Miscellanea

A LIMERICK MEDAL OF 1798.

I am indebted to my friend, Dr. F. S. Bourke, 14 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, for his kindness in permittng to give here a reproduction of an original medal out of his unique collection. This medal, now of extreme rarity, was one struck in silver by the Limerick Corporation in 1798 and was awarded to the officers of the Limerick militia regiment, which represented the English forces at Coloony, Co. Sligo, in the engagement there with the French-Irish battalions in September, 1798, soon after the landing of General Humbert at Killala. The obverse of the medal, as may be seen, has the arms of Limerick—a two-castled gateway, behind which is a turret with a flag. Within are olive and palm wreaths. It is marked "Corporation and Citizens of Limerick." The reverse of the medal has a royal crown with olive wreaths and the words "To the Heroes of Coloony, 5th September, 1798." The size is represented here.

Collooney Medal.

There is little to be proud of—rather is there much to be ashamed of—in the fact that Limerick, in its militia regiment, did contribute to crush a heroic effort to achieve the independence of Ireland. Apart from this, it is difficult to understand why the activities of this Limerick regiment in the engagement at Colooney should have been so commemorated, and why a street in Limerick should have been named after that place. Entirely partisan accounts of the battle, drawn solely from English sources, have come down to us as authoritative. The historian of each generation since 1798 has faithfully copied the version of the battle as given by the historian of the previous generation. Archdeacon Begley has echoed Lenihan, as the latter has echoed others. The fact is that the engagement at Colooney, far from being a "brilliant victory," &c., for the English forces, was a complete defeat. Both of their cannon were captured, as were all their ammunition waggons and a considerable number of muskets. In addition a hundred prisoners were taken. The remainder were on the point of being entirely surrounded when their commander, Colonel Vereker, sounded a hurried retreat and his panic-stricken forces broke and fled, and sped back in wild disorder through the open country to Sligo, leaving Colooney in the hands of the French and Irish insurgents. Nowadays Vereker and his officers would certainly be courtmartialled and penalised for the neglect and inefficiency displayed by them at the battle. The facts I have mentioned are founded on the accounts by several French officers, as well as on contemporary letters and on local tradition. These latter I found still very vivid and detailed during a visit I paid to the site of the battle a few years ago. The reference by Lenihan and those whom he largely echoed to a "brilliant English victory" and to "heroic deeds," and Archdeacon Begley's comments on the battle as one of "noble feats" do not stand analysis. The fact is that in the days engagement the "Races of Castlebar" were ignominiously repeated.

So much for the *historic* value of the medal here reproduced, and its accompanying discredit on the Limerick of the day. But it is pleasant to think that the new Limerick of a resurgent Ireland has in our day made amends in a little way by naming Colooney Street after the illustrious Wolfe Tone.

R. HAYES.

Editor's Note—There is also a very fine specimen of this medal in the Limerick City Museum, on loan from Mr. Hewson of Hollywood. The medal is signed "Brush," who was, presumably, James Brush, a Dublin silversmith.

THE LIMERICK WHERRY CLUB.

Recently a small snuff box was brought to my notice which has a very interesting inscription engraved on the lid, as follows :—

"Presented by the Members of the Limerick Wherry Club to Henry Vereker, Esqre., as winner of this Gold Box, beating four competitors, after the hardest contest that has been on the Shannon since the Club has been formed. July, 1847."

Below the inscription is engraved a view of the Shannon, with the North Strand, Wellesley Bridge and the old part of the city in the background. Four one-man wherries are shown rowing down the river.

It would be interesting to know when the Wherry Club was formed and how long it lasted. Perhaps some of our members may have some information concerning it.

The box itself is in silver gilt and engine turned. It was made in the year 1832 by Nathaniel Mills, a well-known Birmingham snuff box maker.

J.N.A.W.

STONE PENAL PLAQUE FROM COUNTY CLARE.

