MERICK HOLY YEAR EXHIBITION

(VII)

The Ardagh Chalice

(By MRS. M. AMBROSE)

AMONG the many interesting articles to be seen at the forthcoming exhibition the one most likely to excite universal interest is the Ardagh Chalice. Everyone is familiar with the name, not only throughout Ireland but also further afield, and the history of its discovery is worth recording. This article quotes in the main from the descriptive book of L. S. Gogan, M.A., one of the best books on the subject written in modern times.

HOW THE CHALICE WAS FOUND.

In September, 1868, a young man named Quin, while digging potatoes in the interior of a rath, which, contrary to custom, had been taken into tillage, reached the root of a thorn tree in exceptionally soft ground. Thrusting his spade between the roots of the thorn, he felt it strike something metallic; he proceeded to clear away the earth and came on the pin of a penanular brooch. He then excavated further to the depth of about three feet and rapidly unearthed the chalice, the bronze cup and four brooches similar to the one already mentioned. With the help of a local antiquarian (whose name has not stranspired), young Quin and his mother sought the advice of Dr. O'Hanlon, of Rathkeale. The Quins were tenants of their farm, which had, in 1858, been settled by Helena Heffernan on the community of St. Mary's Convent, Limerick.

The articles were studied with interest by the Most Rev. Dr. Butler, Bishop of Limerick, and Lord Dunraven, a keen student of archæology and author of several important monographs. Presumably at the latter's suggestion, they were sent to the Royal Irish Academy for investigation. When in the custody of that body, they were cleaned and repaired by Johnson, the jeweller, Suffolk Street, Dublin, who prepared a detailed report on the workmanship and material of the ministral chalice, which was subsequently embodied in Lord Dunraven's paper, read shortly afterwards, February 22nd, 1859.

ACQUIRED FOR SUM OF £50.

The objects were then restored to Dr. Butler, who finally acquired them for the sum of £50 from Mrs. Quin, June 21st, 1871.

Lord Dunraven's paper, together with the excellent lithographs and coloured engravings executed by Margaret Stokes, stimulated much interest in the discovery, not, however, always in a friendly spirit. In 1873, a Protestant clergyman, Archdeacon Gould, a relation by marriage of Lord Dunraven, complained in a letter to the Press that the widow in whose land the discovery had been made had given the articles to the Catholic Bishop of Limerick and had received no remuneration for them. Fortunately, Dr. O'Hanlon was able to produce the receipt signed by Mrs. Quin and her son.

Towards the close of the year 1873 the British Treasury claimed the objects as "Treasure Trove." After a very lengthy correspondence, in order to avoid litigation, Dr. Butler, on the advice of Baron O'Hagan, Master of the Rolls, a Catholic and his close friend, decided to come to terms. In 1879 (according to the annals) the objects were definitely secured by the Crown, an indemnity of £100 being paid to the Bishop. They were then deposited with the Academy and were subsequently removed to the National Museum, Dublin, with the rest of their collection shortly after the establishment of that institution in 1890.

As has been previously mentioned, the Ardagh find consisted of a large silver cup, a smaller vessel of bronze and four silver brooches of the penanular type; of these the large silver cup is the one claiming immediate detailed description.

THE CUP OF THE VESSEL.

The cup of this vessel is an almost hemispherical bowl, the curve of which is slightly everted near the brim, the latter being surmounted by a hollow piper moulding of a metal designated by the jeweller, Johnson, as brass. Fitted to it by rivets are two semi-circular and highly ornate handles with excuscheons or ornamental expansions beneath. The cup is joined to the base by a short cylindrical stem with upper and lower expansions in which the domes of both cup and base are set; these members are of bronze gilt; underneath, the bolt cap is concealed by a crystal in an elaborate setting. It is as a work of art that this chalice excels, and this applied no less to the ornamentation than to its form, which represents the expression of the classic idea. The ornamentation is the chief glory of the chalice and one would like to describe it in detail but the limitations of a short article make that impossible; all one can do is to mention their various headings:—

The Panellar System, which is very characteristic of the illuminated manuscripts and is an essential part of the decoration of our magnificent high crosses, ranging from about 850 to the end of the 12th century.

