

BALLYVOURNEY FEIS

(FROM OUR REPORTER.)

Macroon, Saturday.

Thanks to the untiring energy of Doctor Lynch, the Gaelic movement has made great progress in Ballyvourney within the last two or three years, and this continued improvement is plainly evident in each succeeding festival. Yesterday's Feis was one of the most encouraging yet held in the district. It was purely local in the fullest sense, both as regards attendance and competitors; but, notwithstanding that there were few people from outside Ballyvourney itself present, there were sufficient people at the Feis to fill the spacious Hall built last year by Dr. Lynch. This clearly indicates that the people of the district take a lively interest in the work of the Gaelic League, and that they are beginning to realise the importance of the issues involved in the success or failure of the language movement. During the past twelve months the progress has been more marked than in any previous period. The language is now taught in the schools of the parish, and the people are thus made aware of its educational value. While Irish continued to be but the language of a few houses in a mountainous district, and to have no place in the life of the community outside this, it was hard to convince Irish-speaking people of its utility, but the altered attitude of the educational authorities and the Local Public Board has given a new complexion to the language movement for the people in this district. It has shown them that the language may become—and in a short time, too—more than the language of a few households in the South and West of Ireland, but that it will be a prized National inheritance, spoken and used for every-day purposes in business, social intercourse, and literary work; and that as a natural consequence the Irish language will be of value to their children. Dr. Lynch, in his interesting speech in opening the proceedings, dwelt on this point, and urged the people to use Irish when speaking to their children, and let the schoolmaster teach the English. There were seven competitions altogether at the Feis, and next people would like to have seen another added to test the children's knowledge of Irish. Those children's competitions are really the most interesting part of the Gaelic Feiseanna, and in the programme of the August Festival at Ballyvourney the little ones will not be forgotten. The merit of the competitions was high, and two excellent pieces of original poetry were sent in.

The adjudicators were:—Messrs. John O'Leary, N.T. (Clondrohed); J. O'Riordan (Cork) P. Crowley (Macroon), T. O'Riordan (Ballyvourney), T. O'Scannell, N.T. (Ballingearry), Miss O'Reilly, Miss Mary O'Shea (Macroon), C. P. Lynch, John Lynch, and M. O'Riordan, Cork.

The Chairman delivered the following address—
 —A cúlraibí í b'fáil rangaí, cuimhíomhaíob na
 gcóir míle fáilte go feir. Saoblae Baile-
 múirne, 'fir ácaí mór liom go bfuil ré ar mo
 cumar a inriúe uib go bfuilmio. Tar éir uib
 céim mór ar acaíe ó'n ucaca go anuraid.
 Cairbeánann na níote vo curceamar cum cum
 nar uacamar an oircao ir don céim amáin ar
 gcúl, aec buiocear le dia vo cuacómarí geac
 gcéimeanna cum corais. Tá camall ó foin
 agur go veimín dí ar rgoileanna neam-fuim-
 eamail go leóir. Gcúir na teanga, aec anoir ir
 mór an t-acóiríúca tá tar éir ceacé oirca.
 Tá'n gaeóilge dá múinead inr gac uile ceann
 acu, ir má ceartuigeann uainn coraó o'rágail
 ar ár raocair, ní mór o'áitíreacá ir vo máit-
 peacá clairne, a gcionn féin vo'n obair vo
 ucanam ra baile. Ir beag an cairbe vo páiróí
 beic a rógluim gaeóilge. Ar rgoil mar a lab-
 maíó a muintir leo ran mbaile i. Ir mór an
 náire vo uacine beic a labairt o'poc-uacail
 le leandai óga, nuair tá teanga eile aco a
 b'fáil moí ceólmairíe agur níer binne. Má
 rógluimígean na leandai an gaeóilge ra baile
 ní'í don baogal go uéanraio ríao uacmar
 uirte nuair r'arfaio ruar. Má caicimio uainn
 an oirpeacé ro, cau a beir agurim le cairbeacé
 vo'n r'arfaio r'ar gup éirceannais rinn. Paríor!
 ní beic aon níó, agur rín é an cúir go bfuilmio
 a noiu r'garíúge ar ruar an uoman. Má
 tógaimio ruar an obair ro go r'pioraídeamail
 arir cum ar uacanga vo raoraó ó'n mbár,
 eúfir go mbeio a malairt vo r'geal ag an
 oircaó ro. Níer naireac vo gac boiu puib-
 lice aicir vo ucanam ar uóiu na mbacé i
 ma'gcomua agur a n'gúo vo ucanam i n'gaeó-
 ilge mar a uéineacair ran camall ó foin, ir tá
 uóicéar agam go leandai ríao vo'n obair. Ar
 an gcuma ceatna vo uéicraó ré vo cairbe na
 n'gaeóilge dá labairt na uacine i ra maríge
 inr na r'póiríó, agur i n'gac aon ball eile in a
 mbeioeac gúá acu dá ucanam.

The following are the awards:—

Solo Singing (Males).—1st, John Shennick, Ballingearry; 2nd, Peter M'Sweeney, Ballyvourney; highly commended, Daniel Sheehan and John Crowley, Ballyvourney. The judges recommended Michael Murphy, junr., for a special prize. There were nine competitors.

Solo Singing (Females).—1st, Ellen Riordan, Ballyvourney; 2nd, Nora —, Inchigeela. Four competed.

Recitations.—1st, Con Desmond, Ballyvourney; 2nd, John O'Neill, do. The adjudicators recommended John Sheehan for a special prize. There were five competitors.

Story-telling.—C. Desmond, 1st; T. Duncan, Coolea, 2nd. Four competed.

Oratory.—C. Desmond, Ballyvourney, was the only competitor. He was awarded the prize.

Pipe-playing.—John Crowley, Ballyvourney, 1st; M. Cronin, Ballymakeera, 2nd; D. O'Connell, highly commended. Six competitors.

Original Irish Song.—C. Desmond, 1st; H. Lynch, 2nd.

Four Hand Reel.—J. Crowley, John Crowley, Margaret Lynch, and Mary Casey, 1st; Daniel Sheehan, Peter M'Sweeney, Kate Lynch, and Hanna Twomey, 2nd.

Reel, Jig, and Hornpipe.—Jerh. Crowley, Ballymakeera, 1st; M. Murphy and J. O'Connell tied for second prize.

In the evening a very entertaining "Cuimh Ceoil" was held, at which the prize-winners and others contributed.