

## TO THE EDITOR CORK COUNTY EAGLE.

Dear Sir,—The demise of Dr. Lynch has created a vacancy for an M.D. in the Ballyvourney district. Dr. Lynch was a fluent Irish speaker, like the vast majority of his clients. Not only did he speak the language but he helped it in every possible way he could and encouraged its use among the people. This love of his own tongue was coupled with a love for his own country and his own people, and Dr. Lynch was whole-heartedly devoted to both. The Ballyvourney people loved him because he loved them, and was their benefactor in a thousands ways. To show their appreciation of his kindness and patriotism, the people have decided that his successor must be a man possessed of at least one of Dr. Lynch's qualities—he must know his native language, he must be able to speak Irish. This determination of the people has been publicly made known, and we are anxiously waiting to see what weight public opinion will have with the Guardians whose duty it is to select a successor to Dr. Lynch. *Vox populo, vox Dei,* says the adage. I wonder will the Macroom Guardians think that "the people's voice is God's voice?" Will they remember that they have been elected by the people to carry out the people's known wishes? Will they, in the present instance, appoint to the Ballyvourney dispensary district a doctor who is able to speak Irish and nobody else? If they did not they are going against the known wishes of the people, and allowing politics, the interests of their friends, or some other low motive to influence them in the accomplishment of their duty to their electors and their country. What is the use of talking of foreign oppression, if, when occasion allows, the representatives of the people oppress their electors at home, ignoring their wants and wishes? What signifies talking about Home Rule if the partial freedom granted to us is suppressed by our local bodies, and if the power of the latter is used in contradiction with the desires of the public. A poet has said, "A people's will is mightier than the sea." I hope that is true of the Ballyvourney people's will, and that they will succeed in overcoming any difficulty that may stand in the way in getting an Irish speaking successor to Dr. Lynch. Dr. Lynch's spirit would never rest: his bones would rattle in his grave, if his beloved Ballyvourney district and his grateful Ballyvourney people were handed over to a man ignorant of the Irish language, incapable of conversing with the people in their own tongue, of understanding their needs, of being a really useful man in the district. A doctor who cannot speak Irish if appointed to Ballyvourney, or in any other Irish speaking district, loses most of his usefulness, and the whole confidence of the people. Why then should the ratepayers be asked to throw away their money by paying an English-speaking doctor who is not fitly qualified to take up the position since he can neither understand the language of a vast number of his patients nor make himself understood by them. To appoint any but a Gaelic speaker would be to subvert the laws of justice to the ratepayers, to ignore the wants and claims of the public: to prove utterly ungrateful and insulting to the benevolent and much regretted Dr. Lynch, and to lose one of the first opportunities of giving preference to him who knows his own language over the man who speaks any English. People of Ballyvourney, stick to your rights and to Dr. Lynch. Continue to proclaim that you want none but an Irish speaking physician, and the Macroom Guardians, who are not void of common sense nor of patriotism will give an example to all Ireland by insisting on a spoken knowledge of Irish from the doctor they will appoint to serve you. Let, therefore, all candidates for the position, who cannot speak Irish, be disqualified *ipso facto*, and let the most fluent Irish speaker of the others be appointed to the Ballyvourney district. Such is the will of the Ballyvourney public, such is the duty of the Macroom Guardians. We hope such will be the result of the voting when the day comes.

"ROISIN DUB."