

would submit that, even from the point of view of efficiency, it is essential that a medical officer should know the language of his patients. There are many things which a patient (male or female) may have to explain to a medical adviser, and which it would be unfair and cruel to oblige him or her to do through the medium of an interpreter.

I have been looking at this matter from the point of view of efficiency and justice to the Irish speaker, but I expect that the Nationalist Guardians of Macroom, while of course paying all due regard to professional qualifications, will furthermore look on the matter from the view-point of patriotic Irishmen, and will consider it a national duty to elect an officer who shall have a competent knowledge of their national language.—Yours truly,

P. O'DALAIGH,

General Secretary of the Gaelic League.

An Coiste Gnotha,

Dublin, 8th Jan., 1914.

IRISH AND A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT.

To the Editor of the Freeman's Journal.

Sir—A medical officer is soon to be appointed for the Slievareagh District of the Macroom Union. According to the last Census we find that out of a population of 4,310 in the Slievareagh Dispensary District 3,399 are Irish speakers. The late medical officer, the lamented Dr. Lynch, of Ballyvourney, was a fluent speaker of Irish and a well-known Irish scholar. Ballyvourney itself is in the centre of the Slievareagh district, and is known to Gaels the world over as perhaps the most Irish spot in Ireland. For this reason thousands of Irishmen at home and abroad are taking the keenest interest in the coming election. As to the professional qualifications of the candidates for the position I, of course, have nothing to say. That is entirely a matter for the Guardians themselves. But I