

Trial Teams

(By N. M.)

Local Goals.
 Bohemians fielded a very poor team against Garryowen on Saturday last for their Charity Cup tie, and paid the penalty. What's wrong with the senior players of "Bohs?" It is certainly very hard luck on the men behind the scenes, who are striving, apparently, against odds, to keep the team going. If they are not getting the co-operation from those who get the best fun out of the sport, would it not be better to pack up!

Both teams will have another "go" to-morrow (Saturday) in the Senior League, and it is hoped that the culprits will awake from their adolence.

The Transfield Cup final between Young Munster and Richmond attracted a big crowd to Thomond Park on Sunday last, who thoroughly enjoyed the hard-fought encounter. Exchanges were on a par with the best of Munster Junior Cup ties of the past. The former team opened the new year well with a narrow but well-deserved victory. A player on each side lost their tempers and received marching orders; and will, no doubt, get some time to cool off before they don the togs again. Pity, as otherwise the game was fought out in a sporting spirit.

Old Boys Meet.

Some of the most attractive games of the past two seasons have been those played by past pupils of the nurseries of football, the colleges.

Now that we are on the eve of the more dour and rugged cup football, it is certain that we will appreciate next Sunday's meeting between Old Crescent and Old Christians (Cork) at Thomond Park.

These teams met twice last season and shared honours. Before Christmas the Limerick team was successful in Cork against a not too fully representative Cork side, but I am told that Old Christians are travelling at full strength on Sunday, with a view to evening up matters for this season.

Captained by Mick Lane, the U.C.C. international, and comprising an almost fully representative senior XV, principal amongst whom are Jim McCarthy (Dolphin and Ireland), O'Hanrahan, B. Coleman, G. Reidy, M. Murphy (Dolphin), E. Fahy (Constitution), J. Higgins (Sunday's Well), J. Horgan, C. Shinkwin, J. O'Meara and J. Keane (U.C.C.). Horgan and Reidy have represented Munster.

The Old Crescent team will be watched closely as they are fielding their Cup side. If good football were everything, then we study the favourites for the Junior Cup on Sunday next, but it is a well-known fact that a Cup-winning team must be capable of adapting themselves to all conditions. The pack is heavy and intelligent, but so far have not impressed as scrummagers. The main strength of the backs lies at half back, where J. Keane and J. Roche have been hitting off a good partnership. The centres, L. Nestor and N. Quaid, are potential match winners, and P. Berkery, as full-back, is, already, well known for his solidity.

Fixtures for Week-End.

January 7th—Bohemians v. Garryowen, Thomond Park at 3 p.m. Referee, Mr. J. Price.
 January 8th—Old Crescent v. Old Christians, Thomond Park at 3 p.m. Referee, Mr. S. Hall.
 January 8th—Young Munster II v. Askatoon, Rosbrien at 3 p.m. Referee, Mr. J. Browne.
 Sunday, January 8th—Crescent College v. Garryowen II, Crescent

NEVER A DAY ILL And Never Had A Doctor

CENTENARIAN AND HIS MEMORIES

HALE and hearty, at 100—never in a day ill and never had a doctor. He has vivid memories of the Fenian Rising, knew Peter O'Neill Crowley personally, had the pleasure of speaking to Parnell, and took part in the Plan of Campaign. These are some of the things to which Mr. William O'Donovan, of Wallstown, Castletownroche, who celebrated his 100th birthday on December 29th last, can look back upon with keen interest.

In an interview with a *Limerick Leader* correspondent, Mr. O'Donovan stated that he has worked all his life at the trade of boot and shoemaker. He enjoys the best of health and never remembers to be ill even for a day and was never visited by a doctor. He attributes his long life to taking a great interest in his work throughout the entire day and never worried.

RODE ALL CLASSES OF BIKES.

He was a lover of cycling and rode all classes of bikes, including the solid tyre and penny-farthing, and he is still the possessor of the latter, which he treasures. He cycled at the age of 85 years to Cork City, a distance of 30 miles, and brought bales of leather on the handlebars and on his back.

Mr. O'Donovan was a great craftsman and made a timber bicycle, which he rode through Castletownroche and surrounding districts, where he was the cynosure of a large number of spectators. He always drank "a few pints" of porter and was a lover of the pipe, and at the present time he smokes two ozs. of tobacco weekly. He was born and baptised in the parish of Cloyne and was one of six brothers and one sister, of whom himself is the sole survivor.

PLAN OF CAMPAIGN DAYS.

He and his brother were the founders and organisers of the Wallstown Fife and Drum Band, which they played throughout North East Cork in the Plan of Campaign days and at one of these meetings he had the pleasure of talking to Charles Stewart Parnell. Mr. O'Donovan was also present at the big meeting at Mitchelstown, when the three men were shot in the Square of that town. He composed many songs, notably "Johnny Roche's Tower," which is sung locally by many residents of the district. He retired from active work about two years ago, but still walks around and can read and write with the aid of glasses.

Through the medium of Rev. Father Howard, P.P., Killavullen, he got a cheque for £5 as a gift from Mr. Sean T. O'Kelly, President of Ireland, conveying his congratulations and sincere good wishes that he may enjoy health and happiness for many years to come.

ICED CAKE WITH 100 CANDLES

On attaining his 100th birthday he was made the presentation of a beautiful iced cake surrounded by 100 lighted candles. He was visited by many friends and well wishers, including the clergy of the parish, who tendered their congratulations. The local fife and drum band also turned out and played some lively airs, and wound up the programme with a tune composed by the centenarian himself, and known as the "Jolly Boys Of Wallstown." As a boy in Cloyne Mr. O'Donovan knew Peter O'Neill Crowley, whose aunt lived near his own family.