The plaque illustrated comes from a "strong" farmer's cottage in Bunratty, County Clare. It is cut in black slate, a stone common enough in that county. In the same cottage and the one adjoining are two well-cut sundials, carved in the year 1820 by J. Hackett, who, according to tradition, was the local hedgeschoolmaster. It seems likely that he also carved the plaque which, in workmanship and treatment of subject would fit in with the date already given. The plaque is held in great reverence and is used instead of a crucifix to put into the hands of dying members of the family.

The figures depicted are typical of the work of the local stonemasons of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, as seen on tombstones; but, as a work of art, the plaque is far superior to any of the latter I have seen. The iconography is also unusual.

In the eighteenth century there was a return to the earlier style of representing Longinus the centurion and Stepharton the sponge bearer, who occur in early Irish sculpture and manuscript representations of the crucifixion, but whose place was taken in mediaeval art by the more usual figures of Our Lady and Saint John. Here, however, there is an interesting variation on the earlier theme, St. Peter occupying the place of the sponge-bearer; a most appropriate change if the plaque was used, as is traditionally stated, to place in the hands of dying persons, for Peter bears in his hand the key to the kingdom of Heaven. The quaint way in which Longinus and Peter come into the picture, as if emerging from a side curtain, is also interesting.

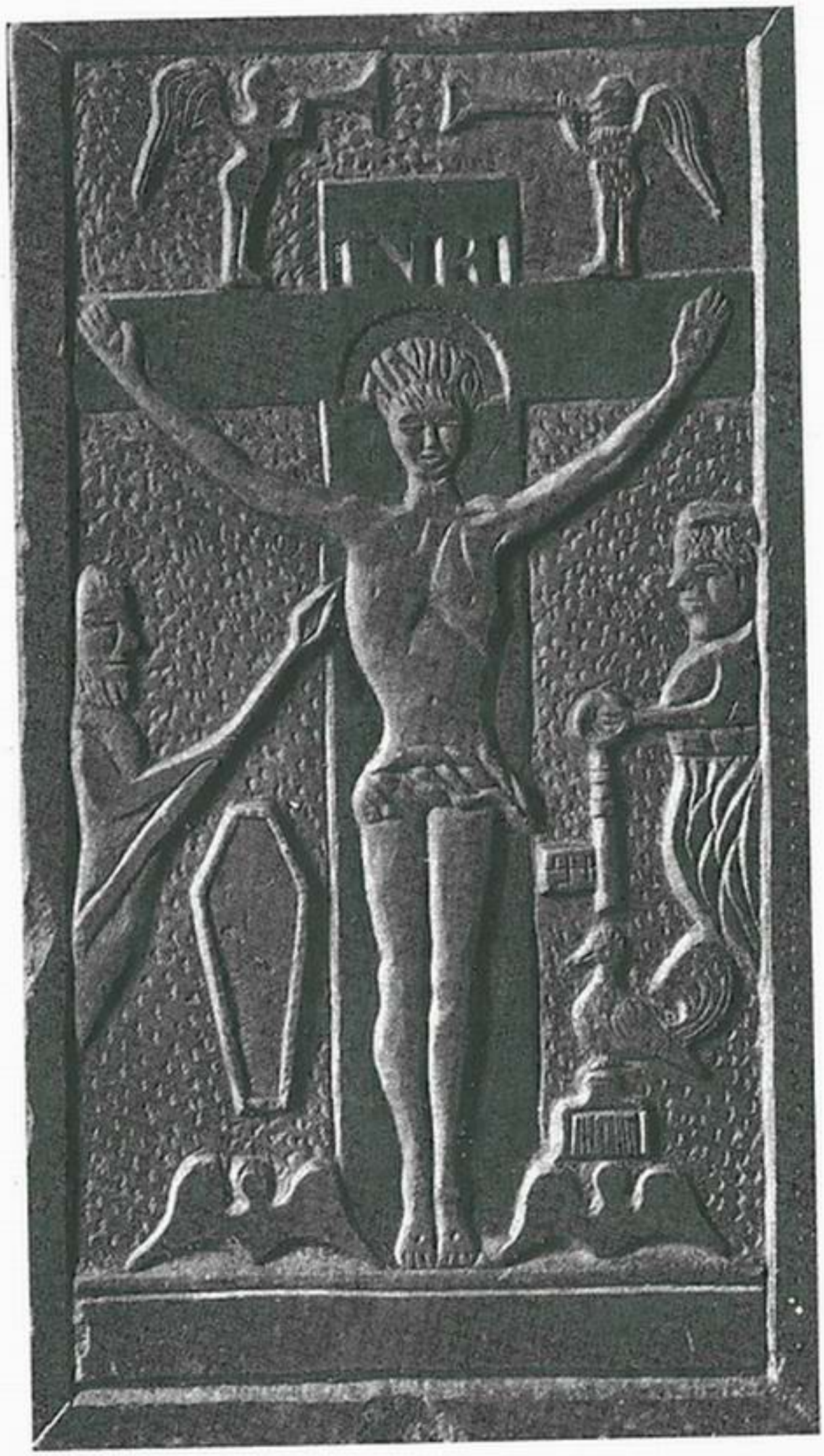
Underneath Peter is a most decorative cock, standing on the pillar, a variant of the more usual cock rising out of the pot. Between Longinus and the dead Christ is the coffin, and at the bottom of the picture are two angels, carved only in outline. Beneath these is a blank space, obviously left for an inscription.

