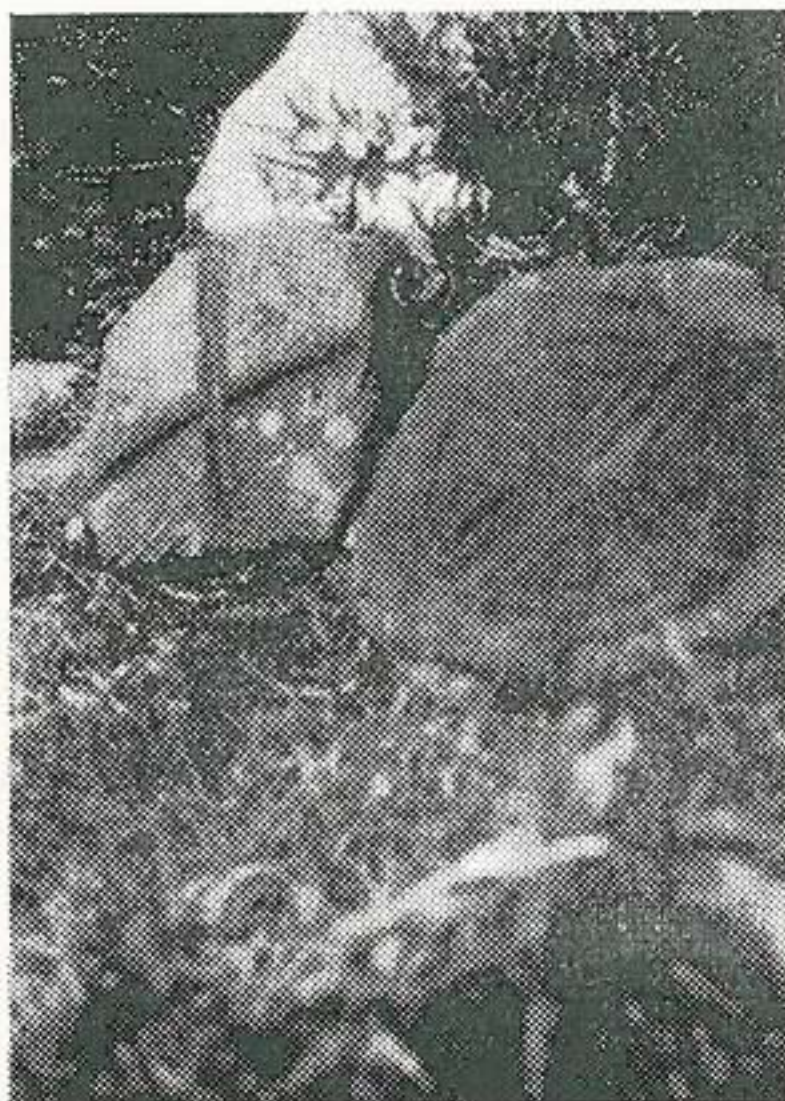


## CROSS SLABS ON ILLUANMORE, LOUGH DERG

On the large island of Illaunmore in Lough Derg about a mile from the Kilbarron shore, there will be found marked in the O. Sheets the site of an "ancient abbey." This is situate in the N.E. corner of the island and within 100 yards of the shore. Nothing is now left except some piles of stones covered by bushes giving a rough outline. It is believed to have been a foundation of St. Colm of Tir-dha-glas but there are no definite MS. references. Inside what remains there are to be found quite loosely thrown on the ground, two early Cross slabs of 7th-



*Cross Slabs in Illaunmore, Lough Derg.*

8th century prominence, i.e. older than those at Iniscaltra (Holy Island) some miles down the lake. There are almost certainly others there if a careful search were made amongst the piled stones. I was told locally that at last one other was taken away in a boat by some vandal: also that human skeletons had come to light from time to time. The ruin urgently requires careful investigation and excavation for there can be no doubt that it is closely associated with both Iniscaltra and Tir-dha-glas. It is situated now in Co. Clare (which has no Ancient Monuments Committee) and in the parish of Clonrush (Mountshannon) but was in the 19th century in the administrative County of Galway. The Cross slabs are excellent examples of the few specimens we have left of their age, i.e., of the most ancient Christian monuments we have. They should be securely clamped on the site lest any other vandals should come along.

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