

MISCELLANEA.

Literary Notes

Royal Society of the Antiquaries of Ireland—In Part II., Vol. XLI. of the journal of the Society, Mr. H. T. Knox opens an interesting paper on Connacht earth works, commencing with the Croghans. The application of this word is doubtful, and Mr. Knox provides some very useful information on the point. This paper which is of high archæological value, is of especial interest just now, when Mr. Goddard Orpen's opinion that all the motes in Ireland are of Norman construction is being so generally discussed.

Mr. T. J. Westropp contributes a paper on Cahermurphy Castle and its earth works (Co. Clare). The history of Cahermurphy is the history of the Mac Gorman clan—or O'Gorman as it is known in recent years—the present "O'Gorman" is Col. Nicholas Purcell O'Gorman of Bellevue Clare, and Surrey.

In Part III., Vol. XLI. Mr. H. T. Knox continues his paper on Connacht Rathes and Motes, and in the "Miscellanea" there is a long note from Mr. Goddard Orpen in reply to the first part of Mr. Knox's paper, in which Mr. Orpen, while admitting such mounds or motes as Rathcroghan, Emain Macha, and Magh Adhair, to be pre-historic, refuses to look on them as fortified mounds, or strongholds of pre-Norman times, but believes they were used only as inauguration mounds, or places of assembly. The subject is one of great interest to Irish archæologists, and it is to be hoped that such earth works in other parts of Ireland may be examined with the same minuteness of detail, and their history inquired into with the same ability that Mr. Knox has displayed in dealing with these Connacht earth works.

Cork Historical and Archæological Society—To No. 89 of this Journal Miss Eleanor Hull contributes a paper on Folklore collecting in Ireland, in which she introduces particulars of the new Irish Folklore Association, of which Mr. T. J. Westropp has undertaken the duties of Secretary. It is formed with the laudable object of rescuing from oblivion what remains of the Folklore of Ireland, the last lingering tradition of an ancient form of native thought which is fast dying out. We wish it every success, and hope that members of the N.M.A.S. may be able to render some assistance.

In No. 90 our fellow-member, Rev. Canon J. F. Lynch, has an exhaustive article on Tullylease and Saint Berechert, in which he deals with many of the difficulties in the hagiography, and topography, connected with Berechert and Tullylease.

Dr. P. G. Lee contributes some interesting notes on an "Ogham chamber at Knock-Shan-a-Wee." It is to be hoped that the markings may be still further examined.

No. 91 has no article of special local interest to the members of the N.M.A.S., but it is rich in historical notes of the Co. Cork, and in this respect maintains its standard of excellence.

Waterford and S.E. of Ireland Archæological Society—In No. 3, Vol. XIV. of this Journal Seamus úa Capaíoe contributes some notes on the editions of O'Sullivan's Miscellany. Tadhg Gaedhlach Ua Súilleabháin was a popular Munster poet of the 18th century, he died in 1795. His "Irish Pious Miscellany" went through many editions, and it is said the earliest was published in Limerick in 1795, no copy of this is extant, and the writer of the notes considers that the edition published in Clonmel in 1802 was the first, but invites further information.

In No. 4, Vol. XIV., the Reverend Editor continues his notes on a "Carrickman's Diary," which provide most suitable matter of local interest, as may be said of most of the contributions to this valuable Journal. Some notes on the birth-place of St. Patrick, by Very Rev. Canon Quine, Lonan, Isle of Man, appeal to a wider circle of readers. The author, by an ingenious argument, based on a bi-lingual (Ogham and Latin) inscription recently found on the Isle of Man, seeks to prove that St. Patrick was born at a Roman settlement in Mann. It contains much that is new and worthy of consideration.

Galway Archæological and Historical Society—In No. 1., Vol VII., Dr. Costelloe illustrates and describes a large number of Galway tokens. In Lenihan's history of Limerick many Limerick trade tokens are illustrated, but we are aware there are several others still unrecorded; we hope some of the members of the N.M.A.S. will take this matter up, as the history of trade tokens is of great local interest.

In No. 2., Vol. VII. Miss M. Redington contributes some useful notes on the Ordnance Survey letters relating to Kileely parish, previously published in the Journal. It is only in this way that the publication of the Ordnance Survey letters in local journals may prove useful; by enlarging on the text, so as to supply accurate descriptions of the monuments referred to, correcting mistakes, and noting all omissions; as the letters themselves, while supplying much valuable information, were necessarily condensed, and in some cases incomplete and inaccurate.

Our fellow-member, Mr. J. P. Dalton, concludes his paper on the Abbey of Kilnalahan. It may be safely said that no historical detail connected with this ancient foundation has been omitted by Mr. Dalton from this paper, which is a model of its kind.

The contributions of Mr. H. T. Knox and Mr. M. J. Blake to Galway history are, as might be expected, valuable and interesting.

The Kerry Archæological Magazine—The last number contains some interesting notes on holy wells by Miss Delap, and on Tobar na Molt by Mr. Bligh Talbot Crosbie. The continuation of the Clann Carthaigh, and Extracts from the Annals of Innisfallen, complete a very readable number of this useful Magazine.

The Irish Book Lover—Any literary notes in an Irish Journal, would be incomplete without a reference to this interesting little publication. It is welcome at all times, not only for the original matter which it contains, but also for the flotsam and jetsam of Irish bibliography which are saved from oblivion in its pages.

In the November number a correspondent seeks information regarding the career of the "Kilrush Magazine." There is one copy in the British Museum (date, 1847) bearing the autograph of Maurice Lenihan. Some of our Co. Clare members may know of this Magazine. The subscription to the "Irish Book Lover" is only two shillings per annum, post free. Hanna & Neale, Publishers, Nassau St., Dublin.

P. J. L.