as payment for keep of inmates up to end of March. Mr. Farrell—How many from Athlone here? Clerk—55. Mr. Farrell—How is it they are not taking them home? Clerk—They will not take them home at all. The Ministry of Pensions wrote enclosing cheque for £14 6s for maintenance of two children in the house belonging to soldiers.

There was a letter read from the Ballymahon Branch of the I. T. and W. Union on behalf of the members of the branch in the Guardians employment, applying for a weekly wage of 40s, a 60 hour week including half holiday; time and a half payment for overtime; double time payment for Sunday work; all Church and Bank holidays not worked to be paid for; if worked double time payment to be allowed. Owing to the abnormal cost of living which is now higher than experienced since August 1914, and which has been still further accentuated by recent increases in prices of bread, butter, bacon, etc., etc., it is very difficult on employees to eke out an existence, and asking for a just wage that would compare favourably with those received by workers similarly engaged elsewhere. Considering it is stated that a 45 hour week will shortly be in operation. A weekly half holiday is now general for town workers. A similar demand has been made on other employers in Ballymahon.

Mr. Farrell—What do they mean by the Bank holiday? Clerk—They will not work that day, but if they work they will be paid double wages. Mr. Murphy—You will have to give it. Mrs. Whelan is giving £2 a week to her man. It has nothing to do with us only in the case of the van driver. Chairman—What is he getting? Clerk—25s. He began at 15s, then it was raised to 24s 6d. Mr. Murphy—We will have to give it to him. Chairman—Leave it over for a larger meeting. Mr. Murphy—No, we will have to give it. After a considerable discussion it was left over for a larger meeting.

The Medical Inspector's report sent for consideration of the Guardians was left over to next meeting.

Defendants agreed, it is understood, to pay the plaintiff £50 damages in the action (briefly reported in our last issue) by Mr. J. O'Brien, assistant county surveyor, Meath, against Messrs Colburn and Harding, Bristol, for injuries sustained by him in a collision between the motor cycle he was riding and a defendant's traveller. Mr. Cully, Surgeon M'Archie said that in forty years he had met a worse case. A splinter from one of the bones of the forearm had become embedded in another bone, and he had to open the arm and chip the bone apart, and then to unite the parts with wire. The operation occupied an hour and forty minutes. The result of the operation had been as satisfactory as could be expected, but there was still a considerable limitation in the movement of the wrist. Sir Arthur Chace, the plaintiff's solicitor, stated that a recent examination showed that there had been an improvement in the movement of the wrist. Some limitation in the movement would always exist.

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MEATH SURVEYOR'S SUIT.

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HANDLING WEAK LAMBS.

No matter how carefully one feeds and cares for the breeding ewes there are certain to be a few weak lambs arrive. Most of these lambs can be saved, but not unless the flockmaster is willing to stay with them until they are capable of taking care of themselves. An earnest sheepman never gives up until he is sure the lamb has taken its first breath, then he feels the loss was no fault of his. The first, best and surest means of stimulating the weak lamb is to get the dam's fresh milk in it. As they are seldom able to stand on their legs, it is necessary to hold them up in order to place the teat in their mouths, and if lamb refuse them to such one will either have to press the teat to get milk in its mouth and milk in to it. Sometime the lamb refuses to swallow when its mouth is full of milk. That is because of sheer weakness, and stubbornness, as some prefer to call it. The most effective way I ever found of getting milk into such a lamb's stomach was to squeeze its neck, and the act of swallowing was stimulated automatically. I have made a lamb take its entire first "meal" this way, though that would be a very small bit of milk. A weak lamb is a mighty helpless creature. If its weakness is partly due to chilling the ewe should be put in warm quarters and good straw bedding provided. The lamb should be warmed artificially. A tight or lined bushel basket is convenient for handling the lambs. Heavy wool clothes or sacks are convenient for wrapping them in. The clothes should be heated frequently and wrapped about them. If the lamb is not dry, gentle rubbing not only tends to live it and starts the blood circulating, but dries off the skin quickly. The gentle art of patience must be practiced in helping weak lambs. Some lambs will respond very slowly and require attention at various times for a couple of days, while others will get along very well after they have been helped to suck two or three times. Sometimes it seems that it takes an awful lot of attention and special effort on the part of the flockmaster to raise a weak lamb, but that is one thing that helps to make sheep husbandry profitable.

Cost of Living.

No Prospect of Relief.

The Food Controller on Thursday night drew a gloomy picture of the prospect with regard to food prices. There was, he indicated, no prospect of any immediate improvement, and he was afraid the world's wheat shortage would result in a rise in price of every other commodity. Mr. G. Roberts estimated that the necessity for the Ministry of Food should continue for a further five years.

Oldcastle Workhouse Burned Down.

