MISCELLANEA.

Obituary.

Dr. Edward Perceval Wright, M.A., M.D.—We regret to have to record the death of an esteemed member, Dr. E. Perceval Wright, which occurred at Trinity College, Dublin, on the 4th March last. He joined the Limerick Field Club many years ago, but though he was a distinguished Naturalist, it was the work of the Historical and Archaeological Section that interested him most. The writer can well remember his kindly words of encouragement in the early years of the publication of our Journal, for every effort to advance the study of Ireland's history and antiquities had his support and sympathy. He was born in 1834, and entered Trinity College in 1853, and his life from that year until his appointment as Professor of Botany T.C.D., in 1869, is a record of strenuous labour, displaying wonderful energy and intellectual capacity, both as student in the various Medical Schools of Europe, Lecturer in T.C.D., and Secretary of several Scientific Societies. In 1874 he was elected Secretary to the Royal Irish Academy, and in 1900 President of the Royal Society of the Antiquaries of Ireland.

His life's work was a valuable contribution to the intellectual progress of this country.

P. J. L.

Literary Notes.

"The Clergy and Historical Studies."—At the Annual Meeting of the Maynooth Union on June 22nd, Dr. J. McCaffrey, S.T.L., D.Ph., read a paper with the above title, which was a powerful appeal to the members of the Union and others to devote some time to the History and Archæology of their respective districts.
After referring to the evidences of the remarkable development of historical studies at the present day, he referred to the instructions laid down by Pope Leo XIII in his 'celebrated Brief on Historical Studies (1883), viz.:

"That the first law for the historian is not to dare to say what is false, the second not to be ashamed to say what is true, and the third to avoid in his writing all suspicions of partiality or hatred."—In this he rendered an invaluable service not alone to the cause of history, but also to the cause of religion.

Naturally enough, in this revival, scholars pay special attention to the history of their own country. In the German Universities and the Historical Seminars carried on in connection with the University lectures it is the history of Germany that is kept principally in view, and though other countries must come in for treatment, still it is upon the relation of these countries to Germany and their influences upon the historical development of the modern Empire that the greatest emphasis is laid. What is true of Germany is true of Austria, Belgium, France, Italy—in a word, of all really cultured and progressive nations."

It is often difficult for the impulsive Celt to restrain himself when dealing with some incidents in his country's history; but it is just the evidence of this want of self-restraint, and the absence of the judicial spirit, that has marred the efforts of many a budding historian.

After referring to the various Societies in Ireland which are now engaged in doing useful work in this direction, Dr. McCaffrey appealed to his hearers to support them. He very truly said—

"In the past there was some reason for standing aloof from many of these bodies, but with the spread of education and the disappearance of prejudices, based usually on misunderstandings, these reasons are no longer a valid excuse, and the Catholic clergy should take the place to which they are entitled by their education and their abilities. They can do so, if they wish, without any sacrifice of their religious convictions or political principles. It is by becoming members of these societies and by taking advantage of the opportunities they afford that the best preparation will be made for the publication of the parochial and diocesan histories which are still so badly required."

No doubt, in the face of some difficulties, much has been accomplished in the last century, but considering our present resources, and the spread of education, with the increased facilities for travel, and the comparatively ready means of access to ancient records, much more will be expected in the century we have entered on. Of this Dr. McCaffrey remarks—

"Though much has been done, much remains to be accomplished. The ground to be covered is immense, the divisions of it multiplied, so that all kinds of
workers, no matter what may be their tastes or hobbies, can easily find employment. Before going into particulars it might be well to remark that we should start with high ideals. We should not aim merely to tell again in our own words what had been told equally well by others before. To add something to the sum of human knowledge regarding Irish history should be the object kept in view, as it is the only one likely to lead to first-class work. ... No clergyman could do a greater service to the cause of history than by preparing a careful history of his native diocese, or even of a deanery, a single parish, or of any remarkable ecclesiastical monument situated in his neighbourhood. Men who, in addition to the due discharge of their ordinary duties, are willing to undertake such studies should get ample opportunity and encouragement to pursue their researches."

To sub-divide these into work that may be said to be within the reach of all we might mention the parish registers, the church plate, or perhaps the neglected graveyard, all of which very frequently provide interesting items of history.

It is unnecessary for us to quote further from this scholarly and interesting paper. We have touched on its salient points, viz.—the work remaining to be done—the means by which it may be accomplished—and the necessity for approaching this in a calm and impartial spirit—it now remains for the members of the North Munster and kindred Archeological Societies to give effect to the admirable suggestions made by Dr. McCaffrey.—P. J. L.

The Irish Book Lover.—The last number (XII) completes the first volume of this truly interesting little publication—and we avail of the opportunity to congratulate the Editor, Dr. J. S. Crone, on its success.

It deals with a subject of Irish interest which, unfortunately, appeals to entirely too small a section of our people. We are aware that more books are sold in one large town in Scotland than in the entire of Munster. The love of books is certainly not a National characteristic, yet it was not always so, for while we now seek examples of the early art of other nations, in the remains of their temples, or their tombs, the art of ancient Ireland is enshrined in her books. In the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow, and others, we have preserved examples of the ancient art of Ireland; an art the most wonderful the world has ever seen This love for books in olden times was no idle fancy; for we are told that it was a quarrel over the rightful ownership of a book, that lost the great Columba to Ireland, and gave Scotland her celebrated Apostle
The love for books appears to be reviving in this country and should be encouraged. "The Irish Book Lover" is a publication well calculated to develop a taste for literature relating to Ireland. It has refreshed our memory on many an almost forgotten tome, and the author of it; while its "gossip" has kept us in touch with modern publications.

