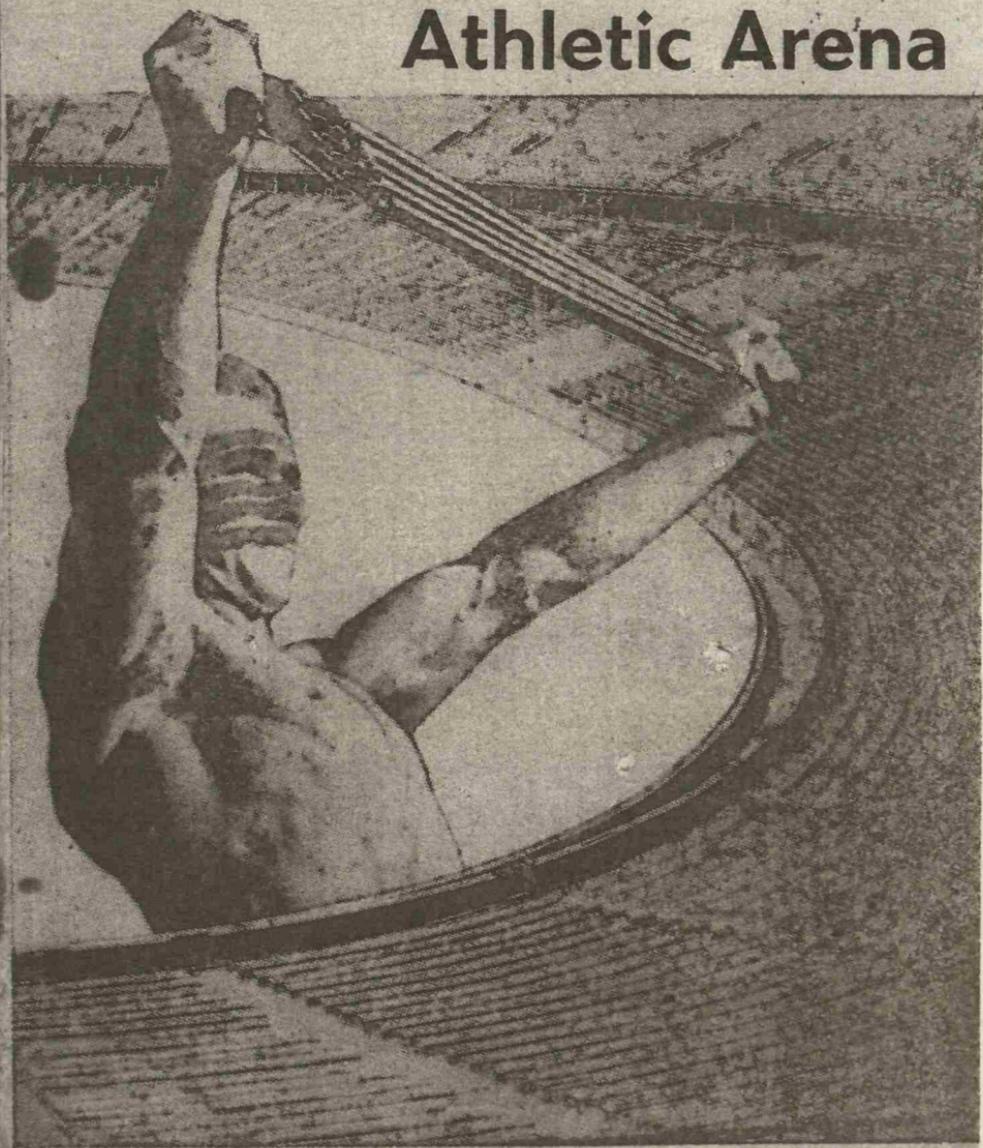


# Champions of the Athletic Arena



2/6

BY  
WILLIAM DOOLEY

CHAMPIONS  
OF THE  
ATHLETIC ARENA

By  
WILLIAM DOOLEY

PART I.



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*This work is dedicated to Mr. Pat Davin,  
of Carrick-on-Suir, the father of all our  
World Record Breakers, still living.*



PAT DAVIN. A recent photograph.

## FOREWORD

Returning from the last Olympic Games I had as companions on the fifteen hours journey from Berlin to Ostend three athletes of renown, representing three distinct eras. The first was a former world record holder and Olympic Champion, the second a winner of a few Irish and three British titles, and the third one of our record breakers of to-day. Hour by hour we discussed athletics in many of its phases, the only interruptions being at Cologne and Aachen. Comparing the feats of sons of the Emerald Isle, under the primitive conditions of a bygone day, with the standards attained during the preceding week, by stars of other nations, competing on a semi-springboard track, laid on plywood, and giving due credit for the marvellous figures registered at the 11th Olympiad just concluded, we went on to dwell on the ironical fact that a comprehensive history of Irish athletics had never been written.

I have had, in the meantime, the pleasure of broadcasting from Radio Eireann on the distinctions won at home and abroad by famous Irish athletes, selected from several generations. Although recognising in full the power of the radio, I still believe that the results achieved were but fleeting memories of the subjects concerned. On the other hand, the records will live when most of us are long forgotten, to furnish silent testimony but an abiding proof of their greatness.

This humble effort, prepared with a strict regard for truth and accuracy, is not to be taken as an attempt at a complete history of the Irish athlete. Actually, if all of the more prominent performers were included here it would mean a mere passing reference to each, and justice to none. It will be noted that men who have earned fame such as the Murrays, John Bresnihan, Percy Kirwan and Pat McDonald, are not dealt with in detail in this book, while the records of some of their contemporaries appear. In this connection I wish to make it clear that it is my intention to produce additional volumes of a like nature, covering these and other notables, down to the present day, should the sporting public show sufficient interest in the initial venture.

Were the proud achievements of our Champions, old and new, deservedly appreciated, a National Sporting Club would have been formed in Dublin long ago, in the premises of which our standard bearers, in the different branches of sport, could have due honour paid them as in other lands. It is a rather sad reflection on us that the stalwarts who spread the name and fame of Ireland to the four corners of the earth should be allowed to spend the evenings of their lives in almost total obscurity, in many cases. Perhaps it is not yet too late?

WILLIAM DOOLEY.

51 Cromwell's Fort Road,  
Crumlin, Dublin.

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**COMPLETE LIST OF IRISH RECORDS APPROVED BY N.A.&C.A.(I.)**  
(Although this List has appeared in another Publication, it is my compilation.—W.D.).

|                      |       |        |                       |                |         |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|----------------|---------|
| 100 Yards            | mins. | secs.  | D. J. Cussen          | Croke Park     | 23/6/28 |
| 130 Yards            | 12    | 4/5    | E. London             | Croke Park     | 15/9/28 |
| 220 Yards            | 22    | 1/5    | N. J. Cartmell        | Belfast        | 31/7/09 |
|                      | 22    | 1/5    | R. Kerr               | Ballsbridge    | 17/7/09 |
| 300 Yards            | 32    | 1/5    | J. B. Eustace         | Croke Park     | 28/6/30 |
| 440 Yards            | 31    | 3/5    | S. Lavan              | Croke Park     | 7/7/28  |
|                      | 49    | 2/5    | D. G. A. Lowe         | Croke Park     | 30/7/27 |
| 880 Yards            | 1     | 56     | P. C. Moore           | Croke Park     | 29/6/30 |
| 1,000 Yards          | 2     | 15     | G. N. Coughlan        | College Park   | 9/6/28  |
| Mile                 | 4     | 19     | C. E. Ellis           | Croke Park     | 15/9/28 |
| 2 Miles              | 9     | 18     | J. S. Doyle           | Phoenix Park   | 13/8/38 |
| 3 Miles              | 14    | 41     | J. J. Barry           | Iveagh Grounds | 11/8/45 |
| 3 1/4 Miles          | 19    | 44     | J. J. Barry           | Thurles        | 30/5/46 |
| 10 Miles             | 55    | 23     | J. P. Conneff         | Ballsbridge    | 20/8/87 |
| Mile Relay (4 x 440) | 3     | 29     | D. Walsh              | Tipperary      | 8/9/40  |
| 120 Yards Hurdles    | 15    | 2/5    | South London Harriers | Croke Park     | 15/9/28 |
| (Native Record)      | 15    | 2/5    | S. J. M. Atkinson     | Croke Park     | 17/8/28 |
| 440 Yards Hurdles    | 54    | 1/5    | T. D. Phelan          | Croke Park     | 27/6/31 |
| Mile Walk            | 6     | 39 1/2 | R. M. N. Tisdall      | Croke Park     | 19/6/32 |
|                      |       |        | G. Campbell           | Belfast        | 27/7/19 |

**TRACK EVENTS.**

**FIELD EVENTS.**

|                       |     |        |                    |             |         |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|--------------------|-------------|---------|
| High Jump             | ft. | ins.   | T. J. Carroll      | Kinsale     | 4/8/13  |
| Long Jump (board)     | 24  | 11 1/2 | P. O'Connor        | Ballsbridge | 5/8/01  |
| Long Jump (off grass) | 23  | 10 1/2 | E. Fitzgerald      | Croke Park  | 19/6/32 |
| Hop, Step and Jump    | 48  | 2      | D. Shanahan        | Limerick    | 6/8/88  |
| 2 Hops and Jump       | 50  | 0 1/2  | C. McGinnis        | Croke Park  | 17/8/28 |
| Pole Jump             | 13  | 0      | P. Anglim          | Croke Park  | 7/7/28  |
| (Native Record)       | 11  | 3      | Dr. P. O'Callaghan | Fermoy      | 22/8/37 |
| Hammer (7' circle)    | 195 | 4 1/2  |                    |             |         |

# Champions of the Athletic Arena

## BEFORE AND AFTER THE DAWN.

The inauguration of Championship athletic meetings under the amateur code, in this country, can be remembered by the octogenarian. Ireland held her initial Championship tests in 1873, three years before the start of the American and but seven years after the English Championships (the oldest under Association rules of the modern world) were begun.

One of the earliest ventures at an athletic meeting on the principle of the present day Sports Meeting, governed by amateur regulations, was that sponsored by Exeter College, Oxford, in 1850, and this was followed by a set of events put on by St. John's College and Emmanuel, Cambridge, 1855, and Trinity College, Dublin, 1857, which latter had attendances up to 25,000 in the '60's and '70's and was the finest athletic gathering in the world.

The popularity of the unrivalled Trinity meeting, known as the "College Races," did not depend on its drawing power from an athletic standpoint alone, for the elite of the day made of it a sort of annual re-union, and the fair sex, in particular, assembled by the thousand in a gorgeous but somewhat hampering Summer garb, on fashion parade rather than as athletic enthusiasts.

Civil Service Club, Dublin, next sprang into being, having annual sports from 1867, Mr. J. T. Hurford earning the distinction of founder. Its usual venue was the Leinster Cricket Club, Rathmines.

Class distinction was a serious handicap to the forward march of the athletic movement in Dublin, prior to the holding of Irish Championships, for at University and Civil Service meetings, only competitors coming under the heading of "gentlemen athletes" were allowed to take part. The definition then applied to this exalted type was:—

"Any person who has never competed in an open competition, or for public money, or for admission money, or with professionals, for a prize, public money or admission money, or at any period of his life taught or assisted in the pursuit of athletic exercises as a means of livelihood; or is a mechanic, artisan, or labourer. . . ."

This state of things ruled out all but a select few from the principal Metropolitan gatherings and a move in the right direction towards counteracting the freezing-out process was made in the

|                                             | ft. | ins. |                  |                 |          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|------|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Hammer (4' wooden handle, 7' circle)        | 140 | 2    | T. F. Kiely      | Dungarvan       | 31/8/96  |
| Hammer (unlimited run and follow)           | 152 | 9½   | T. F. Kiely      | Limerick        | 24/7/98  |
| Hammer (9' circle)                          | 179 | 10   | J. J. Flanagan   | Cobh            | 13/8/08  |
| 16lbs. Shot                                 | 49  | 3½   | R. Rose          | Kilmallock      | 9/8/08   |
| (Native Record)                             | 48  | 10   | D. Horgan        | Mallow          | 18/9/04  |
| Javelin                                     | 205 | 3    | D. Pilling       | Croke Park      | 17/8/28  |
| (Native Record)                             | 168 | 8    | M. Watters       | Fermoy          | 1/7/34   |
| Discus                                      | 152 | 6½   | E. Tobin         | Thurles         | 16/7/39  |
| 56lbs. (no follow)                          | 29  | 1½   | E. Tobin         | Ballina         | 15/8/43  |
| 56lbs. (with follow)                        | 32  | 5    | J. Mangin        | Ballinabridge   | 12/8/00  |
| 56lbs. (over bar)                           | 15  | 5    | E. Tobin         | Ballina         | 15/8/43  |
| 56lbs. (for height)                         | 16  | 2    | C. Walsh         | Cobh            | 13/8/08  |
| 56lbs. (unlimited run and follow, one hand) | 38  | 11   | T. F. Kiely      | Cork            | 14/8/98  |
| 56lbs. (from side, one hand)                | 27  | 2    | T. F. Kiely      | Sligo           | 31/7/05  |
| 56lbs. (both hands, 9' circle)              | 39  | 2½   | J. J. Flanagan   | Kilmallock      | 9/8/08   |
| Throwing 7lbs.                              | 92  | 11   | J. J. Flanagan   | Cobh            | 13/10/95 |
| Throwing 14lbs.                             | 63  | 4½   | D. Horgan        | Ballina         | 30/8/05  |
| Putting 28lbs.                              | 39  | 9½   | J. O'Grady       | Croke Park      | 14/8/24  |
| Putting 42lbs.                              | 30  | 4    | J. O'Grady       | Kildare         | 24/7/22  |
| Putting 56lbs.                              | 25  | 4    | J. O'Grady       | Cratloe         | 26/9/20  |
| (with weights) Standing High Jump           | 4   | 11½  | J. Chandler      | Cork            | 14/8/98  |
| Standing Long Jump (with weights)           | 12  | 9½   | J. Chandler      | Carrick-on-Suir | 28/8/98  |
| Standing Hop, Step and Jump (with weights)  | 35  | 6    | H. Courtney      | Carrick-on-Suir | 28/8/98  |
| Three Standing Jumps (weights)              | 38  | 3    | H. Courtney      | Killarney       | 23/7/00  |
| Discus (7' circle)                          | 126 | 11   | P. J. Bermingham | Lansdowne Road  | 26/7/19  |

formation of the Irish Champion Athletic Club, which, at a meeting in December, 1872, decided to hold Championships for all amateur athletes approved of by the Committee, an annual subscription of 10/- being levied. The tests were to be held each Summer, so that all questions of athletic superiority in standard events should be satisfactorily settled. Cups were to be given the Champions, all being perpetual challenge cups, to be held for one year only and then handed over to the new title-holders, and the names of winners engraved thereon. A silver medal was also allotted for the winner in each event and a bronze medal for runner-up.

In 1874 a cinder track of 586 yards in circumference was laid down on the newly acquired ground at Lansdowne Road, and here the brothers Maurice, Tom and Pat Davin, Ned O'Grady, Thomas M. Malone, Thomas A. Lynch and other notables gave exhibitions of their prowess during the next decade.

The popularity of the sport in the middle '70's can be assessed from the fact that, at the annual meeting of the Irish Champion Club, convened at 63 Grafton Street, Dublin, on 19th December, 1876, receipts for that season were announced as £987, without the solicitation of a single donation. Furthermore, there were four good cinder tracks in the country by 1880, and 20,000 people attended an open handicap meeting at Lansdowne Road in 1884.

The first Inter-Varsity contest was held in the Mardyke Ground, Cork, on 19th May, 1873, the participants being from the Queen's Universities of Cork, Belfast and Galway, and the Corkonians, with the services of men such as Dr. John C. Daly and D. M. Kennedy, won easily before an attendance of 2,500; Three weeks later, Trinity produced a man to break the world record at 1,000 yards, with 2 minutes 23  $\frac{2}{5}$  seconds, at College Park, in A. C. Courtney. In June, 1874, E. J. Davies, the best long jumper England had yet produced, was brought over and, although covering 22' 10" at College Park, was defeated by John G. Lane of Trinity by 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  ins., the latter proving the first man to beat 23' in public.

Queen's University, Belfast, was going strong with its annual Sports at this time, and the Ulster Cricket Club began in 1875, having 3,000 for an attendance. Courtney made an Irish mile record of 4 minutes 31  $\frac{1}{2}$  seconds at the sports run by the former organisation in May, 1875, where Heron of Lurgan was returned as running 100 yards in 10  $\frac{1}{5}$  seconds, but it was conceded that the latter got the better of the starter's pistol by about a yard. Courtney's mile figures survived only for the space of 5 weeks, Walter Slade of London Athletic Club registering 4 minutes 28  $\frac{4}{5}$  seconds at the "College Races" on 8th June.

The ninth Sports of Civil Service A.C., 1875, had 131 entries, and here D. M. Kenny of Clongowes Wood College ran the 100 yards in 10  $\frac{1}{5}$  seconds, with favourable wind, cleared 20' 7"

in the long, and 5' 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in the high jump, an Irish record. Incidentally, William A. Kelly, Queen's College, Cork, a brother to P. J. Kelly of jumping fame, gave an exhibition high jump of 5' 10  $\frac{3}{4}$ " at Cork A.A.C. Sports, a year later.

Sports were now being held at different Western venues, where P. W. Nally of Balla, Co. Mayo, was absolutely unbeatable as an all-rounder. At Swinford, in 1875, he won four and was placed second in three other events; at Ballinrobe, in 1876, he won seven first prizes, and, at Claremorris, in August, 1877, won the hammer, 56 lbs., high and long jumps, and hop, step and jump, and was placed second in the 28 lbs. On scratch in every event, he refused to contest the 100 and 440 yards at this meeting owing to the severe handicaps imposed on him. Nally was never beaten on level terms until he met the great Tom Malone.

Callan's initial Sports was run off on the Fair Green on 2nd June, 1877, and the press of the day asserted that not less than 15,000 people attended. Furthermore, the 21 events on the programme were carried through without a hitch and sports writers were of opinion that the "College Races" could not have been conducted in better order.

The Irish Cross-Country Championship, under the rules of the Cross-Country Association of Ireland, run at Dunboyne, on 9th April, 1881, was the first of its kind held in this country. City and Suburban Harriers were the promoters. The winner was E. H. Nunns, County Dublin Harriers, whose time for the 5 miles course was 32 minutes 18 seconds. City and Suburban won with 35 points against 46 for Co. Dublin. There were but 19 runners.

Happily, we have still with us one of the last connecting links—a golden link indeed—with the pioneer days, in Pat Davin of "Deerpark," Carrick-on-Suir, who has vivid recollections of the greatest performers back to the late '60's. Father of all our world beaters still living, he was brought up in a cradle of athletics, for, when Frazier of Yonkers Lyceum, won the first American long jump title, in 1876, with 17' 4", that performance would not win a parish contest within a wide radius of Carrick-on-Suir. Pat Davin's earliest trip to a Sports meeting at a distance was in 1870, when, as a boy of 13, he travelled 15 miles in the "well" of a side-car to a Co. Waterford venue, where Dan Fraher of Dunganen, the most famous Irish all-rounder of his time, was the lion of the day. Young though Pat was, he noted that the best high jumper on the field was aided by a hillock to take off from, which was never allowed himself in his bigger performances, his brother, Maurice, always insisting that the jumping ground be as level as a table. One instance is typical of Maurice's integrity in that regard. At Monasteraven, in September, 1880, Pat, from most favourable ground, jumped 6', and then ventured the opinion that he could clear 6' 6" from the pronounced rise in front of the standards, but Maurice rejoined . . . "I will not allow

you to jump any more, for if record figures were made by you on such ground, adverse comment would ensue, and everything I ever did in the way of honesty would be discredited." On the occasion of his breaking world record in the high jump, not alone was measurement made with meticulous care, but the sod from which he took off was certified with a spirit level.

Pat Davin on his running in 1880, earned a place among our very best 100 yards men. He trained conscientiously for the Irish Championship sprint, envisaging an encounter with Malone, the holder, but Tom did not put in an appearance, and Pat won easily, never seeing such men as Thomas A Lynch, George Christian and J. H. Stewart from the crack of the gun to the finish. The time of 10 1/5 seconds tied with Irish record. A month later, at Limerick, Malone and Davin came together in the 100 yards. Davin was suffering from a cold and bled from the nose through more than half the journey from Carrick, yet he held Malone for 90 yards. The sporting spirit displayed by his adversaries in that race might well be quoted to would-be champions as an example of the manliness of the pioneer. Davin, Malone and R. B. Burke of Queen's University, Cork, contested the final, and the former was left on the mark. Malone, after covering 50 or 60 yards, slowed down and stopped, as did Burke. Tom remarked that it would be a mean turn to take advantage of such a start, with which Burke agreed, and both walked back to the starter to have Davin with them from a fair start. Pat had won the Limerick "100" by 6 clear yards the previous year.

As early Irish athletic history is centred to a great extent around Carrick-on-Suir and the home of the Davin family, a few paragraphs are necessary to cover some of the notable athletes from Tipperary, Waterford and Kilkenny, whom Pat Davin saw in action when in his 'teens, and whose exploits urged him forward on the road to International fame. Among the great weightmen, apart from Maurice Davin, who is dealt with elsewhere, were Thomas Kennedy of Poulacapple, Michael Tobin of Drangan, and James Tobin, Nine-Mile-House. Kennedy was an immense man, fully as big as John Mangan of Kilmuckridge, weighing over 20 stones, his pet event being the 56 lbs. In those days the weight was usually thrown with one turn and follow, while some competitors turned in the reverse style and threw back-handed. It would therefore be most misleading to compare their figures with those of the present, now that the "56" is slung with one hand, between the legs, without follow. At Mullinahone, in 1875, in a field lent by Mr. T. P. Kickham, kinsman of the author of "Knocknagow," Kennedy threw the heavy weight 31' 6", and Michael Tobin did 32' at Callan three years afterwards, with Kennedy repeating his former mark. The unlimited run and follow method of propelling a 56 lbs. was introduced by M. M. Stritch, the Champion, in 1873, the style being brought to a fine art by Tom Kiely two

decades later. The Tobins were over the 15 stone mark. Michael could do the hurdles well, and James confined his activities to hammer and 56 lbs.

