

Irish News

ANTRIM.—A Generous Offer

An extraordinarily generous offer has been made by the Most Rev. Dr. Henry, Bishop of Down and Connor, to the Belfast Board of Guardians. The Guardians have been casting about for some means for dealing with consumptives, outside the workhouse buildings, and the Bishop proposes to give them a site, free of rent, at a place called Orlands, near Carrickfergus. This place, consisting of a mansion and a hundred acres of land, was purchased by him some years ago, one of his objects being to afford facilities for the open-air treatment of consumption.

Belfast Bigotry

The latest manifestations of Belfast bigotry is found in the fact that the Belfast Board of Guardians has refused to allow outside nurses the opportunity of acquiring a training in the Union Fever Hospital similar to the opportunity given to them at the Maternity Hospital in Belfast. Mr. O'Hare, one of the Catholic Guardians, brought forward a proposition that the Belfast Board, with the approval of the Medical Council, admit outside nurses to receive training in the Union Hospital, but the motion was rejected because the Orangemen feared that if it were passed Catholic nurses, as well as others, would enjoy the privilege.

Fire in Belfast

A big fire occurred in Belfast on Sunday night, May 17. The conflagration was one of the most disastrous that has occurred in Belfast for a long time, and completely gutted the chemical stores of Sir James Haslett, doing considerable damage also to the boot stores of R. and J. Dick. The damage was estimated at £25,000, fully covered by insurance. Two firemen were injured, but neither seriously. Eleven years ago a bad outbreak of fire occurred in the same premises.

CLARE.—A Vote of Censure

Mr. William Redmond, M.P., writing to the chairman of the Urban Council at Ennis with regard to the censure passed on him by the publicans of Ennis on account of his having voted lately for the Early Closing Bill and against a Liquor Compensation Bill in the House of Commons, says that he regrets to find himself out of agreement with some of his constituents over the matter. He has many friends all over the country in the licensed trade, upright and honorable men, to whom he wishes to do no injustice. At the same time, he has become convinced that certain legislation is desirable in the interests of the country, and if the resolution condemning him for having supported the Saturday Early Closing Bill should prove to be the opinion of his constituents at large, he can only accept the verdict when the time comes.

CORK.—The Exhibition

The Lord-Lieutenant was to open the Greater Cork International Exhibition on May 28. The exhibition is on a larger scale than last year, and the exposition of Irish arts, manufactures, scientific and agricultural education promises to be most extensive and varied. One important, if not the most important, section of the exhibition, is that allotted to agriculture. This department occupies a site comprising several acres, with experimental plots and buildings. Demonstrations will be carried on daily, and should prove one of the principal attractions.

DONEGAL.—A Centenarian

Mr. William Stuart, who died recently at Gortley, near Letterkenny, in the County Donegal, at the age of 120, easily heads this year's list of departed Irish centenarians. When a boy he is said to have seen Admiral Warren's battleships in Lough Swilly in 1798, after they had defeated and captured a hostile French squadron, with which was Wolfe Tone. He also attended the ceremonies held in honor of the 12th centenary of St. Columbkille, and was present at the 13th centenary held a few years ago.

The Carpet Industry

It is pleasant to learn on the authority of 'New Ireland' that the Donegal carpet industry is making wonderful progress, and that a market exists for the carpets as they are made. The director of one of the largest London establishments says: 'I think carpet-making is one of the best rural industries that Ireland could have. It is absolutely an assured success as an industry, and the appreciation of the peasant workers' skill and the demand for the carpets are growing every day as far as we are concerned. We sell them as fast as we get them from Donegal.'

DOWN.—Damage by Fire

Damage amounting to between £4000 and £5000 was caused at Walker's Mills, Newry, by a fire about the middle of May.

DUBLIN.—Improved Outlook

Like the 'Freeman's Journal' Company, Bolands, Limited, was on the down grade when Mr. Thomas Sexton was induced to accept the post of chairman of directors, and now, thanks to his financial ability, the company is on the high road to prosperity. At the annual meeting some remarkable figures were given by the chairman showing the money market estimate of the improved position. The ordinary shares have ap-

preciated in value £85,000 as compared with two years ago. The preference shares have increased £45,000 in value, and the debentures £15,000—a total appreciation of £145,000. However, with profits accruing equal to the total of the previous year this appreciation is intelligible. Not for twelve years has the company been in so promising a position.

