APPROPRIATELY this appreciation of Tedagh Smalle is being written—a few hours after the sudden ease of his death—in historic Carrion, where Tedagh as a young boy, mingled with the spirit of cultural patriotism of the early Comrades. Gesturing eagerly came to learn an invaluable repertoire of old Irish airs from Bill Keane, the great uilleann piper of Carrion and friend of Dubhglas de la Roche, nearly 60 years ago.

One of these old Irish airs was The Lamian for Alphine, of memory. Keane learned from Martin O'Reilly, the blind harpist and his fellow-composer of Carrion, whose musical contributions were incalculable. Keane taught the blind harpist a little of the Mandolin he learned from a blind man. Keane, in his death, brought the head of the Irish musical tradition to a close.

Tedagh Smalle was a fine musician, an accomplished mandolinist, a fine composer, and a fine poet. His music has been played and sung around the world. His poetry has been published in many languages. His influence on Irish music and literature has been profound.

Tedagh Smalle’s Oireachtas prize-winning trio in the 1930s, which includes (from right) Tedagh Smalle, Andy Keane (uilleann piper), and Gust Ny Manman (concert flautist).

Tribute

Mainchín Seáin, the scholar-gentleman, writes:

The people of Ireland have seen Tedagh Smalle in recent weeks. It was all too obvious that he was unwell. The news of his death therefore, did not come as a surprise.

But through uneasiness, the man was irresistible to the end. Tedagh Smalle was a man of great moral strength, a lover of his country, and a zealous defender of its traditions.

The first time I met Tedagh was at a concert in Brussels. That was a good many years ago, and the case was, Tedagh was playing with the late Andy Keane, a very fine uilleann piper. In later years I brought Tedagh and Andy many times to Brussels, to play at the annual Transatlantic festival. Tedagh liked to play in that country, and the people of his country knew, and loved, the man.

Tedagh was a perfectionist, and only the very highest standard of playing by himself, or others, would satisfy him. He believed that Irish music must be treated with respect.

Commemorating his life, I believe he was a great musical artist, and in his time he gave his services gladly to many good causes, and indeed, to his own, in many respects.

More cash for home assistance, not for wage increases

A FIFTY PER CENT increase voted to home assistance will go to home assistance as such; the increased salaries of those employed in the service.

And the Limerick County Council, which is voting the increased bill, is to make sure of that.

The master was raised by Councillor Edmund Lane, the council member, explaining: ‘The money, which was to have gone to the people, is going to the increased service for the use of home assistance offices.’

These offices spend an important part of their time in the service can do more for the use of the money in the most effective way.

Some offices are now employing as the county councils throughout the country, as the Limerick County Council Manager Mr. H. H. Hussey, explained: ‘These offices are charging for homes assistance to their tenants, and are getting a re-