What Kennedy and his contemporaries could have done with modern weights and methods must remain an unsolved problem but they probably could hold their own in any company.

Pat McGrath of Lackendarragh, Co. Waterford, was bigger than the Tobins and stood about 6' 3", although he was a useful hurdles man. Mostly confining himself to throwing the 56 lbs., he had a worthy foeman in later years in John Walsh "Na Cuille," of Mooncoin, a giant of 6' 2" weighing 18 stones. They tied on one occasion, throwing over 27' between the legs with follow, with a weight only 12 inches in length which is still in the possession of Pat Davin. Walsh afterwards threw a 13 inches weight 27' 10" in the last-mentioned style, which has never been surpassed. He died a young man, but McGrath was to the good up to quite recently.

One of the best weight slingers of the '70's was a 6' 3" member of the R.I.C. named Hennessy, who, at Gurteen (Kilsheelan), in 1878, beat Michael Tobin by more than a foot at 28' 6" with an old fashioned implement but 11 1/2 inches in length, including the ring, but this was found to be short of the stipulated 56 lbs. It, also, is to be seen at "Deerpark" to the present day. Hennessy seldom appeared in public.

Before Kennedy, the Tobins, Hennessy, etc., appeared, there were very good men in the locality of which Carrick is the centre. Keffe of Kilmacow; Landy of Ballydine, Carrick; Duggan of Killusty, Fethard, and the Kellys of Churchtown, Co. Waterford, were of the all-round type, and Dwyer of Carrickbeg was without a peer in the standing jumps. Landy and the Kellys were said to have jumped over dangerous parts of rivers measuring 22 feet from bank to bank. Landy usually carried weights in his adventurous exploits. He is not long dead and lived to about 90. Keffe was a man after the pattern of Willie Real. He was a weight thrower and a particularly good one, ready to meet any one at Fair or Pattern, for there were no regular Sports in his neighbourhood in those times.

John Dee of Graiguerush, Co. Waterford, was a fine high jumper, who could also do the hurdles well. He got over 5' 10" on a couple of occasions, in good fair style, running straight at the jump, and, like J. M. Ryan, going over without any twist of the body. Up to 1876 he won wherever he appeared, after which Pat Davin beat him several times.

Dwyer of Thurles was a great miler of that time and had seen his best days when he came to Dublin to win the Irish Mile Championship of 1878, and J. A. Carmody, Comeragh, Co. Waterford, who died a few years ago aged over 80, was mile champion of 1880. The latter competed in England and won from some of the best runners there.

While the time-keeping for his sprints is open to question, it would appear that the finest runner of all of the very early days was John E. Tobin of Ballyduff, Co. Waterford. On 26th October, 1867, he ran a 110 yards match against Captain H. F. Marryatt, of the 65th Regiment, for £500 a side, at the Navigation Walk, Cork. Tobin, after a special preparation over a long period, under a professional trainer, won by 5 yards, the time being returned as  $10\frac{1}{2}$  seconds. Marryatt's party, who had engaged a coach from England for their man, lost over £2,000 in bets. In 1871 Tobin was credited with registering 15 seconds dead for 150 yards at Queen's University, Cork, meeting, and at the "College Races" of that year, he showed bad judgment in a race with W. Collett of London. Tobin, nearing the tape, considered his man beaten and slowed up, and Collett burst through to win by a foot, the watches showing 10 seconds.

The North of Ireland had fine athletes in the pioneer days, foremost among whom was the Queen's University, Belfast, weightman, Charles Wadsworth, 16 lbs. shot champion, 1873, and 56 lbs. title-holder, 1874, at close to record figures. In the second Inter-Varsity meeting of 1874, on the North of Ireland Cricket Club's Ground, Belfast, Wadsworth won the shot-put at over 40' and beat Dr. J. C. Daly in pushing the 42 lbs. In the Irish Championships of that year the English shot-putting champion, E. J. Bor of London, was a competitor, but Wadsworth, as well as winning the 56lbs. event, pushed Bor to a quarter of an inch in doing  $40' 3\frac{1}{2}"$  with the shot. Here Ned O'Grady of Limerick beat Bor more than a foot with the 42lbs. from the shoulder.

The most consistent sprinter in this country in the middle '70's was J. D. O'Gilbey, North of Ireland Cricket Club, who held the Championship for the four consecutive years 1874 to 1877, inclusive. O'Gilbey came to Dublin in 1877 and joined the Irish Champion A.C., and he only retained his title of that year by inches from W. McCord, Queen's University, Belfast, in the fast time of  $10\frac{1}{5}$  seconds; a tie with record. On the same day McCord became the Champion quarter-miler.

Athletes of the County Clare were well in the picture at an early date, having two Irish Champions before Malone in William A. Kelly, of Cree, and Dr. P. C. Hickey, Kilkee, who took high jump and 42lbs. titles, respectively, in 1877. Dr. Hickey, who died over a decade ago aged 82, actually beat the renowned Maurice Davin in winning his laurels, and also conquered the English giant, W. Winthrop, in a novel test, the one-man tug-o'-war, on the Ireland-England International programme of 1876. Malone, however, was the prime favourite of the Dalcassians from the time he ran bare-footed to win his first important sprint at Ennis, in September, 1877, doing  $10\frac{1}{5}$  seconds, with the short handicap of 3 yards. A year later, at

Spanish Point, near his native Milltown-Malbay, upwards of 4,000 people turned up to see him take 7 first prizes.

Another Clareman of outstanding ability in that era was Thomas A. Lynch, of Thradaree, brother of Mr. Patrick Lynch, S.C., ex-Attorney General. Thomas, owing to the amber colours he wore, was nick-named by Belfast "fans," "Yellow Gown." When Malone smashed the Irish record with a  $51\frac{1}{5}$  seconds "quarter" in the Championships of '79, Lynch, impeded by J. A. H. Christian falling in front of him, was only beaten 3 yards, and he went on to win both the 440 and 880 yards titles in 1880. He made a bold bid for the English quarter-mile in the latter year, taking his heat in  $51\frac{4}{5}$  seconds and running third in the final which was won in slower time.

Prior to the advent, on a proper footing, of team games, huge crowds attended at different sports venues. At Tralee in 1883, a two-day meeting was held on the Fair Green, and 10,000 attended on the first day. About the middle of the programme the ground was encroached upon from all sides, rendering a postponement a necessity, and 5,000 people were present on the day following. The best performer was R. B. Burke of Cork who ran the 440 yards circuit in  $51\frac{3}{4}$  seconds. The next year J. E. Hussey of Tralee took Irish titles for 440 and 880 yards.

Ned O'Grady, uncle of the better known John O'Grady, Caherconlish, set Limerick stock soaring in the '70's. Breaking record after record in pushing the then popular 42lbs., he reached his zenith with  $27' 11"$  at Limerick in 1878. When the weight was afterwards put on the scales in the presence of Maurice Davin and others it was found to be almost 43lbs. This mark lasted 6 years, and then Willie Real of New Pallas, accomplished  $28' 0\frac{1}{2}"$ , also at Limerick, for a fresh world record. This remained unbroken for the span of 38 years, John O'Grady setting up a new best at Kildare in 1922. Real's  $23' 9\frac{1}{2}"$  56lbs. "putt" record from the shoulder was set up in the G.A.A. Championships of 1888, and it was only fitting that it was unbeaten by other than Limerick men in the intervening years, John O'Grady and Mick O'Brien of Bulgaden, both going on to  $23' 11"$  at Kilmallock after the lapse of 25 years, and Pat Ryan exceeding it in America. The world record is still held by the late John O'Grady with a phenomenal  $25' 4"$ .

A Limerick athlete of exceptional standard of that far-off day was Robert Coll of Bruree, who had the proud achievement to his credit of being the only man to beat Pat Davin in a jumping contest on level terms in the latter's best years, for, at Thurles, in June, 1879, Coll cleared  $22' 3\frac{1}{2}"$  from a grass take-off, and Davin  $22' 1\frac{1}{2}"$ .

Feats of endurance of a most extraordinary nature were performed by men of that era, the following being two examples. In February, 1878, W. H. Smythe, Bailieboro', walked 2,000 miles

in 1,000 hours, the conditions setting forth that he walk at least one mile each hour, day and night, during the whole period. He went through this test, in turns, at the Rotunda Skating Rink, Dublin, at Dollymount and at the Phoenix Park, and put in a great finish by covering the last mile in 8 minutes and 30 seconds. The longest distance previously registered in a similar test was 1,500 miles by Gale, of Bristol, in 1877.

On 18th March, 1878, Dan O'Leary won the £500 prize and Championship Belt, presented by Sir John Astley, for a 6 day walking contest at Islington Agricultural Hall, London, totalling 520½ miles, and beating 17 of the best walkers in the British Isles. O'Leary was born at Clonakilty in 1846, emigrated to the U.S.A. at the age of 20 and made his debut at the Chicago Rink in 1874.

Cork Sports were going strong from the early '70's, the Cork A.A.C. "annual," also known as the South of Ireland Championships, and the Queen's College gathering, being the best known. With William A. Kelly, John C. Daly, Dr. Hickey and R. B. Burke all attached to the latter institution in the middle '70's, the best men in Ireland were invited to take them on, and, with the opening of the '80's, the great hammerman, Dr. "Jumbo" Barry and Maxwell of the R.I.C. came into the picture. Maxwell, whose name is seldom mentioned nowadays, was, nevertheless, a performer of remarkable ability. At the Mardyke Cricket Ground in April, 1884, he put a 16lbs. shot 43' 5", to beat all previous marks set in world amateur arenas. There appears little doubt as to the ability of Maxwell to accomplish this performance, for he then beat Owen Harte, Irish and English shot-putting Champion by 3ft. 9ins. The British record then was 42' 5" by E. J. Bor, at Lillie Bridge, in 1872, and American best 43' by F. L. Lambrecht, in winning the 1883 United States crown.

The Irish Amateur Athletic Association was founded at a meeting in the Wicklow Hotel, Dublin, on 24th February, 1885, yet with two rival bodies in opposition, attendances continued at a high average. The Limerick Sports of 1886 was witnessed by 10,000, and the Freeman's Journal Sports, Dublin, by 10,000 to 12,000. The North Tipperary G.A.A. Carnival at Nenagh on 8th and 9th August, 1886, backed up by an entry of as fine a body of weightmen and jumpers, en masse, as ever adorned an Irish arena to that date, was a historic affair, the small ground being altogether inadequate to accommodate the great concourse of people which assembled in the town on both days. In the principal streets a passage was rendered difficult owing to the density of the throng. Here James Mitchell won four first prizes and John Purcell and Dan Shanahan put up record hop, step and jump figures on a fall of ground, reaching 48' 8" and 48' 7½". The sensation of the day was the defeat of Real by Thomas Ryan of Clonmel, in pushing the 28lbs.

Space does not permit a more detailed review of the men who

set our earlier standards but this brief survey will give the reader something like a fair idea of the dawn of modern Irish athletic history, and the abilities of those who blazed the trail, before perusing the records of famous athletes of a more recent date whose names have become household words.

#### MAURICE DAVIN.

The reader will note that more than ordinary detail is afforded in this volume to the activities of the weight-throwing giants of the past. Many types of weights, of various lengths, were in vogue in the earlier days, and casting and putting, with and without follow, further complicated matters. A brief survey would therefore mean an injustice to those who performed with cumbersome missiles, long since discarded, and who knew not the superior implements and scientific modes of to-day.

Maurice Davin, born at Carrick-on-Suir in 1842, standing 6' 1" and weighing 15 stones, was the first of the prominent Irish weight-throwers, reaching record figures with 16lbs. hammer, 56lbs. and 16lbs. shot, and even in one of the standing jump events. Eldest of the famous family, his name is seldom omitted when reference is made to the stalwarts of other days.

Competing at a time when he stood alone as a hammerman, the distances attained by him cannot be taken as a true criterion of his worth, for in the middle '70's no man could be found to push him close, and the call of the big occasion was not therefore present to such a degree as it would have been a decade later with Mitchell and Barry in the field. It should also be taken into account that he did not take seriously to weights until his 29th year, a late stage, and following a long number of years engaged in all forms of rowing competitions on the Suir, and elsewhere, a form of exercise not recommended in the building of a hammerman.

In the Irish Championships of 1876, he sent the hammer 128' 10" for a best on record, appearing to have taken all the pretensions out of the opposition with an initial effort of 124' 6". On 5th June of that year, Ireland's first International athletic contest was staged with England at Lansdowne Road. Pat and Tom Davin tied for first place in the high jump, and Maurice, with one hand, threw a wooden handled hammer, 3' 6" in length, the great distance of 131' 6". Consider the abnormal strength, mighty arm and grip necessary to perform such a feat, with just one turn! He also won the shot-putt in this International.

His moderate figures in winning the English hammer and shot titles of 1881 are easily explained for he had retired two years before and only decided to accompany Pat to Birmingham, at the last moment.

The elder Davin travelled to the United States with the "Invasion" team of 1888, purely in a managerial capacity, and threw a 13½lbs. hammer 129' 11½" with one hand from a 7' circle in an exhibition at Worcester, Mass., when aged 46.

One of the founders, and first President, of the Gaelic Athletic Association, his influence and unrivalled popularity as an athlete were of inestimable value to that body at its birth. The insignificant press reference to the historical inaugural meeting at Hayes's Hotel, Thurles, on 1st November 1884, would scarcely lead the reader to believe that the great National organisation as we know it to-day, had begun. Michael Cusack, Clare born, a member of Metropolitan Hurling Club, Dublin, and Irish shot-putting Champion, 1881, originally intended forming a "Munster Athletic Club" but Maurice suggested something of a far wider range, and the press, under date and venue, referred to the meeting as follows:—

"Mr. Michael Cusack read a large number of letters expressing approval of the movement, including one from Mr. Michael Davitt. Resolutions were adopted forming an Association called 'The Gaelic Association for the Preservation of our National Pastimes,' appointing the Archbishop of Cashel, Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Mr. Charles Stewart Parnell, and Mr. Michael Davitt, as Patrons; Mr. Maurice Davin as President, and Mr. Cusack, Mr. J. Wyse Power and Mr. John McKay, Secretaries, with power to add to their number. Present were:—Messrs Maurice Davin, Carrick; Michael Cusack, Dublin; John Butler, Ballyhuddy; William Foley, Carrick; John McKay, Cork; Dwyer C. Culhane, Thurles; William Delahunty, Thurles; Joseph Ryan, Solr., Callan; M. Cantwell, Thurles; J. K. Bracken, Templemore, and District Inspector McCarthy, R.I.C."

Maurice Davin died at Carrick-on-Suir in January, 1927, in his 85th year.

### THOMAS DAVIN.

Tom Davin was born in 1852. Much slighter in build than his brothers, he was the finest high jumper here of his time and a champion long jumper as well.

The first Irish Championships held were those of 1873 under the auspices of the Irish Champion Athletic Club. The club, which leased a 7 acre field from the Earl of Pembroke the following year and set it out as an athletic arena on the site of the now famous Lansdowne Road Football Ground, took its initial meeting to College Park, Dublin, where Tom Davin made an Irish record of 5' 10½" in taking the high jump, and only lost the long jump to

John G. Lane by 2 ins. His son, the well known coursing judge, still holds the medal won by Tom for that high jump.

The English Championships had been under way since 1866, and the best high jump to date in these tests was 5' 9½". Tom decided to try his luck in 1874 and very nearly succeeded in face of the best opposition of the period. M. J. Brooks of Oxford who brought world record to 6' 2½" two years later, was Tom Davin's principal antagonist at Lillie Bridge. Tom training for the Legal Profession in Dublin at the time, had cleared 5' 11½" the previous week in a trial at College Park, and he and Brooks had a ding-dong duel. Tom got over 5' 10" and failed at 5' 11". Brooks struck the cross-bar at this height and it danced on the pegs, but just remained above.

Tom Davin died more than half a century ago.

### PAT DAVIN of Carrick-on-Suir.

It is a far cry to the era when a 6' high jump was considered almost beyond the compass of a human. In 1876, when M. J. Brooks of Oxford University topped 6' 2½" at Lillie Bridge, men considered amongst the best judges of the day expressed their disbelief, thereby inferring that something must have been wrong with the measurement. However, within four years, Pat Davin, born at Carrick-on-Suir on 4th June, 1857, standing 6' and of powerful build, cleared 6' 2½" in his native town for a fresh world record.

There were sceptics among the Cross-Channel sporting fraternity and Davin's appearance in the English Championships of 1881, at Aston Lower Grounds, Birmingham, was looked forward to with the keenest interest. His performances on that mid-July day left no doubt in the minds of the onlookers regarding his capabilities, for he set up new Championship bests of 6' 0½" and 22' 11" in taking high and long jumps. Making a valiant effort at the then unprecedented height of 6' 3", he brought both feet over clear to dislodge the bar with a touch of the hip, being only allowed one try.

In fairness to the high jumpers of the old school a dividing line should be drawn between their natural efforts and acrobatic modes adopted by modern exponents. Allowing that the American, Les Steers, has now surmounted 6' 11", it is questionable if he had anything on Davin in sheer jumping power. In July, 1879, at Kilkenny, Davin, on wretched ground, following incessant rain, in a straight jump, with feet together and legs to right of body, cleared 6' 1½" in height and 17' 5" in horizontal distance, he being carried forward as well as upward by the momentum of an unusually strong run-up, a necessity, owing to the heavy surface.

Equally well known in the long jumping department, the Carrick-on-Suir stalwart beat all previous bests by crossing 23' 2" at Monasterevan, on 30th August, 1883, a feat which he duplicated a fortnight later at Portarlinton. The old mark was 23' 1½" by Trinity's Corkonian student, John Godwin Lane, at College Park, in June, 1874. These essays were from a grass take-off and should not be rated by modern standards, for the men of that far-off day never knew the solidity and propelling power of a board under foot.

The first All-round Championship held in Ireland was that sponsored by the Gaelic Athletic Association at Ballsbridge in July, 1888. The editor of "Sport" put up a valuable prize and an attempt was made to induce A. A. Jordan, American 1887 winner, over from the English Championships, to take part, but, although the latter won the long jump competition at the Ballsbridge venue two days previously, he declined to compete.

Davin contracted rheumatic fever towards the close of 1883 and retired, but was prevailed upon to again don togs here to answer the American challenge in the person of George Gay of New York Athletic Club. Pat would have been a far fitter man for such a test about 8 years before for he registered the clinking time of 10 1/5 seconds in taking the Irish Sprint Championship of 1880, was also a shot-putting title-holder, and the fastest man, by several yards, in this country, at the 120 yards hurdles. The form of the veteran was, nevertheless, a revelation. He won the high jump with the greatest of ease, refrained from participation in the quarter-mile, having such a lead of his opponents at that stage, and beat Daniel D. Bulger, of Kilrush and Trinity, one of the finest hurdlers, in 16 seconds dead. Davin won out with a total of 30 points, Gray being close up with 27, and Bulger scored 19 as third man. Also in the competition was an All-round-Champion-to-be, T. M. Donovan.

Although he was powerfully built in a tidy, compact sort of way, he had none of that heavy, bulging muscular development. Davin weighed but 12st. 4lbs. in his prime, and appeared a mere stripling beside his weight throwing contemporaries. On 3rd October, 1881, at Carrick-on-Suir, he beat the giant, Pat McGrath of Lackendarragh, Co. Waterford, in slinging a 56lbs. measuring 12 inches in length, including the ring, doing 26' 9", with follow, for a world record, the old record being to the credit of his brother, Maurice.

The old Champion sailed from Cobh on the "Wisconsin" in the fall of 1888 with the little band sent over by the G.A.A. to make history in the United States as the "Invasion Team." Pat's sole purpose was a test or tests with Uncle Sam's star All-rounders, Alex Jordan and Malcolm Ford, but, although about two months in the New World he could not force a contest.

In these days of highly specialised training the Americans rule

the roost with the jumping figures, a change indeed from the time when the 6' 2¼" and 23' 2" by the Carrick athlete were the high-water marks at which the world aimed. The former stood until August, 1887, when the little Philadelphian phenomenon, William Byrd-Page, crossed 6' 3¼" at Stourbridge, and the jump for distance, off grass, remained undisturbed here for 15 years, W. J. M. Newburn doing an inch better, again at Monasterevan, in August, 1898.

Mr. Davin, a retired solicitor, winner of 17 Irish and 2 British crowns, is hale and hearty at time of writing, in his 90th year, in the old home, "Deerpark," Carrick-on-Suir. He has the enviable distinction of being the only athlete in the entire history of world athletics to hold universal high and long jump records, and, had he not appeared so early, the Roll of Olympic Champions would have been further adorned with his name. Furthermore, he was the first athlete to jump 6' in public in Ireland this being at Thurles on 26th June, 1879, and he it was who drafted the rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association with brother Maurice, following the formation of that great organisation in November, 1884.

#### THOMAS M. MALONE of Milltown-Malbay.

Thomas M. Malone was born at Milltown-Malbay, Co. Clare, in 1857, was 5' 9½" in height, and weighed 11st. 12lbs. He was the finest all-round runner from 100 to 1,000 yards that Ireland has produced but is almost unknown to most of the present generation owing to his best times having been put up in Australian professional arenas.

In March, 1878, it was brought home to athletic "fans" that another flyer had come, for the Champion sprinter, J. H. Stewart, and C. B. Croker, both of Dublin, with P. W. Nally, of Balla, Co. Mayo—hitherto undefeated—journeyed to the Queen's College, Galway, Sports, to be beaten fairly and squarely by the unknown youth who was later to earn the title, "Peerless Tom."

In May, 1879, Malone appeared at the Civil Service Sports, Dublin, and turned in a grand piece of running by covering 120 yards in 12 seconds, dead. Staying over for the Irish Championships on 2nd June, he created an Irish quarter-mile record, 51 1/5 seconds, beating Thomas A. Lynch, brother of Mr. Patrick Lynch, K.C., ex-Attorney General, by three yards.

