

# New Dispensaries: Twenty To Be Built In Co. Limerick

new dispensaries will be built throughout County Limerick, Limerick County Council has decided at its meeting last night.

The programme of building the 20 new dispensaries will be financed by the Council's financial commitments in the project.

**WOULD WELCOME OFFERS OF SITES.**

The main difficulty about building the 20 required dispensaries in one year was that of getting sites. The Council had now compulsory powers for the acquisition of sites, so he would welcome offers of sites in the different areas, and would be glad if the individual members of the Council would make suggestions about probable sites. Sites would, as far as possible, have to be central, and as near as possible to the existing dispensaries to which the people in the localities had got the habit of going. His suggestion was that the Council would now agree to the raising of the loan, and that it would approve in principle of the plan to build the 20 new structures. He would then be able to go into the question of the sites, and would report back to the Council's next meeting.

Mr. M. Dwyne asked if the new dispensaries would be lock-up buildings, or was it planned that the caretakers would live in.

The Manager said the prospect was that all the dispensaries would be built on the rural cottage line, and would not have accommodation for a caretaker to live in. Where the new dispensaries would not be adjacent to the Council's water services, running water would be had from tanks holding rain-water.

Mr. P. Lillis is it not intended that the caretaker should live in the new dispensary at Adare?

Manager—No, it is not.

Mr. Lillis—How near completion is the Adare dispensary?

Manager—We will get a report for you on that. It looks nearly finished to me.

**NEWCASTLE WEST AND ABBEYFEALE**

Mr. T. O'Connell said the first dispensary they should build was the Newcastle West one, where they had a site themselves, and where the building would be right up against the Council's water and sewerage services. There was a very big number of people depending on the dispensary at Newcastle West.

Mr. King—The plans for that have been prepared, and it will not now be long before its building begins.

The Co. Manager said that the new dispensaries at Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale would be on a more elaborate scale than those elsewhere. He told Mr. J. J. McNamara that the building of the dispensaries would not interfere with the Council's house building programme.

Mr. McNamara—I'm afraid that won't hold good because of the scarcity of materials.

Without further discussion, the Council approved the Manager's suggestion that the loan be raised, and that the dispensaries would be built as soon as sites were available.

**NEW CO. LIMERICK DOCTOR**

Mr. Maurice Joseph Noonan, Rathkeale, has passed his final medical examinations in University College, Dublin.

Dr. Noonan is son of Mr. Maurice J. Noonan, solicitor, Rathkeale, and brother of Mr. C. Noonan, solicitor and Commissioner for Oaths, Newcastle West. He is just twenty-three years of age.

He was educated at Mungret College and U.C.D.

## DEATH OF EAST LIMERICK OLD I.R.A. OFFICER

THE death occurred suddenly at Elton on Sunday last, after the football game played between Ballylanders and Galbally, of Mr. James Davern, prominent I.R.A. officer and general sportsman (writes our Ballylanders correspondent). The seizure happened outside the premises of Mr. P. J. O'Sullivan, and the dying man received spiritual and medical aid. The remains were removed to Ballylanders Parish Church on Sunday night. An inquest was not deemed necessary.

The funeral, after Office and Mass, took place at Ballingarry cemetery on Monday and a huge cortege of people, representative of every walk in life, attended the burial.

Prayers were read by Rev. F. J. Dunne, P.P., assisted by Rev. Father Hickey, C.C.

The coffin was draped with the Tricolour and a guard of honour was formed by his old comrades of the 6th Battalion, East Limerick Brigade. A volley was fired over the grave and a bugler sounded the Last Post. Profound scenes of regret were evident everywhere.

The late James Davern was Intelligence Officer 6th Battalion, East Limerick Brigade, and was always associated with the national movement. He was Secretary of the Cullane and Ballylanders Coursing Club for many years and associated with the Football Club, C.Y.M.S., Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, and also Secretary of the Ballylanders Comhairle Ceannairde of Fianna Fail. His two sons and a daughter were present when the deceased had the seizure and one son John was after playing a brilliant game for Ballylanders.