The Frieze Panels, which furnish an immediate link with the ornamentation of the "Tara" brooch, on which a similar panel, though on a smaller scale, also occurs, with similar spiral crosses.

The Medallions, whose chief characteristics are the cross and circle forming the basis of the design, the central setting and four much simpler ones, of enamel, amber-coloured paste and blue glass.

THE GREAT CRYSTAL.

The chief beauty of the whole composition is to be found at the apex of the interior of the foot. This is the Great Crystal, with its zones of gold, amber and gilt bronze. This composition is probably one of the finest that medieval metalwork has to show. That such a masterpiece should be hidden surprises the casual observer, but when one remembers that just before the solemn moment of Communion the chalice is held high aove the congregation, when the brilliant ornament would concentrate attention on the vessel and its sacred Contents, one realises that it is far from purposeless.

The visit of this chalice to its home county is the great privilege of this Exhibition. It is Limerick's proud boast that this chalice of Limerick origin is to-day one of Ireland's Chief Glories.

(In our next issue, November 10th, we will publish an article on the O'Dea Mitre and Crozier.—Ed.).

DRINK PRICES

POSITION IN LIMERICK

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

Dear Sir—Can anyone explain why a "ball" of malt costs twopence more in Limerick than it does in Dublin? Why, too, do we pay Limerick City publicans 10½d. for a pint of stout, while in Mungret, Cratloe, Caherconlish, etc., it costs only 10d?

In Dublin the publicans pay very much more in rates, owing to the high valuation of their premises, than their colleagues in Limerick, and all publicans in the Capital employ assistants and have to pay fixed scales of wages. Even the "pot" man in a Dublin pub. earns £5 per week, while in Limerick, in the few houses in which assistants are employed, barmaids carry out the duties in the greater number of instances and receive a wage that is by no means an incentive to giving one's labour to a

ON POINT OF LAW

SUMMONSES DISMISSED

On a point of law, two summonses were dismissed by Justice C. S. Kenny, B.L., at Ballyneety Court on Thursday of last week.

The defendant, who was represented by Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solr., was Michael Curtin, Ballinagarde, Ballyneety, and he was summoned that on the 18th October, while acting as the driver of a small public service vehicle, he failed to wear a driver's bade, (2) failed to produce a driving licence, and (3) not having the plate for his vehicle displayed.

Guard T. Walsh gave evidence of finding the defendant using the vehicle, and the defendant produced an unsigned driving licence.

Mr. O'Malley—Did you tell him to sign it?—I did.

Your grievance was that the defendant had no plate attached and had no badge?—Yes.

Continuing, witness agreed he was told that the car was not hired at the time, and he was not carry-

NOBEL PRIZES

Origin Of Scheme

WORTHY RECIPIENTS

THE recent presentation of the 1950 Nobel Prize in medicine to two Americans and one Swiss had the unusual feature that the jury making the award disagreed. Some were in favour of giving the prize for work on virus diseases, while the majority thought doctors working on hormones deserved the honour. The recipients were Drs. Philip S. Hench and Edward C. Kendall, of the Mayo Clinic, and Dr. Tadeus Reichstein, of the University of Basle, Switzerland. The honorary degree of D.Sc. was recently conferred on the Americans in Dublin.

INSTITUTION OF PRIZES.

The Nobel Prizes are among the most coveted in the world and were instituted by a Swedish chemist over fifty years ago.

Alfred Bernard Nobel was born at Stockholm on October 21st, 1833. Early in life he developed an absorbing interest in the subject of explosives and applied his knowledge of chemistry to the examination of the properties of nitroglycerine in particular. One of the main problems was the difficulty in handling the substance, but Nobel discovered that when it was mixed with absorbent material it became safer, and in 1862 he patented the mixture as dynamite. Fourteen years later he repeated the process by patenting blasting gelatin, a jelly-like substance more destructive than dynamite; this was obtained by combining nitroglycerine, with gun-cotton. The production of ballistite, which heralded the arrival of cordite, involved Nobel in hard-fought legal battles with the British Government in 1894-1895. Nobel was of the opinion that patents already secured covered the manufacture of cordite, but his case was not upheld by the Courts. Throughout his life he applied an extensive knowledge of engineering to the actual problems of explosive production and at the end he found himself the possessor of vast wealth. Before his death on December 10th, 1896, he set aside most of this to be distributed in the form of the famous Nobel prizes.

