Review

Source: *The Celtic Review*, Vol. 9, No. 35 (Jan., 1914), pp. 259-260

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Leche 'the physician,' as is believed in gratitude for the services rendered on this occasion. Be that as it may, the Gaelic physicians in Ireland and Scotland made translations of the principal medical treatises in use throughout Europe in the middle ages, and the number of such manuscripts now stored in the Advocates' Library and elsewhere in this city are an abiding proof of the learning and zeal of these men.

Perhaps enough has been said to show that if the Lowland Scot had studied his neighbour's language, literature and institutions he might have written his histories of Scotland in a different spirit, and have added an interesting chapter or two to his story.

BOOK REVIEWS

Zur Keltischen Wortkunde IV. KUNO MEYER.

In this continuation (No. 59 to No. 76) of his valuable notes contributed to the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences, Professor Kuno Meyer deals with O. Ir. agent-terms in *-em*; Ir. *accrích*; *accal*; Gaulish *Corobilium* (Ir. *corr-bile*); Ir. *cadla*; Gael *long-phort* in place-names; Ir. *faenic*, 'Phœnix'; Ir. *Benn-chor*; Cym. *Ban-gor*; O. Ir. *Alpe*, Great Britain (*Alba*); traces of dialect in O. Ir.; Ir. *-irne* in personal names; grammatical terminology in O. Ir.; Ir. *crëdem*, gnaw; Gaul. *Conginna*, a woman's name (Ir. *Congenn*); Gaul. *Viro-cantus* (Ir. *Fer-chète*); O. Ir. *riched* (**rigo-sedon*); 'ghost-names' (Unnamen) of persons occurring in the first fasciculus of the new Irish Dictionary; O. Ir. *rëtaire* (reader; A. S. *rædere*).

Longphort is a compound of *long*, ship, and *port*, harbour, place, both of which Professor Meyer regards as loans from Latin. Ptolemy's river Δόγγος, Norse *Skipafjörðr* (ship-firth), now Loch Long, suggests that the loan, if it is a loan, was taken into Celtic at a very early period. In Ireland *longphort* becomes Longford in English. In Scotland there is, as Professor Meyer states, no Longford. There is, however, Longformacus, c. 1340 Langeford Makhous (Johnston). Zimmer connects the Irish Longfords with Viking influence, and Professor Meyer refers to Luncarty, Perth, the scene of a defeat of the Danes in 990 A.D. Though *longphort* does not take the form Longford in Scotland, the term occurs frequently in other forms, as was pointed out in *Place-Names of Ross and Cromarty* and elsewhere. The list of them from *Am Faslaghart* (foslongphort), in Sutherland, southwards would be fairly long. The term, however, seems to occur very rarely, if at all, in the Western Isles, and on the mainland it is usually found well inland.

For the meaning attached to it in the seventeenth century, see *Celtic Review*, ix. 159. The second part of *Benn-chor* is equated with *cor* (from *cuir*, place). seen also in *cleth-chor*, 'a row of stakes' (cf. *buachar*). Thus *Benn-chor* would mean 'a row of points or peaks, hill-peaks or rock-peaks, spikes, battlements. It is common in Scottish topography (v. *Celtic Review*, v. 339). No. 75, on 'ghost-names,' i.e. names that are no names, will be read with special interest.

An Tredraiche, Leabhran Sgoil a chum Feum na Cloinne le Calum Mac Pharlain.

Third Edition. Stirling: Eneas Mackay. 40 pp. 3d.

Dàin Thaghte a chum Feum an Sgoilean na Gaidhealtachd: fo Ughdarras a' Chomwinn Ghaidhealaich. Stirling: Eneas Mackay. 47 pp. 3d.

An Comh-thrèoraiche, Leabhran Sgoil le Calum Mac Pharlain. Stirling: Eneas Mackay. 64 pp. 6d.

Companach na Cloinne, Leabhran Sgoil le Iain Mac Phaidein fo Làimh Chalum Mhic Pharlain. Stirling: Eneas Mackay. 86 pp. 6d.

Uilleam Uallas, Iain Knox agus Rob Ruadh le Eachann Mac Gill-Eathain fo Làimh Chalum Mhic Pharlain. Stirling: Eneas Mackay. 116 pp. 1s.

We have pleasure in drawing attention to the above series of books intended for use in schools. The two first mentioned, *an Tredraiche* and *Dàin Thaghte* are well known, and, we believe, are used in most of the schools—regrettably few in number—where Gaelic is taught. The third and fourth on the list, *An Comh-thrèoraiche* and *Companach na Cloinne* are equally deserving of recognition. They are beautifully printed, though not always perfectly machined, and misprints are few. Still better, the spelling is on sound principles, and, so far as we have noticed, it is consistent with itself. The editor generally observes the rule, which may be recommended to all who write Gaelic, of avoiding unnecessary contractions. This simple rule, if carried out in its fulness, has the effect at once of greatly reducing the number of apostrophes and also of adding to the clearness and intelligibility of the text. Thus, for instance, it is always better, in prose, to write *an uair* than *'n uair*, *anns a' bheinn* than *'s 'a bheinn*, *fhreagair e* is *thuir e* than *fhreagair e 's thuir e*. Equally praiseworthy is the avoidance of the provincialisms and dialectic forms which disfigure the pages of too many Gaelic writers. The use of such, except of course, when the writer aims at reproducing dialect as dialect, is usually an indication rather of illiteracy than of independence. The aim of all who write Gaelic for ordinary literary purposes should be to adhere in all respects to the literary standard, as is done in these books.

The subject-matter of *An Tredraiche*, *An Comh-thrèoraiche*, and *Companach na Cloinne* is for the most part original. The books do not err on the side of ease in respect of language, nor indeed in respect of thought. It is difficult to appraise exactly the quality of a school book without having actually used it, but we incline to think that both *An Tredraiche* and *An Comh-thrèoraiche* attempt rather too much in vocabulary to be quite suitable for