

# DEAN O'BRIEN'S GREATEST BOOK

## Based On Famous Limerick Retreat

### TRIBUTE TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS

WHAT is described as the greatest book written by Dean O'Brien, the great Limerick priest who founded the C.Y.M.S., was based on a famous Retreat given by him to the Sisters of Mercy in Limerick City. It is entitled "An Eight Day Retreat for Religious," and extends to 342 pages. This important work and the story of how it came to be written is the subject of the subjoined special article from the pen of Mr. M. J. Egan, Dublin, who has just written a very valuable full-length Life of the Dean. In a tribute to the religious orders and their influence in combating materialism, Dean O'Brien, in the work mentioned, says:—"The salvation of our land, perhaps the hope of many another, is the Active Orders of Ireland." The following is Mr. Egan's article in full:—

DEAN O'BRIEN is the author of a book (342 pp.) entitled "An Eight Day Retreat for Religious." It is modelled on a retreat he gave in the month of August, 1848, to the Sisters of Mercy, Limerick, and it was not published until 1868, so that it was some twenty years in preparation. It bears all the appearance of long and careful study, and is, without doubt, the Dean's greatest book, in which we see his own deep spirituality clearly mirrored. It places him in the front rank of the great spiritual writers of the Church. We are only getting to know the Dean. Leading such an active life, one would never suspect that he was a great contemplative, and yet he was. He is another example of the seeming paradox that the contemplatives are often the most active men, and the most successful in their undertakings. Above the lower atmosphere of cloud and storm lies the startosphere—calm and cloudless.

**THE THINGS OF GOD.**  
So, above this world of strife and war lies the calm region of changeless peace—the region of God and His Kingdom. In that upper world, many holy men and women, while still on earth, have lived in spirit, rising on the height of their being above the world's shifting and insecure fortunes—its sin and its sorrow. From this higher world they have brought messages of strength and comfort to their people, bidding them, if but for a time, to ascend with them to God and His Peace. Such a one was the Dean. A diligent student of the supreme science, he pursued knowledge, not as an end in itself, but as an open sesame that admits the mind into a world which, to his lively faith, was incomparably more real than the solid earth he trod. Even as he delighted in the study of the things of God, so was he ever anxious to share with others the fruit of his contemplation. He preached with fervour and unction that bespoke the habit of clear thinking, and the habitual contemplation of the things of the spirit.

#### PRESENTED TO BISHOP BUTLER.

Very little is known by the reading public about the "Eight Day Retreat for Religious." Dean O'Brien tells us in the preface that the work was undertaken because he believed it was needed, and because of a promise made to one or two, now no more, who were deeply interested in some such publication, and whom the author respected and revered. It was written only for religious and for the clergy, and so did not circulate among the laity. This accounts for the difficulty in getting a copy at the present day. The writer has searched the National Library, but it is not there. He is indebted to the kindness of a Limerick priest for the copy now being used by him. Incidentally, we may mention that it is a copy, beautifully bound, presented by the Dean to Dr. Butler, Bishop of Limerick. Inscribed on the fly-leaf is a tribute in Latin to the Bishop, signed thus:—  
"Ric. Bap. O'Brien,  
Author of this humble book (translation)  
To the Most Illustrious and Most Reverend George, Bishop of Limerick, 1868."

The writing is neat and legible. We may note in passing that Dr. Butler was a fellow student at Mass...

# EXTENSIVE TOUR Visitors From U.S.A.

## AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE

DR. CHARLES ELTON AYERS, Surgeon and Orthopaedist Specialist, Worcester, Mass., U.S.A., whose mother left Elton, Co. Limerick, for U.S.A. about 50 years ago (writes our Kilfinane correspondent) has just concluded a short holiday with his first cousins, Mr. W. T. Crowley, Main St., Tipperary, and Mr. D. J. Crowley, Main St., Kilfinane, and returned to U.S.A. from Cobh last Sunday. Dr. Ayers is one of the best known authorities in Orthopaedist Surgery in U.S.A.

