Royal Society of the Antiquaries of Ireland.—The Journal of the Society for December, 1912, contains a valuable contribution to the coast survey of Kerry, by Mr. T. J. Westropp, M.A., illustrated from photographs by the author. Though much has been written about the ancient monuments of Kerry, it might be safely said, that there remains a very long list which still requires investigation. Part I. of Vol. XLIII. issued for March will be considered, by students of history, the most valuable number the Society has published for some time. It opens with a contribution of great interest on the Marshal Pedigree by Mr. Hamilton Hall, F.S.A. Mr. Goddard H. Orpen, who has done so much to throw light upon the history of the Normans in Ireland, commences a series of papers on the "Earldom of Ulster." Mr. W. F. Butler, M.A., contributes the first instalment of an article on the history of the Irish land question during the Tudor period, in which he pays a well deserved tribute to the full and dispassionate manner in which the whole question has been dealt with recently, by Dr. Bonn of Munich University. Mr. Butler intends to show, that the generally accepted view that the land was taken from the people, and given as a bribe to the chiefs, was wrong—the question has such an important bearing on the history of this country, that it cannot fail to prove most interesting.

Cork Historical and Archaeological Society.—The last number of the Journal of this Society contains some items of great interest to our members. Mr. Jas. Grene Barry describes a 14th century Norman castle at Leamlara, 4 miles north of Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork. The Reviews by the Editor are interesting and instructive. The Rev. Canon J. F. Lynch writes very fully on the Antiquarian Remains at Lough Gur.

We naturally welcome every contribution dealing with the history and antiquities of this district; in the Journal of the Cork A. and H. S. for 1895, Canon Lynch wrote very fully on Lough Gur; the present contribution is mainly a reply to a paper by Sir Bertram Windle on "Certain
Megalithic Remains immediately surrounding Lough Gur," published recently in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Vol. XXX., Section C, No. 10, in which the author disturbs some of the theories, and conjectures regarding these remains that have been made from time to time, and believes many of "the philological and ethnological conclusions in the past to be very open to criticism." It is satisfactory to find that he considers the attempt made by Professor Harkness in 1869, to identify racial characteristics in some bones found inside a circle here; and around which so much has been written since—was not justified. A cist which was opened at the same time was only 4 feet 2 inches in length, and Sir Bertram Windle states "it is not probable that the body was buried in a crouching position," but it was the custom in the neolithic age to bury in a contracted position, Angelo Mosso illustrates such interments (Fisher Unwin, London, 1910). In his notes on Lough Gur from time to time, Canon Lynch very frequently refers to the "black pig" of Lough Gur; and the dolmen now named on the Ordnance Survey Map "Leaba-na-Muice"—the bed of the pig—Sir Bertram Windle thinks that much of what has been written about this, is due to a misapprehension of the meaning of the word Mucoi. In the Cork Journal for 1895, when dealing with this dolmen, Canon Lynch referred to Sir Samuel Ferguson's reading of an ogam Mucoi as meaning "pig," and continuing he remarked that pagan priests came to be known as pigs, and that this dolmen was a "pagan priest’s grave." In his latest notes he refers at length to the symbolism of the boar, and in this dolmen identifies the table stone as in its shape, representing the boar's snout. In the Journal of the Iverian Society (Vol. III., p. 73) referred to by Sir Bertram Windle, Dr. Henebry shows that Mucoi, and its many variants, from Mucoi to Maceu, and Mac ûi refer to a tribe, a clan, or family. Professor Macalister in Irish Epigraphy (part I,) suggests Mucoi meant "head of the clan." How Sir Bertram Windle connects Mucoi with the name given to this dolmen would require explanation. Mucoi has no connection with Leaba-na-Muice ("bed of the pig"); no doubt, bed of the head of the clan, or bed of the tribe, is a more rational name for the dolmen, than bed of the pig—if that be what Sir B. Windle meant to be inferred—but there does not appear to be any reason to justify that interpretation in this case.
It would be interesting to know when this name was given to the dolmen. In a description of it in our Journal, Vol. III., p. 130, it was suggested that this name was due to some local Shanachie; but that was supposing it had some reference to a pig, as it reads on the Ordnance Survey Map; the name was not on the old Ordnance Survey Map, and it was named "Leaba Diarmuid" for Crofton Croker in 1833. Many new names and monuments, have been introduced into the last Survey Maps, some, as it now appears, at Canon Lynch's suggestion. Sir Bertram Windle states some "stone circles" marked on the map are not circles at all, and he has discovered a stone circle which is not shewn on the map.