CODE OF STATUTES

As Nobel's will was decided upon without legal consultation, it was necessary to draw up a code of statutes to give it practical application. These were endorsed by the Swedish Government and the Nobel Foundation was the result. The interest on the Nobel fortune is divided in equal shares between the five people who are adjudged to have made the most important contributions in the various fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. The prize for peace, a subject very much in people's minds at present, goes to the individual who shall have "most or best promoted the fraternity of nations and the abolition or diminution of standing armies and the formation or increase of peace congresses."

The Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm awards the prizes for physics and chemistry; that for physiology or medicine is presented by the Caroline Medical Institute in Stockholm; the literature prize is given by the Academy in Stockholm, and a committee of five, elected by the Norwegian Storting decide who gets the prize for peace.

One of the most praise-worthy points in the awarding of prizes is impartiality. The nationality of the contributor is not taken into account. In 1937, Hitler, who thought that the German nation had suffered an affront by the presentation of the 1935 peace prize to pacifist writer Von Ossietsky, set up three national prizes to counter the Nobel ones and prevented Germans from accepting the latter.

THE FIRST PRIZES UNDER THE SCHEME.

The first prizes under the Nobel Scheme were given on December 10th, 1901. As the prizes depend upon interest, their value fluctuates, but averagely they reach approximately £8,000. If there are two works entered and adjudged of equal value the prize may be divided. If the judges are not satisfied with the contributions, any prize may be withheld for a year; in the event of its not being presented the money is returned to the main fund. Special Nobel institutes have been set-up as a result of the peace prize not being presented.

Many famous people in the five branches of knowledge have been honoured with the prize. Marie Curie had the exceptional success of attaining the prize for both physics and chemistry, a fitting reward for the years of toil and deprivation spent in the cause of science. Other distinguished recepients were:—Physics—J. J. Thomson (1906), A. A.

LONG DANCES

What The Licence Allowed

INTERESTING COURT CASE

WHETHER a private dance in the Grange Hall, Lacka, Castleconnell, on the night of the 23rd December, came within the conditions of the licence, was the subject of a prosecution in the Limerick Liberties Court to-day, before Justice D. F. Gleeson, when Henry A. Harold-Barry, the licensee of the hall, was defendant in the case of an alleged breach of the conditions of his dance licence by running a long dance in his hall on the 30th June.

Supt. E. O'Riordan prosecuted, and Mr. T. E. O'Donnell, solicitor, defended.

Guard Murphy, Castleconnell, gave evidence of visiting the Grange Hall at 12.20 a.m. on the 30th June, and a dance was taking place there. Witness was accomied by Guard Flanagan.

TWELVE LONG DANCES

Supt. O'Riordan—The restriction and limitation in the licence was 12 long dances, and we say that the dance in question was one more than allowed.

Continuing, witness said he met the manageress in the yard and told her that the dance was being held illegally. He waited until the dance stopped at 3 o'clock. His complaint was that the dance was held from 12 to 3 a.m.

Sergeant Veale gave evidence that the licensee was entitled to hold a dance on the night in question up to 12 midnight. They were not entitled to run a long dance on the same night.

Cross-examined, witness said that after the licence had been granted notice had been given for some dances afterwards.

THREE LONG DANCES LEFT

Mr. O'Donnell explained that he wrote to the Superintendent stating at the time that there were three late or long dances left on their licence. These were, Thursday, 29th June, Monday, August 7th and Tuesday, August 15th and he added in the letter that he presumed this notice was sufficient. The Superintendent replied that he found the total number of long dances was twelve and that these had been availed of.

He (Mr. O'Donnell) took up the matter with the manageress of the Hall and he wrote again to the Superintendent and pointed out that the date, 23rd December, 1949, which was included in the Superintendent's list of long dances, was really a private party dance and no charge was made for admission, and it could not be considered within the category of the licence.

The Guards were not notified of this dance and it was not intended to hold a public dance that night.

Justice—The question is was the dance on the 23rd December within the meaning of the Act? That is the issue.

Mr. O'Donnell—I say no.

INVITED FRIENDS ONLY

The manageress of the Grange Hall gave evidence that a ceilidhe was held on the 23rd December. The Hall was given to a man who invited in his friends only.

