

Notes and News

WE complete our second volume conscious of our blessings in being able to do so in this time of international convulsion. Despite the serious limitations on historical research imposed by war conditions, valuable work on Irish history is still proceeding, and we still have more than ample material on which to draw for publication in this journal. We call attention to the vital function discharged in this connection by the Irish Historical Society and the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies. All our main articles come to us after being read as papers and discussed at meetings of one or other of these societies, members and associates of which are kept informed of work in progress through the medium of the *Bulletin of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences* (see below, p. 469).

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The Irish Committee of Historical Sciences, the coordinating body for historical activities in Ireland, continues to carry on cooperative work in many fields, as may be seen from its third report here published (below, pp. 434-7). Its archives sub-committee has recently launched a campaign for the preservation of Irish historical documents. Any person in Ireland aware of the existence of such papers, liable to destruction through neglect or jeopardized in the general collection of waste paper for pulping, is requested to send an unstamped letter with particulars to the director, National Library, Dublin, or to the deputy keeper, Public Record Office, Belfast. A leaflet, issued by the Irish Committee, indicates what should be preserved:

1. All papers over a century old.
2. Of any date
 - Wills, probates, administrative grants.
 - Court papers, such as exemplifications of fines and recoveries, chancery bills and answers, affidavits.
 - Letters patent, grants under the act of settlement, leases, conveyances, marriage settlements.
 - Surveys, estate maps and plans, particulars of sales, court rolls.
 - Rentals, rate books, assessments and official lists of names.
3. In any institution
 - The documents which in their time were the essential ones for office work, minute books, ledgers, journals, or cash books.
4. Pamphlets previous to 1800.
 - Newspapers previous to 1850.

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In the present number, the spelling and punctuation of quotations in the text of articles have been modernised. This practice will be observed in future numbers, save where otherwise indicated.

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Since the beginning of the present year, five men have died who, in their different ways, have been eminent in the field of Irish history: Rt. Rev. Archdeacon John Begley (June 10), Rt. Rev. E. A. D'Alton (Jan. 25), Rev. Dom Louis Gougaud, O.B. (Mar. 24), Rev. L. P. Murray (June 25), and Rev. Paul Walsh (June 18). Begley and D'Alton died full of years, the one aged 79, the other 80; Gougaud was only 65, Murray had just passed his 58th birthday, and Walsh died one day short of his 56th year. All save Father Murray were members of the Irish Historical Society; Father Walsh was closely associated with *Irish Historical Studies* from its inception, and the editors have particular cause to lament his early death. He was one of our leading and most valued contributors, and his last contribution for us is published in the present number.

JOHN BEGLEY (1861-1941) will be remembered as the author of *The diocese of Limerick* (3 vols., 1906-38), which, on the whole, ranks among the few outstanding works on Irish diocesan history (see above, ii. 216-17). Its value is not confined to local history, and its many documents printed in full are especially useful. Fr. Begley was born at Monagea, Newcastle West, co. Limerick, on 1 August 1861. He was ordained in June 1888, and served for a short time in the diocese of Argyle and the Isles. He became canon, parish priest successively of Cappagh (1915), Dromcolloher (1917), Kilmallock (1927) and Bruff (1932), and finally archdeacon and vicar general of his diocese. He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy, and had been president of the Thomond Archaeological Society since soon after its revival in 1929. In 1939 the honorary degree of D.Litt. was conferred on him by the National University of Ireland.

EDWARD ALFRED D'ALTON (1860-1941) was born on 5 November 1860 at Lavallyro, Ballyhaunis, co. Mayo, and died at St. Mary's, Ballinasloe. Ordained in 1887, he was appointed parish priest of Ballinrobe in 1911, and in 1930 dean and vicar-general of Tuam. He was a prolific writer on Irish history and his *History of Ireland* (1st ed. 1908, 3 vols.; illustr. ed. 1910, 6 half-vols., with 2 supplementary vols., 1907-21 (1925)), is probably better known than any similar work of recent years. His other publications include *A history of the archdiocese of Tuam* (1928), *A short history of the parish of Ballinrobe* (1931), 'The Cromwellian settlement of Ireland' (in the *Dublin Review*, cxxxiv (1904)), 'Ireland after the Restoration' (ibid., cxxxvi (1905)), and articles on Irish history in the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*. He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy, and an honorary LL.D. of the Royal University of Ireland. He presented a sum of £500 to Maynooth College for the promotion of Irish historical studies on a scientific basis and continued, until his death, to maintain a deep interest in the subject on which he had written so much.

LOUIS GOUGAUD (1877-1941) was born at Malestroit, in Brittany. Educated at the university of Rennes, he became a Benedictine in 1904, was ordained in 1909, and since 1907 has been a member of the community of St. Michael's, Farnborough. He is best known for his important studies in the early ecclesiastical history of the Celtic-speaking peoples, for which he was awarded the degree of D. Litt. Celt. (*honoris causa*) by the National University of Ireland. His chief work was *Les chretientés celtiques* (1911) which was revised and enlarged for the English translation by Maud Joynt, published in 1932 with the title *Christianity in Celtic lands*. In a later issue of this journal it is intended to include an appreciation of his work in Irish history.

LAURENCE P. MURRAY (1883-1941), who was born at Carlingford, co. Louth, on 8 June 1883, took an active interest in Irish history and antiquities and in the Gaelic revival. He was ordained on 6 January 1910 at St. Thomas's College, St. Paul, Minnesota, where he remained as professor until the summer of 1918. Returning to Ireland, he was curate in Moy, co. Tyrone, until November 1921, subsequently being ecclesiastical inspector for the archdiocese of Armagh, and from November 1937 till his death parish priest of Dunleer, co. Louth. As editor of the *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*—to which he was one of the most prolific contributors¹—he infused much vigour and enthusiasm into the scientific exploration of the history and antiquities of Oriel. His insistence on treating the county of Louth as but part of that historic territory (now roughly represented by the archdiocese of Armagh) shows his clear grasp of the principle, laid down by Professor Eoin MacNeill, that the county, for historical purposes, cannot be regarded as a satisfactory local unit. Fr. Murray's books and MS. collections, at his own request, are being kept together, and arrangements will be made to enable them to be consulted.

PAUL WALSH (1885-1941) was born at Ballinea, Mullingar, on 19 June 1885, entered Maynooth in 1903 and was ordained in 1909. He received the degrees of M.A. in Celtic Studies in 1914 and of D.Litt. (*honoris causa*) in 1941, both from the National University of Ireland. He was successively lecturer in Welsh (1916) and professor of ecclesiastical history (1919-28) in Maynooth, and from 1932 till his death parish priest of Multyfarnham. He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy (1922), of the Irish Manuscripts Commission (1933), of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences (1938) and of the governing board of the School of Celtic Studies in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (1940). His valuable library has been purchased for the diocese of Meath, and is now housed at St. Finan's College, Mullingar. An appreciation and a bibliography of his numerous and manifold writings will appear in a later issue.

THE EDITORS

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¹ See above, i. 219-20; ii. 118-19, 236-7; below, p. 471.