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LIMERICK GROUPS IMPRESSED AT THE OIREACHTAS DRAMA FESTIVAL

THE remarkable success of groups from the Limerick area in last week's Oireachtas Drama Festival was the subject of special comment by the Secretary of the Gaelic League in Dublin. They won four out of five awards, and the city group, Buion Phadraig, took the Irish Press Cup for the best one-act play from competitors from Belfast, Dublin and London with the highest marks of the Festival. In addition, they won the Smithwick Trophy for the best production.

Buion Phadraig presented Sean Stafford's Irish translation of Josephine Niggli's "Cuig Pesos Ar An Domhnach" in the section for towns of over 8,000 population. They were awarded 95 marks by adjudicator Frank Dermody, of the Abbey Studios.

The other local winners at the Festival were Aisteoiri Breanainn, who took the Brian O'Higgins trophy for the best setting with their production of "Diarmuid agus Grainne," and Aisteoiri Dromcollogher, whose production of "Sugan Sneachta" won them the prize for the best one-act play from towns of under 8,000 population.

The brilliant Buion Phadraig group is made up of Maire Nic Anaircinnigh, Maire Ni Dhonn-

chadha, Brid Ni Dhubhlaing, Rita Nic an Earraigh and producer Sean O Moronaigh.

In the course of his remarks after the Festival, the adjudicator said that Irish drama standards were as high as those in any other language. The small number of plays written in Irish was, however, a problem, and the main source of supply was from translations from the English. There was, too, a financial problem, as Irish plays did not attract big audiences, and had to depend on festivals.

BUION PADRAIG

Buion Phadraig, as its name implies, was formed in the Patrician Year, 1961. This season is their most successful to date and they have

won seven cups, two shields and the Irish Press trophy. At Feile Luimni they won the open competition and that confined to Irish plays. They have also competed with success at drama festivals in Ring, Nenagh and Cork.

The group attributes their fine record in festivals to the number of drama courses they have attended. These courses have been provided in Limerick for a number of years past and are sponsored by An Chomairle Dramaiochta.

On next Thursday night Buion Phadraig will celebrate their success in the Oireachtas Drama Festival with a victory céili in the Gaelic League Hall.

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VOCALIST'S SUCCESS AT SLIGO FEIS CEOIL

JOE MALONE is one of a number of prominent Limerick vocalists who were successful in the recent Sligo Feis Ceoil. He won the Sligo Cup for set pieces for baritones, tenors and basses; the Light Opera Cup and was placed third in the Leider competition for songs in German.

Joe, who is a pupil of the very successful teacher, Mrs. Baker, entered competitive singing at Feile Luimni five years ago, and in his first attempt won the bass solo. He has entered for the Feile every year since then, winning prizes and placings, including a first in the Duggan Cup.

Last year Joe made his first appearance in the Dublin Feis Ceoil and was awarded second place in the bass solo. Two years ago he made a popular hit with TV viewers on "The Joe Linnane Show," and his singing of "The Road to Mandalay" and "My Own Wicklow Mountains" won very favourable com-

ment.

Recently, he was successfully auditioned for Radio Eireann from the Cork studio and will broadcast in the near future.

Joe is a member of the Limerick Choral Union and the Augustinian Church Choir. He is employed with Messrs. Ranks (Ireland) Ltd. and sang with the famous Shannon Mills Choir that some years ago, gave many memorable recitals over the air and from concert platforms.

He is hoping to compete in next week's Dublin Feis Ceoil and is particularly interested in Leider, interpretation and oratorio competitions.



Limerick.