

FUTURE OF IRISH RED CROSS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

pent for membership—to take place between now and 31st March—on the lines adopted by Cork and that this Branch in Limerick should aim at 1,000 members.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

Mr. J. J. Johnson thanked the members for re-electing him to the position of Chairman of the City Branch and hoped that with the new committee appointed that night there would be renewed efforts on the part of officers and committee to make the Branch worthy of Limerick.

ANTITELE CRUSADE

It may not be generally known, went on the chairman, that the City Branch has been very active in the crusade now waged against that dreadful scourge of tuberculosis which unfortunately is claiming so many victims in our midst.

Mr. Johnson welcomed the presence of Mr. P. F. Quinlan, who when the Red Cross was started in the city, was the first county president. His work in connection with that important office cannot lightly be forgotten.

WORK OF RELIEF IN SHANGHAI

Concluding, Mr. Johnson read from a cutting of the "Irish Press" the following:— "A tribute to the work of the Irish Red Cross Society in the International Settlement of Shanghai in the three years following the Japanese invasion was made by Mr. John McDermott, former Assistant Commissioner of the Shanghai Municipal Police, who had returned to this country."

Mr. McDermott said that the Irish Red Cross relief was administered in Shanghai from 1942 to 1946 by Dr. J. G. Ledwidge, who holds a degree in science from T.C.D. "A number of us," said Mr. McDermott, "were interned for about six months, until our Irish nationality was finally established. After our release, however, we were left to starve and were it not for the assistance of the Irish Red Cross Society we would have starved."

Mr. McDermott, who is a native of Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, spent 32 years in the Shanghai Municipal Police.

The meeting gave the above full applause.

REV. FATHER HURLEY, S.J.

Rev. Father T. Hurley, S.J., Chairman, Limerick County Committee, expressed great pleasure in having Mr. P. F. Quinlan present among them. He also wished to be associated with the words of Mr. Johnson regarding the activities of the Unit members in the recent 'plane disaster near the Shannon Airport, and he conveyed to the meeting the tribute paid by the general public for the work of the Unit members on that occasion.

Continuing, Father Hurley outlined the new spheres of the Anti-T.B. Section, especially its sub-committees, which have got such high appreciation from the local authorities and the matron and staff at the T.B. Hospital, City Home. The section in Limerick, Father Hurley pointed out, was the best organised Anti-T.B. Section in Ireland.

With reference to the appeal for increased membership, Mr. O'Reilly emphasized the importance of the fact that the Organisation was non-political and non-sectarian—regardless of class, creed or colour—and that membership should reflect the various social, professional and industrial modes of life.

CO-OPERATION ASSURED

On behalf of the Employers' Federation, Mr. T. J. Loughrey assured the committee of their

OBITUARY

MR. M. O'FARRELL, ADARE.

The death of Mr. Michael O'Farrell, which took place at his residence, Adare, on the 14th of January, is deeply and widely regretted. Deceased, who had reached an advanced age, was one of the oldest residents of the village, where himself and his family have been always highly esteemed and respected.

The remains were removed to Adare Church on Wednesday evening, 15th January, and the funeral, which was the largest seen in Adare for many years, took place to the local cemetery on Thursday, 16th.

The following clergy officiated—Very Rev. P. Canon Thornhill, P.P.; Rev. Dr. Casey, C.C.; Rev. J. Culhane, C.C.; Rev. Father Moran, C.C., Ennistymon.

The chief mourners were—Mrs. E. O'Farrell (widow), Mrs. T. Harrington (daughter), Messrs. J. O'Farrell, R. O'Farrell and M. O'Farrell (sons), Mrs. James O'Dea (sister), Mr. James O'Farrell (brother).