The treatment of the two trumpeting angels on the top of the plaque is also interesting, one being plain against a pocked background, and the other pocked on a plain background. This is typical of Celtic workmanship of all periods, which never repeated a design when a slight variation could be introduced.

The work was well conceived before execution. The figures are well spaced and, although there is little uncut surface on the stone, there is no suggestion of overcrowding. The worker was a true artist and a good mason. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any figure sculpture in the surrounding graveyards which might be attributed to the same hand.

R. H., 17/10/'44.

PLATE IV.



Penal Plaque from Co. Clare. c. 1820.

LIMERICK METHODIST SOCIETY.

The first reference to Methodism in Limerick is in 1739, in which year the White manuscript notes that Mr. Whitefield " founder of the Swaddlers or Methodists " arrived in Limerick from America and preached in the Cathedral.

Ferrar states that Methodism was first started in Limerick by Robert Swindall, who preached on the Parade on 17th March, 1749. The Society was then formed and they rented and used as a Preaching House the old Church in St. Francis Abbey, later the County Hospital.

In 1763 they built, adjoining the City Court, and at a cost of £600, a "handsome brick building, supported in front by four columns of the Tuscan Order." In 1812 the present house in O'Connell Street, its front now covered by a group of business offices, was built. In 1815 there was a split in the Society and it was divided into Wesleyan Methodists and Primitive Wesleyan Methodists. The former stayed in the O'Connell Street house and the latter returned to the older house next the Court House until 1821, when they built the chapel in Bedford Row, now a cinema.

Mr. Seumas O'Sullivan, editor of the Dublin Magazine, has very kindly allowed me to examine and take extracts from a unique pamphlet relative to the Methodists in Limerick. It is a small octavo 8-page booklet and was probably published in Limerick. It is dated 8th of July, 1792, and consists of a number of Resolutions, the main gist of which seems to be that, although constituted a Society, they do not intend to secede from the Church of England or to make any provision for a separate Methodist preacher. The pamphlet is signed by the following members of the Society :

Stewards—Alexander Palmer, Grocer, The Parade; John Moore.

Leaders—John M'Gregor, Chandler, Newgate ; John Hennessy, Cabinet-maker, Lock Quay; Thomas Mason, Hosier, The Parade; John Angley, Zechariah Worrell, William Kent, Cutler, John's Gate.