It is issued monthly by Messrs. Whyte and Salmond, Manor House, Kensal Green, London, at an annual subscription of Two Shillings, and certainly no reading Irishman should be without it.—P. J. L.

Royal Society of the Antiquaries of Ireland—Mr. Henry S. Crawford, B.E., has a paper in the March number on the Dolmens of the County Tipperary, some of which—those in North Tipperary—lie in our district.

Borlase, when dealing with Tipperary, merely noted the dolmens marked on the Ordnance Sheets, and took the descriptions as given in the Ordnance Survey letters, enumerating twenty-two in all, of these Mr. Crawford finds four were not dolmens, four have since been destroyed, and one has not been found, reducing the number to thirteen. To these Mr. Crawford adds five new discoveries, viz.—one in Owney and Arra, two in Kilnamanagh Upper, and two in Clanwilliam. Plans are given of twelve. Some are of the dolmen and some of the chamber type, but the wedge shape plan so general in these types, does not appear in some of the dolmens illustrated.

This survey shows the necessity of having the lists given by Borlase revised, but we would like these revisions of the dolmens of a county to include something more than the bald details provided by Borlase. In many cases it may be that the districts in which they are found are referred to in the Annals, or there may be some folk-lore or fairy tales woven round these old stones that has helped to preserve them through the ages more than any peculiarity in their structural arrangement—these interesting memories should be preserved.

Mr. T. J. Westropp is continuing his useful notes on promontory forts by a survey of those in North Kerry.

The account of the duel between the O'Connors of Offaly in Dublin Castle in 1583, by Lord Walter Fitzgerald, is difficult to imagine in the present day, but no less true.
Cork Historical and Archaeological Society.—The last number of the Journal of this Society is chiefly devoted to historical records of Cork. There is an account of an exploration of the Mitchelstown caves by R. W. Evans, B.L., LL.B. The paper is confined to a description of the plan and formation of the caves.

There is an interesting description of two well known castles, Ballincollig and Carrigrohane, by the Editor, Mr. J. Coleman.

Waterford and S.E. of Ireland Archaeological Society.—In this Journal Professor MacNeill, M.R.I.A., has a valuable paper on the Déisi Genealogies noting such names as can be identified with recorded Oghams. It will be remembered that Mr. Macallister, in his paper on the Legendary Kings of Ireland in the Journal of the R. S. A. I. (vol. xxxviii), identified some of the Ogham inscriptions in the Déisi country with the names of their legendary kings. This is an important advance in the history of Ogham inscriptions.

Amongst the many contributions from the Reverend Editor is one on the passing of the great cotton Factory at Portlaw, which affords melancholy reading, but we fear any comment on the facts recorded would lead us to discuss social and political questions, which are outside our domain.

Galway Archaeological and Historical Society.—The Journal continues the history of Kilnalahan Abbey by our fellow-member, Mr. J. P. Dalton, M.A. The interest in the history of this ancient Abbey continues, and is diversified by comprehensive notes on the Carthusians and Knights of St. John, who occupied this Abbey before the Franciscans. The suggestion that this, the only Carthusian foundation in Ireland, came to be established through the marriage of a de Burgho with a lady of Provence, which is close to St. Bruno's great Monastery in Savoy, is interesting and highly probable. The other papers are—Notes on place names in Mayo, M. J. Blake. Portumna and the Burkes, H. T. Knox. The Wardenship of Galway, Richard J. Kelly, B.L.

The Kerry Archaeological Magazine—In the last number are some sketches and notes of three old Kerry Cashels or Keels by W. J. and M. J. Delap, at one time probably primitive settlements of some monks or hermits. To preserve all such should be the duty of the County Council.
We regret to know that Mr. W. J. Delap has passed away recently, and sincerely sympathise with his relatives, as both he and the other members of his family always evinced a lively interest in the preservation of the ancient monuments of Kerry.

The Antiquary (Elliot Stock, London).—Many of the articles in recent numbers of this monthly journal are of interest to Irish antiquaries. Of such we may mention "A Visit to the Neolithic Hut Circle of Jeness." by A. Montgomerie Bell; "The Episcopal Mitre," by F. R. Fairbank, M.D., F.S.A.; "Early 13th Century Churchyard Cross," by Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A.; and "The Architecture of the Friars in England," by A. W. Clapham. These are only a few of the articles which, with the numerous notes on a variety of subjects, render this publication so interesting to antiquaries.—P.J.L.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

An Old Limerick Bell.—In the steeple of the P. rish Church at Benburb, Co. Tyrone, there hangs a bell with a history. It has an inscription in raised (abbreviated) Roman capitals, which reads as follows:—

I-H'S M̄R̄A F̄S : LAUDATE IN TYPANO
 ET CHORO FR : X : N' MATHEW
 MCMAHON CAPUCHINORUM
 LOCI LIMERICENSES SUPERIOR
 ME FERI FECIT DIE 8 JULY
 ANNO DO 1688.

TRANSLATION:

Jesus, Mary, Francis, Praise Him in Tymbral and Choir. Brother in Christ N' (Stigmata of St. Francis). Mathew McMahon, Superior of the Capuchins of the Limerick District, caused me to be made 8th July, A.D. 1688.

This inscription was sent to me by a gentleman, resident in Armagh some years ago, seeking information. The information which I possessed was meagre, but I have since received, through the good offices