Telegrams and messages of sympathy were received from the following: Mick Blake, Drimoleague; Jim, Anna and family, Killalee; Jimmy Dundon, Puckane; Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell, Ennistymon; Meyrick and Hedwith Booth, Ennistymon; Joe O'Shaughnessy, Portlington; M. J. Horgan, Cork; Charlie, Ennistymon; Brother O'Connell, Mullingar; Kitty and Michael Finnegan, Portlington; Charlie Vaughan, Ennistymon; P. T. Fitzgerald, Limerick; Kerin and family, Ennistymon; M. Lane, Kiltash; Droney family, Lisdoonvarna; Dannie, Ennistymon; Joe, Lucy and family, Glasheen; Kitty Boylan, Celbridge; McNamara, Lahinch; Margaret Droney, Knockaderry; Michael Vaughan, Lahinch; May, Gary, Rathkeale; Father Moran, Ennistymon; Conell, Lime- rick; John and Mrs. O'Connor, Kiltanora; Annie Doyle, Dublin; Lin- sen, Ennistymon; Gus Stradling, Ennistymon; E. and M. Lynch, Dublin; Michael Aherne, Ennistymon; Charlie Smyth, Limerick; Roland family, Patrickswell; Cusack, Lisdoonvarna; Terry and Lena, Celbridge; Molly and Jim Murphy, Ballybunion; Slattery, Ardahan; M. O'Doherty, Kiltash; Mical O'Conchubhair, Rathkeale; Finn family, Rathkeale; Keating, Kiltash; Sexton, Drogheda; O'Con- nor, Ballylongford; Pat Kelly, Ballylongford; Hanahan, Bally- longford; O'Hanlon, Dingle; J. Quinlan, Dublin; Paddy Collins, Killarney; Ivan and Mrs. Fair, Ennistymon; Kattie, Annie and AL Brooklyn (cable); Tom Julia and Philly, New York (cable); Walter Long, Mullingar; J. Curtin, Lis- towel; Mrs. Gaynor, Dublin; J. Harrington, Limerick; Cunningham's, Thomas Street, Limerick.

Mass cards were received from the following:—L. Dundon, Avenue; Denis Hogan, Junr., Adare; David O'Shaughnessy and family, do.; McNamara family, Islandea; Butler and Mulqueen family, Lime- rick; Willie and Mrs. Clifford, Adare; Denis Hogan, senr., do.; Mary Hogan, do.; Annie Hogan, do.; John Hogan, do.; Pat Toomey, do.; Dundon family, Shan- bally; Nora Collins, Curraghbeg; Shanahan family, Curraghbeg; G. O'Leary, Adare; Tom and Cun- bie, Kiltanora; Harry and Madge Griffin, do.; Jack and Bridie Mc- Namara, Tuogh; Joseph McMahon and family, Curraghbeg; Mrs. Mc- Grath and Ida, Adare; Paddy and Eily Hogan, do.; Tim and Eily Quaide, Graigue; Mrs. Dundon and family, Barnalick; Mrs. Griffin and family, Kiltanora; P. Scannan and family, Fedamore; Dick and Mrs. Kennedy, Rour; Mick and Nora O'Loughlin, Ennistymon; Wm. Mc- Namara, Lahinch; John Bourke, Adare; John and Mrs. Chawke, Lahinch; Con Murphy and family, Tuogh; Cotter family, Mung- ret; J. and B. Curtin, Listowel; Sheila Mason, Lahinch; Kathleen and Maireadh, Ennistymon; M. Droney, Scariff; Patty and Irene Lynch, Ennistymon; Jerry Dolan, Limerick; Bill and Josie O'Sulli- van, Croagh; Teddy O'Connor, Cla- rina; the O'Looney family, Lahinch; O'Loughlin family; Tim McNamara, Knockbane; the McCarrons, Ennistymon; Robert and Bridie Murphy, Limerick; Willie and Nan McGrotty, Ennis- tymon; Mary O'Callaghan; Mrs. Toomey, Granard; Bernard and Kathleen, Dublin; Maureen and Tom Clarke, Limerick; Tom Ahern and family, Ennistymon; K. Hehir and family, Adare; Paddy and Mrs. Mahoney, Ennistymon; Michael and K. Cronin, Adare; the Black Abbey Staff, do.; the Adare Flanna Fall Club; the Old I.R.A., Adare; Mrs. B. O'Loughlin, Lisdoonvarna; C. Dore, Kiltashany.

WORK ON KILMALLOCK SCHEMES

Mr. T. Conba, chairman, presided at a meeting of the Kilmallock Branch of the National Federation of Ex-Servicemen.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Conba said he had been requested by the Town Improvements Committee to obtain a signed list of men who would be prepared to work on local schemes.

Many members stated that they will work on the Deebert Scheme or any other local scheme, and a list of men ready for work will be sent to the Kilmallock Town Improve- ments Committee.

full co-operation, as also did Mr. J. O'Donnell, representative of the Limerick Trades Council.