Members—Charles Harrison, White-smith, near Market House, I.; Thomas Kendall, Weaver; Isaac Hill, Luke Pratt, Catherine Miles, Arfaxed Hoey, Cabinet-maker and Upholsterer, Fish Lane; Persis Goonan, William End, Pewterer, Irishtown; Barth. Wm. Graves, Avis Hogan, Jane Palmer.

Where available, I have added the trades and addresses of signatories in order to give some idea of the importance and extent of the Methodist Society at that time.

R. H.

BRIDGE AT KILMALLOCK.

The following inscription, not hitherto recorded, is on a stone set into the North Bridge of Kilmallock. In an Elizabethan map of the town, this is shown as a bridge of eight arches :—

Repaired Anno Domine 166—
John Rogers then
Being Sovereign
of Kilmallock et
setera.

R. H.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1945.

(An asterick indicates that the 1944 subscription has been paid).

Abbott, Rev. Canon T. F., Trebor, Ennis Road, Limerick.
*Adare, Lord, Kilgobbin, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Barry, J. T., Sandville, Ballyneety.
*Barry, Miss Grene, Sandville, Ballneety.
Bennett, T. E., Solr., Kilmallock.
Bennis, E. H., Ascot Terrace, Limerick.
Bennis, Miss E., Ascot Terrace, Limerick.
*Bluett, Rev. J. (C.C.), Clarina, Co. Limerick.
Boyd, James, Ennis Road, Limerick.
*Brassill, Rev. J. (Adm.), St. John's, Limerick.
Breen, Rev. M., St. Munchin's College, Limerick.
*Bairead, Rev. F., O.F.M., Colaiste Naoimh Antoine, Gaillimh.
*Bingham, George, 2950, Bainbridge Avenue, New York.

Cantwell, D. (N.T.), Croom County Limerick.
*Carroll, T. C., Lansdowne Road, Limerick.
*Clancy, Rev. John (P.P.), Portroe, County Tipperary.
*Clare County Library, Ennis, County Clare.
*Coffey, Brian McMahon, 12, Denny Street, Tralee.
Connors, Rev. J. (C.C.), Ballyhahill, County Limerick.
*Convent of Mercy, Adare, County Limerick.
*Costello, Rev. D. (C.C.), St. Mary's, Limerick.
*Counihan, J. H. (M.B.), Riverview, Ennis.
*Counihan, Maurice, Henry Street, Limerick.
*Culhane, Rev. John (C.C.), Adare, Co. Limerick.
Coyle, Mrs., Rocheville, Ballinacurra, Limerick.
Central Catholic Library, Merrion Square, Dublin.
*Cussen, Robert (Solr.), Newcastle West, County Limerick.
*Casey, Miss Mairin, B.A., Quarryhill, Kilmallock, County Limerick.
*Corbett, Martin, 3, Church Street, Limerick.
*Cahill, Rev. J. (Adm.), Ennis County Clare.

*Devane, J. F. (M.D.), 3 Pery Square.
Devane, Rev. Richard, The College, Thurles.
Dolan, Rev. John, St. Munchin's College, Limerick.
*Downey, Charles, Northeske, Circular Road, Limerick.
Dundon, John, Victoria Terrace, Limerick.
Dunraven, Earl of, Adare Manor, County Limerick.
*Devane, Mrs. J. F., 3, Pery Square.
Dillon, Miss Angela, Fairylawn, Western Road, Cork.
*De Valera, R., Blackrock, County Dublin.

*Egan, Mrs., Monaire, N.C. Rd., Limerick.

