

now the third largest maternity hospital in the three kingdoms, and it was an eloquent testimony to the abounding generosity of their people that this work had been accomplished without one farthing of State aid.

Proposed Insurance Company

Sixteen County Councils and twenty District Councils, Poor Law Boards, and Asylum or other Committees were represented at the Conference held recently in Dublin, on the subject of the foundation of an Irish Insurance Company. The Conference appointed a Provisional Committee to draw up a detailed report upon the practicability of the project, and especially upon the amount of premiums paid by local bodies since the passing of the Local Government Act and the return for claims and losses.

GALWAY—Lady Appointed County Surveyor

At a special meeting of Galway County Council Miss Alice Perry, B.E., was appointed Interim County Surveyor in room of her father, the late Mr. James Perry. The permanent appointment is to be made later on. It was resolved to fix the emoluments of the office as follows:—Salary, £340; office expenses, £60; travelling expenses, £100; total, £500. Formerly the appointment was worth about £1000.

LIMERICK—The Bishop and the Irish Party

The Bishop of Limerick wrote a letter to the 'Freeman's Journal' severely criticising the action of the Irish Parliamentary Party in supporting the Government's motion to reject en bloc the Lord's amendments to the Education Bill. His Lordship expressed the opinion that the vote was the result of Liberal intrigues. Interviewed by a correspondent of the 'Freeman,' Mr. John Redmond said he had read his Lordship's letter with great regret, and declared that he was quite mistaken as to the facts. No negotiations had taken place between the Irish Party and the Government on the Education Bill, except after consultation with the English Bishops, and that consultation had continued up to the last moment.

MAYO—A Memorial

In response to a request from the Lord Bishop of the diocese, Dr. Lyster, the Rev. M. J. Devine has left Foxford for England to collect funds for the building of a new church in Straide, the birthplace and place of burial of Michael Davitt.

MONAGHAN—A New Hall

The fine new hall which has just been erected by the Catholics of the town of Monaghan and opened recently with a grand concert, is a very neat specimen of architecture, and meets a long felt want in the community in the matter of a reading-room and public meeting place.

TIPPERARY—Death of the Pastor of Nenagh

Our Irish exchanges report the death of the Right Rev. Mgr. White, Dean of Killaloe and parish priest of Nenagh. The sad event took place in Nenagh at three o'clock on December 19.

GENERAL

Irish Manufactures

The Countess of Aberdeen has announced her intention of issuing invitations for an Irish Lace Ball and an Irish Tweed Afternoon during the coming Dublin Castle season.

Irish Potatoes

A very important meeting of farmers interested in potato growing in Ireland was held during the Winter Show of the Royal Dublin Society. The meeting was convened to consider the application of experience gained this year in respect of the value of Irish-grown seed potatoes in comparison with Scotch and English-grown seed of the same varieties. The experiments were carried out in England, Scotland and Wales under the superintendence of the Irish Department of Agriculture. It was explained at the meeting that enthusiastic potato growers in Ireland, notably Mr. Williamson, of Mallow, Mr. Wesley Forbes, County Antrim, and others had very much increased the interest in potato growing in Ireland, either by the raising of new varieties or by experimenting upon new varieties raised by others. It was made clear through the results of recent experiments (1) that the potatoes grown in Ireland had a peculiar vigor of growth which made them thoroughly reliable for 'seed' purposes; (2) that it was possible to cultivate a trade with Great Britain in supplying seed potatoes, as the growers had long recognised the importance of changing the seed in potato cultivation; (3) that with care and forethought there might be a large business done in seed potato growing in Ireland.

People We Hear About

Martin Sheridan, the greatest point winner in the world's carnival of sport, recently held at Athens, Greece, was born in County Mayo, Ireland, 25 years ago. Sheridan is now a policeman in New York. Physically he is an ideal athlete, standing within half an inch of six feet. He has been in training, more or less, all the time for the past ten years, and has been steadily improving. Two years ago Ralph Rose, the Californian giant, tied with Sheridan in throwing the discus. Since that time no one, not even Rose, has come near his performance. Besides the discus and the stone and the shot, Martin is an expert with the 56-pound weight, which he can throw over thirty feet. He has cleared six feet in an exhibition high jump, and can do about eleven feet with the vaulting pole. Twenty-one feet has no terrors for him in the running broad jump.

Cardinal Richard of Paris, who was recently forced to leave his episcopal palace by the French Government, was born at Nantes on March 1, 1819. He was consecrated Bishop of Belley in 1872, was named Coadjutor, with the right of succession to Cardinal Guibert, in 1875, became Archbishop of Paris in July, 1886, and was created Cardinal in the Consistory of May 24, 1899. In a grand festival at Notre Dame a few weeks ago Cardinal Richard, clothed in gorgeous vestments, proceeded up the aisle to the altar at the head of a body of clergy. As the procession moved along a little child fell from one of the pews right in the way of the Cardinal, and the aged man bent down and carefully placed the child back again by the side of the mother. Advancing years have forced him to appoint a Coadjutor in the person of Monsignor Amette. The assistant Archbishop is a splendid figure of a man, alert and vigorous, of an intellectual cast of countenance, and natural dignity in his mien—a real modern Prince of the Church.

Early in December Madame Patti gave what was described as her farewell concert in London. It is fifty-six years ago since Madame Patti, then seven years of age, first sang in public in New York. Her next appearance was nine years later, when, after a course of study, she played the role of Lucia on November 24, 1859, and achieved a tremendous success. Two years later she crossed the Atlantic to sing at Covent Garden, beginning a career at London's principal opera house which lasted for twenty years. During these twenty years her annual earnings are stated to have ranged between £30,000 and £35,000. Tours in North and South America and Argentina have brought her even greater monetary rewards, and it is in no way overstating the facts when it is said that during the four and a half decades in which she has been singing to the world her voice has earned her £750,000. For many single engagements in London she has received £800, while it is on record that in New York, when playing in opera, she once received a sum of £1,000 for each representation, paid in her dressing-room before she went on the stage.

Mr. Jeremiah Curtin, of the Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution, foremost among American linguists, with a world-wide reputation in philology, died at Bristol, Vt., December 14. Deceased, who was 68 years old at the time of his death, was proficient in seventy languages, excelling in this respect, it is said, any other man. In 1864 he became secretary of the United States Legation in Russia. In 1869 he travelled through Bohemia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Roumania, and in the following year returned to St. Petersburg, where he read before the Slavonic Society a paper in Russian giving an account of his observations. During the next few years deceased made several journeys through Southern Russia and the Caucasus, studying languages all the time. In 1883 he became connected with the Smithsonian Institution, since which time he had collected vocabularies of many Indian languages. He later on engaged in gathering a collection of Celtic mythology. For this purpose he spent the summer of 1887 in remote parts of Ireland. This was the first systematic collection ever made of the myths of Ireland. He read papers upon various topics embraced in his linguistic researches before the Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Anthropological Society of Washington. He also prepared several volumes—some being original, and others translations from Russian, Polish, Magyar, and Bohemian. As an author he was best known as the translator from the Polish of the works of Henryk Sienkiewicz.