Mr. M. J. Lynch, chairman of Muintir na Tire, supported the plea already made to make the Branch outstanding in the city. In the course of his address he proposed that Rev. Father Fee's address should be published in pamphlet form for circulation among doctors, Employers Federation and industrial concerns with a view to increase of membership. Concluding, Mr. Lynch said that Limerick had reason to be proud of the activities of the Red Cross Society in the past, and he hoped that after that night renewed energy and vigour on the part of every member would help to make the Branch one of which Limerick would still be proud.

HUNTING

CO. LIMERICK FOXHOUNDS

The County Limerick Hounds will meet at 11.15 each day, as under:— Friday, Feb. 7th ... Bruree Mon., Feb. 10th, Grange Back Gate Wednesday, Feb. 12th ... Killybegs Friday, Feb. 14th, Rockhill School Monday, Feb. 17th ... Manister Wed., Feb. 19th, Stoneville House Friday, Feb. 21st ... Chawke's Cross Monday, Feb. 24th ... Four Elms Wed., Feb. 26th ... Cappagh Cross Friday, Feb. 28th ... Knockaderry

LIMERICK HARRIERS

The Limerick Harriers will meet as under:— Thursday, Feb. 6th, Sheahan's Cross Hour—12 o'clock.

STONEHALL HARRIERS

The Stonehall Harriers will meet as under:— Thursday, Feb. 6th ... Miltown Friday, Feb. 14th ... Castichewson Hour—12 o'clock.

SCARTEEN HUNT

Scarteen Hunt (The Black and Tans) will resume hunting on:— Thursday, Feb. 6th, Oldtown Cross Monday, Feb. 10th ... Moorsfort Thursday, Feb. 13th ... Cahereonish Hour—11 o'clock.

CO. CLARE HOUNDS

The Co. Clare Hounds will meet as under:— Thursday, Feb. 6th ... Ballyear Monday, Feb. 10th ... Spacillhill Thursday, Feb. 13th, Hurles Cross Monday, Feb. 17th ... Edenvale Thursday, Feb. 20th ... Killyulla Monday, Feb. 24th ... Barefield Thursday, Feb. 27th ... Grushen Monday, Mar. 2nd ... Latona Thursday, Mar. 6th ... Quin Monday, Mar. 10th ... Tienachlan Thursday, Mar. 13th ... Spacillhill St. Patrick's Day, Newmarket-on-Fergus Thursday, Mar. 20th ... Llan

THE EX-SERVICEMEN

LIMERICK CITY BRANCH MEETING

A specially convened meeting of the Limerick City Branch of the National Federation of Irish Ex-Servicemen was held in the Thomond Cinema (by kind permission of the proprietor, Mr. Dillon) on Sunday last, 2nd inst. There was a large attendance.

The Chairman, Mr. P. Hannan, opened the meeting.

Before any business was transacted, Mr. R. A. Gloster, best in Irish and then in English, referred to the death of James Larkin, and eulogized the work he had done on behalf of the working man.

The Chairman endorsed his remarks as did the meeting, all present standing.

On the matter of accommodation, the Chairman informed the meeting that despite all the efforts of the Committee, suitable accommodation was not to be had for use as branch headquarters.

It was also pointed out that application had been made for an army hut, but the branch had been informed from Federation head- quarters that these huts were sold by competitive tender to the Department of Defence.

Arising out of a discussion, re- raising of funds, it was decided to make a public appeal, and the meeting felt that Limerick City will not let them down. Sanction has been sought from the Federation Executive to launch this appeal.

The Chairman informed the meeting that it had been decided to run Sunday night concerts and band recitals, if a suitable hall could be made available for this purpose; and, in this connection, it was proposed to interview Mr. Dillon for the use of the Thomond Cinema.

Before the discussion had got well under way, the meeting was informed that as the Thomond Cinema had only a six-day entertain- ment licence, it would not be possible to obtain its use for the purposes mentioned.

The matter was not discussed further, it being left in the hands of the Committee.

Various ideas were put forward to raise funds, such as raffle, 45 drives, dances, etc. but, pending sanction from Federation Execu- tive, no action will be taken in this matter.

The following were appointed branch delegates to the National Convention, to be held in Dublin early in the year:—Mr. George O'Brien and Mr. R. A. Gloster.

SUDDEN DEATHS

THREE IN EAST LIMERICK

Three families in the parishes of Dromin and Athlaca were bereaved by sudden deaths recently (writes our Bruff correspondent).