Justice—Nobody can hold a dance only you.

Cross-examined, witness said she was positive that it was a ceilidhe dance and the band was brought from Newport.

The Justice, dismissing the case, said the manageress gave evidence that she gave the Hall to a man and said that he was entitled to bring in anyone he liked and that meant the public. "I think," added the Justice, "there was an offence, and I think it may have been made under a misapprehension. Don't let it happen again as he might lose his licence."

LORRY AND MOTOR

COLLISION SEQUEL IN COURT

Before Justice D. F. Gleeson at Limerick Liberties Court to-day,

Thomas Geraghty, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway, was charged with dangerous driving near Daly's Cross on the Dublin Road on September 20th last.

Evidence for the State was that a lorry driven by Cornelius Connor, turning into a farmer's house on the left facing Limerick, was struck by a car coming up from the rear, driven by the defendant. Connor swore he gave a signal to the defendant before turning into the narrow roadway.

The defendant's case was that when he saw the lorry driver's hand hang limply out of the cab, Geraghty thought the lorry was going to pull up on the right hand side. So the defendant pulled into the left and slowed down. Then the lorry pulled into the left, right

WOMAN'S NO

Her Work Fo Foreign

BEATIFICATION OF SISTE

(By REV. J. A. MUL

THE so-called emancipation of women is associated in many minds with such futilities as smoking in public, drinking beer, and engaging in sports for which neither nature nor aesthetics fit the weaker sex. Amid so much that is deplorable in the process of putting women on a level with men, it is consbling to meet women who, without abdicating the graces of their sex, have found ways of striking out an independent line of action, and in the field of useful endeavour have proved themselves at least the equals and often the superiors of men. Nowhere is this more remarkable than in the part played by women during the past century in the divine work of bringing Jesus Christ to the souls of the pagan peoples. It is common knowledge that the missionary awakening which stirred the Catholic nations at the commencement of the last century was until 1830 exclusively the provinces of priests and teaching brothers. The legend in virtue of which woman was a sort of hot-house plant, unfit to endure the warm sun and the icy wind, condemned the Church's apostolate in pagan lands to be deprived of all female co-operation. Yet, who but knows that a mission without Sisters is like a man with only one arm; half the work remains inevitably incomplete.

THE GRAIN OF MUSTARD-SEED.

The first to break this unhappy tradition and to initiate the movement which has brought so many heroic women into direct co-operation with the missionary priest, was, like so many pioneers in good causes, a daughter of old France — Anne Marie Javouhey. Born shortly before the Revolution of 1789, in a prosperous farmho still standing among the smi vineyards of Burgundy, Nanett she was called in the home ci was to experience at first-hand, the lamentable consequences of religious ignorance. The knowledg was to play no small part in afte years, when God called her wit no uncertain voice to play her part in dispelling the ignorance of pagan peoples. Indeed, it was when little more than a child, that she began her apprenticeship in the immediate neighbourhood of her father's farm. Not only had persecution put an end to all open practice of religion among the priestless folk of nearly every parish in France, but schools of every sort, even the poor substitute for education called State schools, ceased to be during the last decade of the eighteenth century. Encouraged by some of the hunted and proscribed clergy, who occasionally sheltered under the Javouhey roof when the chase grew too close, or the weather too inclement for going "on their keeping" in woods and hills, Nanette organised a sort of hedge-school for the peasant children of Jalanges and the neighbouring villages. The work prospered, and when times grew better, she and her sisters continued this apostolate in the towns of their native province. Set on a canonical basis by the taking of vows, this group of voluntary catechists was to be the nucleus of a world-wide religious family, known to-day as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny.

THE CALL OF THE COLONIES

From the wreck of the Napoleonic wars the French monarchy saved a considerable part of the old colonial empire. Now the French concept of colonial enterprise differs radically from that of the Germanic and American races. In the sense that France has always looked upon her overseas possessions as forming part of the mother-country, not as tracts of territory to be exploited for the sole benefit of a few commercial companies, or a vivacious flock of birds of passage in the shape of colonial civil servants. Consequently when in 1830, the Orleanist line came to the throne, the Gov-

HUMAN RIGHTS

ADDRESS BY MR. MacBRIDE

Mr. Sean MacBride, Minister for