Tom crossed to the English Championships at Birmingham, in 1881, arriving just two hours before the meeting, after experiencing a bad attack of sea-sickness. In the first heat of the 100 yards he found himself up against England's No. 1 man, J. M. Cowie, and the famous American, Lon Myers. Floundering badly at the

start, he was last man at 35 yards, but finished second, half a yard behind Cowie, and an equal distance ahead of F. F. Cleaver, Notts Forest A.C. So great was the excitement among the judges at seeing the favourite, Myers, being beaten, that they failed to take correct placings of the pair between Cowie and the Manhattan flyer and inadvertently excluded Malone from the final by placing Cleaver second. Cleaver, who later admitted that he was beaten by Malone, was within a yard of Cowie, the winner, in the final. Malone made things rather hot for Pat Davin in the long jump, being just  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches behind with  $22' 7\frac{1}{2}"$ .

In 1882 the English tests were held at Victoria Park, Stoke-on-Trent. Following a false start in the "100" the pistol was fired when Malone was standing on one leg cleaning his spikes. He started, after a decided gap had appeared between him and his opponents, to finish third, W. Phillips winning by half a foot from Cowie, with Malone two yards away. Tom was most unfortunate here for he had beaten Phillips two clear yards in his heat. He had things all his own way in the long jump. Some official lists give his winning figures as  $21' 0\frac{1}{2}"$ . Actually, he cleared  $21' 9\frac{1}{2}"$ , beating Horwood of Marlow, by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Tom also took a runner-up medal in the shot-putting.

Sailing to Australia in November, 1882, he became the sensation wherever he appeared. The best men in the Colonies were pitted against him but he retained an unbeaten Certificate among the amateurs. Later, as a professional, he found backing from £500 to £1,000 against any man in the world from 100 to 1,000 yards, in best of three races, and to wonders of the track such as Walter G. George, Harry Hutchens of Putney and Lon Myers, an additional £100 expenses was offered as an inducement towards making them take the voyage for tests of speed with the Clareman. Hutchens was the only one to make the trip, but this was years after the challenges were issued. Malone was also backed to meet any athlete, from anywhere, in an all-round jumping contest, and beat an athlete named Bush, the acknowledged best in Australia, in that department.

Englishmen of the older school will not agree that a faster man than Hutchens ever lived. Seeing that Malone's best times were registered in the year 1884, it was agreed that he was going down the line before he toed the line with Harry, at Botany, in January, 1887, yet Tom made it one of the great races of history, Hutchens winning their 250 yards sprint, by a meagre foot in  $25\frac{1}{4}$  seconds, around two corners.

England was wont to point the finger of suspicion at records made in other lands during that era and, as the "Sporting Chronicle" lists are those generally accepted in the professional world, Malone's ranking has been adversely affected in consequence. If but 75% of the figures credited to him in Australia were ratified, Internationally, they would constitute a list without

parallel in that particular group of events. "Sporting Chronicle" lists of to-day at least show that his  $11\frac{1}{2}$  seconds professional record for 120 yards has never been surpassed, although the date given, April, 1888, is misleading to the extent of 4 years. Actually, his last race was that with Hutchens.

Tom was twice "caught" for a  $9\frac{3}{5}$  seconds 100 yards, and twice for  $9\frac{4}{5}$  seconds. He did  $14\frac{3}{5}$  seconds for 149 yards on three occasions and beat even time at all distances up to 220 yards which latter he negotiated in  $21\frac{1}{2}$  seconds on a circular track. He clocked  $37\frac{2}{5}$  seconds for 350 and  $47\frac{3}{5}$  seconds for 440 yards. He was timed for a marvellous 1 minute  $53\frac{1}{2}$  seconds half-mile at Sawell, New South Wales, in 1884, and registered 1 minute  $55\frac{1}{2}$  seconds at Ballarat, in 1885, and was still but a second and a fraction slower than accepted best for 1,000 yards by Lon Myers. He ranked with the very best jumpers of his day and once put a 16lbs. shot  $42' 1"$ .

Frank Hewitt, best runner from 50 to 880 yards of a decade before — indeed a competent authority — says of the Irish-Australian:—

"Since 1865 I have met all the best men in England; men who could run from 50 to 1,000 yards . . . John Nuttall, Sid Anderson, Dick Buttery, Ridley, Bob Hindle of Paisley, Hayward of Rochdale, Tinsley Walsh and Lon Myers (amateur and professional) . . . not one of whom could duplicate the whole of Malone's performances over the distances mentioned. I know that the Australian black, Samuels, or Hutchens, would not run up to these distances. I have no hesitation in saying Malone was one of the finest runners the world has seen, or ever will see."

Thomas M. Malone died at Sydney, aged 62, and the fine framed photograph, hanging in the Town Hall of his native Milltown-Malbay, represents to the eye of the visitor as perfect a specimen of manhood as nature has ever moulded.

#### PATRICK J. KELLY.

Patrick J. Kelly, of Cree, West Clare, a scion of one of the best known families in the old Dal Gas, came to the French College, Blackrock, Dublin, in 1880, at the age of 16, being the winner of several prizes at his College Sports the following year. There is no doubt that the successes of athletes such as the Davins and Malone acted as an incentive to him to enter the International field and, during a short but eventful career, he earned ranking with the best jumpers we have had.

In 1885, a relative of his, R. A. Green, later an English shot-putting Champion, then domiciled in England, advised young Pat to have a try for the English high jump crown. The then holder

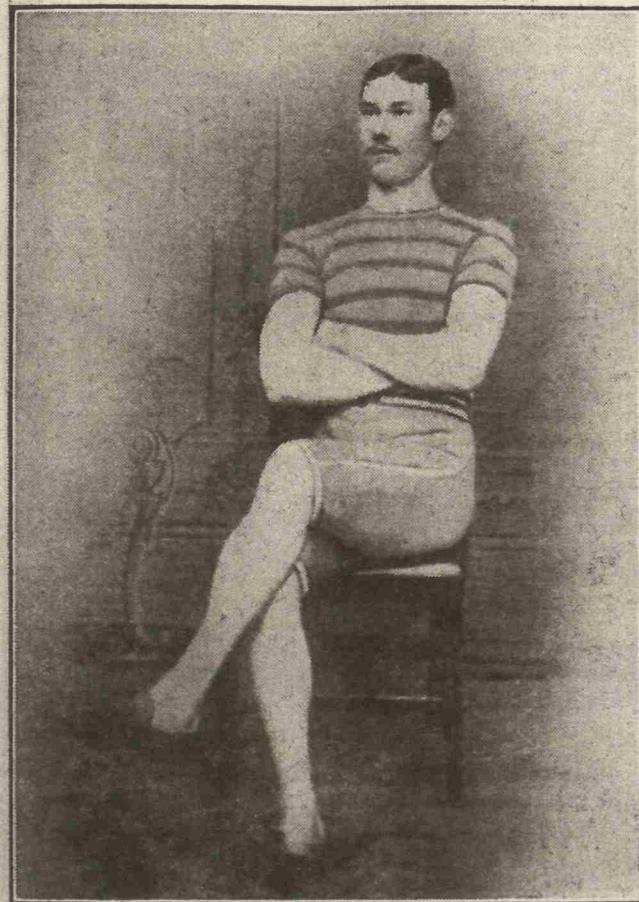
of the title, Tom Ray, of Ulverston, in the Lake District, also had best pole-vaulting figures after his name.

Kelly, but 21 years old, having yet to annex an Irish Championship, was unknown across Channel, but the competition, at Southport, was not long under way before it was became evident to Ray that he was pitted against a performer of the highest class and Tom resorted to an old ruse in an endeavour to eliminate him. Each had started from a different approach and Ray switched to Kelly's jumping angle, the result being that the sod was considerably torn up and rendered much more difficult for Kelly. The Irishman, however, being the superior, cleared everything in sight, unflurried, and the Englishman was forced to abandon the questionable tactics and retreat to his own ground. Kelly won at 5' 11" and tried no more. He was placed second in both pole vault and long jump.

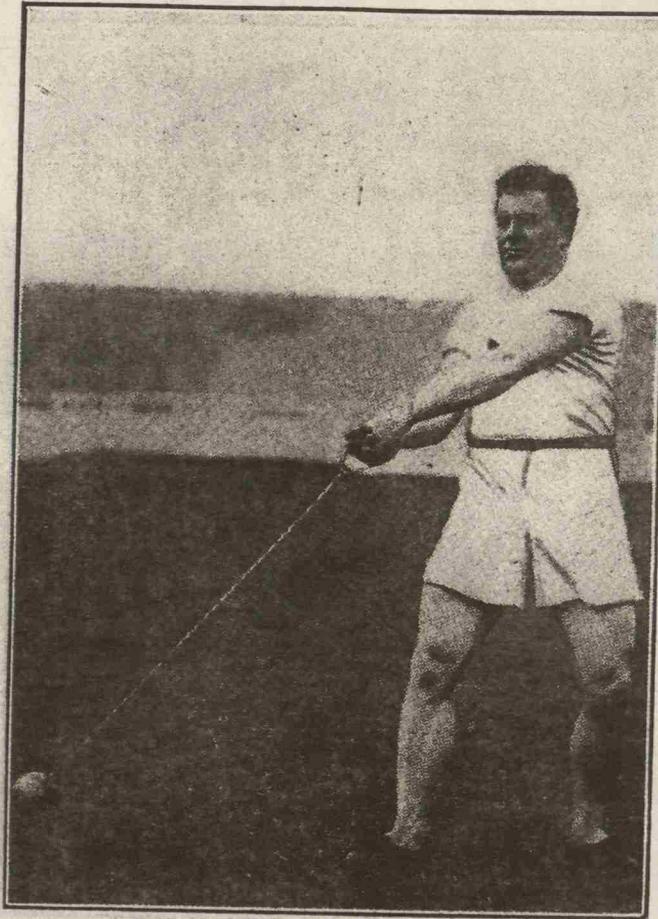
At the French College Sports in May, 1887, Kelly jumped 5' 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", but injured a knee during the pole-vaulting competition. It was thought obvious that he would be out of action for the remainder of the season, an assumption which proved incorrect, as his historic duel with the American Champion, William Byrd-Page, of Pennsylvania University, took place less than three months later.

Page, one of the most colourful personalities in athletic history, after winning the American Championship three years in succession and becoming joint holder of the British title, was invited to take part in the Gaelic Athletic Association high jump at Tralee, on 1st August, 1887. He had crossed 6' 2  $\frac{1}{16}$ " at Brooklyn, the previous May, which goes to show the calibre of the opposition in store for the Dalcassian.

The little marvel, Page, was afforded every facility at Tralee. Championship jumping usually started at about 5' 3", but Page, slow to warm up, asked that a start be made about 5', which request was acceded to by Kelly and the only other competitor, Connery of Kilfinane, Limerick, who was eliminated after clearing 5' 7", barefooted. The bar was next raised to 5' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", a height which, strange to say, Page failed at until his last try, Kelly going over on the first. 6' was again cleared by Kelly on his first essay, the American surmounting it on his third attempt. The bar was now set at 6' 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", a height never before attained in a Championship, anywhere, and both cleared this to the roar of the crowd. Brooks and Pat Davin, only, had proved good for this height previously. This would appear to have been the fairest of all ties under the old rules, as each man made no less than nine unavailing tries at world record of 6' 3". The pair kept up a disjointed conversation throughout this epic contest and Page felt that Kelly looked like getting over the 6' 3" and kept urging him on. On the "fewer misses" rule in operation to-day, Kelly would have been the winner.



THOMAS M. MALONE



JOHN J. FLANAGAN

Strange indeed are the simple and unlooked for things which occur at odd moments to change the course of great events. As the Clareman was standing at the end of his run-in, preparing for a superhuman effort to break Davin's record, a non-paying spectator took momentary charge of the entire proceedings, with, perhaps, disastrous results for the home jumper. Said spectator was a donkey, standing by an adjoining hedge. Whether the animal was expressing disapproval at the crowd going berserk, or amazement at being made believe that men could fly, is not quite clear, but it burst forth on a long and discordant note. A concourse of people, keyed up to the pitch of the one at Tralee, is easily swayed, and a large section broke into fits of laughter in which Kelly joined, and the cross-bar, from that moment, was an insurmountable obstacle, the tension having been broken.

A fortnight later Byrd-Page made a new record of 6' 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " at Stourbridge, and went on to 6' 4" at Philadelphia the following October, which remained until Mike Sweeney's day, but he definitely stated that Kelly was the best he ever opposed.

Half a century and more went by and, in the year 1938, Mr. Kelly, hearing that his old opponent was still to the good and acting as a Judge in the American Championships, entered into correspondence with the Philadelphian, in the course of which it was made known that Page did not receive a medal for being joint holder of the 1887 title. At the N.A.&C.A. (I.) Annual Congress of 1939, in Jury's Hotel, Dublin, Mr. Kelly, who was given an ovation from the delegates present, received two medals from the President, Mr. Frank O'Dea, a fellow-Clareman, one of which was mailed to the American. The presentation was timely for William Byrd-Page died at Charlottesville, Virginia, early in 1940.

Mr. P. J. Kelly, a retired Inspector of Schools, stands as straight to-day as in the days of his athletic career. He still judges at School and College Championships in Blackrock College Grounds and is always to be seen whenever our Champion jumpers perform at Metropolitan meetings. He bid adieu to active competition at the early age of 24.

#### THE STORY OF WILLIAM BYRD-PAGE.

The story of the little American wonder jumper, William Byrd-Page, can be taken as an object lesson by our youth, for he triumphed over early infirmities and reached the top, although, at one time, the odds seemed a thousand to one against his doing so.

Born at Philadelphia in 1866, his father, S. Davis-Page, an athlete of Yale University, was trainer of the first Yale rowing crew to defeat Harvard. Until William was 10 years old his legs

were very weak, necessitating the wearing of steel supports, held together with braces at the hips. He was an extremely delicate child and only at about the age of 12 did it appear that he would survive to manhood. From this stage he began to take jumping exercises to strengthen his legs and the arches of his feet, and also tried cycling on the old "bone-shaker." He next took long cycling tours, doing 800 miles in 1883, increasing the length each year until he covered 1,600 miles in 1886. When on these he dropped off to stay a day here and a day there, and have a few jumps. In his first junior athletic year he stood 4' 6" and jumped 4' 1"—far removed from the sensational, but when he came to 17 years he had won a local reputation as a jumper and therefore sought fresh worlds to conquer.

System governed all of his activities and he made out a chart of the high jumping records . . . Inter-School, Inter-Collegiate, British, American and universal . . . and proceeded to beat, and cross them out, one by one. At 19 years he gained the signal honour of being the first of all the great American amateurs to cross a 6' jump. Although attaining, eventually, the finest physical form, he was still at a decided disadvantage through shortness of stature, being but 5' 6½" when full grown, yet, at the age of 21 he had surmounted the astonishing height of 6' 4", which no other athlete before him had accomplished.

Mr. P. J. Kelly, who met him in his best year, remembers Page best by the wonderfully developed legs which were once almost lifeless. He threw particles of grass and earth flying backward through the force of his take-off, and propelled himself as much as 18' in horizontal distance when going over 6'.

The case of William Byrd-Page is a striking example of the results of a slow and systematic form of training. His methods may not have been in accordance with those specified in the books, but, against this, he was allowed facilities enjoyed by few boys, in travelling from one State to another in his gradual, building-up process. However, it will be agreed that he possessed two of the most vital attributes in the making of a Champion . . . unlimited patience and perseverance.

#### TOMMY CONNEFF OF CLANE.

Although more than four decades have gone since little Tommy Conneff of Clane, Co. Kildare, forsook the International track, his name is mentioned almost as frequently as those of some of our reigning Champions, and the septuagenarian "fan," on viewing a modern middle-distance race, is heard to observe with pride . . . "I was at the Conneff-Carter match in 1887, and have not seen its like in the intervening years." This memorable trial

of speed marked a milestone in Irish athletic annals, and the time registered for the 4 miles on that day, 59 years ago, by the "Short Grass" distance man, still remains as the fastest recorded by an amateur on Irish soil.

Conneff made his initial appearance at a major Dublin meeting in June, 1886, in his 20th year, taking the half-mile at the Caledonian Games, Ballsbridge, off the short mark of 18 yards in moderate time. Next month, in the colours of Haddington Harriers, he won Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships at 880 yards and mile flat, in 2 minutes 0 2/5 seconds and 4 minutes 32 2/5 seconds, respectively, on a rain-soaked track.

In June, 1887, he secured a "hat-trick" at Limerick, taking the "880", 1 mile and 2 miles, now being attached to Inchicore Gaelic Club. Incidentally, "Conneff's Corner," in the Inchicore district, is named after Tommy. He went on to win the I.A.A.A. 4 miles at Ballsbridge on 23rd July, in 20 minutes 55 4/5 seconds, an Irish record.

His famous race with "Eddie" Carter, American 5 miles Champion, 1886 and 1887, and English 4 miles title-holder, 1887, took place at Ballsbridge, late in the evening of 20th August of the latter year, and such interest was shown that the attendance was calculated at between 15,000 and 20,000. One of Tommy's supporters said to a press-man . . . "There is nobody left in Kildare to-night but decrepit old men and women." Conneff allowed Carter to make the pace and the latter had a five yards lead on entering the last lap, when Conneff shot past and won as he liked in 19 minutes 44 2/5 seconds, or less than 5 seconds slower than world record by W. G. George. The Records' Committee of the I.A.A.A. presented the winner with a gold cross in recognition of his achievement.

At the beginning of 1888 Tommy emigrated to the United States, enrolling with Manhattan Athletic Club, and recrossed the Atlantic in June to win the English Mile Championship at Crewe. Arriving in Dublin for the International meeting at Ballsbridge in early July, he made an Irish mile record of 4 minutes 26 1/5 seconds. Two days later, also at Ballsbridge, he beat his old opponent, Carter, over 5 miles, by 240 yards, Carter leading up to the end of the fourth mile. The Editor of "Sport" put up a gold watch valued at 40 guineas for this test.

The diminutive Tommy won the American 5 miles flat title in October, 1888, by almost half a mile, and the following year retained it by running the legs from under the great Syd Thomas, English 4 and 10 miles holder. In September, 1890, at Montreal, Conneff won the Canadian 2 miles, in record time for the Dominion, and took the 5 and 10 miles United States titles.

In 1891 we find him winning American titles for mile and 5 miles, at New Orleans, the former by 40 yards from A.B. George, and the latter by 20 yards from Carter, and he beat Carter 75

yards for the Canadian 2 miles crown at Toronto. In September of that year he made an American mile record of 4 minutes 21½ seconds, at Manhattan Field.

At the Boston Games of August, 1893, he broke world record for the mile with 4 minutes 17 4/5 seconds, and at Bergen Point, in September, made an American best for 3½ miles.

Conneff was wont to stray away from the rigid routine of training and from this time to 1895 disappeared from the public eye. The historical International match between New York and London Athletic Clubs was now being spoken of and influential friends insisted that, given a strict course of training, Conneff was still the best miler in the universe. After much pressure being brought to bear the New Yorkers had him taken in hand at their Travers Island headquarters, and, for two or three months, he was hustled out of his free and easy mode of life and made train as training should be done. The result was truly astonishing. On 21st August, 1895, he registered 3 minutes 2 4/5 seconds for three-quarters-of-a-mile, a world record right down to 1931, when the Frenchman, Jules Ladoumègue smashed it. Conneff next created new figures for 1¼ and 1½ miles, and world record of 4 minutes 15 3/5 seconds for the mile, the latter being only beaten 16 years later by John Paul Jones of Cornell University. In the International match, on 21st September, 1895, he won the mile at his ease in 4 minutes 18 1/5 seconds, beating the reigning American Champion for the distance, George Orton, by a clear 50 yards. It was evident to all present that Tommy could have taken several seconds off this time and, when taken to task, his sole excuse was that he was reserving himself for the 3 miles event later in the day, which he also won. Being then 29 years old he could not reasonably have expected to improve the following year, and the 3 miles race was of little importance, for the New York A.C. won every event on the programme.

It is only fair to point out that Conneff was two years beyond his peak when beaten by George Tincler in 1897. Had the fates decreed that such wonders of the track should come together, each at his best, there is no knowing how long the time of the winner would have defied his successors. Mike Murphy, of Limerick stock, doyen of all athletic trainers, who later coached American Olympic teams, once timed Conneff for a 4 minutes 10 seconds mile in training.

Tommy Conneff's tragic death occurred at the age of 46. He was found drowned near Manila, in the Phillipine Islands, in October, 1912, where he was on foreign service, having the rank of Sergeant in the 7th United States Cavalry.

## SIDE-LIGHTS ON RECORDS.

Many people imagine that records are accepted here in a matter-of-fact way, if there is not a high wind or definite incline to aid the runner, or that the ground is reasonably level in the case of the weight-thrower. This may be the reason why casual "fans" are usually the first to decry great performances by native athletes, while at the same time being inconsistent in accepting all foreign figures without question. The following examples are quoted to show the extent to which a competent Records' Committee will sift the evidence placed before it prior to coming to a decision.

In 1936 Jesse Owens was reported to have run 100 metres in the United States in the unequalled time of 10 1/5 seconds. The judges were at variance as to whether he ran in lane 2 or lane 3. If he ran in the former the distance was correct, but if in the latter the track was 3/8 of an inch short, and the American Athletic Union authorities were deliberating a long time before deciding to recommend it as a record to the International Federation. In the course of adjudication, evidence was put forward to the effect that even a steel tape can show variation in length in certain degrees of heat and cold, and a scientist asserted that the earth, over the short distance of 100 metres, or less, is subject to minute shrinkage. At the Berlin Olympiad, Owens also returned 10 1/5 seconds for 100 metres, but the time was not ratified owing to the wind velocity being in excess of that set out in the International rules, which rules allow of a following breeze of but 2 metres (about 6' 6¾"), per second.

