

## Gadelica: A Journal of Modern Irish Studies

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Review

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in the original, which is in fact simple colloquial Welsh, with only five riming syllables. Torna's version, which requires an archaic pronunciation, has four glosses to the four lines, and sixteen riming syllables! A good deal of the book is written in the style of a period a little too early for the scope of GADELICA. I should recommend the reader who is unaccustomed to the poetry of the earlier bardic schools to begin at the end of the book, where he will find some pretty translations of modern Welsh songs.

O. J. BERGIN.

IRISLEABHAR MUIGHE NUADHAD, 1912. Dublin: M. H. Gill & Son. 1s.

The annual *Irisleabhar* issued by the Columban League, Maynooth, is always welcome; and this year's number, like its predecessors, is remarkably good value for a shilling.

Father Paul Walsh contributes a new edition of the poem *Diombdigh triall ó thulchaibh Fáil*, and sets a good example, which should be generally followed, in not basing his text solely upon the College MSS. Two other texts from MS. are *Eachtra Chlainne Ua gCorra*, hitherto known from Stokes's edition, and *Beatha St. Tomás Chantarbuiri*, a text not previously edited. Neither of the two can be said to possess much value. The former text is a jumble of old and new forms, of corruptions, misspellings and misprints. Not that the fault is wholly its editor's; it is not easy to edit satisfactorily from very late MSS. a Mid. Ir. text which has never been drawn into the main stream of modern MS. literature. The Life of St. Thomas, which would be interesting if properly edited, is printed from a couple of 19th century MSS. without introduction or notes or even an attempt to paragraph the text.

Folklore is represented by a few short pieces from Donegal. One would like to see folk matter occupying a more prominent place in the Maynooth journal than hitherto. A text copied from a poor MS. is often worthless; but versions of folk-tales and folk-songs, conscientiously recorded, seldom fail to possess a certain value, and would moreover tend to an increased familiarity with the living speech, which to a majority of Maynooth students should be more useful in after years than the ability to transcribe from more or less antiquated MSS.

One would also like to see more attempts like *An Aisling i bhFíliúheacht na hOchtmhadh Aoise Déag*; there is crying need for the treatment of literary subjects in Irish.

An article in English on "Irish Spelling Reformed" calls for a passing reference. The writer's attitude is one of hide-bound conservatism. His case is mainly built on parallels drawn, not from Welsh or from Scotch-Gaelic, but from German and English, and consequently beside the point. He has yet to realise that the great argument in favour of ordinary type for Irish and improved spelling, is the simple fact that the language is in a dying condition. Had Irish even the one-twentieth part of the vitality of German or English, there would be no talk of reform and comparatively little need of it.

T. F. O'R.