KILCLOONEY WOOD.

In 1867, shortly before the Fenian Rising, the two renewed acquaintance and Mr. O'Donovan is proud to recall that he spoke to the patriot and shook his hand a few days before the tragedy at

LIMERICK BOXERS OF THE PAST

Jim Dalton And His Record

(By J. M. "K. C.")

FOR a few years back I have noticed with regret the decline of amateur boxing in our city. At one time the Limerick County Boxing Board staged at least one or two tournaments of international standing annually, where the champions of Ireland appeared against the champions of Holland, Wales and other countries.

On one occasion Limerick was so rich in boxing talent that they were the sole opposition against the national champions of that time at the Savoy, Limerick, and to their credit and ability made an even break of the decisions.

LIMERICK THEN AT ITS PEAK

At that time Limerick was at its peak with boxing clubs and boxing talent with the St. Francis Club providing the major portion of the opposition for that tournament. I am glad to see they are still going strong; we had also St. Michael's, Central, St. John's, St. Patrick's Scouts, Limerick City and Crescent boxing clubs. I know there are "cycle" periods in all sports, and unless there is a continuity of clubs and members with enthusiasm for the sport it very quickly declines, and as it takes between three or four years to progress from the novice to the champion class, only with persistent and continuous training can champions be produced.

ON THE RIGHT LINES.

I notice with pleasure the new Co. Boxing Board are proceeding on the right lines for the revival of the sport to its pre-war eminence. The League tournaments which they have initiated this year have brought together over seventy entries, composed of schoolboys, novices and juniors. It has got through half its schedule already, and all finals will be staged shortly. Let us hope this will be the means of producing some future champions who will take the place of the men of the past, and bring boxing back to the proud position it held in our city in former years.

BOXING AND BOXERS OF THE PAST

As an incentive to those young men, I am re-writing from notes in my scrapbook the history of Limerick boxing and boxers of the past, commencing with Jim Dalton.

When we read to-day of the wonderful progress boxing has made in this country during the last few years, and the pride we take in seeing our Irish boxers gaining victories over the best that England, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, and even American can produce, our minds go back in retrospect to a time when boxing was rarely heard of and practically unknown in this city. In those early days there was only one exponent of the "manly art" that Limerick people ever heard of, and to speak of boxing that time meant speaking of the late Jim Dalton. Yes, Jim Dalton was the pioneer and the first man to introduce, teach and encourage boxing in Limerick.

STARTED LIMERICK'S FIRST BOXING CLUB

To his credit lies the starting of

the first boxing club in the city at the old Galety Dance Hall, in Patrick Street, about forty years ago. There he gathered about him a few of the boys and explained to them the rudiments of the "fistic art" and of the first school of boxing there are still amongst us to-day at least two of his pupils—Tony Donovan and "Knighy" Mack—and right down during those thirty odd years it was the Dalton family that kept the boxing game alive in this city. Jim was one of the greatest exponents of teaching the art of scientific boxing that this country ever produced, and all those men who in later years were well known in the boxing life of this city received their training from the hands of Jim Dalton. Notably amongst them were Paddy Healy, Ernest Brown, Paddy Cusack, "Holly" (Jack) O'Halloran, his own brothers, Enoch, Joe and Frank Dalton, his son, Paddy; Mick and Jim Casey, Jack Gleazer, Jerry Whelan and scores of others.

DEPENDENT ON BRAINY BOXING

In his active pugilistic career Jim Dalton always depended on brainy, scientific boxing rather than hard hitting. He received his early instruction from "Sonny" Howard, boxing instructor to the Black Watch Regiment. His first public win was at the Town Hall, Limerick, when he won a nine stone competition organised by Dr. Dashwood, the great showman at the time. He next beat Bill Whitaker at the old Theatre Royal in three rounds; won a nine stone competition at the New Barracks from twelve competitors; He then went for the highest honours by meeting Tommy Lynch, the light-weight champion, at the Athenaeum Hall, Limerick, but the fight was stopped after three rounds. He afterwards fought a six-round draw with Lynch, the champion, at Transfield's Circus, Limerick; beat Jack Garrett, of Dublin, in four rounds; beat Jack Holden, of Dublin, in four rounds; got decision over Peter Lowry, Irish feather-weight champion, after the latter's American tour, in six rounds, at the National Sporting Club, London.

LIGHT-WEIGHT CHAMPION THREE YEARS.

He beat Harry Turvey, the Australian boxer, in six rounds, fought Mick Head, of Dublin, for the Irish light-weight championship at the Ancient Concert Rooms, Dublin, and won on a foul in the ninth round. Jim held the light-weight championship from 1904 to 1907, beating amongst others Constable Gibbons, at Ballsbridge, Dublin, in four rounds; Patsy Kavanagh, Transfield Circus, six rounds. Knocked out Mick Dalton, Dublin, at Athenaeum Hall, Limerick, in three rounds. He also took part in several exhibition bouts with famous boxers of his time, and organised many big tournaments in Limerick City and county, and in Dublin and Cork. Well might the boys of to-day who are enjoying the benefit of this healthy exercise, the seed of which was sown by Jim Dalton, think of his memory with reverence.

LIMERICK STOCK LIST

"GHOST" TO THE RESCUE!

Blownwood Park, Co. Down, is