A Meeting Disturbed

The 'Irish Weekly,' writing with reference to the disturbance at the meeting in the Rotunda on behalf of the Irish Parliamentary Fund, exaggerated accounts of which were cabled out to the colonies, says: Allegations have been made that the Gaelic League was a factor in causing the disturbance, another libel on that organisation which we are glad to see has been promptly repudiated from headquarters. Mr. Redmond has made a statement in reference to the affair which should commend itself to the critics. After pointing out the gross exaggeration indulged in by newspaper correspondents, he says: 'The disturbances would have been easily nipped in the bud were it not that the people naturally shrank from using force to remove Mrs. Maud Gonne McBride and some other ladies.' The entourage of Mrs. McBride, consisting of some thirty or forty young men, Mr. Redmond regrets, received rough treatment, as was natural in the circumstances, but the subsequent proceedings were unanimous and enthusiastic, and Lord Mayor Harrington received an ovation when entering the street after the meeting had terminated. The Press Association recalls that Mr. Edward Martyn, who was the principal supporter of Mrs. McBride in interrupting Mr. Redmond's meeting, is a member of the Kildare Street Conservative Club, and was chairman of Mr. Horace Plunkett's election committee when that gentleman was defeated by Colonel Lynch. The agency also declares that no one was really hurt, Mr. J. O'Donnell, M.P., only receiving a scratch.

Study of Irish History

An important lecture was delivered by Dr. Keno Meyer in the Dublin Rotunda the other day on 'The Necessity of a School for Irish History, Philology, and Literature.' Dr. Douglas Hyde, the head of the Gaelic League, presided over a very large attendance, and Dr. Meyer delivered an important address, touching upon the Gaelic revival and its beneficial effects, and advocating as a matter of national concern the provision of some means whereby the wealth of existing Irish manuscripts might be preserved, studied, and made available for general popular knowledge. Dr. Meyer offered to give practical help in the inauguration of a movement for the study of Irish manuscripts, if the Gaelic League, or any other organisation, would take the necessary steps to provide for him a room, a black board, and a few students. Dr. Hyde thanked Dr. Meyer for his lecture and his practical interest in the scheme, which will no doubt be proceeded with.

LIMERICK.—Death of a Priest

On May 16 there passed away at Castleconnell the popular pastor of the parish, Rev. Father B. Scanlan. The deceased was in his seventieth year.

Champion Dancer

Limerick having carried off the principal prizes in the dancing competitions at the Oireachtas, it is of interest to note that one of the competitors has long been looked on as the champion step dancer of Ireland. That is Mr. Joseph Halpin, who, with his little daughter, Teresa, shared the honors of this year's Oireachtas competitions. Mr. Halpin holds a unique record, as does his daughter. He distinguished himself at Jones's Road on more than one occasion by carrying off the championship of Ireland in step-dancing, as the result of which he was presented with a massive gold medal. He likewise was declared champion at several competitions at Cork and in other parts of the country. In fact, during the past ten or twelve years, during which period he took part in dancing contests, he never failed to come first. As a result he is the possessor of no less than 400 prizes, of which over 40 are gold medals. His daughter, who is not yet nine years old, is the holder of close on 20 Oireachtas prizes, and added to her laurels this year by taking first place in the hornpipe contest.

ROSCOMMON.—The Viceroy at Home

The Lord-Lieutenant has set an example to future Viceroy's which will probably embarrass some of them. He is actually residing in Ireland constantly. This is what a Viceroy should do. The Indian and Canadian Viceroy's remain in their respective countries during all their terms of office, unless perhaps for an occasional holiday, if the term be prolonged over a number of years. But of late Irish Lords-Lieutenant have resided but little in Ireland, daiting back and forward now and then when some formal occasion required their presence. Lord Dudley has taken Rockingham Castle, Boyle, as a summer residence, and is entertaining there the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who have gone down for the Boyle Races. His Excellency was presented with an address by the magistrates of Roscommon, headed by The O'Connor Don, who, in presenting the address, assured the Lord-Lieutenant that he had not met with a single refusal on the part of any magistrate of any political party who was asked to sign the address.

WEXFORD.—Death of a Franciscan

The death is reported of the Rev. J. O'Neill, O.S.F., who passed away at the Franciscan Convent, Wexford, after a short illness. Father O'Neill had only been stationed in Wexford for the past twelve months; never-