

GAELS AND GAMES A GREAT FIGURE

(By "THOMOND").

Our G.A.A. Grounds.

The clash between Tipperary and Cork hurlers at our own grounds on next Sunday, 25th inst., in their tie for the Munster Championship will be one of the most attractive clashes for the Gaels of Thomond. It should prove a close and hard contest, judging by the records of both teams.

Tipperary.

Every Munster Gael is delighted at the revival of hurling in the Premier County, as late achievements in the League competition show that they are coming back into their old standard when they often led Ireland. Since their overwhelming defeat of Kilkenny in the 1937 All-Ireland at Killarney, they have not figured in the front line. Many students of the game were surprised at their slump since, as their selection were mainly in their prime seven years ago. However, with the coming up of western champions in the county for the first time (Annacarty) the old spirit is revived again and I learn from their headquarters that hopes are high for 1944.

Cork.

With three successive All-Irelands—1941, '42 and '43—and most of their champion hurlers still available, there is a very confident note by the Lee. They are going through a course of training already which shows plainly the "Leesiders" mean to go all out for a fourth All-Ireland. A Munster semi-final or final has always been a strong pointer for an All-Ireland, so the clash at the Ennis Road Grounds on next Sunday and the subsequent meeting of the victors with our Limerick hurlers on the 18th prox. will provide two games quite up to the standard of All-Irelands.

Thurles.

On last Sunday Tipperary selected team took on a selection from the rest of their county at Thurles as a test to find new blood for their Limerick visit. This is a step in the right direction—to try all resources to field their best team in the Munster games.

Our County Team.

The match expected between the Dublin hurlers and our county selection has fallen through, as the former team could not arrange to travel. To make up for this disappointment and provide a test for our hurlers the County Board are fielding the pick of the city and county to meet the Ahane selection on the 2nd of July. Some Gaels suggest that Ahane field the team in which the back line did so poorly against Clare.

Other Suggestions.

Others strongly suggest playing the Ahane selection intended for the Munster final. They hold that it will be a practice in combination and an opportunity to find out any weak spots. Against this suggestion to provide a good game, other students of our premier pastime suggest that all the good hurlers should not be on the Ahane side. Of course, the Ahane "picks," who have done so well up to the present, have been purely experimental in players and placings and this approaching game will provide the final test for our representatives for the Munster final. Hence every player ambitious to figure in this final must prove his worth on our own grounds on the 2nd prox.

Correspondence.

The Editor has kindly given even extra space for suggested lists of county players and such favours cannot be continued. I consider plenty of help has been given in this respect in this column. My correspondents, please take note.

Charges.

A labouring man finds fault with having to pay 6d. each for his two boys, 5 and 7 years old, after paying 3/- for the sideline. This is a matter for the Council. Regret we cannot give space to his letter with name

Late Brother Brendan Buckley, O.S.F.

After a long and protracted illness, borne with exemplary fortitude and patience, the death of Br. Brendan Buckley, O.S.F., took place at the Franciscan Monastery, Mountbellew, on 16th June. Br. Brendan was born at Knocktoosh, Co. Limerick, 81 years ago. In 1887 he entered the Third Order Regular of St. Francis at Errew, Co. Mayo, and made his Final Profession in 1889 at Annaghdown Monastery, Co. Galway. Br. Brendan was of a great teaching family and his death recalls the tragic disaster of Dromcollogher, which claimed two of his brothers. In scholarly attainments, Br. Brendan was an outstanding figure and he taught with marked success in the principal Houses of the Order. In Errew, where he entered, and in Annaghdown, where he spent the greater part of his life labouring among the people whom he loved so dearly, he will be remembered with particular affection. Many teachers throughout the country, who studied at the then Intermediate school at Mountbellew, will recall his sterling qualities as a teacher. Br. Brendan's activities were not confined to the schools. Very early in his career, Providence marked him out as one to guide the affairs of the Order and this he did with distinction for many years of his religious life. In no small way it is due to his untiring energy and unremitting zeal that the Order to-day enjoys Pontifical Status. Br. Brendan being—above all—a true religious and a perfect Franciscan, was beloved by all his fellow-religious, and his charity towards the poor, whom he loved in a special manner, won for him hosts of friends. Anything that did not savour of God's glory had no place in his religious mind. His fatherly "Go mbeannuighidha Dia dhuit" to all and sundry was typical of him, who did so much for the language he loved and which he spoke on all possible occasions—even to the end.

A younger brother—Brother Kieran, O.S.F.—pre-deceased him by a few years, and several of his cousins, nephews and nieces are to be found in religion in all parts of the globe. In his last hours Br. Brendan had all the consolations of Holy Church. The Rev. James Prendergast, Chaplain, was most attentive and administered the last rites.

Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated on Saturday in the Monastery Chapel. The celebrant was Rev. J. Prendergast; the deacon, Rev. P. Delaney, C.C., Mountbellew; the sub-deacon, Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, C.C., Moylough, and the master of ceremonies, Very Rev. P. Egan, P.P., Mountbellew. The funeral, which took place on Sunday, 18th June, was attended by the Very Rev. P. Egan, P.P.; Rev. P. Delaney, C.C.; Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, C.C.; Rev. J. Prendergast, C.C.; Very Rev. Gabriel King, O.F.M.; Rev. T. Healy, M.S.C.; Rev. M. Nealon, M.S.C.; Rev. W. Carroll, C.S.Sp.; Very Rev. Br. Conleth Mannion, O.S.F., Superior General, and about 50 Brothers from the different Houses of the Order. There was also a very large and representative attendance of the general public. The procession to the Monastery cemetery was most impressive, and the last liturgical prayers were sung by the Clergy and Brothers. Ar Dheis de go Raibh a Anam.

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