Before landing in Ireland Dr. Ayers, accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, who is President of the Massachusetts Women's Auxiliary Medical Society, and also their two daughters, the Misses Dorothy and Margaret, who have just concluded a year's study in fine arts in Italy, made an extensive tour of all European countries. Dr. Helen Graf, U.S.A., also accompanied them.

**AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE.**  
While in Europe the party had an audience with His Holiness the Pope, and were much impressed by his simpleness and the great interest he took in the welfare of the human race.

The food on the Continent, they said, was plentiful, but the various dishes were cooked and presented in such a manner that it was difficult to recognise the ingredients. Travelling by plane or train did not present any difficulty, except at night, when officials entered the sleeping compartments at about two hour intervals and inspected and searched personal property at country borders.

While in Ireland the party were the guests of Mr. D. Crowley, Kilfinane, and Mr. W. Crowley, Tipperary, who motored them to the beauty spots of Ireland. They also had an interview with Dr. N. Browne, Minister for Health.

During the early part of this year at the Massachusetts Medical Society meeting, the Physicians' Art Association staged a show in oils, colours and other art. Dr. Ayers exhibited three pictures—"Damariscota Lakes," "Mill Dam Head Tide," and "Tug Seguin"—which attracted much attention and won prizes at Chicago and San Francisco.

**A FINE HOBBY.**  
Dr. Ayers says that painting or wood-carving or sketching is a fine hobby and one of the best ways to relax. He advises anybody interested to start early in life. The beauty of painting as a hobby is that when at it the person concentrates so that none of his troubles bothers him, and perspire as much over a landscape as a man working a spade and shovel. The hobby is physical as well as mental labour.

#### THEY "DISAPPEARED."

According to a United Press message, thirteen Western Berlin journalists have "disappeared" in the Russian zone of Germany during the past two years.

tions which she has left to the Church in Limerick attended to by over seventy nuns who are models of religious life and saintly sacrifice. She never ceased active thought and her thoughts were all forecasting and comprehensive. She has all the quiet enthusiasm of faith and love, and the calculating prudence that made great enthusiasm great virtue. Those who witnessed her death, after having herself summoned the Sisters, as she said, "to see how a nun can die," envied while they mourned her."

Dean O'Brien was a watchman—vigilant and tireless—on the towers of Israel. A man before his time, he saw the incoming tide of materialism and a spurious civilization. This is what he says: "According as the necessities and resources of Ireland develop themselves, God seems sending to us the Religious Orders to meet the pleas of a newborn materialism and the challenge of a spurious civilization. Ireland will be found equal to the crisis and victorious in the combat, and her mental power and moral elevation will be the work of our blessed Religious Orders."

#### BLIND PASSION AND BLIND PRIDE.

"Half Europe is whirled around in blind passion and blind pride. Both the one and the other got the ultimate resolution of their effects in confusion and disruption, and they change form every day. Religion is invariable, and watches society from this Western Island, believing that the time of a grand mission is coming. The salvation of our land, perhaps the hope of many another, is the Active Orders of Ireland."

Prophetic words! Note that the

# TEACHER AND SOLDIER

## The Late Captain P. Hayes

On Sunday, June 26th, was laid to rest in his native Limerick, the late Captain Patrick Hayes, Commanding Officer of the Adare Battalion, F.C.A. (writes our Adare correspondent). As teacher and citizen soldier, he was a man who was widely known and well loved. He had been principal teacher of Patrickswell National School and was a former Chairman of Limerick Branch of the I.N.T.O. He had represented the Limerick teachers on many congresses and took an active part in the Irish revival movement. During his all too short career, he had great achievements to his credit, and the recognition of his great qualities was testified to at the removal of his remains to Raheen Church on Saturday evening, 25th ult., and again at his funeral to Mount St. Laurence next day.

On the Saturday evening his remains were met at the outskirts of Limerick on their arrival from Dublin, where he died, and his coffin, covered by the Tri-colour, headed by the Pipe Band of the 12th Battalion, and followed by a great concourse, passed slowly and solemnly through the city to Raheen.