Extraordinary Outbreak of Fire.

On the night of Thursday, 29th April, the Oldcastle Workhouse, situated about a quarter of a mile to the south of the town, was the scene of a serious outbreak of fire, which completely destroyed half of the lower portion of the building. The workhouse was taken over by the military in 1914 and converted into a detention camp for German prisoners. The prisoners were removed to the site of Mass in the summer of 1918, but the military remained in occupation until August, 1919, when it was again handed over to the Guardians. Meantime the patients and inmates were transferred to Kells and Ballisodare Unions and the only person in occupation of the premises at the time of the outbreak of fire was an aged caretaker named James Hennessy. The house was first noticed by some of the townspeople at 10.30 p.m., who rushed to the workhouse and notified the caretaker. It was found that the fire originated in the right-hand wing of the hospital building, where a large quantity of fibre for bedding purposes was stored. The flames spread rapidly, and were not for the enthusiastic effort of a number of men, who volunteered their services and cut portions of the roof to prevent the fire spreading, the damage would have been even more extensive. The fire burned itself out in the portion thus cut off, but every piece of woodwork in the affected area has been completely demolished; the glass in the windows was melted with the intense heat, and the roof eventually fell in, leaving only the charred stone walls standing.

On the following Saturday a special meeting of the Oldcastle Board of Guardians was held to consider what action should be taken in the matter. The meeting, at which Mr. Thomas Tieran, solicitor to the Board, attended, was presided over by Mr. Edward Brady, Chairman, and after a short conference it was directed that Mr. Tieran should prepare the necessary notice of application for compensation for criminal injury; and as Mr. Tieran is legal adviser to the Rural Council he was empowered, if he thought necessary, to appoint another solicitor to act for the Guardians in the matter. Mr. Grace, engineer, estimates the amount of the damage at £1,500. For some time past the Guardians have been making arrangements for a sale of the buildings for use as a co-operative store, which has only been recently established in the town, has not yet finally decided to purchase.

POLICE HANDCUFFED.

Letters, Arms and Cycles Captured.

Sergeants Grimes and Lordan, were attacked near Kibbegan at an early hour on Thursday morning week and deprived of their arms. The mail car from Mullingar to Kibbegan is escorted by police patrols. The two sergeants left Kibbegan barracks on bicycles at an early hour and proceeded in the direction of Castle town to relieve the police patrol from that station. They evidently met the mail car, and had taken over the police mails for Kibbegan. At a place called Ben Abbot they were suddenly pounced upon by armed and masked men, who overpowered and deprived them of their revolvers and the mails.

Tied Together.

The attackers, it is stated, bound them together with ropes, after having handcuffed them with their own handcuffs, and then brought them away to the Split Hills, where they left them to extricate themselves as best they could. The attackers then cycled away on the sergeants' bicycles. Some hours later the two policemen arrived in Kibbegan, where they reported the occurrence.

To A Crimson Cactus Flower.

BY "MERCEDS."

Blood-Red, quivering, beautiful, Wondrous, royal flower! Throned on thy thorny branches, Flashing in perfect power! Crowned with the type of suffering, Dazzling, lovely, and rare; Bring to my heart some lesson Some touch of inspired prayer.

Exquisite crimson blossom Why are thy robes so red? Say, what thou meanest by that? When their sacred blood was shed? Tell me, didst bloom on Calvary When the King of Martyrs died? Perhaps that crimson glory Fell from His bleeding side.

Perhaps thy thorny branches Covered the mountain high, When His Cross on the first Good Friday, Stood out 'gainst the angry sky? Perhaps His Sacred Heart Blood Sprinkled thee like a spray, And these blood-like streams of beauty Are trace of its gleaming way.

Mayhap the Angels took thee, Here then to the nearer skies, Blessed thy rugged growing, With the watching of their eyes; Writing upon thy branches— Each radiant flower gem— That suffering, even to bloodshed, Is the perfect way for men.

Suffering 'e'en as our Master Till life, like thy thorny tree, Recalls the sorrows of Calvary Or of sad Gethsemane. Till the joy of His Love shall fill us Like the blossom on thy rugged stem, And Sorrows shall feast on the beauty He gives to us, not them.

So, wonderful Cactus flower I take thee unto my heart; Sink deeply into my spirit, And teach it that "higher" part. And thy beautiful crimson blossoms, Throned on their thorny tree Will ever be type of the lesson Preached from the Cross to me.

The above verses are from the pen of the Irish-American Nun who wrote under the name "Mercedes." It was published some years ago. Horseshoe. J. F. T.

Ex-Service Men and Land.

Major Lotts on behalf of the L.G. Board is at present attending each day at the Grenville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, to investigate claims of ex-service men for land under the Soldiers and Sailors Land Allotment Act. He will continue to attend for some days.