Another striking example of exactitude was provided in the examination of Dr. O'Callaghan's record hammer-throw of over 195' at the Cork County Championship of 1937. Although keen students maintained that the Doctor, a few years before, in the days of his Olympic triumphs, did not give himself a chance of showing the world how far he *could* throw a hammer, owing to working for form in many other events, simultaneously, there were still the sceptics, the throw being far and away better than anything registered by him previously. The hammer used was several ounces over the required 16 lbs, and there was only one other competitor, Maurice Curtin, a seasoned performer, who declined, in the presence of the judges, to use Dr. Pat's hammer, with the remark . . . "It feels too heavy. I'll use my own." The possibility of deception, or mistake in the hammer impounded, would therefore appear remote indeed. Certificates were forwarded to N.A.&C.A.(I.) headquarters covering all of the necessary angles . . . weight of hammer, impounding of hammer, diameter of circle, length of implement, steel tape measurement, etc. . . but the Records' Committee was not satisfied. Affidavits were asked for and received, although certificates from men such as the

Assistant County Surveyor, Weights and Measures Inspector and Secretary of the County Athletic Board should be viewed as ample testimony. One matter yet remained to be covered. The ground showed a drop of 11/16 of an inch over the 195' 4 7/8". The Secretary of the International Federation, resident in Sweden, was written to regarding this point and his reply was that the International Federation rules allowed of a drop of one in a thousand, and, therefore, the 11/16 of an inch could not debar the thrower of a record.

As a final instance, the non-acceptance of a 56lbs. weight-throwing record of 28' 8½" by Edward Tobin some years ago brought out a most minute point. The throw was made on a fall of 2/5 of an inch. The one in a thousand rule was of no advantage to the performer here . . . the drop was but 1 in 861.

### GEORGE BLENNERHASSET TINCLER.

George Blennerhasset Tincler of Glenageary, Co. Dublin, won the G.A.A. mile flat titles of 1892 and '93, recording 4 minutes 33 1/5 seconds in the latter year, at the age of 18, a distinct pointer to his blossoming into a middle-distance runner far above the average. Years afterwards, as a professional, he became one of the track celebrities of all time.

The inimitable "Gander," as he was known to his associates, in January, 1897, beat Fred Bacon, English amateur mile Champion, 1893, '94 and '95, and J. J. Mullen, ex-Irish mile Champion and record-holder, in a 2 miles race at Celtic Park, Glasgow. Running under the name "James Craig, Inverness," he clocked the outstanding time of 9 minutes 24 3/5 seconds.

He next donned togs at Bolton in a match against the Irish-American, Carroll, over a mile, for £100 a side. Carroll had been credited with 4 minutes 25 seconds, in America, but Tincler, on a ground of rock-like firmness, and mantled with snow, won, pulling up, by 10 yards. The following May he beat Mullen at 2 miles, for a £100 purse, at Glasgow, by 100 yards, recording 9 minutes 28 1/5 seconds, in inclement weather.

Having beaten everything in sight, except Bacon, at the latter's pet distance, Tincler sailed to the United States to meet Conneff, who had lately bidden farewell to the amateur track. They met at the Worcester Oval, Massachusetts, and, after a ding-dong struggle, Conneff was badly beaten in the home straight in 4 minutes 15 1/5 seconds, the fastest mile yet run on the American Continent. Bacon's supporters on this side of the Atlantic showed definite disbelief of the time returned but Conneff frankly admitted that Tincler had the beating, that day, of any mile runner he ever saw; that he had satisfied himself as to his condition and given

himself a chance of winning, but could not stay with George over the last furlong.

Returning to England and beating C. H. Kilpatrick, then holder of world record, 1 minute 53 2/5 seconds, for the half-mile, over three quarters of a mile, George, who had been repeatedly side-stepped by the English Champion, in his third challenge to Bacon within four months, expressed himself through the press in the following strong terms:—

**"I trust that Bacon will come out in a straightforward manner and accept my challenge, or, manfully and sportsmanlike, acknowledge me his master. I have had the pleasure of beating him over 2 miles when he claimed he was out of condition. I now offer him the opportunity of reversing the verdict."**

Bacon could no longer avoid a test and the stage was set at Rochdale on 7th May, 1898, for their mile Championship of the World and purse of £200.

Tincler was favourite early in the day, but immediately before the race begun odds of 7 to 4 were laid on Bacon. George, clad in emerald green, took the lead, running without effort, with arms hanging almost listlessly, and an easy, raking stride, covered the first quarter in 61 seconds. In the second lap, Tincler slowed up somewhat, and the crowd expected here that Bacon would surely win with one of his terrific finishes. The prophets had asserted that, unless George forced the pace to the utmost, early on, Bacon would win. Tincler, on the other hand, having a supreme belief in his own powers, gave it out that he would wait for Bacon, and, although his partisans roared . . . "Go it, George, you've beaten him," he was content to leave his final effort to 300 yards from home, where Bacon gamely responded. Tincler's wonderful stride took him further ahead, while Bacon stuck to his guns on the chance that George would be unable to stay the pace. The Co. Dublin phenomenon's stride only appeared to lengthen still more, and, when a dozen yards in the rear Bacon stopped, all in, 20 yards from the tape, which Tincler broke in 4 minutes 16 2/5 seconds. George could have piled on further pace if so required for he tossed his corks in the air and ambled to his dressingroom breathing so easily that, in the words of an authority of the day . . . "he would not have blown a match out!"

Bacon had signed articles for three races with "G.B." for the 1, 2 and 3 miles Championships of the World and the 2 miles was run at Ashton-under-Lyne, a fortnight later. On a wet and sticky brick-dust track, banked for cycling, and rendered soft and loose by heavy rains, good running here was a difficult thing indeed. If one of the runners veered a couple of feet to the outer side he found himself on the incline of the cycling circuit and a strong, cold wind blew. Tincler, on coming on to the ground, showed his irritation at being asked to take such a pitch, but,

making the best of things, he set out to run a truly remarkable race. The time of 9 minutes 19  $\frac{4}{5}$  seconds was extraordinary in the depressing conditions. Time after time Bacon tried to pass Tincler, but "The Gander" stayed out there while the other man tried his very best to take the lead but that best was not good enough, "G.B." winning by over 200 yards, and it was seriously stated by many prominent sportsmen that Bacon was just as near to Tincler at the close as any other runner in the world, of the period, would have been. Bacon did not come forward for the 3 miles and paid forfeit.

Tincler's next important match was with Edgar Bredin for the half-mile Championship of the world, on 18th February, 1899, the Englishman winning by inches and collapsing at the finishing line in the smashing time of 1 minute 56  $\frac{1}{5}$  seconds.

According to the law of averages Tincler would have now reached his peak and, after a year or two on the toboggan, gone into retirement, but, though he had achieved his best in public, his powers were little diminished with the passage of years. A new century opened and then four Olympiads had passed—Paris, 1900; St. Louis, 1904; Athens, 1906, and London, 1908. Another athletic generation had sprung up, run through the usual competitive span and faded into the discard, when, in November, 1909, the astounding Tincler appeared at Durban, Natal, to beat the South African "pro" miler, W. Hefferon, half the length of the straight, in 4 minutes 25  $\frac{3}{5}$  seconds. Still "The Gander" saw no good reason why he should hang up the old spiked shoes, and, as late as 1916, when he was 41 years old, he beat a veteran of equal years, "Canty" Young, at historic Powderhall, for a small side-stake. Betting was lively and decidedly in favour of George, who won in easy fashion in 5 minutes 7 seconds after leading 20 yards at the half-way line.

"G.B.", an ungainly walker, but a beautiful runner, could not be extended by opponents when at his best. That he did extraordinary things in training all of his intimates knew, but if the public at large were aware of his real capabilities, his matches would have been far fewer, opponents-to-be being then made aware that they faced almost certain defeat. It is probable that he could have furnished something new for the record lists in the 1 and 2 miles matches with Bacon, or in the duel with Conneff, if necessary, but it was not necessary. In 1897, when touring the United States, he won 35 of 36 races, including the 2 miles Championship, and in 1898 ran 6 races and won them all. He had the distinction of being the first runner to win the great New Year's Day Mile Handicap at Powderhall from scratch.

When the American, Norman Tabor, made world amateur mile record of 4 minutes 12  $\frac{3}{5}$  seconds at Harvard Stadium in 1915, which lasted until Numri's day, Walter G. George, the old professional record holder for the distance, made the blunt state-

ment that Tincler, with his merit and determination, would have beaten the American to the tape.

The stern discipline of training, observed by the luminants of this era, was known only at rare intervals by "G.B.", who won races under difficulties known only to his immediate friends.

The fates were unkind to the immortal "Gander" in his later years and he breathed his last in far away Johannesburg, in 1937, with little of this world's goods.

Impartial observers of his pace at professional centres such as Powderhall and Rochdale are still heard to say . . . "There was only one miler, and that was . . . TINCLER."

### JAMES MITCHELL OF EMLY.

James Mitchell was born at Emly in 1865, stood 6' and weighed 16 stones. He was the first of the celebrated weightmen known to the American public as "The Irish Whales" and reigned supreme in the trans-Atlantic weight-throwing field from the late 80's to the middle 90's.

In April, 1886, at Cork, he became a menace to the supremacy of the then Irish Champion hammerman, Doctor William J. M. ("Jumbo") Barry, by throwing the old wooden handled hammer 113' from a 7' circle, and at the Markets Field, Limerick, two months later, came up to 119' 5", to beat the old world record of Barry's by the odd inches.

At North Tipperary G.A.A. meeting of September, 1886, he won four weight events, doing 55' 5" for the 14lbs. throw, and 86' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " with a 7 lbs., the former a record and the latter better than anything previously done, but as it was registered on a definite fall of ground the mark did not go on the books.

The second G.A.A. Championships, at Ballsbridge, saw him break two records, and at Limerick, on 19th September, 1886, before a 10,000 crowd, he advanced to an unprecedented 58' 8" with the 14 lbs.

In June, 1887, he again beat the hammer record and, at the British Championships, on 2nd July, took the hammer throw from a 9' circle, at 124' 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and also the 16lbs. shot-putt. He retained his hammer crown across Channel the next year, but lost to the American, George Gray, in shot putting.

Prior to the embarkation of the "Invasion" team for the New World in the Bark of 1888, the members selected gave exhibitions at various centres, Mitchell beating all known bests with the 56lbs. (unlimited run and follow style) with 35' 5" at Clonskeagh.

Mitchell played havoc with the opposition on landing in the United States, for, within four days he had smashed American bests with the hammer (unlimited run and follow) at 125' 10";

14lbs. 58' 2", and 18lbs. hammer, 118' 11", at Brooklyn, Boston and New York, respectively.

On 13th October of that year the American Championships were held on the grounds of Manhattan Athletic Club and Mitchell won the 56lbs. throw with one hand, from stand, by two inches from the gigantic Barry, both beating American record of 26' 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " by Queckberner of New York A.C. The pair were second and third in both the hammer-throw and shot-putt as well.

A fortnight afterwards James made two fresh American marks with a 56lbs., slinging 27' with one hand from the side and 36' 6" in the unlimited run and follow mode, and on 6th November made world record hammer-throw from 7' circle of 130' at Long Island City.

From 1889 to 1896 he won eight American hammer Championships in a row, and the whole sequence of 56lbs. titles from 1891 to 1897, inclusive, during which period he had brought the hammer record up to 145' 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ " from a 7' circle. In 1897 he was, however, forced to relinquish the hammer crown to the famous John J. Flanagan, who had arrived from his native Kilmallock within the preceding twelve months.

Mitchell now decided to retire at a stage when the honour enjoyed by him of having won 15 American Championships was only equalled by one other athlete, the running marvel of the 80's, Lon Myers. The American Championships of 1900 signalled Mitchell's return and he won the 56lbs. throw from a 9' circle with a Championship record of 35' 5", and also placed second, less than two feet behind Richard Sheridan, for the hammer-throwing laurels.

Came 1903 and the evergreen Mitchell, apparently as good as ever, turned out at State Fair Park, Milwaukee, to take American hammer and 56lbs. diadems with convincing margins of 6' and 10', respectively, besides taking Canadian hammer and discus titles at Montreal.

His last American laurels were won at Portland, Oregon, in the year 1905, where he was the only New York winner. The National Hammer Champion, A. D. Plaw, and herculean Ralph Rose, were among those beaten by the old title-holder in casting the 56lbs.

Mitchell pushed a 42lbs. weight 26' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the shoulder for an American record, in 1903, and in 1906, although completely out of condition, and 22 years in competition, he set himself to train for throwing the 14lbs. stone at the Athens Olympiad. Training six months, he reduced 50 lbs, and reached 78' in practice. But his chances of annexing an Olympic crown faded out when the vessel crossing to Athens was struck by a tidal wave and he fell on deck to dislocate a shoulder. It was a heart-break to the old warrior to see a Greek win the "stone-throwing" 'at a distance 13ft. less than he himself had done in trials.

Jim's best years had undoubtedly passed before the introduction of the piano-wired hammer. When he did eventually get handy with the modern implement he was 40 years old, yet threw 147' 6" with the 16lbs. and 175' with the 12lbs. one. The power was still apparent but the speed had greatly diminished. American opinion is that Mitchell would prove little, if anything, behind the Olympians of to-day, if given equal opportunities.

Mitchell turned to sports writing in later years and travelled to the Stockholm Olympic Games, 1912, to write up the various events for that famous paper, the "New York Herald," and he was the author of a volume devoted to weight throwing which was widely read. One of the many members of the "Invasion" team to make a home in the United States, his name is known wherever a passing interest is taken in athletic affairs.

Competing in an era of great weight-throwers, when each and every success was only achieved in face of the sternest opposition, he made more titles his own than any other weightman in history. The following is his amazing total:—

|                                         |        |    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|----|
| Irish Championships (I.A.A.A. & G.A.A.) | ...    | 17 |
| English                                 | ... .. | 5  |
| American Senior Outdoor                 | ... .. | 20 |
| American Senior Indoor                  | ... .. | 6  |
| New York Senior Metropolitan            | ... .. | 20 |
| Canadian                                | ... .. | 14 |
|                                         | Total  | 82 |

### JAMES M. RYAN OF TIPPERARY.

James M. Ryan, of Tipperary, first came into prominence as a youth by jumping 6' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the Limerick G.A.A. Sports of September, 1890, and his bigger performances of a later date so indelibly impressed those of his time that many insist that his equal has not been seen among the home jumpers of any era, despite the fact that Pat Leahy and Tim Carroll followed with certified records of fractions of an inch better.

The three best jumpers in the world of the early and middle 90's were the Irish-American, Michael F. Sweeney; J. M. Ryan, and Murty O'Brien, of Twopothouse, Buttevant, and, in order to place Ryan in the proper background it will be necessary to compare his marks with those of the other pair.

William Byrd-Page, U.S.A., already referred to, jumped 6' 4" for a world record at the Pennsylvania University meeting of October, 1887. Sweeney, who was born in Co. Kerry in 1872 and left Ireland when he was 8 years old, created a Canadian best of 6' 1 3/8" in September, 1892, and in October, topped 6' 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " at

the New York Athletic Club's Games, Travers Island, to take the Philadelphian's name off the lists. Ryan's one important outing of that year brought him defeat, O'Brien winning by an inch at 6' 1", in Clonmel.

At the I.A.A.A. Championships of June, 1893, Ryan got over 6' 1½" off wet ground and, in the English Championships, held in Northampton on 1st July, he made a cross-Channel Championship high-water mark of 6' 2½", off a pitch hard as iron with no pit to land in. This effort remained best in these tests until 1902, when the American, Sam Jones, cleared 6' 3".

On August 3rd, 1893, Ryan went over 6' 3½" at Nenagh, to beat the 13 years old Irish best of 6' 2¾" by Pat Davin. Here he jumped like a world-beater, not touching a lath up to, and including, this height. Slightly injured after his Nenagh efforts he was unable to appear at Clonmel, 4 days afterwards, against O'Brien, who crossed a grand 6' 2¾" off sodden turf.

Ryan again took the English Championship of 1895 at 5' 11½", on 6th July, and a fortnight later, in the first Ireland—Scotland International, at Celtic Park, Glasgow, jumped 6' 1", as heavy rain fell, to obliterate the Scottish record of 6' 0" by J. W. Parsons, in 1881.

Ryan next cleared 6' 3½" at Clogheen, Tipperary, on 1st August, officials and members of the clergy present certifying the measurements. This smashed British record, 6' 3¼", by Byrd-Page, 8 years before, Ryan being presented with a special prize and gold medal.

The 19th August, 1895, was "J.M.'s" outstanding day, the venue being Tipperary Town. At this, the first Sports meeting held at the venue for 8 years, the attendance, principally due to the immense popularity enjoyed by the Champion, was estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000, and he soared over 6' 4½", on his third attempt, to wipe out the world record by Sweeney. The good people of Tipperary, doing honour to their idol, may have unwittingly prevented him from negotiating an inch higher. When he had cleared his extraordinary jump a rush was made by the spectators and "J.M." was carried, shoulder high, around the enclosure. It was only after a lapse of about 10 minutes that he extricated himself from their attentions to resume operations at 6' 5½", all but succeeding, having gone over and landed when one end of the bar fell off the pegs.

Nine days later, Sweeney, jumping alone, topped 6' 5" at Travers Island, and the Irish and Irish-American partisans of homester and emigrant were at variance as to the legality of his claim for a new best-on-the-books. In a letter to the press, Mr. W. H. Carroll, President of Tipperary Athletic Club, pointed out that Sweeney's was purely an exhibition jump and that, should exhibitions count as record attempts, he would have pleasure in placing reliable evidence before the proper authorities that Ryan

actually jumped 6' 6" outside of competition. It will be argued that an athlete, as a rule, cannot reach his very best without the aid of the competitive urge, in what is termed cold blood, but Ryan may have been an exception to the rule, being of a delicate mould and rather shy in competition.

Sweeney, however, clinched the issue, by attaining 6' 5½" at Bayonne, New Jersey, on 2nd September, and 6' 5½" at Manhattan Field, on 21st September, the occasion of the London and New York International match.

"J.M." in attempting a further best, may have realised his lofty ambition by a more gradual approach. From the following it would appear that he was too hasty in several essays. At Portlaoighise he switched from 6' 1" to topple 6' 5". At Clonmel he cleared 6' 3" and then failed at 6' 5½". At Ballsbridge he topped 6' 2" and went straight for 6' 5½", to no avail, and at Bansa, on 16th September, 1895, before an enormous crowd, duplicated his 6' 4½" to bring down 6' 5½" by a shade.

James crossed 6' 2" in the second Ireland—Scotland match, the best of the Scots going out at 5' 10". His old foeman, O'Brien, whose best was 6' 3" at Kildorrery, in 1894, won the British title of 1896, and came up against Ryan, a month afterwards. Ryan won with 6' 1¼" at which height he allowed Murty five attempts.

J. M. Ryan took a jump as a youth would take a hedge or railing, his only change from the perpendicular, in mid-air, being a tucking up of the knees. He used neither kick, twist or turn, and it can truly be said that the world has seldom seen his like. A Schoolteacher by profession, he died at Tipperary, after a lingering illness, on 16th June, 1900.

#### WHO WAS THE GREATEST ALL-ROUND SPRINTER.

The concensus of sporting opinion is that Jesse Owens, Cleveland negro, was the fastest amateur sprinter of all time. The speed-king of the professional world was, undoubtedly, Jack Donaldson, of Australia. We are not concerned with claims for men who did not come through with certified times. The question next arises, "Who was the soundest up to 300 yards . . . Owens or Donaldson?" Those of the present generation are inclined to give the honour to Owens, while a surprisingly large percentage of the old school swear by Donaldson, the famous "Blue Streak." The principal bone of contention here is that excepting in two instances, each put up unbeaten times at separate distances between 60 yards and 300. An analysis of the figures of one against the other is therefore difficult, but, in the best two of three sprints, each at his best, it is quite possible that the result would have been a case of the coloured running sensation meeting his master.

The world amateur record for 60 yards, of which Owens is not the holder, is  $6\frac{1}{10}$  seconds. Donaldson did  $6\frac{1}{2}$  seconds for 65 . . . slightly better. Owens ran 100 yards in  $9\frac{2}{5}$  seconds, but Donaldson registered  $9\frac{3}{8}$ , or  $\frac{1}{40}$  faster. Owens ran 100 metres in  $10\frac{1}{5}$  seconds, or more than 7 yards inside of even time, but Donaldson, at 130 yards, showed the astonishing time of 12 seconds, dead, or 10 clear yards inside of "evens." At 220 yards Owens stands alone, with  $20\frac{3}{10}$  seconds, Donaldson's book form reading  $21\frac{1}{10}$ . The Australian then comes right back into the picture by being the only runner, amateur or professional to do 300 yards inside 30 seconds . . .  $29\frac{61}{64}$ . The critic may endeavour to bring in the name of Harry Hutchens to queer the issue, but Harry's sole claim to supremacy would evidently rest in the outcome of a 300 yards test, in which he recorded 30 seconds from a standing start. Admittedly the advantages of the modern "crouch" or "bullet" start might mean a trifle more than the  $\frac{3}{64}$ ths between him and the "Blue Streak."

In fairness to Donaldson it must be pointed out that his best years were 1910 and 1911, when sprinting in Australia and South Africa. Then he was only in the habit of running up to 150 yards. It was not until after his arrival in Britain that lucrative matches came his way over the longer routes. His  $9\frac{3}{8}$  seconds for the "century" was put up on two occasions in the rarified atmosphere of Johannesburg, in 1910, and the 12 seconds for 130 at Sydney in 1911. His 220 yards best was clocked at Shawfield Park, Glasgow, in 1913, and the 300 yards best at Salford Football Club's Grounds, the same year. Consequently, what the British public saw may not have represented genuinely, the wonderful pace that was his two or three years previously.

All things considered, the scales appear to weigh in favour of . . . Donaldson.

### JOHN PURCELL.

The Caledonian Games, Lansdowne Road, of 2nd June, 1884, was the best attended meeting held in the Metropolis up to that time, with the possible exception of the College Races, not less than 20,000 people passing through the turnstiles, despite counter attractions in Baldoyle Races and the Australians and Trinity cricket match at College Park. A world record was broken in the hop, step and jump, by "Honest John" Purcell, of the Metropolitan Hurling Club, a native of Ballymaley, Ennis, Co. Clare, who took but two efforts, reaching  $45' 11"$  and  $46' 7\frac{1}{2}"$ . The previous best was  $45' 4"$  by Dr. John C. Daly, at Cork, on 22nd April, 1873.