Feely, Dr. M., 1, Hartstonge Street.
Fitzgerald, Rev. D. (P.P.), Kilcolman, County Limerick.
Fitzgerald, V. Rev. Wm., Ballingarry, Thurles.
*Flood, J. M. (D.J.), Carnlea, S. C. Rd., Limerick.
*Fogarty, Rev. P. (C.C.), Thurles.
*Fogarty, Rev. W. (P.P.), Clonoulty, Goold's Cross, Tipperary.
Fogarty, Most Rev. Dr., The Palace, Ennis.
Fitzgerald, E. I., Provincial Bank, William Street, Limerick.
Flynn, Mrs. (N.T.), Adare, County Limerick.

*Gaffney, Miss A., Kilmallock, County Limerick.
*Gaynor, Rev. P. (P.P.), Kilnamona, Ennis, Co. Clare.
*Gleeson, D. F., D.Litt., Caherelly, Co. Clare.
Glin, Knight of, Glin Castle, County Limerick.
*Geary, Frank, Merchants' Quay, Limerick.
Gwynn, Miss L., Parteen-a-Lax, Limerick.
*Grace, Rev. M. G., St. Coonlan's, Youghal Arra, Tipperary.
*Gelston, Richard, Lineham, Ennis Road, Limerick.
*Gaffney, J., Kilmallock, County Limerick

Halpin, Cormac, Knocknagan, Newmarket, County Clare.
*Hamilton, Rev. M. (P.P.), Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare.
Hannan, Rev. J. (C.C.), Nenagh.
Hartigan, Richard, George Hotel, Limerick.
Hartigan, Mrs., George Hotel, Limerick.
Hayes, Richard, M.D., 26, Herbert Park, Dublin.
Haydn, J. A., 26, Barrington Street, Limerick.
Hayes, L. D. (Dr.), Lisheen, Emly, Co. Tipperary.
Hederman, Dr. W., Croom, County Limerick.
Hencken, H. O'Neill, Peabody Museum, Harvard, Mass., U.S.A.
*Hewson, R. F., Holywood, Rathkeale, County Limerick.
*Hurley, Rev. J. (S.J.), The Crescent, Limerick.
*Hunt, John, Holy Cross, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.
Hartney, Mrs., 5, Lifford Avenue, Limerick.
*Heffernan, Patrick, Hop Garden Cottage, Westergate, Chichester.
*Hodges, Right Rev. Dr. E. C., Bishopsbourne, Limerick.

Inchiquin, Lord, Dromoland, County Clare.

*Jackson, Rev. R. Wyse, The Rectory, Barrington Street, Limerick.
Jones, Denis, Askeaton, County Limerick.
*Japp, R. A., c/o. Glentworth Hotel, Limerick.

Keane, Most Rev. Dr., The Palace, Corbally, Limerick.
Kelly, Rev. Denis (P.P.), Rockhill, Bruree, County Limerick.
Kennedy, P. J., New Street, Limerick.
Killeen, A. B., Power Station, Ardnacrusha.
Kirby, Rev. T. (C.C.), Croom, County Limerick.
Kennedy, Rev. John (C.C.), St. Mary's, Limerick.
*Killeen, M. P., Grattan Street, Kilkee, County Clare.
*Keane, James, 25, Ascot Terrace, Limerick.
*Keane, Mrs., 25, Ascot Terrace, Limerick.

*Leask, H. G., Board of Public Works, Stephen's Green.
*Leonard, Rev. J. (C.C.), Martinstown, Kilmallock, County Limerick.
Liston, Rev. John (C.C.), Abbeyfeale, County Limerick.
Limerick City Library, Pery Square.
Limerick County Library, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
London, Mrs., Castleview, Castletroy, Limerick.
*Lynch, W. Wilson, Belvoir, Sixmilebridge.
Lyons, Rev. P. (C.C.), Coleman's Well, Charleville.
*Lilburn, Hugh, 46, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
*Lanigan, Robert, Mallow Street, Limerick.