### EXEMPLARY QUALITIES.

The deceased, who was only 54 years of age, was a gentleman of exemplary qualities. He was a daily Communicant, and a most devout and religious Catholic. He was honest, upright and decent, and never said a bad word against anybody. He gave of his best in every club he was a member of, and was an untiring worker. He was charitable, kind and just, and an exemplary husband and father, and a most popular official of the E.S.E. His heart and soul were in sport, and he took a keen interest in coursing and football.

Mr. Davern was prominently and honourably associated with several bodies and organisations. He was President of the Pioneer Council of the Total Abstinence Association for a number of years; was member of the 3rd Order of St. Francis; member of the Sacred Heart Sodality; Secretary of Ballylanders Comhairle Ceannairde of Fianna Fail; Secretary of Cullane and Ballylanders Coursing Club; I.O. Sixth Battalion East Limerick Brigade, Old I.R.A., and was a member of the Brigade Active Service Unit. He opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty, and took part with the I.R.A. during the Civil War, and was interned in Limerick Prison and Tintern No. 1 detention camp.

Chief mourners Mrs. James Davern (widow); Michael, Joe and John (sons); Mrs. Cissie Douglas and Ellen (daughters); John and Michael (brothers); Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Cotter, Mrs. Gubbins, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Mulqueen (sisters); Mrs. Twomey, Mrs. Noonan, Miss Mary Mulqueen, Miss Nora Gubbins, Miss Eleanor Davern and Miss Margaret Davern (nieces); Thomas, Raymond, John, Peter and Patrick Davern, John, Jim, Michael, Patrick and Edmund Gubbins (nephews); Patrick, Michael and John Mulqueen, Mr. Stephen Lynch, Edmund Cotter, James Gubbins, Denis Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. John Joe Davern, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Davern, Mrs. Julia Davern, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. Mary Davern, Mrs. Michael Davern.

High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Dunne, P.P., Ballylanders, assisted by Rev. Father Hickey, C.C., Ballylanders; Rev. Father Keogh, C.C., Galbally; Rev. Father Noonan, C.C., Aherlow.

The same priests and Rev. Father Dwyer, Ballintubber, were present at the churchyard.

The Old I.R.A. formed a guard of honour. Volleys were fired over the grave, and the Last Post was sounded.

### GRAVESIDE ORATION.

Deputy Tadhg Crowley, T.D., gave an oration at the graveside. He said: I regret very much that I am called on to-day to say a few words over the grave of an Old I.R.A. man, who was a comrade of mine since the starting of the Irish Volunteers in Ballylanders in December, 1913. From that time he remained faithful to the cause of the independence of his country. I clearly recollect the day before Easter week, 1916, when the Ballylanders Company and the Galbally and Dungurragh Company of the Irish Volunteers assembled near Galbally to fire the first shots they ever fired from Lee-Enfield Service Rifles.

Jimmy was a man who, when he believed a cause was right, put his best effort into it. He never faltered in the cause to secure the independence of his country. All his old comrades will sorely miss him, and on my own, our very sincere sympathy to his widow and family, and all his relatives. I also wish to thank the officer in command of Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick, for providing the rifles for the firing party to-day.

Bennacht De ar a anam.

### UP AND VERY MUCH ABOUT AGAIN

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remembered, bless her, what a change of air and food and do to me. Every year I wasted three days precious holidayummy got acclimatized. But Andrews put a stop to that. holiday starts where work leaves off. And not a minute lost!

ie. Cooling, refreshing that does four good deeds in one. counteracts the upsets Cleanses the mouth and tongue sed by change, especially Steadies the stomach. Tones up the liver. Keeps the system as regular rather. Nice-tasting, fizzy the gentle, family laxative as clockwork.

