

MACROOM

DEFEATED, BUT—

It need scarcely be reiterated at this hour that the proud boast of this community is that it has always stood in the van of progress. In military achievement we have set up some stunning headlines. In political exploits we have reached summits believed to be inaccessible. Occasionally, too, the sagacity of our industrial magnates has attracted considerable attention, while art has its votaries amongst us. But other towns are envious of us. They strive to snatch honours from us when they can. For instance the pride and honour belonged to Macroom of having set a national headline as to the price of coffins in this country. For it is remembered that in the days of the Board of Guardians, when Macroom had a workhouse duly inhabited, the custom prevailed of contracting for the supply of coffins to the institution, and on one occasion the Guardians were startled to find a tender from a local contractor offering to supply children's coffins at twopence each. Now that headline stood for many years, but, alas, a few days ago we find a gentleman from Kilrush tendering to the Clare County Board of Public Health for the supply of medium-sized coffins at absolutely no charge whatever. The secretary of the Board pointed out that only large and small coffins were used and that the medium size was rarely required, and the offer to supply them free of charge, while charging a substantial sum for the large and small, was intended to impress the Board with a sense of his generosity. But there were other tenders for the large and small which proved to be more attractive than this man's and were duly accepted. However, finding nothing more tempting in the way of a tender for the medium-sized suits than that of our friend, who offered to supply them for nothing, the Board decided to accept his terms. The man from Kilrush has beaten us, but he certainly did not get away with the bluff, so his honour is a barren one.



OUR CAPITAL.

Some months ago the Gaelic League and Chamber of Commerce in Galway conferred with a view to making that city the Gaelic capital of Ireland. The suggestion implies or presumes that there is not in existence already a Gaelic capital in this country. Can it be possible that the people of Galway never heard of Ballyvourney, which, some years ago, was universally acclaimed the capital of Irish Ireland? Can it be that Ballyvourney has faded out of the picture that gave the nation the inspiration of Gaelic thought and culture, or was it just that the lead of one strong man, one great Gaelic enthusiast and scholar, the late Dr. Lynch, placed Ballyvourney prominently under the public eye and gained for the children of St. Gobnait a fame that they did not really deserve. In the early and vigorous days of the Gaelic League Dr. Lynch, who was a medical officer in the Ballyvourney district, was a tower of strength to the language movement and his presence at the Ard Fheis in Dublin which he attended regularly was regarded as something like the visit of a Southern Prince. He was the link between Ballyvourney and Dublin and his advice and guidance were esteemed by the assembled delegates. He spoke to them of the Gaelic wealth of Ballyvourney, of the treasures of folklore that were to be found there, of the literary gifts possessed by the natives who spoke the Irish language chiefly. He conceived the idea that village industries were essential to keep the young people at home, and that everything possible should be done to prevent the disintegration of the gaeltacht. He started a hosiery factory and gave employment to a large number of young girls, and in a number of ways he won a distinction for Ballyvourney that obtained a silent vote from the people acknowledging it the capital of Ireland. There is nobody to keep the name before the nation to-day, hence the people of Galway are making a supreme effort to establish in fact what Ballyvourney is only by repute.



WINTER DAIRYING.

The government scheme for the organisation of the Dairying industry on co-operative lines cannot fail to win the ap