Mr. James Moran, Ballygaur, Dromin, a well-known farmer, aged about 68 years, collapsed and died almost immediately while on a visit to a neighbour's house. A member of an old Dromin family, he was a progressive farmer, who was de- servedly popular with all classes and his tragic demise caused deep regret. He was father of Mr. John Moran, Manager of branch creamery of Freemount Creamery, and of Misses, May and Katherine Moran, of the clerical staff of Kil- mallock Post Office, and brother of Mr. D. Moran, merchant, Bruff.

There was a large attendance at his interment, which took place at the family burial ground at Dromin.

Another member of an esteemed farming family also died suddenly in the person of Mr. James Fitz- gerald, Bulgaden Hall, Dromin, who had reached the age of 70 years. He had been about as usual during the day but took suddenly ill dur- ing the evening and died shortly. An industrious farmer, he was father of Mr. John Fitzgerald, who is a well-known greyhound breeder and who was a prominent member of the L.D.F. during the emergency. There was a large attendance at his interment at Knockaney ceme- tery.

A middle aged lady, Mrs. Mc Carthy, Athlaca, was found dead in bed by her husband, Mr. P. Mc Carthy on Monday morning. It would appear that she passed away in her sleep as she was apparently dead since midnight. She had been in her usual good health when re- tiring.

KILMALLOCK MARKET.

Eggs, 2/6 per doz; chickens, 1/6 to 1/8 per lb; old fowl, 1/5 per lb; ducks, 1/5 to 1/3 per lb; tur- keys, 2/1 per lb; geese, 1/2 per lb; wild geese, 5/- each; snipe, 1/- each; pigeons, 2/6 each; pheasants, 10/- each; and rabbits, 2/4 each.

LIMERICK LEADER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 1947.

Things That Matter

An interesting debate was staged in University College, Galway, on Friday night last. Those taking part were students of the three colleges of the National University, of Trinity College and of Queen's University, Belfast. The sub- ject discussed was "whether the educational system in Ireland is the root of the country's weakness."

Several divergent views were expressed, as was only to be expected, but on one point there was complete unanimity of opinion. All were agreed that there was too much cramming for exam- inations and that the remedies were "more general culture in university and more practical work in the primary school." Very few, if any, will find fault with this broad summing up.

The consideration of educa- tional matters is largely a matter for experts, no doubt, but that idea can well be carried too far. Academic theories can be very high- brow, and in too many cases they take little or no account of practical, every-day real- ities. Parents have not only a special interest in this parti- cular subject but a duty in regard to it as well. They are entirely within their rights, therefore, in claiming an effec- tive voice in devising and selecting courses of instruc- tion for their children.

The general public, too, are intimately concerned in the sort of courses prescribed for the schools. The boys and girls of to-day are to be the men and women of to-morrow, and on how their characters are moulded and their minds cultivated and instructed will depend to a huge extent the moral, social and economic future of the country. From this point of view it will readily be seen how absurd and indefensible is the atti- tude which suggests that the framing of educational curri- cula is something that must be left exclusively to experts and that the plain people are almost impertinent if they even make a suggestion in regard to it.

The vast majority of pupils in this country never get be- yond the primary schools. The programme under that sys- tem should obviously be drawn up with due regard to that fact, but in reality it is not. It seems to be framed more in the interest of the minority who may pass on to secondary institutions and the university. The result is that our national schools are not giving, especially of late years, as sound a training in fundamentals and essentials as might be expected. This is by no means due to any lack of industry or efficiency on the part of the teachers, who are doing their work admirably as far as the regulations by which they are bound permit. Neither is it because of any lack of brains and natural in- telligence in the Irish boys and girls of to-day.

The generally poor quality of the education being impar- ted in the national schools to- day is entirely due to the fact that the programme is in- defensibly overloaded. So many subjects have to be covered—a number of them of little or no value—that it is virtually impossible to teach any of them well. Surely it would be sounder from the educa- tional point of view to have fewer and more useful sub- jects taught and to have in- struction on them imparted thoroughly. In that way the pupil would get a better men- tal training and leave school better equipped all round for the battle of life. It is obvious that mere surface work in the schools cannot produce either brain-power or true character.

What is true of the primary schools in this respect holds also to a great extent of the higher education courses. This is why we find so many who have gone through secondary schools and even universities, still unable to play any decent part in relation to the affairs of life. A smattering of a large number of subjects may enable a person to pass an ex- amination but it does not necessarily make a useful and effective citizen. A point all too frequently overlooked is that good instruction in a few useful subjects can be a far better developer of brain and judgment than a surface tuition in a much bigger number of ones of less practical importance. True education is probably hard to define but we believe there is much less of it in this country than is generally assumed.