

Irish News

ANTRIM.—A Catholic Hospital

In a letter to the faithful of the diocese the Bishop of Down and Connor appeals for funds in aid of the Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast. His Lordship says an idea of the useful work for the alleviation of pain and suffering which is being done in the hospital may be formed from the number of its patients. Last year there were no fewer than 1508 intern patients. The number of extern patients during the year was 19,987, being almost double the number of the preceding year, while during the last ten months 2520 accident cases received treatment in the hospital. The expenditure for the year amounted to £5,008 9s 3d. The Sisters of Mercy exercise the strictest economy consistent with efficiency in the administration of the funds. They appeal with confidence for a continuance of generous support.

CARLOW.—A Memorial

The design of Messrs. Walshe and Son, Carlow, has been approved of for the Father John Murphy memorial at Tullo, subject to some minor changes and alterations in the figure of the memorial.

DONEGAL.—How a Plantation Originated

Just now, when forestry is receiving attention in many quarters (says the 'Farmers' Gazette') special appropriateness attaches to any interesting reminiscence relating to tree planting. Mr. Charles Dawson, who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in the early eighties, tells of some interesting experiences during his term of office in the Mayoral chair. It was about the period that the late Dr. Lyons, the great forestry enthusiast, was at his height, and whenever any dinner or social function took place at the Mansion House, the good old Doctor invariably kept his hobby well before the public by bringing with him several saplings, and placing them on the table in front of Lord Mayor Dawson. One day his lordship, when sitting in his private office, received, unexpectedly, an invoice from a well-known Scotch firm intimating the despatch to Mr. Dawson of 75,000 saplings. To use Mr. Dawson's own words, he had no where to put them except in the back garden, and never having ordered them, he was placed in a nice predicament as to what was the best thing to do. While cogitating over the matter, the arrival of a prominent northern bishop was announced, and to him the situation was explained, with the result that his Lordship offered to take charge of the young saplings. To this Mr. Dawson agreed, and so they passed out of his possession. Time went by, and three or four years afterwards Mr. Dawson was asked down to perform the opening of some local function by the prelate, who afterwards said to him, 'Come out and see your forest.' On going a few miles from the place, a leading Donegal town, there, sure enough, were the 75,000 saplings. About 75 per cent had prospered and were estimated to be worth about 10s each.

DOWN.—A Windfall

A farmer named Joseph O'Hare, residing at Maddy-drumbrist, Glen, near Newry, and a number of other members of the same family, have, it is reported, become heirs to a big American legacy. It appears that early in life O'Hare's sister, Margaret, emigrated to the United States, where she was adopted by a family named Magowan, from whom she inherited wealth. Her death recently took place, and as she is believed to have died intestate, her relatives come in for her riches, which represent thousands of pounds. Mr. Hunter Moore, solicitor, and a number of her relatives have gone to America to establish their claims to the estate.

DUBLIN.—Death of a City Alderman

Sir Henry Cochrane, for twenty-five years a Dublin Alderman, and who was the unsuccessful Unionist candidate for College Green Division in '92, died at Bray, Wicklow, about the middle of September.

A Reminiscence

The statement (says the 'Freeman's Journal') that Dr. Ellis, of Dublin, the inventor of pepsine, who is in his 95th year, is the oldest member of the Irish medical profession, may render it of interest to know that Dr. Ellis' father, who lived till the late fifties of the last century, and was till the closing hours of his life in full possession of all his faculties, was likewise an octogenarian. Mr. Ellis had a strange and thrilling experience in the troublous times of 1797-1798. He was in the County Donegal at this period and rowed out from Killybegs to visit a ship of war, which he, a fervent loyalist, took for granted was a ship of 'good King George.' Great was his consternation and amazement to find himself under the guns of a French man-of-war, to which he was quickly transferred as a pris-

oner. The French ship left the Irish coast with Mr. Ellis on board, and was itself eventually captured by the English. Mr. Ellis was, notwithstanding his protestations of loyalty, suspected by the commander of the English ship of being a 'treasonable person' in amity with the King's enemies. It was only on the assurance of the French captain, on which he pledged his honor as a gentleman, that Mr. Ellis had been captured through mistaking his ship for a King's ship, that he escaped the fate of being hanged as a rebel.

GALWAY.—Loughrea Cathedral

The Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Clonfert, has written a letter to Fathers Fallon and Joyce, two of his priests who have undertaken the heavy task of collecting funds in America for the completion of Loughrea Cathedral in which he points out that the debt on the building already reaches £2000, and that a further sum of £10,000 will be required to complete it. His Lordship adds he cannot hope to raise so large a sum in a diocese which has been more impoverished and denuded of its population by eviction and emigration than any other diocese in Ireland.

Death of a Carmelite

At the Abbey, Loughrea, on September 10 the Rev. Elias Nolan, O.D.C., died after a brief illness. A native of Galway, he joined the Order of Discalced Carmelites at an early age. In the year 1865 he was ordained, and was at once appointed to the house of his Order in Clarendon street, Dublin, where he spent the greater part of his missionary career. He was an ardent advocate of the Irish language revival; indeed, he was for many years the most widely known worker in the movement. Father Nolan was one of the founders of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language, to which he introduced Dr. Douglas Hyde and many other distinguished men. About 20 years ago Father Nolan published a prayer book in Irish, which had a wide sale. He was a frequent contributor to Gaelic League publications. His obsequies were attended by a large number of priests and laymen. The business houses of the town were closed during the day as a mark of respect to the deceased.

A Lady Doctor

At a recent meeting of the Ballinasloe Asylum Committee the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Clonfert presided. The committee had to elect a junior assistant medical officer to the asylum. On the motion of Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack, Bishop of Galway, it was decided by a large majority to appoint a lady doctor to fill this post. The choice of the committee fell upon Miss Ada English, a young Mullingar lady, with a most distinguished career in the study and practice of medicine and surgery, particularly in reference to asylum practice. There were three candidates, but one—Dr. Downey, Killarney—withdrew. Dr. M. Lee was the other candidate. Miss English was the only lady candidate for the position.

KERRY.—Drowning Fatality

Mr. James Donnelly, a farmer, of Gortawillin, County Kerry, was drowned while attempting to cross the Flesk at Currans.

MONAGHAN.—An Active Centenarian

A novel feature of the show held in Monaghan about the middle of September was an exhibition of spinning given by an old lady who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Upon ascending the platform, which feat she accomplished with surprising suppleness, she sat down at the wheel, a most picturesque sight, but finding the wind in her face, rose again immediately, and, facing about, lifted the wheel, which was of considerable weight, and sat down to her work. Having started the thread, which was of woollen yarn (and it appears this is more difficult of manipulation than flax), she went merrily about the spinning of it. One person told her she looked like one who would spin for another 100 years, but she deprecatingly shook her head. When asked her name she vouchsafed the following particulars in a broad Northern accent—She belonged to Ballymoney, County Antrim, she is 100 years old, has all her faculties, is at present living in Rossmore gate-house, and her name is Rachel Graw.

ROSCOMMON.—Grazing Farm Sub-divided

The Aughappwla grazing farm, convenient to Corrigrooe, Roscommon, has been split up amongst the tenants adjoining by the Estates Commissioners. This farm is on the estate of Major French.

TIPPERARY.—Driving Accident

Mrs. O'Riordan, wife of Colonel O'Riordan, Army Medical Corps, Clonmel, died at her husband's residence, Clonmel, from injuries received in a carriage accident.

WATERFORD.—Fatal Accident to a Priest

Father Murphy, home from Australia, was spending a holiday at Luanary, near Waterford. While riding he