When delving into the dim and distant past, one finds that Purcell's name looms up as our best jumper, on the flat, of the middle 80's, and he is therefore deserving of most honourable

mention. He was also accepted as our finest all-rounder of the period following Pat Davin's retirement in 1883.

On 25th May, 1885, John advanced to  $47' 3"$  at the second Caledonian Games, from indifferent ground and, on 17th June, at Tralee, had a great day by chalking up  $47' 7"$ , as well as taking long jump and 120 yards hurdles and placing second in 100 yards and high jump. Here he was the recipient of a gold cross as the best all-rounder. Incidentally, Tralee was blessed with a first-class cinder track at this early day.

Irish athletes figured with outstanding success in the English Championships, at Southport, in June, 1885, a little party of five winning three titles and four runner-up berths. Purcell took the long jump with  $21' 10\frac{1}{2}"$ ; P. J. Kelly the high jump and "Jumbo" Barry the hammer-throw, while Kelly was runner-up in both pole vault and long jump, Owen Harte in the shot-putt and Hayes of Galbally in the 7 miles walk.

The Irish Amateur Athletic Association held its inaugural Championships at Ballsbridge in July, 1885, and Purcell won the long jump and hop, step and jump titles, and he covered a fine  $22' 7\frac{1}{2}"$  long jump at the Freeman's Journal Sports of 5th September.

The first team of Irish athletes to make the trip to the New World, though not fully representing the strength of the Emerald Isle, was that which took part in the 2nd Canadian Championships in Rosedale Grounds, Toronto, on 26th September, 1885, and they secured five titles and a like number of runner-up medals. Purcell took the long jump and was second in pole-vaulting, in which latter event he was most unfortunate. D. C. Little, of Trenton, Ontario, won at  $9' 0\frac{1}{4}"$ , and "Honest John" actually got over  $9' 8\frac{1}{2}"$  in jumping off for second place after a tie. The great all-rounder, Malcolm Ford, was forced to play second fiddle to John in the long jump, this being the first occasion on which the New Yorker was beaten on level terms.

Purcell next contested the American All-round Championship, held on the old New York Athletic Club's arena at Motthaven, on 30th September, and, although far from his best, acquitted himself well. In the hurdles event he fell at the fourth obstacle, gashing his right knee, from which blood trickled continually for the remainder of the contest. Ford won with John second.

In April, 1886, John, on soft ground, covered  $47' 7"$  in the hop, step and jump, at Cork Queen's College Sports, the record-holder-to-be, Dan Shanahan of Kilfinane, registering  $45' 5"$ , bare-footed. The pair again came together at the Mardyke Ground, during that season, in adverse conditions, Purcell doing  $47' 11\frac{1}{2}"$ , and Shanahan  $2'$  less, also without shoes.

In the third Caledonian Games John won five events, showing a fine turn of speed by winning the 220 yards off the short handicap of 7 yards.

The English Championships of 1886 were run off at Stamford Bridge and Purcell beating the 1884 Champion, Horwood of Marlow, won the long jump at 22' 4", and did a grand exhibition of 22' 9".

His best jumping was recorded at the Freeman's Journal Sports, Ballsbridge, in July of that year, witnessed by 10,000 to 12,000, but, unfortunately, a fall of ground deprived him of records for long jump and hop, step and jump, his marks for these being 23' 11½" and 48' 4". The wording of the Certificate issued by Mr. George Searight, Civil Engineer, regarding the long jump, is of interest :—

" I find that there is a fall of only 1.8" in 75ft. of ground in the approach to the take-off, but from take-off to a distance of 23' 11½" there is a fall of 4.8" over which Mr. Purcell accomplished his phenomenal jump. Under these circumstances I have no doubt that, on level terms, Mr. Purcell could jump within 3 inches of this performance."

Pat Davin's 23' 2" remained on the books, of course, and it should be noted that Davin jumped from grass while Purcell had a board take-off.

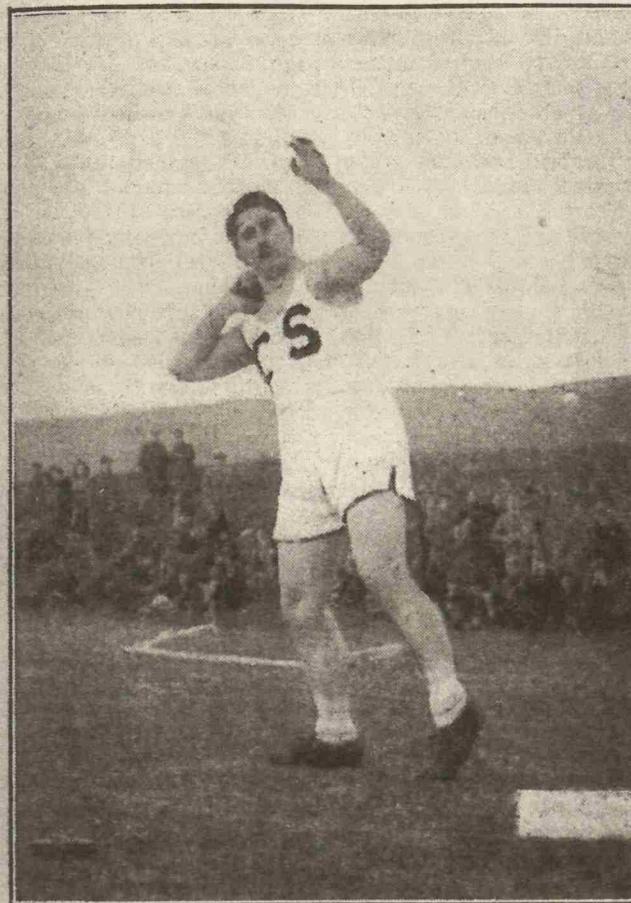
At the Mardyke Grounds in May, 1887, Purcell made a fresh accepted hop, step and jump mark of 47' 9½". Here he reached a highly creditable 39' 1" in shot-putting, won the long jump and was second in both 100 yards and 120 yards hurdles. His best record for the hop, step and jump was 48' 3" at Limerick, on 9th June, 1887. Strange as it may seem he was only placed third, as James O'Brien, Clonmel, the winner, had a 7' handicap, and Michael Connery, Kilfinane, who did 45' 10", being in receipt of 4ft.

At that time and up to well into this century, the event in which John Purcell made early history was not altogether what it was designated for competitors were allowed to take two hops and a jump, which was calculated to be an advantage of almost a foot in distance covered, over the present mode. This is explained away by the fact that, when allowed two hops, the performer remains all the time, throughout the three movements, on his jumping leg.

Purcell's last appearance here was at Tralee, in August, 1887, where he covered over 47' in his pet event, and he sailed for the U.S.A. soon after, to figure prominently there on athletic fields, especially on the Pacific Slope. He died many years ago.

### JOHN J. FLANAGAN.

Different authorities have stated that the height of the hammer-throwing wonder, John Flanagan, was 5' 9½", but his own state-



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ment is that he stood 5' 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Born at Kilbreedy, Kilmallock, he came under early notice as a prize-winner at Emly in 1891, and his first title came three years later, a Munster 56lbs. event, at Waterford R.I.C. Sports.

In August, 1895, on the historic day when James M. Ryan broke the high jump record, John negotiated 22' in the long jump as a close-up second to Larry Roche of Bruree, and cleared over 46' in the hop, step and jump as second to Ryan. His first notable hammer win was accomplished here for he beat Denis Carey. In September he was second in the G.A.A. all-round Championship, to Tom Wood of Enniskean, Cork, at Clonmel, with 11 points to spare over Mike Ryan of Rockwell, famous Rugby man.

In April, 1896, at the Gaelic Sports, Stamford Bridge, he broke two world hammer records, beating, by 2ft., Mitchell's recognised best of 145' 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ " from a 7' circle. In May he brought world figures in the unlimited run and follow mode to over 156' at Kensal Rise, London, and, in July, took the British crown from a 9' circle.

Flanagan emigrated a few months afterwards. His initial encounter with Mitchell was in the New York Senior Metropolitan Championships, in Columbia Oval, in August, 1897, Mitchell suffering his only Championship defeat in 8 years, John taking the hammer throw at just over 149', and going ahead to win the American title in late August at some inches less. He then travelled to the Canadian Championships, at Toronto, and put up a Dominion record 9ft. better than the one existing in Mitchell's name, also taking the 56lbs. laurels.

John won the Olympic hammer throw at Paris in 1900, with 167' 4", crossed over to take the British crown at 163' 4" and, coming home on holiday, threw 160' 5" at Kilmallock, all of these marks being far in advance of anything shown by his contemporaries.

At Celtic Park, New York, in September, 1901, he brought the hammer record to 171' 9" and in October, made world discus best, 124', at St. Louis. Before the end of that month we find him at the Irish-American Games, New York, blotting out Mitchell's 56lbs. figures from a circle with both hands, at 36' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

On 31st July, 1904, he reached 173' with the hammer and won his second Olympic title at St. Louis, doing 168' 1".

John's best accepted 56lbs. throw from a 7' circle was that given in winning the American Championship of 1907, at Jamestown, 38' 8", and here he also beat 171' in taking the hammer event.

Matt McGrath was now coming to the fore and he beat John in the Fall of 1907 at over 170' and the inclusion of both on the American team for the London Games, 1908, made for a great struggle for mastery. Matt led into the final at Sheppard's Bush, with a throw of 167' 11", but John came out in the concluding rounds to win at 170' 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", a fresh Olympic record and his third

consecutive win. Again visiting this country, he flung a 56lbs. 39' 2½" and the hammer 179' 10", each from a 9' circle, which figures are still on our books.

The battle of the giants between Flanagan and McGrath went on anew on their return to the New World. Their titanic struggles were the high lights of the period. Matt took the American Championship, at Travers Island, and John the New York Senior, by a foot, at over 172'. McGrath had, by now, erased John's world record, by inches, but, on their tenth meeting of 1908, Flanagan regained the best figures with 174' 4¾", at the Fall Games of the Irish-American A.C.

The arrival of Con Walsh of Carriganima, Macroom, in the United States, made the competition sterner still. In June, 1909, Flanagan threw an unprecedented 174' 10" but was unable, at this, to concede a 10ft. handicap to Walsh who beat 165'. At Celtic Park, also in that month, John beat 174' against a breeze, with McGrath just 2½ft. away, but John had a convincing win over Walsh and McGrath, at American League Park, when he became the first human to ever reach the classical 180' with a regulation 16lbs. hammer. His crowning achievement came, however, at the Clann-na-Gael Games, Newhaven, on 24th July, 1909, when he threw 184' 4".

Joining the New York Police he was declared No. 1 physical specimen of 1,200 applicants. He definitely placed hammer-throwing on the map, adding more than 37ft. to his earliest record during a period of 13 years. He came home to reside in his native place in 1911 and died there in 1938.

Flanagan's style was a treat to look upon and many of the aristocrats on Fifth Avenue were in the habit of visiting Travers Island and other New York venues to see John, and John alone, pivoting in the circle. Although Alfred Plaw of California, was the man who started the three turn method of throwing a hammer, he was actually unaware of the fact, as he employed it in a rather crude form, but John, seeing him in the circle, at once saw its great possibilities, and brought it to perfection. Prior to the advent of the Germans, sound judges of form described him as "the greatest hammer-man, of his inches and poundage, that ever lived."

#### THOMAS F. KIELY OF BALLYNEALE.

Nineteen men out of twenty, when asked to name our greatest all-rounder, will reply, without hesitation, "Tom Kiely, of Ballyneale." This amazingly versatile athlete, born on 25th August, 1869, standing 6' 1", and weighing a few pounds over 13 stones, has his name inscribed on almost every page of Irish athletic history between 1892 and 1908. With the torso of the

weightman and the legs of the sprinter, he was ideally suited for all-round competition . . . throwing light and heavy weights, speeding over hurdles, and jumping, with almost equal facility.

Slow to come to the front, he took part in his earliest meeting in 1888, but it was not until four years later that he donned a Champion's mantle. On 10th September, 1892, at Jones's Road Ground — now Croke Park — he won 7 G.A.A. Championships, these being 16lbs. shot; long jump; 120 yards hurdles; hammer-throw; putting 7lbs. and 28lbs., and hop step and jump. This total has not been equalled by any other track and field performer within the past half century, Dr. O'Callaghan coming a good second with 6 titles in 1931. Kiely, although taking off 6" behind the line, reached the great figures of 49' 7" for the hop, step and jump crown of '92, from a grass take-off, after already taking the other 6 Championships. During that season he reached 50' 9", with a fall of ground, on first essay, at Durrow, and the world record of 50' 0½" by Dan Shanahan of Kilfinane was apparently at his mercy if given certified conditions. Doing 48' 11" in first attempt at Mitchelstown, he asked that the ground, which appeared level, be certified for attempts on record, but the individual in charge of the meeting, a friend of Shanahan's, would not accede to his request. But Kiely suffered permanent injury to muscles in both legs when playing football, a little later and, although putting up many fine jumping performances in the years ahead, never again knew the unrestricted spring with which he was gifted at the age of 23.

As in the cases of herculean men such as Maurice Davin and James Mitchell, it can be said of Kiely that he arrived too early to enjoy big hammer throwing distances with the modern implement. Using a wooden handled hammer, he beat all previous figures recorded on Irish soil by Mitchell and Barry, doing 140' 2" in 1886, at Dungarvan. He smashed Flanagan's Irish best in the unlimited run and follow mode, by 7ft., advancing to 152' 9½" at Limerick in 1898, and, with a straight, wire-handled hammer, minus triangular grip, broke new ground, repeatedly, from 142' 5" in 1897 to over 154' in 1905. Winning five British titles between 1897 and 1902, the renowned Flanagan was the only one to beat him in that stretch although these Championships were open to throwers of all nations. Tom's world record, 38' 11", for throwing a 56lbs. with one hand, and unlimited run and follow, is liable to remain for all time, the event being now obsolete. The American record is 6 ins less by Mitchell. Kiely's 27' 2" at Sligo, with a 56lbs. thrown from the side without follow, also remains since 1905.

In the Ireland—Scotland match of 1895 at Glasgow, Tom furnished something of a sensation for the Scots. Newburn was unable to turn out in the long jump and Tom was put on as a reserve and he broke the 14 years old Scottish best in this sphere by 3½ ins., from a grass take-off, the old mark being 21' 11" by

Vallance. This performance has not been surpassed north of the Tweed without the aid of a board.

Tom was a hurdles man of real class, his 16 seconds dead of 1902, coming within 3/5 of a second of world record by the American, Alvin Kraenzlein.

Kiely competed in four Irish All-round Championships, up to the time these were dropped from athletic programmes here, in 1898, and won them all, beating fine performers like Dr. T. M. Donovan, Denis Carey, A. M. Forrest, Larry Roche, T. E. Wood and P. E. Farrelly. If he were afforded the opportunity of competing in International All-round trials in the 90's there would appear to be little question regarding his superiority over all and sundry. When such chances did come his way in the American All-rounds of 1904 and 1906 he was years past his peak. On Independence Day, 1904, in a combined test over 10 events, at St. Louis, against the best men in the New World, he won at 6,036 points, by 129 points from Adam Gunn, of Buffalo. Wretched conditions prevailed, mud and slush covering the track owing to a large percentage of clay being used in its preparation, and following rain.

On 23rd June, 1906, the Boston arena was in a sodden state, rain falling heavily, and a postponement for an hour proving of no avail. A former holder, Ellery Clark of Boston, was an odds-on favourite, but was relegated to third place, the 37 years old Kiely, in the face of driving rain and wind, winning by a huge margin of 1,210 points from John Bredemus. The Tipperary athlete's compilation was 6,274, or just 86 points short of American record by Harry Gill, in 1900. Kiely threw both 56lbs. and hammer further than any man had previously done on American soil in such a contest and his points total at the half-way stage was 3,409, or 9 points better than world record. His points for the hammer-throw were the highest ever recorded up to that time in any event in an All-round Championship. He quit at pole-vaulting after going over 9' 5", without taking all his tries, and won the hurdles by 5 yards without touching one. What he would have totalled a decade previously is problematical, but it is quite definite that, in the intervening years, he lost yards in pace, over a foot in the long jump, and several inches in the high jump. This general slackening, following 18 years of strenuous activity, must have brought him back to the tune of several hundred points, each performance being assessed in value according to standard.

Tom remained in the United States for some time, being royally received by Irish contingents in places as far apart as New York and Chicago. He made every effort to have another test put on, in order to show his real ability in favourable conditions, but nothing came of his challenges. A sports writer of the day summed up the position fairly accurately in these caustic terms :—  
"apparently those with whom he would do battle are good judges

of form and do not rush into defeat when it can be avoided."

Martin Sheridan, of Bohola, Co. Mayo, won the American All-round title the following year, with a record total, and visited Ireland after the Olympic Games of 1908, to compete under the banner of the G.A.A. Kiely and Sheridan met in a trial at Dungarvan, consisting of 5 weight events, on 16th August. Honours were equally divided until the last item, but as each fouled three times in this, the judge, the late Frank Dineen, disqualified both, and the result was declared a tie. Frank's could be described as a diplomatic ruling, for his main concern appeared to be that there should **not** be a loser.

Although Mitchell heads the list with his grand total of weight-throwing titles, Kiely's number, on the other hand, constitutes something unique in athletic history. An athlete extraordinary, who competes with such outstanding success for close on 20 years, over such an abnormal range, is to be excused if he loses count of his prizes. Probably the best calculation Tom can now make is to the nearest hundred, but his collection of Championship and International gold medals total 71, made up of the following unrivalled assortment :—

#### English Championships.

|        |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Hammer | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

#### Irish Championships.

(I.A.A.A. & G.A.A.)

|                    |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Hammer             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| 56lbs.             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| 120 yards hurdles  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8  |
| Long jump          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| All-rounds         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Hop, step and jump | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| 28lbs.             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| 7lbs.              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| 16lbs. shot        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |

#### American Championships.

|                    |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| All-rounds         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| International wins | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |

Thomas F. Kiely is now residing convenient to the home of the Davin family, at Shawfield, Carrick-on-Suir. Though not a relative of the Davins as is commonly supposed, it was from Maurice and Pat that he received his early athletic education. Appearing a long way short of his 74 years, he judged the weight events at the N.A.&C.A.(I.) Championships, 1943, at Clonmel, with Dr. O'Callaghan, and affairs were certainly in capable hands.

## PETER O'CONNOR.

A glance over the march of the long jump record breaker from the dawn of organised athletics to the era of our subject here will be of introductory interest. John Godwin Lane, of Trinity, jumped 23' 1½" at the "College Races" of 1874. Pat Davin did half an inch more in 1883. The Englishman, C. B. Fry, famous cricketer, added a further 3½ inches. in 1893 and Matthew Roseingrave, of Gort, Co. Galway, advanced to 23' 7½" at far-away Sydney, in October, 1896. W. J. Newburn, of the Offaly-Westmeath border country, following the introduction of a board take-off, registered 23' 9¾", at the Dublin Postal Sports, of June, 1898, and 24' 0½" in the Ireland—Scotland International, Ballsbridge, a month later. Newburn's 24' 6¾", at Mullingar in July, 1898, was not accepted, as presumed in some quarters. The joint Records' Committee of I.A.A.A. and G.A.A. rejected the figures, but his previous mark remained until April, 1900, when Myer Prinstein, of Syracuse University, cleared 24' 7¼" at Philadelphia.

Wicklow born Peter O'Connor, 6' 1" and 11 stones, was training for the legal profession, back in Connemara, in the middle 90's, and showed an early glimpse of outstanding form by jumping 22' 6", off grass, at Ballinasloe, in August, 1896. By 1900 it was abundantly clear that, barring accidents, something new was in the offing, after Peter had, in late August, taken the long jump at Barrett's Park, New Ross, at 24' 3", and covered 24' 7¾" in an exhibition, from a board but 4 ins. wide.

The Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships, at Ballsbridge, of Whit Monday, 1901, proved that the peer of all jumpers had arrived. In a downpour, with the judges peering out from underneath their umbrellas, O'Connor took the title at 24' 9", his leading leg breaking clay at the extraordinary mark of 25' 5", but the other trailed. On 5th August of that year he accomplished 24' 11¾", from a board, at the R.I.C. Sports, Ballsbridge, and 23' 10¼" from grass, both world records. After the lengthy span of 45 years, no British jumper has approached the former, and no performer in world athletics, the latter distance. A month later he won the Pan-American World long jump Championship, at Buffalo, New York.

Some of the best in the universe were at this time reluctant to take the pitch with Peter, including the Olympic Champion of 1900, Kraenzlein. The German-American entered for the English Championships, 1901, and, although taking the hurdles event in record time—a pointer to excellent form, generally—he declined to compete in the long jump, which O'Connor won, unopposed, with 23' 8½". He undoubtedly would have bettered this considerably if any genuine opposition had come forward. Again, at the D.M.P. Sports, six weeks afterwards, where O'Connor cleared

23' 11", Kraenzlein contested the hurdles and high jump but again refrained from participation in the long jump.

In Portlaoighise, two days after the English Championships, O'Connor crossed 25' 0½", which distance was not ratified owing to a meagre drop of 2½" covering the entire length of run-way and jumping pit. The Engineer's Certificate asserted that such a fall would scarcely turn still water. The 24' 11¾" was a world record for 20 years, until Ned Gourdin, Harvard University, now a Colonel in the American Army, did 25' 3" in 1921.

Peter won the hop, step and jump title at the Athens Olympics of 1906, at 46' 2", and placed second in the long jump to Myer Prinstein. At this time our representative had slipped back considerably, and was due for retirement. Even so, Prinstein was given extra measurement for a stretch of clay broken by his heels which should not have been allowed. The Irishmen here objected to their being classified "United Kingdom" and O'Connor climbed a pole and hoisted an Irish flag, Con Leahy, winner of the high jump, standing by, on guard, in case Peter might be frustrated in the attempt. Prince George of Greece, on hearing the facts of the case, observed . . . "perhaps by the time the next Olympic Games come round, Ireland may have her own Parliament."

