

showed that the distinctions which they also earned earlier at Feile Luimni were not a mere matter of chance.

THE absence of a demand for vocal tuition at the School of music must be remedied. Mr. Paul stated that the greatest obstacle to Ireland's musical future is the lack of musical education in the schools, and while that is so generally known throughout the country it does not apply to Limerick. The distinguished conductor probably did not know, nor did the audience at last night's concert, that there are now up to 700 students attending the School of Music. This is a truly remarkable achievement for an institution which is barely three years in existence, and a resounding refutation that there is any lack of musical appreciation in our city. Needless to say, prodigies are rare and all can be hoped for from amongst these aspirants is a certain level of musical competence. The fifteen young artistes whose ages ranged from seven to seventeen years, who performed for a much impressed audience, last night, left no doubt about the abundance of genuine talent in our midst.

PERHAPS the success of the School of Music can be attributed to another factor apart from its aesthetic value. We are living in an age of fabulous events including the vastly increased opportunities for musical entertainments of all kinds ranging from standards of real worth to the fawdry "pop" level. In effect there are now many opportunities for making a real livelihood from music, than have ever previously existed, and it is only right that the opportunities for acquiring the necessary skill be made available to all. It took many years of pleading, badgering and indeed coercion before the City Vocational Education Committee convinced a reluctant Department that there was need for a school of music in Limerick. Three short years have sufficed to prove that the confidence of the Committee was justified. Much has been achieved and there is much to be achieved, but the day may come when Limerick will be the great musical centre envisaged by Mr. Tibor Paul.

INJURED MAN IMPROVED

An elderly man, James O'Brien, 3 Newenham Street, Limerick, was taken to Earlington's Hospital late last night when he was involved in an accident with a car at O'Connell Avenue. Conditions were very bad at the time. The driver of the car, Mr. William Kent, Bellinacorney

will also operate daily passenger flights and four cargo flights. According to the advance schedules a minimum of six international airlines will fly into and out of Shannon every day during

major points in the region, including Galway, Limerick City, Ennis, Cork and Killarney, bringing all resorts in the south and west of Ireland within easy reach of Shannon.

'BEAT' SHOW A BIG SUCCESS

MORE than 400 teenagers attended Limerick's first beat show at Amharclann na Feile last night. The event was an unqualified success and proceeds went towards reducing the debt on the city's cultural headquarters. Several well-known local groups participated in the event.

For a lengthy spell I wondered whether I was in Limerick or Liverpool. It was not the fact that both cities had recently appeared in soccer cup finals but the noise and the din as a conglomeration of beat groups pounded their way through some 150 minutes of the latest in "pop" music.

On all sides girls shrieked, hissed and shook. This was the first "beat" show ever organised in Limerick and straight away let me say that it was thoroughly enjoyable. That is provided you were "with it" sufficiently to overcome the near hysteria which prevailed.

A BLESSING

As usual it was a late start to a concert. To add to the discomfort the amplification system was very faulty for the opening twenty minutes but to many people this was a blessing in disguise. It was after the interval that things really livened up when young men and women stamped the floor, clapped incessantly and made all kinds of gesticulations as they enjoyed every minute of it.

The purpose of the show was to help boost the funds of the recently renovated Amharclann. Seasoned committee members gathered in small groups near the door and, though they could scarcely have enjoyed proceedings, they must have been gratified that the event was a financial success if nothing else.

To me the highlight of the night was the performance given by the Empire Showband. This is an outfit that have been improving beyond recognition and at the termination of their performance last night there were shouts of "we want more" for at least four minutes. They played a well-blended selection, including a splendid rendering of "Oklahoma." Ger Cusack also earned plaudits for his rendering of "Walkin' the Dog."

A POOR REFLECTION

The treatment given the members of the Noel Touhy Ceili Band was disgraceful. Non-stop cat-calling went on all through their performance of rousing Irish airs and it is, indeed, a poor reflection on the teenagers of Limerick that they could not show some appreciation of our own native music. This was a first-rate performance from this outfit, whose first record is selling very well in Ireland and America.

Champion Irish dancer, Breda Gorey, was another to be subjected to raucous comment. It did not prevent her from giving a first-rate performance.

Comedian Niall Carey excelled

but here again his performance was marred by the cannibalistic tendencies of some of the attendance.

The Watusi Girls, the Dukes and all the other groups had the crowd on tenterhooks as they pounded out the latest in the beat world. Finally came the bill toppers—The Interns. This rhythm and blues group hail from Portrush and the scenes as they performed just had to be seen to be believed. The expressions on some of the female faces was frightening.

The Merriman Ballad Group never really got going. Finally to Frank Corr for his production of the show. He took on the role of compere, but not once was I able to catch what he was endeavouring to say.

And so the curtain came down on an historic night. Limerick's "home of culture" was turned into a den of beat for the night. It was fortunate that the building had been recently renovated for the noise was so great that in all probability the old building would have creaked with the racket.

It was a very successful first venture and it will be interesting to see if there are any more such concerts. Finally a comment from a high-ranking Amharclann na Feile official: "It's a good job there wasn't a power failure or we wouldn't have any music."

Teenage drinking in the home

A DOLESCENT alcoholism is a rising problem in many Continental countries where even small children have commonly been allowed to drink wine. The difficult question "Should you serve spirits to teenagers in your home?" is answered by one parent in the May Reader's Digest with a resounding NO. Why on earth should adults serve spirits to teenagers? asks Sloan Wilson.

The argument that it is better for the child to learn to drink at home than in bars is no more valid than the argument that experimentation with pep pills is better in the living-room than in the coffee bar. Adolescence is the time when vital choices have to be made. For most people it is, moreover a very disturbed period. Not only are there glandular and other massive physical changes to reckon with, but there is the strain of working out a

RICK COLLEGE—Mr. C. Colley, Minister for Education, accompanied by J. O'Connor, Dept. of Education, arriving at the Mary Immaculate Training College, Limerick, yesterday. He was on arrival by Rev. Loretto, Principal of the College, and the 260 formed a guard of honour. Later he inspected the language laboratory and new £50,000 assembly

Speed limits to be revised

REGULATIONS announced by the Minister for Government, Mr. Blaney, revise speed limits in parts of the country. A statement says that the regulations deal with arterial roads heavily-trafficked. Their general effect will shorten the stretches subject to a limit of 30 and to introduce new 40 limits where necessary.

The 40 m.p.h. limits mainly on the approach to larger towns. Some which had no limits will have 30 and 40 m.p.h. and in a few cases, the limits are being removed. A spokesman for the mobile Association said the Association was pleased to learn at last, following initial Government comment on the subject several years ago, that action was taken.

INAUGURATED BY SCHOOL

THE attitude of Canon O'Brien, P., towards music inaugural concert

"There is an impossible cum in the secondary which cannot be done ordinary child."

A most enjoyable concert presented by 15 students with Joseph Maher on trumpet playing a selection from Sonata No. 2. Eighteen Joseph, who plays professional travels from Dublin Limerick School of Music.

Others who took part in concert were: Piano—Meaney, Margaret; C. Philip Talbot, Reidin; and Marie and Patricia; Violin—Aidan Maurice McCarthy. Sea