Famous novelist home in Limerick

Kate O'Brien is writing new book

PAYING a visit to her native Limerick at the moment is Kate O'Brien, the distinguished novelist and writer. She arrived here on Holy Thursday and will remain for a few weeks. She is staying at the home of her sister, **Mrs. Anne O'Mara,** New Strand House, Limerick.

Asked by our reporter as to how she was enjoying her visit, she replied: "It's wonderful. Of course, I was coming home. I love it, and with this sort of weather it is marvellous." She said that she had no immediate plans, but that she hoped to stay a few weeks with her sister and get some work done, such as the completion of a number of short stories and essays.

Her great interest at the moment, of course, is a new novel which she is writing. Like all successful writers, she said she would not like to say what the title of her new book would be or what it was about. Nevertheless, she gave a hint that it is not a novel about contemporary life and that Ireland and also Spain come into it. She hopes to have it finished before Christmas.

IN SPAIN

She spent the past winter in Avila in Spain. Avila is the birthplace of St. Teresa. It was there that Miss O'Brien put the finishing touches to her new book entitled "My Ireland," which she will dedicate to her father, "with warmest love," and "to Limerick, my dear native place."

She will have returned to London before May 17, the day this book appears on the bookstalls there. It is being published by Messrs. Batsford.

Her father, **Thomas O'Brien,** was a lonely man in his last years and was frequently away from home. He was a constant sender of telegrams to his young family, which would read: "Post me all news to-night. Warmest love. Father." She told of how he walked into a telegraph office in the country on one occasion and he heard a girl behind the counter say to her friend: "Here comes the warmest love." At one time she thought of giving her new book that title.

HOLY PLACES

In search of material for "My Ireland," Kate O'Brien travelled all over Ireland, particularly our ancient holy places such as Clonmacnois and Cashel. She also toured Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Waterford and Belfast. But Limerick opens and closes the book.

She also visited her old home in Roundstone, Connemara, where she lived for about ten years until about 18 months ago, when she sold her house there and went to live in London. She loved Connemara and describes her years spent there as her "Paradise Lost." She will most certainly pay a short visit there during her present visit to her native land.

She told our reporter that she intends to make her home in England eventually. England is more convenient professionally and she has many friends over there, she says. She thought that it was the convenience of England professionally, which drew our other great writers, George Bernard Shaw and Sean O'Casey, to live there.

Kate O'Brien was a playwright before she became a novelist. Her play, "Distinguished Villa," received its first presentation in London in 1926. She has written 10 novels and many essays and short stories.

She spent some of her early years in Spain, and it was that country which provided the inspiration for her novel, "That Lady" and her travel work, "Farewell Spain," and also her book on St. Teresa of Avila. "That Lady" has also appeared in film form.

HINTS FOR THE HOME

(By MARY HARDING)

Never plunge a new toothbrush into boiling water to sterilise it before use. This will only turn the brush bald in no time at all. The boiling water softens the substance used to secure the brushes into the head. Far better method of sterilising is to put the brush into a glass of cold water and add a little salt.

* * *

An old-fashioned remedy for nettle stings is supposed to be a dock leaf. By the time you find one the pain has usually gone, leaving white pimples. The cure is actually right on the spot for the juice of the nettle's stem is the antidote to the poisonous leaves.

* * *

Use a strong solution of ammonia to clean salad bottles, then thoroughly rinse with warm water and you will have a bottle fit for any purpose.

* * *

In cold weather, windows often steam when rooms become hot. Remedy this by wiping over with a glycerine rag after polishing.

* * *

If your suet puddings are heavy try using the same quantity of stale bread as suet, first soaking it in cold water and thoroughly squeezing it, and you will get a really light pudding.

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If your eyes are affected when you peel onions, peel them from the root end upwards and the odour will affect your eyes very little.

* * *

When making pastry that is to be served cold, mix it with milk instead of water. The pastry will keep short and crisp longer than if mixed with water.

Court clerk promoted

Mr. John Kennedy, District Court Clerk, Limerick, a native of Cappamore, has been transferred on promotion to Mitchelstown District Court. His duties will embrace the District Courts of Castletownroche and Fermoy.

He joined the Limerick staff in July, 1960; and his new appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Liam Boland.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WHITE SCOUR

White Scour, at this time of the year particularly, is a very major worry for cattle owners. Keeping your calves healthy by employing sound principles of sanitation, management and feeding, together with the recommended prevention and treatment of the disease, is the practical and economical way to avoid loss.

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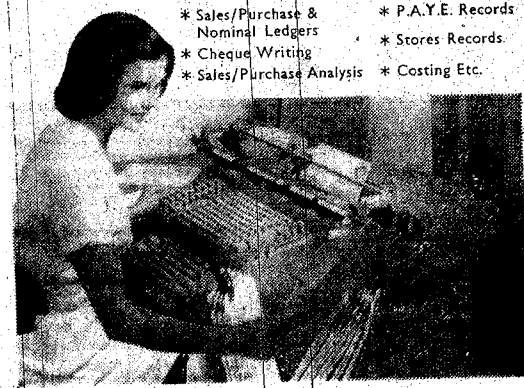

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