Peter was almost equally proficient as a high jumper. In the Ireland—Scotland match, 1901, held in conjunction with the Glasgow Exhibition, the great Pat Leahy failed at 5' 11½", which was cleared by the diminutive J. B. Milne of Dundee. This effort was cheered to the echo by the Scots, who considered the event already won. But they reckoned without O'Connor, who soared over 6' 0½", with feet together, in one clean bound. A Scottish sports writer described the feat as "a brutal long-high jump." At Ballsbridge in July, 1901, the Olympic high jump Champion, I. K. Baxter, failed to concede him a 2" handicap, Peter doing 6' 1", but the English Championship, 1902, saw his greatest achievement in this sphere. This was one of the best of the entire series, to the present day, Sam Jones, U.S.A., topping 6' 3", a Championship record; O'Connor, 6' 2"; Con Leahy, 6' 1", and Milne, 6'. Peter had, immediately before, gone through a gruelling long jumping test, and won at 23' 7½". The figures for his six consecutive long jump wins here (1901-'06 inclusive), show a consistency without parallel in the cross-Channel arena.

O'Connor was anything but a specialist. On the date he broke the records from a board and off grass, he also took the high jump, 5' 10½", and one of the sprints and placed in two other events. At the Cathedral Town, Thurles, he won 4 1899 G.A.A. titles . . . long jump, 24' 3"; hop, step and jump, 48'; high jump, 5' 9", and 220 yards, and was runner up in the 100 yards and second in a handicap sprint.

Resident in Waterford City almost since his boyhood, he is

one of the best known Solicitors in the South of Ireland. Apart from Athens, he has travelled to the Olympiads at London, Paris, Amsterdam, Los Angeles and Berlin, and would have been to Tokio or Helsinki had either venue housed the World Championships of 1940. He was a judge at Los Angeles, 14 years ago.

Since O'Connor's day the long jump record has changed hands seven times, and he has had the privilege of seeing all of the holders in action . . . Ned Gourdin ; Robert Le Gendre, of Newark, New Jersey ; De Hart Hubbard, Cincinnati ; Edward B. Hamm, Georgia ; Sylvio Cator, Haiti ; Chuhei Nambu, Japan, and Jesse Owens. Further, he has had interviews with six of the seven, the exception being Cator, who will be remembered as a singular figure at Amsterdam, carrying his own flag in the Parade of Nations as the sole representative of the West Indian island of Haiti.

Our stand-out long jumper, although not recommending smoking for aspiring athletes, has himself always smoked, in the words of a contemporary, "like a veritable steam-engine." He is as well preserved at 73 years (born 18/10/1872) as the average man a quarter of a century his junior, retaining the erect bearing, and much of the elasticity of movement of the athlete. The rough grass surfaces on which he competed four decades and more ago were not conducive to record breaking performances, for the perfect pitches of Los Angeles and Berlin were things unknown in the early part of this century. It is reasonable to assume that, were such at his disposal, a few more inches, at least, would have been added to the distance which, for many long years, was considered the peak point of human endeavour . . . his 24' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

#### A LESSON IN PSYCHOLOGY.

"Keep a cool head in competition and it is half the battle" say the old-timers. This may be a slight exaggeration, but there is no doubt that the cool and calculating type of athlete has a definite pull over the excitable or "jumpy" competitor, more especially on big occasions. The circumstances surrounding the winning of the Olympic hammer-throwing Championship of 1932 make it clear that an absolutely imperturbable temperament was required by the victor to save the day for Ireland. The story provides a fine illustration of the value of self-control at a critical juncture.

On taking the circle in the initial round at Los Angeles, Dr. Pat O'Callaghan made the rather alarming discovery that the long spikes in his shoes prevented free movement in turning, owing to the peculiarly holding nature of the hard-packed surface. Qualifying for the final rounds with but two turns instead of

the customary three, he set himself to filing down the spikes in between throws, and, as their length diminished, gradually brought conditions to his liking. At the beginning of the last round the grand old veteran, Ville Porhola of Finland, still led by a matter of inches. The filing, in which Robert Tisdall later took a hand, went on right up to the last moment, and then the announcer called out, "Dr. O'Callaghan, Ireland, the holder, is now taking his last throw." Little now remained of the spikes but the stumps, and, as Tisdall put it, "the Doctor entered the circle with a broad grin of satisfaction." The immense crowd looked on in a strange silence, for here was a strange position. The stockily built Finn had won the Olympic shot-putting 12 years previously, at Antwerp, while O'Callaghan won out at Amsterdam and was defending the crown. The one to come through would therefore prove a dual Olympic Champion, anyway, and the sympathies of the onlookers were oddly divided. The Doctor steadied himself a moment or two, taking a well balanced stance, and then a solitary voice, in an unmistakably Southern Irish accent roared down from the Stands . . . "Now, Doctor. Give it to them." As if impelled by the confident tone of the other, the stalwart from Duhallow plunged into dynamic action, and so convincing was his throw that the crowd had begun acclaiming him as the winner before the hammer landed **five and a half feet** beyond Porhola's best mark. After proving the only athlete to retain his Olympic laurels at that Olympiad, Pat turned to a bystander and casually remarked . . . "That was a Corkman named Dan Horgan broadcasting from the Stands." And so it was, for, some time later in the day, the same well-meaning Dan crashed his way into the dressingrooms, clapped the winner on the back, and, after the usual congratulations, enquired . . . "Did you hear me shouting at you?"

#### DENIS HORGAN OF BANTEEER.

One of the most remarkable personalities in Irish athletic history was Denis Horgan, the Banteer, Co. Cork, shot-putter, 5' 9", and built on the lines of an old oak. When an outstanding man looms up in this department, at intervals, we are wont to use the Horgan standard for comparison, for Denis was definitely our best home-trained manipulator of the 16lbs. sphere, taking in all eras.

Like John Flanagan, Horgan was something of a jumper in his youth. At Jones's Road ground, in August, 1893, he topped 5' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in the high jump, and James M. Ryan, who was suffering from a slight injury following a record jump at Nenagh, there failed to concede Denis the short handicap of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

The formidable mark of 44' 9" confronted Denis as an Irish

and British record when he began. This fine standard had been set by George Gray of New York Athletic Club, at the old Ballsbridge Ground, in 1888, but Denis, in his third Championship year, 1894, did 45' 3" in winning the I.A.A.A. title, and 46' 5" at the Dublin Metropolitan Police Sports. Additional figures were put on by him until August 9th, 1897, when, at Mallow, he first registered over 48', doing 48' 0½", and, at Cobh, on 19th September, he set world record at 48' 2". American record then stood at 47', by Gray, at Chicago, 1893. After a further lapse of 7 years, Horgan, on 18th September, 1904, broke new ground with 48' 10", at Mallow Town Park, which is on the books until the present day as an Irish native record. Incidentally, the 25 years old David Guiney, born only three miles from Banteer, and being but 17 months old when Horgan died, looks like smashing this long-standing mark, as the young Civil Servant has already chalked up 48' 2½", certified.

In the inaugural Ireland—Scotland International, at Glasgow, in 1895, Denis set up a Scottish best of 44' 7" and at Glasgow Celtic Football Club Sports, 1899, advanced to another of 47' 1" which was unbroken for decades. The English Championships, 1899, saw him raise the figures for these to 46' 0½", an unbeaten best, until the appearance of the Swede, Nilsson, in 1913.

In the British Championship of 1900, he lost to the American Champion, Richard Sheldon of New York Athletic Club. Feeling he had struck an "off" day, he decided to get to the American Championships by hook or crook, for a second trial of ability with Uncle Sam's representative, and, at the last moment, made a decision which stamped him with the hall-mark of greatness. There was no luxury liner for him; no travelling expenses; no guarantees. He had not been to America previously, but, no other means being available, he voyaged into the unknown, working his passage on a cattle-boat to Boston. Disembarking there he travelled through the night on a "sleeper," arriving in New York a few hours before the great meeting on Columbia Manhattan Field. Although his entry had been received he was not expected, he having entered the United States unheralded. Some Irish friends brought him on to the ground, and, when his name was called . . . "Denis Horgan, Ireland," he shouted, "I am here," from the side-line, and walked on to the field already toggled. The opposition that day was of the very highest class, for the English and Scotch performers did not rate up to American standards. Sheldon had not alone won the British, but also the Olympic Championship, and Wesley Coe of Boston was a world-record-holder-to-be. Horgan's appearance in such dramatic circumstances caused intense excitement and the crowd cheered him to the echo as he won at 46' 1¼", a second best to date in these tests, Coe registering 45' 0½", and Sheldon, 44' 8". In an exhibition at the Pastime A.C. Games, New York, next month, he "putt"

48' 2½", and exceeded the world 12lbs. shot-putting record with an effort of 55' 9½", which was not accepted owing to its not being in a genuine competition.

An adventurous spirit lost him his amateur status soon afterwards, through his competing at some of the Scottish Highland Games . . . professional meetings. This was a senseless step, surely, for the man who had defeated the pride of the Old and New Worlds was bound to be recognised by the athletically educated Scots whose brawny representatives had made him show of his best in many an arena. The Scottish Association suspended him and the rulers of affairs at home had no other option but to follow suit. This lost him at least two valuable years, but he came back as good as ever in 1903.

In 1905 he again set sail for the United States and enrolled with New York Athletic Club, in whose colours he contested the American Championship of 1906, at Travers Island, but was forced to content himself with a runner-up medal, after the best contest yet seen for the laurels, W. W. Coe, now of Michigan University, doing 46' 10½", and Horgan, 46' 5½". A fortnight later the Corkonian pushed a 28lbs. weight to the American and world record distance of 36' 3", Irish best standing at 35' 1" by Willie Real of New Pallas.

One evening in the Fall of 1907, Denis was standing in a New York store, when a party of Italians accosted him and passed some insulting remarks regarding the Irish, to which he replied by toppling over two or three like nine-pins. It was an unequal struggle for one of them came from behind, armed with a shovel, a blow from which fractured the Irishman's skull, and he was removed to hospital in an unconscious condition. At first it was thought he would not live, but, following the insertion of a silver plate in his head, he rapidly came round to something like normal health.

After this unfortunate occurrence the pessimists agreed that here was a physically broken man and to them it marked the end of a colourful career. But the reserve power in that tremendous frame was seemingly inexhaustible. Home again in 1908, he entered for the English tests in London. The Scottish title-holder, Kirkwood, reached a fraction short of 44', but Horgan, doing 44' 7", took the laurels for the 10th time and was runner-up in hammer-throwing to the American, Gillis.

Four Olympiads were held in the period 1896-1906, but Denis did not compete in any of these and it is a foregone conclusion that he could have won at least two of the shot-putting titles with no effort at all, Garrett, U.S.A., winning in 1896 at 36' 2", and Sheridan, U.S.A., at 40' 4", ten years later. The Games at London of 1908, afforded him his first opportunity, but here he was opposed to the finest shot-putter the world had seen up to that era and for a long time afterwards, the 6' 6" Californian, Ralph Rose, who

once recorded 51ft. Denis filled runner-up berth to Rose, and beat the American second string, Garrells, by a foot and a half.

He won three more British Championships, winding up with a 44' 10" in 1912 when he again beat Wesley Coe. These meetings being open to a universal entry, the man who wins a title on two or three occasions is considered of most exceptional merit, and bearing this in mind it would appear that the winning total of 13, out of 14 entries, to the credit of the Banteer weight-thrower, may never be equalled. He secured second place on the 14th occasion, but turned the tables on his conqueror two months later as already described.

The old Champion was usually so superior to his fellow competitors that he seldom trained in any sort of systematic way, yet he showed a marked consistency of performance, in all conditions, over a period of 20 years. Furthermore, he was a hammerman of more than ordinary ability, placing second on no less than six occasions in the English A.A.A. Championships, behind the best exponents of the day . . . John Flanagan, Tom Kiely, Tom Nicholson and Simon Gillis. In all he won 42 titles, as follows:—

#### Irish Championships.

|             |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 16lbs. shot | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| 28lbs.      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| 56lbs.      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| 14lbs.      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| 7lbs.       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |

#### English Championships.

|             |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 16lbs. shot | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

#### American Championships.

|             |     |     |     |     |   |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 16lbs. shot | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

Denis Horgan died at Crookstown, Co. Cork, in June, 1922, at a comparatively early age. His memory will live.

### THE WONDER ATHLETE — JIM THORPE.

When the merits of the great all-round athletes of the different eras are being discussed the name of Jim Thorpe invariably looms up, for it is questionable if greater existed than the American Indian, taking in all forms of sport in which he participated.

The amazing Cherokee represented the United States at the Stockholm Games, 1912. Over the ten events making up the

decathlon he compiled a total several hundred points in excess of anything previously recorded, and beat the second man, Weislander, of Sweden, by the colossal margin of 700. He also won the pentathlon, constituting five events, thereby completing a "double" never accomplished by another. As well, he competed in other events and went into the high jump final to push the cream of the universe quite close. He was the recipient of a silver miniature Viking ship, presented by the Czar of Russia, and received a gold bust of the King of Sweden, from the King himself, who said, "Thorpe, you are the greatest athlete in the world."

And then came the anti-climax. On his arrival home the rulers of athletic organisation in his own country somehow discovered that he had accepted monetary reward for playing baseball, and he was adjudged a professional. He was ordered to return the Olympic medals and trophies for decathlon and pentathlon, and these were given to Weislander and Bie, of Norway, his name being also removed from the Roll of Honour. Championship medals won elsewhere were also taken from him and allotted to the second man in each case.

Thorpe accepted the judgment like a stoic—like the Indian that he was—with the reply, "I thought I had done no wrong." Many others had done the same and retained amateur status, but he was picked upon and made the scape-goat. Considering the honours he had won for his country, the slight infringement might well have been left in the Limbo of forgotten things. This action was taken in the name of justice but, to him, it must have appeared a relic of that alleged justice which caused the ruination of his people through broken promises and fire-water.

But Thorpe did not quit. He began a new career to have his name known from Coast to Coast, quite apart from athletic performance. He became a more than useful heavy-weight boxer, a fine baseball player, an absolute genius at basket-ball, and one of the greatest American footballers that ever pulled on a boot. The Indians have had outstanding athletes since his time and the ultimate object of each has been to become **second** to Jim, for it never really occurs to them that they can again provide his equal.

Yet, withal, the day came when the world seems to have forgotten Jim Thorpe. About the year 1928 we find him working with a pick and shovel in the streets of Los Angeles for three dollars a day, a change indeed from the time when a King felt the prouder for being afforded the opportunity of shaking his hand. Of late a fickle fortune has been a little kinder, and the film producers have taken him on, usually playing the part of an "extra" in pictures depicting Indian warfare in the old West, with, of course, the whites always finishing best.

Nevertheless, in the eyes of the athletic enthusiast, Thorpe remains the star, and those represented as the stars in his company, are just the "extras."

## DENIS CAREY.

Denis Carey, 6' 2" and 14 to 15 stones, born at Kilfinane, Co. Limerick, remained in active competition in the front rank for a most extraordinary long period of time. Taking part in a variety of events, he did not become a specialist in hammer-throwing until late in his career. Therefore, in order to present his performances in an appropriate setting and tangible form it will be imperative to place them in chronological sequence and in two stages of 15 years each.

He begun in a golden era for Irish weight-throwers, and this in itself places him on a very high plane, for the winning of an Irish Championship in this branch, in the early 90's, attracted world attention. Dr. Barry, then resident across Channel, had no serious opposition in Great Britain. James Mitchell, of Emly, stood alone on American fields, while Kiely was Gaelic Champion and John Flanagan's name was already creeping into the news. Carey's name first appeared in the head-lines in June, 1892, after his winning the Irish Amateur Athletic Association hammer-throw at Ballsbridge, as a member of the Dublin Metropolitan Police. The following year he retained his title, with an Irish and British record of 130' 3", with a wooden-handled hammer, from 7' circle. Travelling to Northampton he won the English Championship, on 1st July, Dr. T. M. Donovan, James M. Ryan and Denis Horgan, taking long and high jumps, and shot-putt, on the same day. At home he won the pole-vault crown, an unusual department for one of such proportions.

He had an outstanding year in 1894, winning the G.A.A. quarter-mile and hop, step and jump, and, in the I.A.A.A. All-round Championship at Ballsbridge, had a rare set-to with Tom Kiely, who won by 6 points, with Tom Wood, Enniskean, third, and Larry Roche, P. E. Farrelly and John Murray bringing up the rear. Finishing in front of Wood was a sterling achievement for Tom won through the following year from John Flanagan and Mike Ryan, Rockwell.

After a rather quiet term of four years duration, Carey blossomed forth into a class performer over the hurdles, taking the whole series of I.A.A.A. titles from 1898 to 1902, inclusive, and three Internationals against Scotland, perhaps his most meritorious victory being in June, 1900, at Cliftonville Grounds, Belfast, over R. S. Stronach, Scottish Champion. The pair fought out the feature event of the day, in blinding rain, Carey winning on the tape by inches. His sixth, and last, Irish title over the obstacles, was secured in 1905, in what was described as the finest contest seen in these Championships for 20 years. Then styled "The Grand Old Man of Irish Hurdlers" he beat Tom Kiely (the same Kiely who won the American All-round event a year later), Pat Harding and T. A. Harvey.

We now enter into the second stage of a most extraordinary career extending over half a lifetime. From the middle 90's he had given more attention to the hurdles than to the hammer, being prevented from doing well in the latter owing to keeping down weight for the former. Having come to the conclusion that he had shot his bolt on the track he reverted to his earlier sphere of activity, winning the 1907 and 1910 hammer Championships.

In 1911 John Flanagan came home to take up a permanent abode here, and the pair met for the Championship at Ballsbridge, Denis being a most creditable runner-up. They last battled for mastery 16 years before, at Tipperary Town, on the day James M. Ryan made his memorable jump.

John, in the meantime, although smaller, and shorter in the arms than the other "giants" of the period, devoted many years to study of the finer points, and intensive training, emerging as the most classical thrower of them all. The old Flanagan-Carey friendship was renewed, and John set about bringing along his Countyman on the most scientific lines, with the modern, piano-voiced implement. But he was endeavouring to perform something little short of a miracle, in beginning on a completely new pattern and seeking to provide a counterpart in a man already past his best. He made Denis pivot like a teetom-totum, and it was here the Kilfinane man yearned for departed youth . . . the spring and agility necessary to counteract what one might term the recoil, and remain in the circle after speedy delivery. There was one other flaw which neither had thought of at the time. Carey's arms were inordinately long, a decided acquisition, and though the style that made Flanagan the wonder that he was, was imparted to some extent, there was no provision made for allowing extra play to Denis's abnormal reach, which should have been his most potent factor.

Carey placed second to Flanagan, once again, in 1912, and crossed to the English Championships. In practice, immediately before the contest, he caused consternation among "the fancy" by throwing well over 170 ft. In the competition proper, the speed of his turning brought him out of the circle four times out of six. His principal antagonist was Scotland's all-time best, Tom Nicholson of the Western Isles, and Tom was given many anxious moments. Carey was eventually forced to slow down, and threw 157' 0½" as runner-up to Nicholson, who did 162'.

Sheer bad luck appears to have dogged our representative at this time. He was selected to represent the United Kingdom at the Stockholm Olympiad, and the hammer circle was there raised to suit the requirements of Sweden's No. 1 entry—a dangerous experiment, which caused the retirement, at an early stage, of one of the Americans, with a wrenched ankle. Carey could not show of his best and the winner, Matt McGrath, expressed the opinion that he was capable of attaining second place in normal conditions.

In 1913 Denis won the I.A.A.A. crown at 155' and threw 164' 9" at the D.M.P. meeting, and in 1914, retained his laurels with 155' 1". His Association held no Championships during the first World War or he would have won a few more, for he was still good for 153' in 1919.

1920 saw him at Stamford Bridge once more for the English Championship, in which he was a winner 27 years before, and this time he made third place. His last major win was at Clonliffe Harriers Sports, in 1922.

Allowing for three years spent as a comparative unknown, prior to his taking his initial Championship in 1892, he was before the public as an active athlete for 33 years, covering three generations of the normally accepted competitive span. In his time he trained some unbeatable D.M.P. tug-o'-war teams, and witnessed the first International victory accomplished by the Metropolitans. This was at Jones's Road on the occasion of the inaugural D.M.P. Sports, in 1893, when the famous Scots Greys marched on to the pitch, with banner unfurled, bearing the slogan, proudly defiant in its implication, "Nulli Secundus"—"Second to none." After that day they were **second to one**.

For many years Mr Carey acted as Chief Instructor in the old Dublin Police Depot, Kevin Street, where, as a recruit, he discovered the Irish and International high jump Champion, Garda Con O'Connor. He was the veteran and the mentor of police athletics and the guardians of the peace have long looked upon him as a monumental figure of their storied past. He retired from the Garda Siochana in 1926, with the rank of Superintendent, and is now living in Co. Wicklow, convenient to Ashford. To-day his stalwart form is a pointer to the beneficial results of athletic exercises.

### EDWARDS' GREAT HALF-MILE.

The high light of our great National Festival of 1928, the Tailteann Games, was undoubtedly the magnificent half-mile run by Phil Edwards, the coloured Canadian. Although he finished ahead of Lloyd Hahn, America's No. 1 half-miler, at Amsterdam, the month previous, it was thought by many that Hahn would beat him on this second essay. When the English star, Douglas Lowe, beat both at the Olympic Games, he was definitely favoured by circumstances. Edwards, prior to the final, had run a smashing 1 minute 53 seconds 800 metres against Hahn, and also a 49 seconds "quarter," while Lowe had the luck of the draw in the other semi-final, and was a comparatively fresh man. It had been understood that all competitors in the Tailteann Games should be Irish or of Irish extraction but it was drawing the long bow to

include Edwards in either category and the joke went round that Phil was a "coloured Irishman." At Croke Park, Hahn, with the greatest confidence, requested that tapes be set up at both 800 metres and 880 yards, to enable him to smash Irish records in each. When Tom Maguire, Trinity's coach, informed Edwards of this in the dressingroom, Phil's reply was, "He'll never break them!" This shows the rivalry which existed between the pair and the result was the finest piece of running ever seen in this country, Edwards coming right away from Hahn in the concluding stages to break the tape at 800 metres in 1 minute 52 1/5 seconds, and doing the half-mile in 1 minute 53 2/5 seconds. Competent judges averred that Edwards, running on a grass track, and not fully extended, was absolutely unbeatable on that particular day.