McCarthy, Rev. E. (C.C.), St. Munchin's, Limerick.
*MacClancy, J. B. (Surgeon), Bellevue, Ennis, County Clare.
*McGuirk, V. Rev. Canon J., Rathfarnham, Dublin.
MacLysaght, Edward, Raheen, Tuamgraney, County Clare.
McMahon, J., 14, St. John's Avenue, Limerick.
*McMahon, Dr. Patrick, 2, Pery Square, Limerick.
McNamara, Francis, Falls Hotel, Ennistymon.
*McNamara, Rev. A. J. (P.P.), Doonbeg, County Clare.
*MacPolin, Dr. J., Ennis Road, Limerick.
*McMahon, Dan, Ennis Road, Limerick.
Martin, Rev. D., St. Munchin's College, Limerick.
Maxwell, Rev. Thomas F. (D.D.), St. Flannan's College, Ennis.
Minahan, Rev. M., (C.C.), St. Michael's, Limerick.
*Moloney, Rev. M. (P.P.), St. Patrick's, Limerick.
Moloney, Mrs. C. E., 10, The Crescent, Limerick.
Moloney, P. F., 136, Leinster Road, Rathmines.
*Moriarty, Rev. C. (C.C.), Kilmallock, County Limerick.
*Mhurchadha, Eilis Ni, San Maighread, Luimneach.
*Murphy, Rev. E. (C.C.), Nenagh, County Tipperary.
Murphy, Rev. P. (C.C.), Monagea, County Limerick.
*Madden, Rev. M. (P.P.), Clarecastle, County Clare.
*Mungret College, Mungret, County Limerick.

*Nelson, B. Morley, Clonamery, Limerick.

O'Briain, Donnchadh (T.D.), Baile Sean, An Caislean Nua.
O'Brien, James, Victoria Terrace.
O'Brien, H. M. V., Monare, Foynes, County Limerick.
*O'Brien, W. E. Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.
O'Brien, Mrs. C. M., Parteen-a-lax, Limerick.
O'Brien, Rev. D., St. Munchin's College, Limerick.
O'Brien, V. Rev. Canon, Effin, Kilmallock, County Limerick.
*O'Callaghan, Mrs. M., St. Margaret's, Limerick.
*O'Connell, Capt. D. B. (R.N.), Maulagh, Killarney, County Kerry.
*O'Connell, Michael, St. James's, Fermoy, County Cork.
O'Connell, Rev. W. (C.C.), Dromin, Kilmallock, County Limerick.
O'Donnell, Rev. D. (C.C.), Bruree, County Limerick.
O'Donovan, Dermot, Eden Terrace, Limerick.
O'Donovan, Mrs. D., Eden Terrace, Limerick.
O'Donovan, Dermot (Solr.), William Street, Limerick.
*O'Grady, Rev. W. (C.C.), St. John's, Limerick.
*O'Leary, J. J., c/o. National Bank of Australia, Lothbury, London.
O'Mahony, Eoin, K.M., 2, Capel Street, Dublin.
*O'Mahony, George, Fort Mary, Circular Road, Limerick.
*O'Malley, C. V., Pery Square, Limerick.
O'Mara, Mrs. S., Strand House, Limerick.
O'Neill, Rev. P. (D.D.), Bruff, County Limerick.
O'Regan, Shamus, Sixmilebridge, County Clare.
O'Ryan, Rev. N. (C.C.), Tipperary, County Tipperary.
O'Sullivan, Rev. C. (P.P.), Cratloe, Co. Clare.
*O'Sullivan, Roger (Solr.), Newfort, Patrick's Well, County Limerick.
O'Halloran, Rev. P. (P.P.), St. Mary's, Kilmurry-Ibrickane, Clare.
O'Shea, Rev. T. E. (C.C.), Tramore, County Waterford.
O'Malley, Desmond (Solr.), Glentworth Street, Limerick.
O'Mahony, Frank, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
*O'Brien, F., Kildimo, County Limerick.
Ogilvie, Dr. James, Kilmallock, County Limerick.
O'Donovan, Mrs. D. J., Rossio, Castletroy, County Limerick.
*O'Malley, Dr. Sarah, 4, Pery Square, Limerick.

