

house is splendidly fitted, in the latest metropolitan style, with marble counters, tiled walls, tessellated floors, and the neatest of appointments. One side is devoted to such comestibles as jams, pickles, spicery, sauces, tinned and preserved goods; and the other to hams,

business speaking plainly the spirit of the management. Mr. O'DEA personally supervises the whole, and shows a courtesy and prompt attention to his customers that might advantageously be imitated in many quarters. We need hardly add that the trade of the house is still rapidly extending.

9. ①
JAMES FLYNN, Cruise's Hotel, Limerick.

It seldom falls to the happy lot of the industrial historian to be called upon to write the interesting annals of a commercial institution, possessing a history the outlines of which are so carefully recorded in strict chronological sequence. As has the famous hostelry in the City of Limerick known at the present day by the title of "Cruise's Royal Hotel." This famous house of entertainment dates back over a period of exactly a century, and as we write these lines, the Hotel proprietary and patrons may be celebrating—as they are certainly entitled to—the first centenary of a house that has held a well-earned fame through many a trying year of Irish national upheaval; and to-day it stands as a striking testimony to the splendid commercial results that are attainable by well-directed business effort—results which make themselves as apparent in the administration of a Hotel as in the more complicated operations of the largest factory. The founder of the Hotel was Mr. Bourne, who for a period of twenty-one years very capably conducted the business. In the year 1812, the establishment—then known as the "Royal Mail Coach Hotel"—passed into the hands of Mrs. Moriarty, who carried on the business for a further period of twenty years. At this time, the "Royal Mail Coach Hotel" had acquired a very high reputation as a coaching establishment, an old steel-plate engraving being still extant which represents the coach entrance gate as occupying the present site of the fine portico by which admittance is gained to the modern hostelry. Succeeding Mrs. Moriarty in the proprietorship, Mr. Cruise held the Hotel for a period of thirty years, and during this gentleman's administration it may be said that the nucleus of the *prestige* enjoyed at the present time was laid. Mr. Cruise, by an energetic and painstaking management, raised the tone and character of the house to a high point of eminence, and visitors to Limerick from all parts of Great Britain and the United States of America found their comforts so satisfactorily catered for, that the ancient designation of the house seems to have paled in the public memory before the more complimentary title generally bestowed upon the establishment by those who had enjoyed the privilege of sojourn under its hospitable roof. And so the "Royal Mail Coach" as a title gave place to "Cruise's," a name which the present proprietor has wisely continued. Mr. Cleary was the next occupier, and this gentleman

controlled the establishment down to the year 1883, when the Hotel passed into the hands of Mr. JAMES FLYNN, who, since his assumption of the control, has not only greatly extended the premises by important additions and enlargements, but has enhanced the value of the connection, by his able and judicious administration, to a degree that places this establishment in the forefront rank of first-rate Irish family and commercial hotels. "Cruise's Hotel" is advantageously situated; indeed, in this respect, it has no rival in the City. From each window a panoramic view of great interest is obtainable, prominent features in the landscape being the Clare Mountains in the distance, and, nearer at hand, Thomond Bridge and the beautifully-turreted Castle of King John. The Hotel is a large and handsome building of pleasing appearance, and contains a spacious entrance hall, large dining-rooms, drawing-rooms, a number of private sitting-rooms, commercial room, and no fewer than one hundred and fifty bedrooms. The Hotel also contains several bathrooms, billiard-room, reading and smoking-room, spacious kitchens, the usual domestic offices, and all the accessories of a large and thoroughly organised establishment. The house throughout is furnished in a superior style, the attendance upon visitors being accelerated by the recent addition of a complete service of electric bells. A marked and impressive feature is the perfect order and cleanliness of the entire establishment, while the comfort of visitors is enhanced by the ready and polite attention of a large and efficient staff of servants. The Hotel is very ably conducted by Mr. FLYNN, who possesses the advantage of thorough experience, derived from his connection as steward with several first-class clubs, and he spares no effort to ensure the comfort of his guests. Both the excellence of the *cuisine* and the superior character of the wines and spirits contribute, in association with the very moderate scale of charges adopted, to render Cruise's Hotel a most desirable place of sojourn, either for a long or short period. In concluding this brief review, we must not omit to mention that Mr. FLYNN is at present engaged in endeavouring to again give facilities to the increased travelling public by placing on the Upper Shannon a well-appointed steamer, to enable visitors to Limerick to visit the magnificent scenery on this beautiful, but hitherto much-neglected, route.