



DR. GEORGE J. FOGERTY, R.N.

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THE North Munster Archæological Society has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of its Hon. Secretary, Dr. George J. Fogerty, which took place at his residence, 67 George Street, Limerick, on the 14th February last, from heart failure, after recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia.

The son of an old citizen, the late Joseph Fogerty, architect and builder, he was born in Limerick in 1851. In due course he entered the Queen's College Cork, where so many of the name have graduated, and studied medicine; when qualified he joined the Royal Navy. He saw active service in Egypt, and was present at El Teb in 1884. He was aboard H.M.S. Carysfort, which accompanied His present Majesty and the late Duke of Clarence on their tour round the Empire, and the writer can well remember a lovely clear summer day many years ago, when, standing on Sleah Head in the Dingle promontory admiring the delightful prospect, he confessed the scene was as enchanting as any he had witnessed on that eventful tour,

“Such is the patriot's boast, where'er we roam—  
His first, best country ever is at home.”

He retired from the Royal Navy in 1899, and in private life devoted himself to such useful work as only those who knew him well could fully appreciate, for his was a retiring personality, never desirous of self-advertisement, or moving into the limelight.

The growth of this Society out of the Archæological Section of the Limerick Field Club is described at length in the Preface to the first volume of our *Journal*. It is sufficient to record here that in the Field Club, as well as in this Society, George Fogerty was the motive power in promoting its objects, organising lectures and excursions, and carrying out the many details which are essential for the progress of such Societies; while his camera was always at the command of any member who required illustrations for his

papers or lectures. There never was a more unselfish photographer ; a master of his art, he placed himself unreservedly in the hands of every worker for the Society, and the volumes of the *Journal*, which are mainly illustrated from his photographs, bear evidence of his untiring zeal. Let us hope that his fine collection will not be lost to the nation ; either the Royal Irish Academy or the National Museum would be a suitable repository. He did much to preserve photographic records of old or disappearing Limerick ; these photographs should become a useful and interesting exhibit in the City Museum. Though his first activities in the Limerick Field Club were as Hon. Secretary to the Photographic Section, still his taste for archæology in all its branches was so strong that his camera was mainly engaged on subjects of antiquarian interest. His favourite branch was studying the remains of the stone age, and he was always anxious to start an excavation in search of a kitchen midden. He assisted Miss Knowles in preparing her interesting papers on discoveries in the Co. Clare, published in volume ii. of our *Journal*. Still, with a readiness which added grace to the favour, he would as willingly travel to assist in exploring some old church or cromleac in the mountains, or tramp the rugged coast line, in search of fortified headlands, if he thought the science of archæology would benefit by his labours.

These social workers who labour for the refinement of the intellectual faculties, and to open up new pathways in the field of progress, are well repaid when they can trace some advancement towards the realization of their ideals. It cannot be said that such pleasure was experienced by George Fogerty. The Field Club ceased to exist a short time ago, and the North Munster Archæological Society, supported by the labours of a faithful few of its original members, has for some time led a precarious existence, with no promise of help from new blood, which is so necessary for vigorous life and promise of age. The causes of this are not far to seek, but it is outside our purpose to dwell on them here. His failure to enlist support for these Societies was a source of deep regret to him, but he still kept working on, under circumstances so depressing as would have caused less earnest men to abandon the task in despair.

His sphere of usefulness was not confined to the Field Club or the Archæological Society; the cause of the poor and suffering had a special attraction for him. In Barrington's Hospital he found an old Limerick institution in need of help, and it may truly be said that of late years every spare moment of his time was devoted to assisting in its management. His anxious care for the wounded soldiers of the war, recently received there, very probably did much to undermine the strength he required to recover from his last illness. We are pleased to learn that the Governors of the Hospital intend to perpetuate his memory by a suitable memorial.

Citizenship of which the late Dr. George Fogerty was an example is rare in Limerick at the present day, and there are few who appear disposed to labour unselfishly in the cause of intellectual progress. It was not always so; and though the lamp may be dim and flickering just now, let us hope that in the near future Limerick may justify its old traditions, and the light which he and others laboured to keep burning may again brighten into a flame.

P. J. L.

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