The writer then penned his impressions of the memorable race in the following lines:—

### "EDWARDS' GREAT HALF-MILE."

To the Tailteann Games of '28 there came across the sea,  
Some athletes of Olympic fame in sporting rivalry.  
Long-standing marks went by the board and in impressive style,  
But best of all was Edwards in that wonderful half-mile.

This coloured man from Canada just left them standing still,  
His equal we have never seen—perhaps we never will.  
From stars of world-wide repute he simply walked away,  
Including that fine runner, Hahn, the pride of U.S.A.

He had the fans electrified with wonder and amaze,  
His lovely action, light and free, held our astonished gaze.  
To us he will remain a star whose light will never dim,  
As a runner incomparable we give the palm to him.

The pressmen said this coon had got an Irish ancestry,  
Though some were rather doubtful as to how the thing could be.  
Some Celtic antecedent may have hit a foreign clime,  
But it must be somewhere about dear old Columbus' time.

It mattered not to sporting men from whence this flyer came,  
And he grinned in approbation as we thundered his acclaim.  
But when the great Hahn challenged him he quickly lost his smile,  
And grimly he responded in that wonderful half-mile.

His span was quite phenomenal with each tremendous stride,  
And yet he ran so smoothly that he almost seemed to glide.  
His head was held well forward as he stretched out o'er the ground,  
His arms then shot out full length at every deer-like bound.

'Twas then the greatness in him showed and, OH ! to see him run,  
His ebony black figure flashed beneath the evening sun.  
And such terrific pace he set he fairly cut the wind,  
He broke the tape in record time and left Hahn far behind.

He proved himself a marvel in a memorable race,  
The way he ran was beautiful—quite flawless in its grace.  
No human being could beat him then ; he stood out all alone,  
And Lowe, and Peltzer and the rest he could have overthrown.

To-day we all remember him as one without a peer,  
His memory shall never fade, and down from year to year,  
When runners of our own will make new records on our soil,  
Our thoughts will turn to Edwards—and his wonderful half-mile.

#### BEAUCHAMP R. DAY.

No other Irish runner of any era has gained the pre-eminent ranking given to Beauchamp Day, three of whose professional records remain unequalled in any country. George Tincler was 1, 2 and 3 miles Champion of the World, but his name does not remain on the record lists. Day was born in 1882, and, after having made quite a reputation as a boy athlete in the Corrig School, Dun Laoghaire, took the Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championships for 220 and 440 yards, in June, 1900.

Up to Day's time the Irish quarter-mile record was jointly held by Alfred Vigne and the late High Court Judge, James Creed-Meredith, who each clocked 51 seconds, in 1887 and 1896, respectively, and this Beauchamp beat in most amazing fashion at the Dublin Metropolitan Police Sports, on 14th July, 1900. Running widely on the bends, and with poor poise, he appeared badly beaten at the half-distance, but came again to overhaul the handicap men and win by a yard, on the outside. The time flabbergasted the watch-holders . . . 49 2/5 seconds. The American, Maxy Long, who broke the world record for the distance two months afterwards, at Guttenberg, New Jersey, on a straight track, with 47 seconds, had won the British "quarter" crown a week prior to the date of Day's performance, in 49 4/5 seconds, but here was a youth of 18 summers doing yards faster. The officials then and there decided that nobody would believe the correct time, and allowed Day the minimum fifth of a second inside of the old Irish record, so 50 4/5 seconds was the time put on the books, and announced to the sporting world. Those responsible further endeavoured to vindicate themselves as regards this unusual action by holding that knowledge of such remarkable ability would spoil the youthful Champion . . . that his chance would come again at a more mature age, and so on.

But James Hamilton, of Glasgow, accepting Day for the great runner he was, induced him to try his luck on the professional track, and he crossed to Blackpool the following year, to be placed in charge of the well-known "pro" trainer, Bobby Cryer, for the 130 yards New Year's Day Handicap of 1902, at Powderhall.

The Irishman was rather an unknown quantity at the shorter distances, but Hamilton and Company made no mistake. Day's handicap was 10 yards. The betting, early on, was 20 to 1 against, but the bookmakers became alarmed at the amount of money being placed on the young flyer from Dublin, with the result that, at starting time, the odds were down to "6 to 4 on." Winning through to the final, and, after retiring to bed for an hour, Day won by 2 yards, in 12 3/5 seconds, and his party cleared up in the neighbourhood of £4,000.

From this time Beauchamp became a rambler over the face of the Globe, taking in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the South Sea Islands, the United States and Canada. Facts were later brought to light which clearly indicated that, after arrival in Australia, he fell into unscrupulous hands, and was forced to "run to orders." In many events he ran to lose, and it has been asserted that he was not even allowed to train properly in some



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cases. Eventually he threw his dishonest mentors, to whom he was bound by contract, aside, and became his own manager.

On 28th December, 1906, at Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, he ran 350 yards in 37 1/5 seconds, taking more than a second off the then world record by the English speed-king, Harry Hutchens, of Putney, in 1885. This was never equalled in the professional ranks.

On 1st April, 1907, at Perth, Western Australia, Day ran what was, perhaps, his greatest race. It was at a quarter of a mile. Being in excellent form and feeling like returning to the homeland for a spell, he entrusted every shilling he owned to an honest bookmaker. But, great runner though he was, subsequent information caused him to feel that he may, after all, have done something extremely rash. Generally, in such races, there are one or two favourites and the usual "long shots," but here it transpired that of the seven men in the race, six were backed to win. Furthermore, all were strangers to him and he knew nothing of their capabilities. His reactions immediately preceding this epic of the track are best described in his own words:—

"I was actually **compelled** to win but I do not believe I ever felt lonelier in my life at the prospect of being stranded so many thousands of miles from home. I grew strangely excited when on the mark, but let me point out that there is a great difference, as far as the sprinter is concerned, between excitement and nervousness. Excitement means driving force . . . an added stimulus . . . but nervousness points to lack of control. Jumping out of the holes like a rocket, at the gun, I ran as I never ran before, and I confess I could not have gone any faster if I had got the whole world for doing so. About 20 yards from the tape I had the race won and went through with about 4 yards to spare. When the time was announced, 47 4/5 seconds, it was not surprising to me that the others were backed with such confidence."

Bauchamp's time was nearly half a second faster than the previous best, 48 1/2 seconds, by Dick Buttery of Sheffield, which world record had defied all attempts to smash it for a term of 34 years. It may also be noted that Day's time was accomplished on a grass track.

On SS. Peter and Paul's Day, 1907, Day put up his third unbeaten record, by registering 17 1/5 seconds for 175 yards on a straight grass track, at Auckland, New Zealand . . . 4 yards inside of even time.

Beauchamp arrived back in England in 1908 and a match was arranged between him and the Australian flyer, Arthur B. Postle, for the quarter-mile Championship of the World, and stake of £200. Postle, one the fastest starters that ever lived, had done 9 1/2 seconds for 100 yards and 13 seconds for 140, proving himself the finest of all world sprinters yet to appear, Jack Donaldson not reaching the top until two seasons afterwards. While admitting

that Postle was tackling something beyond his distance, his wonderful sprinting power was reckoned to give him more than an outside chance. This would appear to be the opinion of shrewd judges, the odds only favouring Day at 11 to 8. The match was run at Salford Football Grounds, on 15th August, 1908, and Day won easily, by 8 yards, in 49 1/5 seconds.

Three months later Beauchamp recorded 21 7/10 seconds, against an incline, over 220 yards, for a new British record, at Higginshaw Grounds, Oldham, thus taking another Hutchens mark off the books, and going within 3/10ths of a second of the world high water figures by the New Zealander, L. C. McLachlan.

In the course of his wanderings, Day won New Zealand titles at distances from 130 to 440 yards, and, when in the United States, took the 100 yards Professional Championship in 10 seconds, dead. When R. W. Wadsley, English "quarter" winner, 1901, turned "pro," Day beat him with surprising ease, by several yards, in a 220 yards match.

If allowed to run unfettered in the complete period from 1902 to 1906, the Dublin prodigy may have further added to his International fame. His friends in Britain strongly advised him to refrain from taking the trip to Australia, but he could not be dissuaded. When "down under" he certainly did not, for a time at least, receive the straightforward treatment enjoyed by Tom Malone, two decades before, in Sydney and Melbourne.

B. R. Day, when last heard of, was domiciled in England. We have not his like to-day . . . nor had we since his day.

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### MARTIN J. SHERIDAN.

The County Mayo has earned an honoured place in the annals of Sport, principally through her famous heavyweight boxers. The Championship of the World was won by two of her stock and three more gave almost as much as they received in memorable battles for the crown. James J. Corbett knocked out the supposedly invincible John L. Sullivan in 21 rounds. Frank Moran made a great bid for the title, losing on points after 20 rounds with Jack Johnson. Big Bill Brennan waged a terrific fight with the celebrated Dempsey, when Jack was champion. No matter what Jack tried in the first 6 or 7 rounds, Bill knew all the answers, and the "Manassa Mauler" only won in the end through unrestricted use of the now/illegal "rabbit punch," the finish coming in the 12th round. Tom Gibbons, little more than a cruiser-weight, lost on points over 15 rounds in an essay for Dempsey's title, and Gene Tunney, of Kiltimagh associations, beat Dempsey twice. In addition, Mayo-born Mike Gibbons, Tom's brother, was a claimant to the middle-weight crown following the shooting of the champion, Stanley Ketchell, in 1910.

But our North-Western County can also boast of as fine a type of athlete as Ireland has produced, the famous all-rounder, Martin Sheridan. Martin, born at Bohola, on 28th March, 1881, standing 6' 1" and weighing 13½ stones, emigrated to the United States when a lad of 16. His brother, Richard, of the New York Police, who preceded him a few years, and won three weight throwing Championships of America, took him in hand before he had left his 'teens, their training grounds being those of the old Pastime Athletic Club, New York. The younger Sheridan entered competition in 1901 and from this time his rise was meteoric, for inside a year he had exceeded John Flanagan's discus throwing record by more than a foot at 125' 3".

Although comparatively light for manipulating heavy weights, he entered, at 22 years, an all-round weights contest at Celtic Park, and tied for first with Flanagan, beating John in the shot-putt and discus, his figures in the latter reading 131' 7", a fresh world record. This was a Sheridan day for Richard surprised by beating Flanagan in throwing the 56lbs.

Martin took the shot-putting and discus championships of America in June, 1904, and, on 1st September, at St. Louis, won his first Olympic discus crown with an Olympic record distance. Travelling to Montreal, three weeks later, he took the Canadian discus title with an unprecedented effort of 133' 6½" and placed second in the shot-putt and high jump.

At Boston, in July, 1905, he won the United States All-round Championship, compiling a total of 460 more than the previous best by Harry Gill. Another record went by the board at Montreal, his title being retained at a fraction under 134'.

The 1906 Olympiad was held in the famous marble stadium at Athens and Martin won shot and discus events. The discus he threw over 136', a distance which was not ratified as a new best owing to the circle being a trifle over the stipulated diameter. Doidrecas, Greece, and Jaervinen, Finland, placed second and third respectively. On returning to his adopted soil, the American discus crown fell to him, at Travers Island. Montreal again called him before the termination of this season and there, for the third time, he smashed world record at 135' 5".

1907 saw him take the American All-round title in sweeping fashion, with a total of 7,130½ points, this being the first time the 7,000 mark was exceeded anywhere. His superiority here was now accepted by all and Richard Cotter, of the Irish-American Athletic Club, was the only one to don togs against him and give this the name of a competition. Sheridan won 9 of the 10 events.

Within a fortnight a special prize was put up by the Brooklyn Post Office Association for the winner of a test comprising four weight events . . . hammer-throw, 56lbs. shot and discus. The entries included Matt McGrath, Pat McDonald and Con Walsh, but Martin came out best by a point margin over McGrath—the real McGrath—for in this contest Matt beat world record with the hammer. Sheridan beat the discus record, won the shot-putt, and placed third in the hammer-throw. A month afterwards he won New York Senior Metropolitan Championships for discus and shot, beating in the latter the famous Denis Horgan, at 43' 11¾". The Irish-American Athletic Club, then in its golden era, beat the runner-up—its doughty rival—the New York Athletic Club, 87 points to 48; for team honours. In September, 1907, at Jamestown, Sheridan took American titles for discus throwing in both the free and Greek styles.

At Franklin Field, Philadelphia, in June, 1908, were held the American Olympic Trials, to pick a team for London, and two more world records were established by the Bohola athlete, 139' 6½" in the free, and 116' 7½" in the Greek mode. The old mark in the latter was just over a foot less by Werner Jaervinen, Finland, whose son is the wonder javelin thrower of recent years, Matti Jaervinen. Incidentally, this is the one and only case of an Olympic Champion father with an Olympic Champion son. Werner was a winner at Athens in 1906, and his son, also, at Los Angeles, 26 years later.

Sheridan was a dual winner at the London Games of 1908, taking the discus in both styles, and placed third in the standing long jump. Touring Ireland before returning to the Land of Stars and Stripes, he was royally received by the G.A.A., under whose auspices he chose to compete. At Dungarvan he had need to show of his best when encountering Tom Kiely, their meeting in 5 weight events ending in a tie, the last event being undecided. At Croydon Park, Dublin, he had a tough nut to crack in our shot-putter,

Paddy Keane, who shook the 43ft. mark and was close up in flinging the 7lbs. A huge concourse of people from his native county assembled at the Horse Show Grounds, Ballina, on 6th September, to see Martin propel the shot well over 46ft. It is doubtful if the iron sphere was the full poundage at Ballina, for the mark set by Sheridan in that event was far in excess of anything recorded by him elsewhere.

Travelling to and fro across the Atlantic appears to have bettered his form, if anything. In the month of June, his discus record was taken over by A. K. Dearborn, New York A.C., but, a few days after landing, Martin won back the honour with a throw of 140' 6½", at the Pastime Club's Games. In December, in Madison Square Garden, an indoor arena, we find him in a new role, beating the great shot-putter, W. W. Coe, by over a foot, for the American Championship with an 8lbs. weight. For further variety, he was placed as runner-up in the hop, step and jump and third man, throwing the 56lbs. for height, behind McDonald and McGrath.

The finest discus throw of Martin's career, 144ft., was made at Celtic Park, New York, in May, 1909, but no recognition was accorded the effort owing to measurement being made with two tapes, spliced together with a piece of shoe-lace. It so happened that in the second city in the universe, no steel tape was available when called for. Sheridan's best accepted figures in this event were 142' 10¼".

Sheridan added a further 255½ points to his record in winning the American all-round title of 1909. Again, only one other competitor gave challenge, and the Irishman won all but one event.

In the Irish Volunteers' Games, Brooklyn, during the Fall of 1909, Martin beat John Flanagan a clear 4ft. in pushing a 42 lb. weight from the shoulder, doing 27' 0½" for an American best-on-the-books, 4ins. in advance of the listed figures by Mitchell, in 1903. The identical weight thrown by Mitchell was used by Sheridan. The world record then stood at 28' 5" by James Barrett.

Had the decathlon (the counterpart of the All-round) been an Olympic programme in Sheridan's day, he could have added two, and possibly three, to his total of 5 Olympic titles, for, taking in the best of the Old and New Worlds, he was the uncrowned king in this exacting sphere for several years. Apart from his power in the weight throwing field, he beat 22ft. in the long jump, was close to Championship rank in pole-vaulting, a sound high jumper and hurdles racer, and about third best man in America at one time, in the hop, step and jump.

One of the most perfectly shaped athletes to ever grace the athletic arena, he scored 99.1% in the physical test prior to his admission to the New York Police, of which he was a member for 13 years at the time of his early demise, on the eve of his 37th

birthday, in March, 1918. Reporting for duty one day, he complained of feeling very tired and, within half an hour, was rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital, New York, where he died inside a week from pneumonia. In the funeral procession were many notable men in American public life, as well as a vanguard of Olympic Champions, and the streets were thronged with thousands of spectators.

In May, 1921, a monument was unveiled at Calvary Cemetery, New York, in memory of the famous Irish-American, at a cost of 3,000 dollars, subscribed by prominent Irishmen in that city. The monument is in the shape of a Monasterboice Cross. Supreme Court Justice Daniel F. Coholan opened the ceremonies and said—

"We are gathered here to-day to pay tribute to the memory of, first, an American, then an Irishman, and, above all, a famous athlete. Martin J. Sheridan was known far and wide as a leader in athletics and he displayed his qualities as such on many occasions. Few will ever forget the time when he represented America in Greece and excelled the natives of that country at their own game of discus throwing. His memory will never die.

Only two other athletes have won more Olympic gold medals than Sheridan and these are, Ray Ewry of the United States, and the incomparable Finn, Paavo Nurmi.

#### FAMOUS GALWAY RUNNERS OF THE PAST.

The County of Galway had its golden era in the athletic sphere during the first decade of this century, three of her long distance runners being then among the best in the world.

John J. Daly of Ballyglunin had gained International ranking long before making a home in the New World and further enhanced his reputation as a member of the Irish-American Athletic Club, New York. Built more on the lines of a weightman, he stood over the 6' mark and, while representing Ireland in his early years, weighed just 13½ stones.

Daly came to the front in 1902, in which year he took the Irish Amateur Athletic Association mile and 4 miles, and the mile and 4 miles in the International against Scotland, at Ballsbridge. In this latter match, although climatic conditions were adverse, he had 20 yards to spare in the mile, registering a sound 4 minutes 27 4/5 seconds, and won the 4 miles by 6 yards in 20 minutes 42 3/5 seconds.

In 1903 he won the G.A.A. 2 miles flat at Tipperary in 9 minutes 35 2/3 seconds and it is not clear why this time was not handed down as an Irish record to J. J. O'Connor's day. In 1903, also, Daly ran third, behind Shrubbs and Edwards of England, in

the International Cross-Country Championship, at Hamilton Racecourse, after winning the Irish Senior at Clonskeagh, and he was fourth in the International of 1904.

Daly first crossed the Atlantic in 1904, to win a handicap mile put on in conjunction with the Olympic Games at St. Louis, and the Canadian mile and 2 miles titles at Montreal. In 1906 he travelled a great deal, being in the United States, England, Ireland and Greece.

Daly's style was far from being a thing of beauty but his bulldog courage and tenacity brought him home in front of some of the best runners of his day. In the International Cross-Country Championship of 1906, at Newport, Monmouth, he fell three times on the ploughed stretches, to finish fourth, while at the Athens Olympic Games faulty foot-gear proved his undoing in the marathon. Although having blistered feet after a few miles he kept up with the leaders until the 18th mile, at which stage scarcely an inch of skin remained on either foot, and he was forced to retire. To quote Peter O'Connor's words . . . "I never in my life saw such a pair of feet on a human. They were in a shocking condition."

In 1907 "John J." stood alone among long distance men of the New World. In September, he won the American 5 miles Championship at Jamestown, simply running the legs off that fine runner, George Bonhag, American Olympic representative of the following year, and, a fortnight afterwards, he took the Canadian 3 miles at Montreal, smashing the Dominion record by 10 seconds. In October he won the American 10 miles at the New York Polo Grounds. He stood out in a field of 18 runners, the second man being a full lap behind. The time was designated an American record, for this particular race had previously been run on an indoor track.

In 1909 he won the New York Senior 5 miles flat at Travers Island, in a time which was but 6 seconds outside of the American record by Eddie Carter, and, in 1911, the Canadian 3 miles fell to him in 14 minutes 58  $\frac{4}{5}$  seconds, only a fraction short of Canadian record. His last important race was the Pennant A.C. Road Race at the Bronx, over 4  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles. Over 100 runners took part and Daly won in 23 minutes 8 seconds, a record for the course.

John J. Daly is now a prosperous saloon owner in New York City. Still prominently identified with athletics, he is listed as a Judge, year after year, for the American Indoor Championships held annually in Madison Square Gardens.

John J. Joyce from the neighbourhood of Moycullen, another of Galway's durable sons, first attained world wide standing by taking the American 10 miles title of 1903 at Madison Square Garden, by 40 yards, from a field of 49. In the autumn of that year he won the New York Senior 3 miles by 35 yards. In March, 1904, at Madison Square Garden, he retained his 10 miles crown

in easy fashion, going to the front at 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles and being 350 yards in front at the tape. In June of this year, he became American 5 miles title-holder, the race being run at the World Fair Stadium, St. Louis. 1905 saw him romp home an easy winner for his third consecutive United States 10 miles Championship from an entry of 22. He was also the American Senior Cross-Country winner of 1902.

It is difficult to assess the merits of Joyce against those of his great contemporary, England's running marvel, Alfred Shrubbs, over 10 miles, for, while Joyce won his laurels over boards, Shrubbs ran in the open. Shrubbs held world record for 10 miles at 50 minutes 40  $\frac{3}{5}$  seconds until the phenomenal Nurmi came through with an almost unbelievable 50 minutes 15 seconds, and, though it would be unfair to infer that Joyce could hold Shrubbs, the inclusion of the latter in the American 10 miles of 1905 would make for a great race. Joyce clocked 54 minutes 54  $\frac{1}{5}$  seconds, in winning, and in so doing compassed the boarded track of Madison Square Garden exactly 100 times. It must be borne in mind that indoor tracks are not at all so conducive to fast time as turf and Joyce put in an astonishing turn of speed in the run home, showing plenty of power in reserve should the opposition be of a sterner order.