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# He Was Outstanding In The Great Days Of Irish Athletics

JOHN J. BRESNIHAN, of Castletownconyers, Co. Limerick, was an outstanding athlete of his generation. The story of his great prowess and achievements is told in a very interesting article in "The Gaelic Sportsman," dated Saturday, July 5. The writer of the article, which we are privileged to reproduce below, is Mr. William Dooley, a recognised authority on matters athletic and the author of a valuable book on Irish athletics.

Among the many very famous athletes of the early portion of this century (writes Mr. Dooley) was a stalwart Limerickman who, although never travelling beyond the shores of Erin in quest of international honours, could, nevertheless, meet his Olympian contemporaries on an equal footing, and to whom the fates were cruelly unkind in denying him the signal honour of official world record holder in the hop, step and jump. He was John J. Bresnihan, of Castletownconyers, 5ft. 11ins. and 13 stone odd, now a retired national teacher, whose exclusively native activities left him a "great unknown" to the sporting world outside.

Many of those who knew John in his palmy days yearned to see him take the field in an all-round test against Kiely or Sheridan, but their hopes never were fulfilled owing to the Irish All-Round Championships being shelved after Kiely's victory in these in 1898, and their non-appearance on the Irish athletic calendar until long after Bresnihan's peak.

**EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS.**

J. J. Bresnihan, allocated to a school in Bray following a graduation from St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, gave Metropolitan enthusiasts the initial glimpse of his capabilities at the inaugural meeting of the Gaelic Cyclists' Association, in Jones's Road grounds, in May, 1903, winning the 56lbs. and long jump, and taking second in 220 yards, pole jump and shot putting. Three months later he accomplished a fine treble at Killybeg by taking the three jumping events at 5 ft. 9 ins., 23 ft. 11 ins. and 45 ft. 1 in., and went on to win championships in hop, step and jump and long jump at Newbridge, in September. John's best championship performance was in taking the G.A.A. gold medal at Jones's Road on the 31st July, 1904, at 49 ft. 8 ins., and a slight break of clay deprived him of a new world record in place of 50 ft. 6 ins. by Dan Shanahan, of Killybeg, 16 years before. The runner-up, Bresnihan, Con Leahy, also accomplished his best championship figures of 49 ft. 2 ins., and it is worthy of note that only on two other occasions have the figures of 49 ft. been beaten by two men in competition for an Irish title, these being in 1888, at the Limerick Markets Field, when Looney, of Macroom, did 49 ft. 9 ins. as runner-up to Shanahan, and at Jones's Road, in 1892, when Shanahan finished half a foot behind Tom Kiely at 49 ft. 1 in.

In June, 1936, at Blarney, in the shadow of its famous castle, "J. J." covered 50 ft. 1 in., but a record was not ratified and here he also topped 5 ft. 10 ins. in the high jump.

Should any sceptics have any doubts as to the all-round qualities of Bresnihan, these can be set at rest by an analysis of the results of the G.A.A. Championships of July, 1906, at Croke Park, where Bresnihan won the hop, step and jump, 48ft. 3ins., long jump, 23ft. 7ins., was second in 100 yards and high jump, and placed third in the 56lbs.

Again at Kilmallock, on 19th August, 1906, he cleared 50ft. 1in. and had no luck with the Records Committee, while the mark through which he earned greatest distinction, that of 50ft. 4ins. at Bandon, a week later, also remained unrecognised.

### AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY.

The circumstances surrounding the non-acceptance of Bresnihan's major contribution to sporting history at Bandon as a world best-on-the-books remain to this day an unsolved mystery. More than a quarter of a century ago, on meeting John in the Metropolis, I enquired of him as to the reasons why he did not receive the necessary recognition from officialdom. He did not know. Back in 1940 we met again at the N.A. & C.A.I. Championships in Fermoy and discussed the subject further. He called the old handicapper, the late Denis Power, of Ballywater, then almost an octogenarian, who stood close by. Denis, who was in charge of the Bandon meeting, stated that he himself sent on a certificate to performance was genuine. Bresnihan's rejoinder was "That is news to me and it has taken me 34 years to ascertain as much." Some "hoo-doo" apparently protected that record from both Kiely and Bresnihan, with the latter the more unlucky of the pair.