On the Sunday, his remains were borne from the Church on the shoulders of his teacher comrades to the waiting hearse, and headed by his own Battalion Pipe Band, and an escort of his own comrades, the funeral procession slowly made its way back to Mount St. Laurence Cemetery, where the final military compliments were paid.

#### MILITARY OFFICERS.

Amongst the many military officers present were: Lieut. Col. Halpin, representing O/C Southern Command; Lieut. Col. Barry, Officer I/C F.C.A., Southern Command; Capt. W. Aherne, representing Director F.C.A.; Capt. P. O'Callaghan, representing Limerick Area, F.C.A.; Capt. M. Breen, representing O/C 12th Battalion; Capt. T. O'Neill, Assistant Area Officer, Clare Area, F.C.A.; Lieut. D. P. Jones, O/C Adare Battalion, F.C.A.; Capt. M. O'Malley, O/C Nenagh Battalion, F.C.A.; Capt. K. Larkin, O/C 49th Battalion, F.C.A.; Capt. M. Burke, O/C Newcastle West Battalion, F.C.A.; Capt. G. Moloney, O/C Ennis Battalion, F.C.A.; Capt. Parker, Lieut. South, Ryan, O'Donnell, etc.

The officiating clergy were:—Very Rev. E. Punch, P.P., Mungret; Rev. M. Kennedy, C.C., Mungret; Rev. Father Bluett, C.C., Clarina; Rev. M. Connolly, C.C., Granagh.

Chief mourners:—May (wife); Evelyn and Marion (daughters); father, mother, Nellie (sister); Liam, Noel and Gerard (brothers); May Hayes and Margaret, Hayes (sisters-in-law); Joseph, John and Michael Nunan (brothers-in-law); Tom, Nellie and Bernice Nunan, James and Sheila Nunan, Mrs. Conway (aunt); Pat, Mick, Joe, Jimmy and Edmund Conway (cousins); Mr. and Mrs. Butler, Michael, Lawrence and Patrick O'Brien (cousins); Mrs. and Pat McInerney (Cratloe); Mr. and Mrs. James Larkin, Tom and Mrs. O'Connell, Mr. Nicholson, John and Mrs. Murphy, Kathleen and Mary Byrnes, Mary McCarthy, George, Tony and Patrick Clancy, Michael Griffin.

Amongst those who attended in addition to the military officers mentioned above were:—Mr. J. Mansfield, President, I.N.T.O.; Mr. D. O'Brian, T.D.; Mr. D. Downing, Inspector of National Schools.

#### MASS CARDS.

Mass Cards were sent by the following:—May, Evelyn and Marion, father and mother, Novena of Masses from Limerick City I.N.T.O., Dundon family, Patrickswell; Seamus and Francis O'Kelly, George and Chrissie O'Riordan, Tom and Lily Walsh, Terence, Katherine and Sean Maguire, Burke family, Henry St.; May and Liam Hayes, Uncle Tom and family, Ardferit; Sean Walsh and family, Raheen; Kitty and Geraldine McCarthy, Sheehan family, Edward St.; Mark and Mary O'Donnell, Galligan family, Tervoe; Dr. and Mrs. Brennan and family, Ennis Batt., F.C.A.; Liam Fraher, Mudge Godfrey, New St.; Capt. M. de Burca, Newcastle West; O'Connell family, Islandbridge;

# LIMERICK I.N.T.O.

## City And Rathkeale Branches

THE quarterly meeting of the Limerick City Branch, I.N.T.O., was held at the Mechanics' Institute on Saturday, July 16th. Mr. S. F. Walsh presided.

Many members joined in paying tribute to their former Chairman, Mr. Paddy Hayes. The Chairman congratulated the members on their very representative attendance at the funeral. He thanked their President for coming to pay a last tribute to their late colleague.

#### SALARY POSITION.

A long discussion on the salary position took place.