General News Items.

SOLDIERS' DEPENDENTS' ALLOWANCE.

Dependents of soldiers who died after April 30, while serving in the Army will get the allowance until further notice, and not for 26 weeks merely.

BIG FALL IN OIL PRICES.

Oil prices fell in in past 9 months—Lined oil \$14 to \$97; cotton seed, \$120 to \$82; in four months, palm oil, \$84 to \$70; castor 107s to 94s. These oils are used in various foods, paint, varnish, linoleum, medicine and lubricants.

RECORD MAIL FROM QUEENSTOWN.

After overhauling, following her war services, the Omard liner Carolina called at Queenstown on Monday morning on her voyage from Liverpool to New York. A record supplementary Irish mail was taken from Queenstown and 250 passengers embarked there.

WEXFORD RATE BOOKS LODGED WITH POLICE.

The Secretary informed the Wexford County Council that he had lodged 'all the books in the police barracks every night for a week following a warning from County Inspector Sharpe that a raid was to be made on the rate books and valuation lists. No raid took place. Military have been guarding Sligo Courthouse for the past week.

PLAIN SPEAKING FROM BENCH.

'Towards and hullo! as you are, you selected this post office because you knew it was occupied only by a woman,' said Justice Avry in sentencing Jas. Wilshire, 32, Albert Jackson, 25, and John Jackson, 26, each to 2 years penal servitude, with 20 strokes of the cat. The attempt to hold up Gibraltar St. Post Office, Shaftesbury.

DAILY EIREANN AND EMIGRATION.

Listowel U.D.O. and Youghal U.D.O. have called on Daily Eireann to prohibit emigration. When a similar resolution was proposed at the Wexford Corporation, the Mayor (Ald. Corish) said he was as good a Republican as anyone, but he thought the resolution ridiculous, as they should first provide employment. A resolution was agreed to calling on the young people not to emigrate.

THE POPE AND GERMANY.

In consequence of the decision of the German Government as to the establishment of a Papal Nunciature in Berlin, the Pope, says the special correspondent of the "Daily Chronicle" (quoted by special arrangement) contemplates raising that capital to the dignity of an archiepiscopal See. Dr. Kaas, of Treves, a distinguished philosopher and former Army chaplain, has been proposed to the Vatican as the first Archbishop.

SLIGO INCOME TAX COLLECTOR'S DILEMMA.

Sligo Corporation refused to grant a certified copy of the Corporation Accounts to Mr. Kerria, Superintendent Income Tax Office, who stated that some of his files had been destroyed in the recent raid. The Mayor said that a copy of anything wanted could be got in the office by a ratepayer, but the officials should not write copies for other departments. Listowel U.D.O. made an order that no further extracts from the Council's books be sent to the Surveyor of Taxes. A form already filled by the Clerk was cancelled.

OPENING FOR IRISH ENTERPRISE.

Mr. J. L. Fawcett, New York, in a letter to Mr. T. Byrne, Blessington, says there is a shortage of granite paving sets in America, and he believes it would be possible to land granite sets at American ports from Ireland in competition with American granite. He adds that the Commercial Irish Lanes are prepared to receive bulk cargoes of granite sets for American ports at very low freights. This should prove a more profitable cargo than the sand taken in ballast recently from Ireland to New York.

POSSIBLY POST OFFICE STRIKE.

A meeting of postal and telegraph workers in Belfast passed a resolution urging the Executive to call a strike in the event of the demands now being considered not being acceded to. The P.M.G. has not replied to the demands submitted on Dec. 19. The matter involves about 7,000 postmen and 3,000 clerks in Ireland. The Postal Workers' Union will meet next week to consider the matter, and it is expected the strike demand will be persisted in.

Westmeath Farmers' Association.

Castlepollard Branch.

A meeting of above branch was held in Castlepollard on Monday evening, May 10th. There was a good attendance of members, Mr. G. Wilson, Chairman, presiding. The Secretary said the principal business was to appoint officers for the current year. The following were unanimously appointed—Chairman, Mr. Wilson; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. McDermott; Secretary, Mr. P. J. Cooney; Delegates to the Executive—Messrs E. J. Hope, and P. McDermott. The Chairman said the question of the price of wool this season was a very important one, and the Irish Farmers' Union should at once take up the matter, and inform the members as to how matters stand. Mr. Ronan said there would be a special meeting of the Executive in Galway on May 18th and one of the first items on the agenda was a report from the Wool Committee, and as soon after the meeting as any information was obtained he would communicate with the branches. Mr. Cooney said that the next business was the taking in of subscriptions, and suggested that members in the respective districts should be appointed to collect and get new members. This suggestion was approved of, and a further meeting will be held at an early date.