### GREAT PROWESS OVER A PROTRACTED PERIOD.

Following 1906, Bresnihan satisfied himself with occasional appearances in weight-throwing spheres, but remained an active competitor over an extraordinarily protracted period of years. In August, 1915, three all-round tests in running, jumping and weight-throwing were staged by Dan Fraher on his historic ground at Dungarvan, the man in charge of the competitions being Frank Dineen. J. J. Ryan, of Drumlina, won the running tests

by 14 points, against 6 points by J. Bowman and 3 points by E. S. O'Grady-Walsh. J. K. Beazley, of Upton, emerged the victor on all-round jumping at 13 points, William Britton, of Mullinahone, later a hammer and jumps titleholder, being runner-up, and Pat Power, of Ballinamut, Waterford, third man. In the weight-throwing test, the Limerick giant, John O'Grady, from Caherconlish, scored 12 points, and Bresnihan nosed out Jerry Foley, of Listowel, by a point, with a score of 8 points, for second.

The uncommon strength of Bresnihan, for a comparatively light man, can be gauged from the fact that he was only beaten a meagre two inches by O'Grady, at 27 ft. 8 1/2 ins. in throwing the 56 lbs. with follow, on wet, spongy ground.

In having the 56 lbs. from the shoulder, O'Grady, still the world record holder at 39 ft. 9 1/2 ins., caught the weight by the end and left the other end resting on his head, over his right ear, a rather unorthodox method, to say the least. Bresnihan, on the other hand, had the flat bottom of the weight resting along the palm of his hand. When big John propelled the implement it, therefore, twirled through space in the most unwieldy manner.

Eleven years later, in July, 1926, when Dr. Pat O'Callaghan took his first Championship, a Munster 56lbs. title at Mallow, Bresnihan was third.

### HIS LAST APPEARANCE.

"J. J.'s" last appearance was at a Co. Limerick meeting in 1929, and the unusual feature on the occasion was that his son, now Dr. Patrick C. Bresnihan, of Castlebar, was also a competitor. Dr. Pat, when a student of University College, Dublin, was a fine high jumper and won the British Universities title in May, 1932, at Moutspur Park, Surrey, the scene of some of Sydney Wooderson's more famous races. Pat cleared 5ft. 10 1/2 ins. On one outing he crossed 6ft., and jumped various laths at 5ft. 11ins. Following repeated failures at 6ft. at several sports meetings, he resigned himself to the belief that he could never negotiate it, but when he eventually did so it is contended that this was because he was informed that it was an inch less!

"P.C." was also a well-known member of U.C.D. hurling team and played quite a few games with Limerick in their great National League days.

John J. Bresnihan had a gigantic brother, Michael, who died young, but not before he had unofficially beaten John. John's world record of 27 ft. 4 1/2 ins. throwing the 56 lbs. without follow, had he lived, his successors, Dr. O'Callaghan and Ned Tobin, would have a more formidable high water mark confronting them.

### COMPARISONS.

A hypothetical analysis of the probable result of an all-round test between "J. J." Tom Kiely and Martin Sheridan would be unconvincing, for the most the analyst could offer would be to rake their best performances from different periods of their respective careers, and stack them together. Cold figures are not conclusive testimony in such a case, for athletes of this type are usually faster and better jumpers early on and become more proficient weight-men later, when the edge has gone off the speed and spring through additional weight and the passage of time.

Kiely was a better man with the heavier weights than either Sheridan or Bresnihan and their superior over the hurdles and probably the quarter mile. Bresnihan was a better 100 yds. man, high and long jumper than either. Sheridan was the best pole vaulter of the trio, and tops in the 16 lbs. shot. Bresnihan was a shade better than Kiely in shot-putting.

