

IRISH-IRELAND NOTES

Australia.

The June number of the "Dord Feinne," the official organ of the Australian Gaelic League, is to hand. This month it has a very pretty blue jacket, and the contents in this case may be judged by the cover. Probably the most interesting items are the "Irish and Scottish Gleanings from Australian Sources." These are Irish Gaelic poems and a Scottish Gaelic story taken from Gaelic speakers in Australia. One of the Irish poems is a complete version of "Bacach an Phleisiuir," from the recitation of Mr. Mairtin O Leadain, a native of Co. Clare, residing in Brisbane. There is one verse of this poem given in "Cead do Cheoltaibh Uladh." Another piece is "Amhran Toni Siofain," given by Mr. Anthony McDonnell, a native of Mayo living in Sydney. The Amhran was composed by a notable Mayo character who was, it is said, banished by the clergy to Galway. There is also a fragment of a long poem, "Rann an Spailpin." There are many interesting articles and stories, all splendidly written, and what we may term a concise current history of Ireland, which is very interesting, as it shows us in Ireland what Ireland is like through the telescope. We also learn in "An Dord Feinne" that the Gaelic movement is progressing satisfactorily in Australia. St. Enda's Gaelic School in Sydney is packed out with pupils. There is an increasing attendance at the monthly Ceilidh in Sydney. The hall is always crowded with Gaels from the city and suburbs. The fun is excellent, and patrons always go away satisfied. A special feature at the May Ceilidh was the choral singing of St. Enda's pupils to harp accompaniment.

An Fainne.

The members of the Australian Fainne may be roughly divided into two classes, the Summer and Winter migrants. To the former belong the old Irish native speakers; to the latter the young set of the Gaelic League. Most of the old people are incapable of making the long journey to the bush where the Gasra resorts during the summer months, but the first blast of winter invariably heralds their return to indoor meetings. The younger set, of course, enjoy the summer flights to Bushland, but some of them go to roost with the coming of the winter westerly.

As well as class and Fainne work, Australian Gaels arranged for a series of lecture-recitals of Irish music which were broadcasted from Station 2FC,

Sydney. The recitals consisted of songs from the collection of Hughes, Stanford and Wood. The lectures were very successful and supplied a much-needed want in educating the Australian mind to an appreciation of Irish music.

Hurling in Australia.

The opening match of the season took place on Saturday, May 5th, in Moore Park, Sydney, when Surrey Hills and Redfern crossed camans and were adjudged by those present to be a fine exhibition of the National game.

Matches are played in above Park every Saturday and are attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd of spectators.

Writing of hurling in "An Dord Feinne," An Stocaire says:—"Hurling is more than a game; it is a national institution, and, *par excellence*, the pastime of the Gael. It has survived through long centuries and has borne with it noble traditions. The consensus of opinion is that the game is very ancient; indeed, so ancient, that its origin is shrouded in antiquity. In its own sphere it is as true an expression of Irish temperament and mentality as the Gaelic language, traditional music or national dancing. The national character is written largely across it. It is the creation of the Irish mind and it has evolved and developed with the growth of the Irish nation. Irish heroes and patriots in all ages have been associated with it from the days of the Red Branch Knights to the Irish Volunteers. Hurling, therefore, has lived, moved and had its being in a Gaelic atmosphere, and outside such an atmosphere it cannot flourish. We have proof of this in the fact that during the past year the G.A.A. in Ireland has had to unite with the Gaelic League to save the national pastime from being swamped by foreign games. In Australia, too, the game must live in a national atmosphere if it is to gain a foothold. Every hurler, therefore, and every follower and patron of the game should join the Gaelic League and take part in its work so that they imbibe the Gaelic spirit which has always been the life of this pastime."

Germany's Debt to Ireland.

The professors and students of the Hohenzollern Lyceum, Berlin, at present on a visit to Dublin, were entertained at a Ceilidh held in their honour at the Gaelic League headquarters on Wednesday, 25th July. There were about 400 guests present, and the visitors were very much interested in the Irish dances, music and singing.

Cormac Breathnach, welcoming the visitors, referred to the great work German scholars had done for the Irish language. Dr. Zorn, who said he could not speak Irish and wouldn't speak English on such occasion, speaking in German, said they were very happy to spend an evening in a party which showed what real Irish life and culture were. If German scholars studied Celtic civilisation and learning, they had to thank the Irish for having brought Christianity to Germany. In the German schools old Celtic civilisation was studied and nearly all the boys and girls leaving school knew something about the old schools and monasteries of Ireland.

On the previous night the German visitors were entertained at the National University, Dublin. This function was not strikingly Irish or Gaelic; in fact—ach bfeidir nach fiot an sgeul ata ag dul thart, se sin, go ndubhairt na cailini germanacha nach bhfaea siad "jazz" ariamh roimhe go dti an oidhehe sin. Deirtear fos go raibh cuid de "Betes Noires" Chormaic Bhreathnaigh i lathair, i.e., Jazz-fhaimigh.

Dancing.

There are over 800 entries for the dancing competitions at Aonach Tailteann. This is a record entry for such a competition.

Soccer.

It is a severe set-back to those who are grumbling because Soccer football is not included in the Aonach Tailteann programme, to hear that the Olympic Council—on American advice—has decided to eliminate both Association football and hockey from the programme of future Olympic Games.

Siamsa.

There will be two ceilidhthe held in connection with Aonach Tailteann, each in the Mansion House, on Saturday, 18th, and Saturday, 25th. The committee in charge of these functions is presided over by Cormac Breathnach, and the members are all Gaelic Leaguers. These are the only official dances held during Aonach Tailteann—and it is planned to make them the biggest and best affairs of the kind ever held in Dublin. Tickets for each date will be 3/-, and as the walls of the Mansion House are not elastic, those who want to get in are advised to book their tickets at once.

Aonach Tailteann is going to be a Gaelic festival pure and simple, and anyone who expects anything jazzy will be disappointed, and anyone who attempts anything jazzy will look ashamed.