The following resolutions were passed:—

- (1) "That we demand that the Government implement the findings of the Roe Commission immediately."
- (2) "That we call on the C.E.C. to press the Government to fulfil the promises made to the teachers at the last general election."

#### DERMOT GEANEY, Sec.

#### RATHKEALE BRANCH.

At the quarterly meeting of Rathkeale Branch, I.N.T.O., held in Rathkeale Library on July the 9th, the following resolution was passed:—

"That we call on the Government to implement immediately the findings of the Roe Commission, and make all increases in teachers' salaries retrospective to April 1st, 1948."

- Jack and Molly Nunan, Kilkenny; Askeaton Batt., F.C.A.; P. O'Shea, N.T., Borrignone; Patrickswell Batt., F.C.A.; the Shinnars family, Lighthouse Cross; Mrs. Boland and son, Mary O'Leary, Nunan family, Newtownsandes; McDermott family, Patrickswell; Gearoid O hAodha, Croom; the Beggan family, Patrickswell; Mackey family, pupils of Patrickswell National School, Mulqueen family, Greenmount; Capt. Cregan, Hanratty's Hotel; Gilbert and Eily Kenny, Kilbehenny; Mrs. Clancy and family, Grange; Mrs. and Donal O'Riordan, Thomas and Mrs. O'Byrne, Jack and Lil Costello and mother, May Ryan and Sheila O'Riordan, Margaret Hayes, Tuam; Gillane family, Tom and Kathleen Moloney, Lee family, Mal-low St.; Paddy and May O'Riordan, McInerney family, Grange; Michael and Molly McCarthy, Lansdowne; Brian O'Shea, Sexton St.; Matty Ryan, Rita, Nora and Lily Ryan, Ben and Catherine Ryan, Mary, Winnie and Annie Ryan, Mudge Lebane, Tuohy family, Patrickswell; Frank O'Dowd, Fox's Hotel; Jim, Toby and Pat, Grange; Limerick Chess Club, Josie Donegan, Murphy family, Station House; Nora and Michael Gleeson, Paddy and Della Mangan, Sister Carmel, Presentation Convent; Eugene and K. McKenna, Jim and Josie Cross, Ballyneety; Pat and Anna Downes, Mary, Kate and Anna Mangan, Mav and Mary O'Brien, M. B. O'Brien, Joe, Annie and Mary Mann, Patrickswell Tennis Club; Capt. P. O'Callaghan, Eily and George Tighe, Nellie, Noel and Gerard; Mr. and Mrs. Cross and family, Capt. and Mrs. Aherne, Denis and Annie Jones, Askeaton; the Coleman family, Limerick; Mick and Maureen O'Brien, "Kleinberg"; Gerard Hayes, Cre-cora; Geaney family, Mungret; Pat and Francis Costello, Mary and Patsy Heffernan, James and Stasia Bowman, Kevin and Ursula O'Sullivan, Sarah Hegarty, Fedamore; Sergeant and Mrs. O'Farrell, Farranshane; pupils of Lurriga N. S.; Tadhg O Kelly and a Bhean, Mrs. and Maise Kennedy, Primary Staff, Christian Brothers Schools, Sexton St. (2 Masses); teachers of St. John's N.S.; Michael White, Provincial Bank, Dublin; the Graham children, Patrickswell; Frank Murphy, Station House; Patrickswell Hurling Club, Nicholson family, Tuam; Staff of O'Mahony and Co.; Redmond and Cissy Walsh, Mrs. and S. Tighe, K. Walsh and N. Crowe, Henry Byrnes and family, Mungret; James and Sheila Nunan, Dublin; Mary and Kathleen Byrne, Stillorgan; Mr. and Mrs. P. Kinnane, Dun Laoghaire; Rev. M. Tynan, C.C.; Mary McCarthy, Maurice and Kathleen O'Riordan, London; Patrick O'Dowd, Carlow; Mrs. Lynch, Barnakyle; Nora Sheahan, Tom Rynne, George Lynch.

