

THE GAELIC LEAGUE.

BALLYVOURNEY FEIS.

The annual Feis, under the auspices of the Ballyvourney Branch of the Gaelic League, was held on Sunday in the spacious hall provided by the generosity of the esteemed president of the Branch, Dr Lynch. The weather was fine, and this perhaps had something to do with the very large attendance. The audience was composed mostly of local people, and this might be accounted for by the fact that the date of the Feis was not as widely announced as it should be. True, the event has become an annual fixture for the opening Sunday in August; but though it usually forms a red letter day in Gaelic annals, the ardour of the local branch should not prevent them from reminding outsiders of the date of the fixture. As it was, indeed, there was a very satisfactory attendance from different parts of the country—Inchigeela, Macroom, Millstreet, etc., and not a few from Branches of the Gaelic League in Dublin, and even London. With regard to the competitions themselves, it need only be said that they were what might be expected in Ballyvourney. The entries in each department were large and the standard of merit attained by the competitors reached the very highest level; indeed, it might be mentioned, that in one competition, the senior singing competition for females, the judges were absolutely unable to decide between the pretensions of six candidates. The traditional singing, too, as usual, formed a very interesting feature of the Feis. The dancing was very creditable all round, but it might be pointed out that only two of the competitors danced a reel, the so-called reels danced by the others being hornpipes danced to reel time. Outside this, the dancing showed all round merit, the performance of the winning four hand reel team being particularly good, though the dancers were mere children. This revival of Irish figure dancing is a most pleasing feature of recent feisianna, and it is to be hoped that as a revival of it has now set in, its progress will be maintained. Mr J S Wayland, of the Irish Pipers' Club, Cork, supplied the music to the dancers, and also played selections on the ancient Irish war pipes during the day. Dr Lynch, the President of the Ballyvourney Branch, presided over the proceedings, and in opening the Feis he addressed those present in Irish. In the course of his remarks he pointed out that the prospect of the revival of the Irish language was at the present day most encouraging and every year saw its resuscitation being effected in every district throughout the country with remarkable rapidity (hear, hear). The Irish people were often the authors of many good acts and works, but unfortunately the fruit went invariably to the foreigners. Now it was time that this phase should be changed, and he thought that the day had now arrived when the people should rouse themselves from this condition of servitude to other countries and nations. The reveille sounded the call to duty, and Irishmen who had the least scintilla of national sentiment should join hands and help to advance the movement for the revival of the language of their country—the redressal of those other grievances that had penned the green below would follow in time (hear, hear). He hoped therefore that all his auditors would take a lesson from the proceedings that were about to follow and endeavour to forward the language as best they could (applause).

Singing—Females (seniors)—Eileen Sheehan, Ballyvourney; Eileen Riordan, Sighle Callaghan, Kate O'Leary, Nora Hoare, and Nora Manning; all equal, it being impossible to decide between them. Also competed—J Manning, W Crowley, D Lynch.

Original Poetry—Humphrey Lynch, Coolca, 1st; D Sheehan, Ballyvourney, 2nd. Also competed—D O'Leary, Inchigeelagh;

Conversation (children under 10 years)—J Cotter, Inchigeelagh, 1st; J O'Leary, Ballyvourney, 2nd. Also competed—Miss J Casey, and Miss Nellie Casey.

Dictation in Irish (juniors under 16)—J Lynch, Ballyvourney, 1st; Julia M'Sweeney, D Murphy, J Cotter, J O'Leary, 2nd. Also competed—W Collins, C Dinneen, J Kelleher.

Story-telling—Maurice Murphy, 1; J Kelleher, 2. Also competed—P Dineen, D Lucey, J Quill, J Shinnick.

Singing—Seniors (males)—Peter Sweeney, Ballyvourney, 1st; J Shinnick, Ballingearry, 2nd. D M'Sweeney commended for special prize. Also competed—M O'Donoghue, D Sheehan, P Horgan, Cork; D Lynch, D Lucey, J Murphy, C O'Shea, J Quill, J Crowley, D O'Connell, P Lucey.

Recitation—Con Desmond, Ballyvourney, 1st; D O'Leary, Inchigeela, 2nd. Also competed—M Kiely, P Horgan, J Quill, D Lynch, D Twomey, W Collins.

Oratory—Only one competed, Con Desmond, Ballyvourney, who was justly awarded a prize for the merit of his effort. The subject chosen by him was card-playing in the country.

Dancing—Reel and jig (juniors)—Eileen Geaney, Cork, 1st; Jeremiah Crowley, Ballyvourney, 2nd; Margaret Lynch, Ballyvourney, special prize. Also competed—John Crowley, Kate Creedon, Mary Creedon.

Reel, Jig and Hornpipe (seniors)—M Kelleher, Cork, 1st; J O'Connell, Ballyvourney, 2nd. Also competed—J Murphy, Ballyvourney; J Lynch, Coolee; J Murphy, Ahaha'a; M Murphy, Kilmichael; Dan Riordan, Kilmamartyra; D Riordan, do.

Four Hand Reel—Masters Jerk Crowley, John Crowley, Misses Margaret Lynch, Mary Carey, Ballyvourney, 1st.

An enjoyable concert was held at night in which most of the prize winners at the Feis and other artistes participated. The Ballyvourney branch are to be congratulated on the success of this year's Feis, the only drawback in which was the time occupied by the competitions, but owing to the large number of entries and the exceptional merit in each section this was unavoidable.