This recent survey of the Lough Gur monuments—published by the Royal Irish Academy—was mainly undertaken by the author to study the alignments of the circles with reference to the elevation of the horizon, and so connect them in some way with the worship of heavenly bodies. The author does not enlarge upon the subject, and it is one outside the scope of these notes; but any such conclusions, regarding the large circle of "Rannach Cruim Duibh" must, as Canon Lynch points out, be very doubtful, as unfortunately it is to a great extent modern. In Fitzgerald and McGregor's History of Limerick it was stated to contain 65 standing stones; Crofton Croker, in 1833, counted 63 stones, Sir Bertram Windle maps 113 stones. From a close examination made when preparing a plan of the circle some time ago for the late Mr. Alfred Nutt, who believed this circle to be primarily sepulchral, the present writer included 89 stones, the greater number of which has been part of the original circle; the remainder could not be considered part of a megalithic construction. Mr. Nutt's sad death occurred soon after the plan was prepared.

Sir Bertram Windle considers the term cromlech (or cromleac) ambiguous; but it cannot be so described to Irish antiquaries. All writers on Irish antiquities before Borlase, used it, and many use it up to the present day, though it must be admitted the generic term dolmen, which is now coming into general use in archaeology, is more satisfactory. The plan of the "Giant's Graves" given by Sir Bertram Windle is not clear, as it shews but one cist, when there were undoubtedly two, the dividing stone is in situ, but not shown on the plan, and the stones of
the western chamber can be identified. The stones which he describes as forming an "ambulatory" are portions of the peristyle of the mound (See Journal Limerick Field Club, Vol. III., p. 131, for plan and photograph).

We have referred at some length to both of these papers, because of the light which they throw on the manner in which this important branch of the Ordnance Survey was managed. It would appear that the survey of this—one of the most interesting districts in Ireland—depended on the voluntary assistance given by Canon Lynch, and he was not even sent the finished drawings to correct before engraving. Great credit is due to Canon Lynch, for the valuable assistance, which his wide course of reading enabled him to give, but all such work should be carefully revised by experts, employed by the Department.

Canon Lynch sees a good deal of the history of Lough Gur through its folk lore, of which he has been an industrious collector; but much as we respect tradition, and it is invaluable to the antiquary, there is always a lurking danger in old men's tales, their imagination sometimes betrays them, as when Mr. Leahy "imagined the smell of putrid blood" near the remains of a dolmen! Lough Gur still affords a fruitful field for the archaeologist, but he must not approach it either as a folk-loreist, or an astronomer, but simply as a searcher after truth.

**Waterford and S.E. of Ireland Archaeological Society.**—The Journal of this Society for March, 1913 (Vol XVI., No. 1), maintains its high character—the contributions are all of local interest—notably "A Carrickman's Diary," continued by the Editor, Rev. P. Power—and an interesting history of the Waterford "Merrys."

In a MS. copied from the British Museum Collection by Mr. J. Buckley, M.R.I.A., and written about 1614 to 1626, styled *Monumenta Sepulchralia*, we find an interesting entry regarding St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick:—"Cath. In St Maryes of Limick—An excellent Monum 1 of Donald o Brien, late Earle of Thomond wth his wifes image and Donogh Carbraghes, an ancestor of his—who built the friery of Dominicans of Limick, & there lyes intombed, but his mont- there is much defaced." It would appear that the third compartment of the Thomond monument, now empty, at this time contained an effigy of Donogh Cabrac O'Brien. Reference is also made to the Monuments of Bishop Adams, and Bishop O'Dea "Wth their images therein." These are all fully described in "St. Mary's Cathedral, by Rev. J. Dowd, B.A.," p. 58.
The succeeding numbers of the Journal issued contain many records of local interest.

Galway Archaeological and Historical Society.—We regret that the limits of space prevent us from noticing at length the very fine number of the Journal last issued by this Society, which contains some valuable notes, illustrated, on the Ordnance Survey Letters of Ballynacourty Parish, Co. Galway, by Mr. E. W. L. Holt.

The Kerry Archaeological Magazine published in March, 1913, is mainly a continuation of the papers in previous numbers, with some interesting "Notes and Queries" relating to Kerry, contributed by Mr. James Coleman.

P. J. L.
CLARE EMBROIDERY.

Mrs. Vere O'Brien's Clare Embroidery Class.

BALLYALLA, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.

ADDRESS—THE MANAGER, MISS KEPPLE.

LIMERICK LACE.

Mrs. Vere O'Brien's Lace School & Depot,

48 GEORGE STREET, LIMERICK.

MANAGER—MISS DUNNE.

THIS SPACE TO LET