### KIELY'S TERRIFIC POWER AND DURABILITY.

But no man can attain his best in the various events through the gruelling exigencies of a ten-event programme, on one afternoon during the course of about three hours, as in the time of these athletes of renown, and the terrific power and durability which usually brought Kiely through heavy programmes with such marked consistency of effort would, no doubt, have been a vital factor in the final reckoning. And Kiely was an old man, athletically, when he went, and saw, and conquered, on Uncle Sam's domain, in his 35th and 37th years. His points accumulation would have been much more formidable a dozen years before, with such points distributed in each event according to the quality of times or distances or heights registered.

### BEST OF THE DECATHLON TYPE.

However, Limerick has boasted of world champions and world record holders, including John Flanagan, Pat Ryan, John O'Grady and his uncle, Ned, and Dan and Tim Ahearn, of Athea, and Dan Shanahan. And, amid such a nursery of world leaders, John J. Bresnihan, of Castletownconyers, was the best all-round athlete, of the decathlon type, that Limerick ever produced.

## WHAT TREES CAN DO FOR IRELAND

THE Essay Competition on the above subject recently organised by the Limerick Branch of the Elre fe Crannaibh (Trees for Ireland), was a great success, attracting nearly ninety entries from boys and girls under fourteen years of age, resident in Limerick City and County and in the Counties of Clare, Tipperary and Kerry (says a supplied report).

Almost half the entries received were in Irish and, in general, the standard of the essays was very high. It was evident that both boys and girls had an excellent knowledge of their subject, and appreciated the importance of tree-planting in the social and economic life of the country.

### THE WINNERS

The judging of the essays presented quite a task, as there was little to choose between many of the entries. After careful consideration and the assistance of very helpful and expert advice, the following awards were made:

First Prize (£5)—Liam O'Brien, Corbaille, Luimneach.

Second Prize (£3)—Gerard O'Reilly, "Majella," Farranshane, Limerick.

Third Prize (£1)—Seamus O'Doherty, Castletroy, Limerick.

A consolation prize of 10/- was awarded to each of the following: Eighlin Ni Aogain, Traghall, Co. Chiarri.

Paul O'Carroll, Mungret College, Limerick.

Aidan McMahon, C.B.S., Sexton Street, Limerick.

Kenneth Henderson, Borrisokane, County Tipperary.

### BRANCH VERY PLEASED

The Limerick Branch of Elre fe Crannaibh was very pleased, indeed, with the results of the competition, which, they feel, has achieved its objective in creating and fostering a love and appreciation of trees among the younger generation. Provided the necessary funds are available, it is the intention of the Limerick members to make the essay competition an annual affair.

The success of this essay competition was in no small measure due to the co-operation and enthusiasm of the teachers, who encouraged their pupils to submit entries.

A personal letter of congratulation has been sent to each of the prize winners by the Chairman of the Limerick Branch, Ald. G. E. Russell.

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## MENTAL HOSPITAL BOARD

For the third year in succession Mr. J. C. Barrett, Co. Co. (of Glin), was unanimously elected Chairman P.P., V.F., was unanimously elected Chairman of the Board at the annual meeting of the Board on Wednesday.

Mr. Barrett's re-election was proposed by Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D. Kelly, the Deputy Resi-

(Chairman, Limerick and seconded by Mr. Co.C.

Right Rev. Monsignor

Mr. J. Mackey, Co.C.

Mr. D. McAuliffe, Co.C.

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- ACROSS.**
- (3) Information given by one is sometimes very misleading. (1)
  - (6) Person who is this often finds himself in an awkward situation. (2)
  - (8) Some people seem to be able to do things that few others can. (4)
  - (10) Occasionally the way a dog suggests that he is afraid of something. (5)
  - (11) — can be very dangerous if one is inexperienced. (7)
  - (12) Bad this usually makes cycling a rather risky business. (9)

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