Presentation Convent, Limerick.
*Punch, Rev. T. (P.P.), Mungret County Limerick.
*Purcell, Joseph, Suaineas, S. C. Rd., Limerick.
*Purtill, Rev. M., St. Munchin's College, Limerick.
*Preisler, Jens, Cement Factory, Mungret, Co. Limerick.

*Rector, Very Rev., Mount St. Alphonsus, Limerick.
*Riordan, P. M., Glenstal, Murroe, County Tipperary.
Rogers, Rev. M. Joseph, St. Flannan's College, Ennis.
*Roche-Kelly, Dr. H., Mallow Street, Limerick.
*Roche-Kelly, Mrs. H., Mallow Street, Limerick.
Roche-Kelly, Miss Josephine, Ballinacurra, Limerick.
*Royal Irish Academy, 19, Dawson Street, Dublin.
*Ryan, Rev. John, S.J., D.Litt., 35 Lower Dawson Street, Dublin.
*Roberts, Mrs. M., Kloof, N.C. Rd., Limerick.
Ryan, Rev. M. (P.P.), Ballyhahill County Limerick.
*Ryan, Rev. F., St. Patrick's College, Thurles.

Science & Art Section, National Museum, Dublin.
*Sexton, A. J., Ballineen, Ennis Road, Limerick.
*Seymour, Ven. Archdeacon, M.A., Donohill, County Tipperary.
Shaw, Mrs. E. R., Ballinacurra House, Limerick.
Sheehan, P. J., Athlunkard Cottage, Limerick.
Sheils, Thomas, Lifford, Ennis, County Clare.
Smythe, Denis, Rathaney, Knocklong, County Limerick.
*Stacpoole, Miss G. C., 50, Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin.
*Stewart, Standish, Moyvane, Shelbourne Road, Limerick.
Stewart, Mrs. S., Moyvane, Shelbourne Road, Limerick.
Stokes, Mrs. F., The Bungalow, Strand, Limerick.
*Spillane, George, Ballywilliam, Rathkeale, County Limerick.
Spealain, Gearoid Mac, 20, Mount Vincent, Rosbrien.
Sullivan, T. (B.E.), Harbour Engineer, Limerick.

*Taylor, Mrs. Marion, 249, Galloway's Hill, Queensland.
*Training College, Limerick (c/o. Librarian).
Treacy, Edward, 101, O'Connell Street, Limerick.
Treacy, Rev. M., St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.
Twomey, P. V., Technical Schools, Limerick.
*Troy, Dr. John, 72, O'Connell Street, Limerick.

*Vaughan, V. Rev. Canon, Quin, County Clare.
*Vanebeke, Dom Hubert de, Glenstal, Murroe, County Tipperary.

Wall, V. Rev. Canon James, Croom, County Limerick.
*Wall, Very Rev. Canon T., Ballingarry, Co. Limerick.
Wallace, J. N. A., Bedford Row, Limerick.
Wallace, Mrs. J. N. A., Bedford Row, Limerick.
Walsh, John F., 11, Lower Mallow Street, Limerick.
Walsh, Miss Ida, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.
Whitfield, A. W., Castletown, Killaloe, County Clare.
*Woodhouse, Miss M., O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.
Worledge, Mrs. S. M., Glenwilliam Castle, County Limerick.

As may be seen from above list, only 99 out of a total membership of 203 have paid their 1944 subscriptions, thus depriving the Society of the use of £51 10s. during the current year. In addition to this amount, there is a further arrears of £51 10s. due on earlier years. Owing to the greatly increased costs of paper and printing, the Society is sorely in need of this money and makes a special appeal to members to pay their subscriptions when they become due, that is, on the First of January in each year. Members in arrears will find enclosed with their journals a statement of those arrears.