Army Death Sentences.

343 Of 3,076 Carried Out.

Statistics of Army sentences in the Army during the war were made public by Lord Peel in the House of Lords yesterday. The total death sentences passed on officers and men numbered 3,076 of which 343 were carried out. The cases of cowardice numbered 18, and cases of desertion 266.

HURRY WITH THE HOUSES.

Money Inducement to Builders to Expedite Construction.

An effort is being made by the Housing Committee of the Local Government Board to stimulate house-building enterprise. Grants ranging from £130 to £160 have been payable under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, to persons constructing in residential areas housing complying with the conditions laid down by the Board and in material accordance with the standards required by them in the case of a housing scheme promoted by a local authority under the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919.

Grant Increased by £100.

The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have now decided to increase the grants by £100 per house, provided the necessary plans are submitted to the local authorities. To qualify for a grant the construction of the house must have been begun after December 23rd, 1919, and be completed by December 23rd next. The grants offered vary from £230 to £290 a house in accordance with the accommodation provided.

The Houses to Build.

The minimum amount is payable for a house containing a living room and two bed-rooms, and the maximum for a house containing a living room, parlour, and three or four bedrooms or with a floor area of more than 1,400 square feet. Grants may be given for two-storied buildings containing flats and for houses of special construction. The approval of the plans rests with the Corporation, Urban Council or Town Commissioners in whose area the house is to be built, or, in case of dispute, the Board. During construction a house will be subject to inspection by the local authority.

PATHETIC INSTRUCTION OF DEAD PRINCESS.

Wedding Dress as Shroud.

Plea for a Crucifix.

A Reuters' Agency telegram from Stockholm on Sunday to the daily Press, says:— Since the King of Sweden returned from the Riviera the document containing the late Crown Princess's last wishes has been opened. It was written in 1914, and prescribes in detail, in the most simple and considerate way, her wishes in regard to the funeral ceremonies. The Princess (formerly Princess Margaret of Connaught) wishes that her body should be covered with her bridal veil until the coffin was closed, and that her shroud should be made from her wedding dress. She also asks that a crucifix should be placed in the coffin, and that the coffin should be a simple oak one of English design, covered with Swedish and British flags. During the funeral ceremony the Princess desired that there should be no lying-in-State, and that her orders and decorations should not be exhibited. Tall, lighted, wax candles and a large cross of flowers were to be placed at the head of the coffin. She expressed the wish for "the least possible grief," and said that if her children were at the time of death, still young they were to be dressed in white at the funeral. She asked for as much music as possible—"not slow and melancholy hymns." She wished to be buried, not in Riddarholm Church, but out in the open country. On Saturday night the Stockholm students rendered their last homage to the Crown Princess by singing outside the windows of the castle, where she is now sleeping her last sleep.—Reuter.

Social Function in Knockatee.

An interesting social event took place in Knockatee on Friday night, April 23, when the Committee of the Technical (Carpentry) Class, which has been in vogue there for the past six months, gave a dance on the occasion of breaking up, to take farewell of Mr. Lyons, their kindly instructor, and to wish him God-speed on entering a new sphere of activities. The Committee also met in congratulation on the general smoothness and tact with which all arrangements were carried out. "A perfect night" was the unanimous verdict, and with justice was it formed; for, from the musical and vocal entertainment to the more material department of bodily refreshment (liberally dispensed), the most critical could find nothing to cavil at. A word of thanks is especially due, also, to Mr. Bligh, who kindly lent the house for the occasion.

In those days of class warfare, more than ever before, social gatherings, such for instance as the above mentioned, are necessary and useful. In the exchange of those old courtesies, now, alas, becoming only too much decreased, in the comradeship of mutual enjoyment, and, above all, in the actual rivalry of being most agreeable, hateful barriers gradually springing between classes are swept away, and man realises something of the truth the poet meant to convey when he wrote—

The thread of our life would be dark, Heaven knows, If it were not with friendship and love inter-twined, And I care not how soon I may sink to repose, When those blessings shall cease to be dear to my mind.

COMMUNICATED.

Westmeath County Infirmary.

TO PLUMBERS.

THE Joint Committee of Management will hold their Adjourned Quarterly Meeting to be held on Thursday, 20th day of May, 1920, receive and consider tenders for the Plumbing work of the Infirmary for one year, from 1st June, 1920. The plumbing work must be strictly in accordance with the terms of the County Surveyors Specification for sewers which may be seen at the Infirmary. Should any dispute or questions arise as to the extent and nature of the work to be performed, the County Surveyor's decision shall be final. Tenders to be lodged at the Infirmary before 10 o'clock a.m. on 20th May, 1920. The Joint Committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. By order, J. W. CONNAUGHTON, Registrar.