Thomas Hynes, also from the Moycullen vicinity, whose best performances were put up almost entirely on the home sod, turned professional at the peak of his career, and it is therefore a rather intricate problem to give an accurate picture of his standards in uniformity with amateur values. Many of the old-timers maintain that Hynes was even a better man than Daly, and they certainly have some real grounds for substantiating such a claim. The Irish Senior Cross-Country Championship of 1905 was staged at Elm Park, Dublin, on 11th March, and the strength of Galway at that time was such that, without the services of John J. Daly and Peter Joyce, the County still won team honours. Hynes led by 100 yards after the first lap, by 300 after 4 circuits, which he increased to 500 yards on entering the last lap, and he won through in, perhaps, the most hollow fashion it has ever been won, breaking the tape with a 600 yards lead. Fourteen days later the 3rd Annual International Cross-Country test was fixed for Baldoyle. The distance was approximately 8 miles and miserable weather conditions prevailed. Daly retired at an early stage. Shrubbs's successor, Aldridge, of Highgate Harriers, was the leader after one lap had been covered, with Hynes at his heels. Hynes took the jumps better and was level with Aldridge with two laps gone, with J. E. Deakin, England, 120 yards away. Completing the third lap, Aldridge was 20 yards ahead and drew gradually away to win by 80 yards, but Hynes led Deakin, the third man home, by 150 yards when the bell went, and beat him by a further margin. Aldridge was unquestionably the best cross-country man

in the world at this time, the English standards here being somewhat higher than the American, and the resources of Finland as yet unknown. Hynes received an ovation after his gallant race. The honour of winning this particular annual test has only come to one Irishman, Tim Smythe, who triumphed in 1931, and, apart from Hynes, but two Irishmen have gained second place, Frank O'Neill in 1910 and J. J. Ryan in 1925.

In March, 1906, Tom was a member of the Haddington Harriers team which travelled to contest the English Cross-Country Championship and only lost team honours by 5 points. Hynes occupied 3rd place, with J. C. Hayes and Charlie Harris, 8th and 10th, respectively.

In 1909 the Irish professional marathon Championship, over the standard 26 miles 385 yards course, was brought off at Jones's Road, and it attracted more attention than any foot race since the famous Conneff-Carter match at Ballsbridge in 1887, a huge crowd being in attendance. The Dublin runner, Pat Fagan, who, incidentally, died last year, stuck like a leech to Hynes and the latter only led by 5 yards on entering the last lap, but a strong finish enabled him to win by 80 yards, in 2 hours 51 minutes 51 seconds. In October, 1909, again at Jones's Road, Tom won a 15 miles race in 1 hour 25 minutes 1 second—great running. It is interesting to note, by way of comparison, that the American record for the distance, in amateur circles, then stood at more than 2 minutes slower, by the fine English runner, Syd Thomas, at New York, in 1889.

On 22nd May, 1910, the professional marathon at Jones's Road, provided a hectic struggle for mastery up to the three quarter mark between Tom and Timmons of Oldcastle, Hynes's strength being the deciding factor in the concluding stages. Surgeon McArdle acted as starter. Tom won in 2 hours 54 minutes 33 seconds, with 2 minutes to spare. J. C. Hayes was 4th and Pat Fagan 5th. Thomas Hynes is to-day one of the leading lights in athletic affairs in Galway.

Martin Egan, of Shanaglish, Gort, furnished one of the brightest spots at the 1944 N.A.&C.A. (I.) Championships in Dundalk by running the 4 miles in a time just 21 seconds short of the record for the distance, set up by Tommy Conneff, 57 years before. Egan's most formidable opponent, on form, appeared to be the mile and four miles Champion, Bryan Downey of Civil Service. Knowing that Bryan usually held a strong hand with his speedy finishes, through plenty of 440 yards races in public, Egan set a terrific pace in the opening stages in order to kill off any sprinting abilities on the part of the holder, at the close. Whether Downey was unable to maintain the pace, or was reserving himself for the mile race, later, is a matter for conjecture, but he retired from the 4 miles at an early stage and, after two miles had been covered, Egan felt that he had his opponents where he wanted them, and

took things easily for a few laps. Then it became apparent to somebody that he stood a chance of breaking record and he was exhorted by his friends to pile on pace, which he did to the best of his ability. But Egan is not of the sprinting kind who could make up much leeway in a lap or two. He is a dour, determined type of runner, accustomed to setting a particular pace throughout and depending on his unusual strength and staying power to pull him through. If he lost a record at Dundalk, then it was lost in the third mile, for the fact is that he set out to win a race, but not to break a record.

Although Bryan Downey's mile Championship win of 1944, in 4 minutes 25  $\frac{3}{5}$  seconds, was only beaten on two occasions in the Irish Championships until Barry appeared, Egan's performance, rating it from that angle, ranks higher still, for, up to last year, only one other Champion equalled Martin's time since the inauguration of Championship meetings here, in 1873. J. J. Barry, who beat Egan in the 1945 Championship in a time 2 seconds faster, on a sodden track, would have won whether Egan had fallen or not, but the Gort man knows that the young Tipperary athlete is, at 20 years, one of the most promising distance runners that Ireland has produced.

#### THE LEAHY FAMILY.

The Jaervinen family of Finland was undoubtedly the most outstanding in modern athletic history, comprising, as it did, the old World Champion, Werner, and his three extraordinary sons; Kalle, a 50' shotputter in 1928, "Akie," second man in the decathlon in two Olympiads, and Matti, Olympic Champion and world record holder for some years, who flung a javelin over 253'. But it is fairly safe to assume that the six brothers Leahy, of Creggane, Charleville, were unrivalled if judged on the basis of general jumping ability.

Pat was first to gain the heights, but Con, contrary to the general belief, was older, and, on this account, we will make him our initial subject. His first big effort was 6' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at Banteer, in June, 1899, followed by 6' 2" at Mallow a couple of months afterwards, and he beat 6' on one occasion in 1900.

In September, 1901, the great figures of 6' 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " were chalked up by him at Errill, Leix, but as he had not shown anything in that neighbourhood at this early stage, we cannot but view the performance with reserve. In the same month he won the G.A.A. Championship at the Markets Field, Limerick. Heavy rain fell, making conditions poor, but he got over 5' 11" to beat the late Mike Creed, of Elton, an inch and a half.

On 21st June, 1902, Con won I.A.A.A. high and long jump titles at 6' 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and 22' 8", going on to 23' 3" for distance at Charleville, the following day.

Although Pat was Irish and European record holder in the high jump, Con was much more consistent. Whatever he did in the Championships at home he could be depended on to duplicate on foreign fields. His earliest attempt at taking an English Championship came at a most inopportune time, 1902, for the standard was higher than ever before, Sam Jones, U.S.A., winning by an inch from Peter O'Connor at 6' 3". Con, however, had the honour of beating the Scottish Champion, J. B. Milne, with a fine jump of 6' 1", and tied for second place in the long jump with the English representative, L. J. Cornish, each doing 22' 1", O'Connor winning. Con was a non-stop competitor at this time for, next day, he gave an exhibition of 6' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from favourable ground at Jones's Road, and crossed 6' 1" at Portlaoghise, the next. This year he tied with brother Pat for 1st place in the Ireland—Scotland International high jump.

On 3rd August, 1902, the American, Jones, paid a visit to Limerick and a fine contest was seen, Jones being asked to concede a 2" handicap to Con and Pat, which he was unable to do. Jones and Con both cleared 6' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and Pat 6' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". A fortnight afterwards the elder Leahy, as well as taking both jumps with fine figures, reached an exceptional 48' 6" in the hop, step and jump, at Killarney.

At Powderhall, Con won the Ireland—Scotland high jump, 1903, and the G.A.A. title, with 6' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", at Jones's Road.

In 1904 he topped 6' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at Galway, 6' to win the International at Belfast, and 6' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at Glasgow Celtic Football Club Sports, just a quarter of an inch short of the Scottish all-comers record by the American Olympian, I. K. Baxter. The general standard shown in the Gaelic jumping Championships of that year was the highest in world athletics. In the hop, step and jump, John J. Bresnihan, of Castletown-Conyers, Limerick, covered 49' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Con Leahy, 49' 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", and Mike Creed, 47' 8", and Leahy crossed 6' 2" in the high jump.

1905 was an all-conquering year for Con. He took the British Championship for the first time, at Stamford Bridge, the high and long jumps against Scotland, the Gaelic high jump title, and was credited with 6' 4" at Westport and 6' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at Castlebar and Riverstown. Bresnihan just retained his hop, step and jump laurels from him by an inch at 48' 11".

On May Day, 1906, he won the Olympic high jump at Athens, with 5' 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ ". The merit of this performance is not apparent from the figures for the competitors were jumping for hours, the lath only being raised a fraction at a time. Goencyz, Hungary, was runner-up, and Diakides, Greece, and the American, H. W. Kerrigan, of Portland, Oregon, tied for third. Kerrigan was then

the reigning United States Champion, and had crossed 6' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for his laurels. Leahy also placed second to Peter O'Connor in the hop, step and jump. On Con's return from Greece, the I.A.A.A. and British high jump titles, and the Ireland—Scotland International were all won by him.

On SS. Peter and Paul's Day, 1907, the high and long jumps in the Scottish match were taken by Con with 6' 2" and 21' 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", at the Ranger's Ground, Ibrox Park, and he won his third British Championship at Fallowfield.

Having now beaten everything in sight in the Old World he crossed to the American Championships, 1907, at Jamestown, and won at 6' 1", his fine consistency continuing in the United States as jumps of 6' 2" in the New York Athletic Club Games, and 6' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at Kansas City will testify.

Con secured his fourth consecutive British high jump crown with a 6' at Sheppard's Bush, in 1908. The International field was now widening considerably, the second man here being Hederlund of Sweden. Again came the Olympic Games, and London's turn, with the standard better than in any previous Olympiad. America won the high jump through Harold Franklin Porter, at 6' 3", but Leahy did not let his laurels slip lightly from him, and he shared in the honours for second place at 6' 2", with Georges Andre, the French rugbyman, and Dr. S. Somody, Hungary.

At Adare, Limerick, in August, 1908, Con's last big jump was made, and this was stated to be 6' 4 $\frac{7}{8}$ ", but the figures were not put on to the books and we must therefore assume that something was lacking in the way of evidence. Con Leahy's last win in first-class company was in the New York Club's Games, Travers Island, in September, 1910, he having emigrated the year before.

Pat Leahy, 5' 8"—inches shorter than Con—jumped with a grace that called forth the admiration of all those who ever saw him in action. No jumper of any era has been given credit for such extraordinary jumps at Provincial meetings, but his marked inconsistency is shown in the fact that all of his many efforts elsewhere fell far short of these. It is quite a problem to give a fair survey of the merits of a competitor of more than 40 years ago, whose best efforts were not ratified by the rulers of athletic affairs in his own time. The all too prevalent sagging lath or elevated ground at the point of take-off were as much in evidence then as at any other period, but we must, nevertheless, sift things carefully through his two best years, in fairness to a man whom many consider the finest high jumper this country has ever had, **on his day**. In July, 1898, he was reported to have negotiated 6' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the Markets Field, Limerick, or an eighth of an inch short of world record. This remained unrecognised, officially, but onlookers referred to it as a wonderful feat, on wet ground, and against an incline. The late Frank B. Dineen, Secretary of the

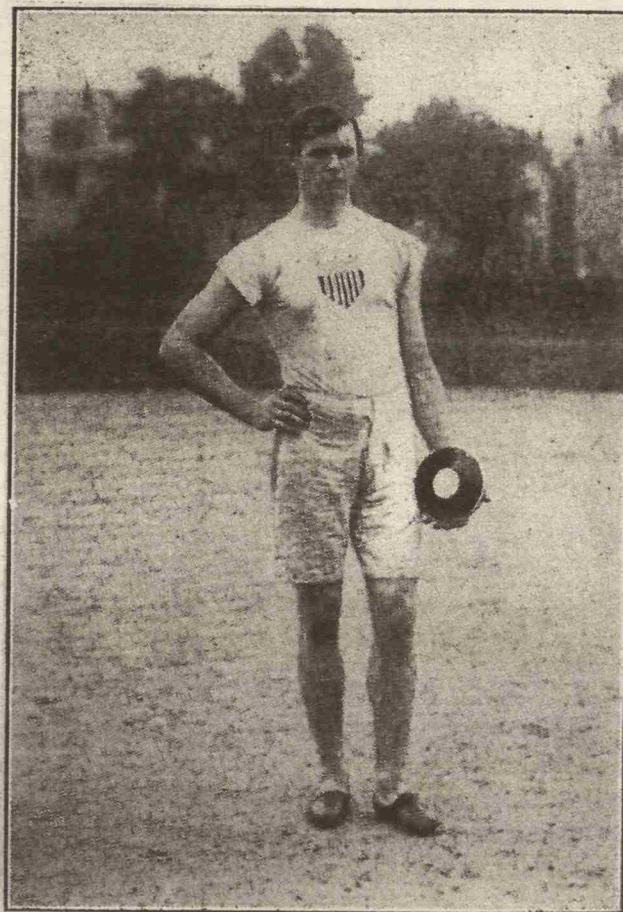
G.A.A., asserted that it was one of the fairest jumps he ever saw, and one of the tallest men in Munster walked upright underneath the lath Pat had cleared. His Irish and European record, 6' 4½", was put up at Millstreet, Cork, on 6th September, 1898, and certified by two of the best and most experienced judges, Denis Power, of Ballywalter (still with us) and J. P. O'Sullivan, Killorglin, an old Champion. Pat's 1898 season wound up with 6' 4½" at Thurles in an exhibition. 1899 begins with 6' 3" at Limerick, and then comes a 6' 5" high, and 23' 5" long jump, at Mallow, and 6' 5" and 23' 10½" in his native Charleville. Here the run-way in the long jump was down an incline which threw out a possible world record for Peter O'Connor, who reached 24' 8½". A 6' 4" follows at Macroom and another 6' 5" at Youghal. In these years he won the British Championships and the two Internationals against Scotland. Some most extraordinary figures were also shown after his name at the hop, step and jump, but lesser, to the credit of Dan Shanahan of Kilfinane, were retained on the books. Emigrating to America in 1909, he had spent several years there, when, in September, 1916, he appears to have gained a new lease of life, for, at the G.A.A. Games, Chicago, he covered 36' in three standing jumps and 33' in standing hop, step and jump, the latter, an American record, erasing a very old one by W. W. Butler, at Grove, Massachusetts, in 1884.

Pat and Con emigrated together, but, a few weeks before leaving, were satisfied that a third member of the family, almost as good, had come into the open, as, in July, 1909, Tim Leahy tied with that fine jumper, Jimmy Burke of Cappawhite, for the G.A.A. title, at 6' 1". At Bruff, in 1910, Tim got over 6' 3", as well as 6' 2½" at Ballinasloe and 6' 2" at Dunmanway, while a great 6' 5" in the Limerick County Board Sports of 1913 was not backed up by sufficient evidence to warrant its inclusion on the record lists. Actually, Tim did better across Channel, on one occasion, than either of his brothers ever did there, by registering 6' 3" at Stoke-on-Trent. He also proved the best pole-vaulter in these islands in 1914 by taking second place in the British Championship at Stamford Bridge to a Continental competitor.

The fourth brother, Joe Leahy, crossed 6' on at least one outing, 5' 11" on another, and was joint Munster Champion of 1904 with Rody Kirwan, Kilmacthomas. Joe would have been a strong candidate had an all-round test been held at this period for he was a very good hurdles man and long jumper, winner of many prizes with the 56lbs., and put a shot over 40' on one occasion.

Tom Leahy was a useful jumper and held 100 and 440 yards flat Championships of Munster and Michael was a jumping prize-winner, too, although not attaining prominence.

Four of the famous sextette have now passed on to the Great Beyond. Joe and Michael are still living. Tim won 4 Irish Championship medals, Pat 9 Irish and 2 British, and Con, 20



MARTIN J. SHERIDAN

Irish, 4 British, 1 American and 1 Olympic crown, making a grand total of 41, together with 10 Internationals.

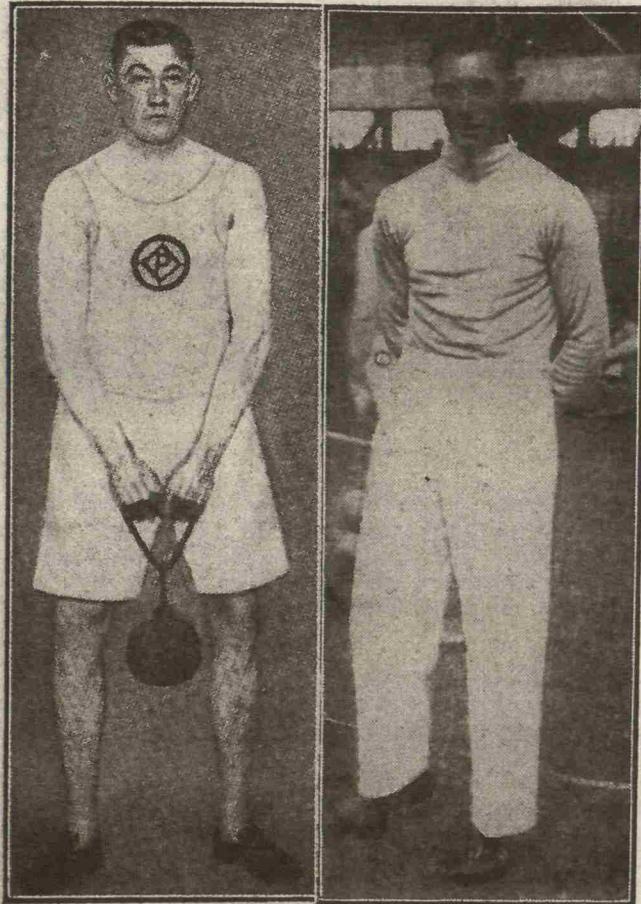
### MATT McGRATH.

Matthew J. McGrath, through his mighty feats in American and Olympic arenas, proved himself one of the greatest weight throwers of all time. Born near the town of Nenagh in 1876, he departed for the United States while still in his 'teens. As a youth in Tipperary he was known to walk ten miles to see "the father of modern hammermen," John Flanagan, in action at a Sports meeting, walk home again, and then immediately repair to a field with an old-fashioned hammer, in an attempt to turn with it after the fashion of the Kilbreedy prodigy whom he had that day seen perform for the first time. A decade or more elapsed, however, before they rubbed shoulders on American soil in titanic struggles for supremacy.

The charge has frequently been made that some of the more outstanding weight throwers have been reluctant to pass on their knowledge to promising exponents of the younger school. The famous Pat Ryan of Pallasgreen states that whatever "knack" he had in hammer throwing he gradually acquired himself; nobody told him about it, and he believes Flanagan did not tell McGrath. It may be that Matt was left largely to his own devices, to lose a few valuable years as a result, for he definitely was slow to reach proficiency—much slower than his great contemporaries, Flanagan, Con Walsh and Pat Ryan—and had reached the age of 32 before winning his first Championship of the U.S.A.

America has never had, since or before, hammermen of the extraordinary power and ability of this group, this being all in favour of bringing out the real greatness of McGrath, when he got his bearings, and, such was the calibre of the opposition that he actually became a world record holder before taking his initial title.

Standing a fraction over 6', and of massive proportions, he was not altogether as perfect in form as was Flanagan, but had a pronounced advantage over John in height and reach. Flanagan had been systematically breaking records from 1895 and had thrown a 16lbs. hammer over the 170 feet mark from a 7' circle, when, in 1907, Matt obliterated everything previously accomplished with an effort of 173' 7" in the Canadian Championships at Montreal. In the London Olympiad the following year, Flanagan, after being second to McGrath, going into the final, came up to win with an Olympic record distance of 170' 4 1/4", Matt, the runner-up, being just short of 168', with Walsh third.



Greatest 56lbs. men of the Old and New Worlds. (Left) Pat Donovan, American record holder at throwing 56lbs. over the bar, 15' 2 1/2". (Right) Edward Tobin, holder of world record in same event, 15' 5".

The American Championship, at Travers Island, in late September, saw Matt triumph over his famed adversary at 173'.

Flanagan, at Celtic Park, New York, on 6th June, 1909, again snatched the record with more than 174', to which he added half a foot a week later at Travers Island. On 21st June,, John threw 180' in American League Park, this being the first time the classical mark had been reached by a human in a proper competition. Matt answered with an exhibition of 183' 8" at the Tipperarymen's Games, Ulmer Park, New York, although an exhibition could not be entertained as a record, but the 5' 9½" marvel that was John Flanagan amazed the athletic world, after close on two decades in competition, by accomplishing a phenomenal 184' 4" in the Clann-na-Gael Games, New Haven, Connecticut, on 24th July, 1909. These figures did not deter McGrath although, on that occasion, Matt was beaten 13ft. and Con Walsh almost 20ft. More than two years then passed before new ground was broken.

Throughout 1910 Flanagan kept chalking up figures worthy of a great champion, winning the Canadian Championship with a Dominion record reading 179' 2½", and doing close on 181' in the New York Championship, in September. Con Walsh was now in the ascendancy, being second in the latter event at over 170', and having shown 179' 2" at Newark, with a slight fall of ground. An instance of the power of Walsh can be gleaned from the following. At the New York A.C. Games, Travers Island, in September, 1910, where Matt reached 16' 4" in throwing the 56lbs. for height, he was beaten at a fraction over 16½" by Walsh. McGrath threw with both hands and Walsh with one. Con won the hammer throw at almost 171' the same day.

The American Championships were taken south to New Orleans in 1910 and Matt won the hammer by 5ft. from Walsh, but Con turned the tables by winning the 56lbs. laurels from McGrath and Pat McDonald, beating 37'.

1911 saw some terrific duels between McGrath and Walsh, John Flanagan having returned to Ireland. At Travers Island, in June, Matt threw the hammer 172' and Con 170' and form would seem to indicate that the Tipperary man was favourite for the American Championships, held on Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, but Con Walsh, who hailed from Carriganimma, Macroom, Co. Cork, landed his hammer out to an American Championship record of 177' 6½", to beat Matt by 4ft.

From this particular stage the finest hammer throwing of McGrath's career was seen. At Celtic Park, on 20th August, 1911, he threw 179' 3" and, on 26th, 177' 6" at the same venue. On 23rd September, he smashed Flanagan's Canadian record, going on to 182' 4" at Montreal and, on 22nd October, in the Fall Games of the Irish American Athletic Club, New York, with the ground covered with slush, got in the amazing throw, allowing for the wretched conditions, of 180' 9". A week later he obliterated

Flanagan's world figures by exactly 3ft. with 187' 4" in the Games of the Galwaymen's Association, Celtic Park. Matt, who more than once was denied record through a technicality, took no chances here. Achieving these unprecedented figures in his first attempt, and fearing the wire handle might possibly stretch in succeeding throws, to make the over-all length of the implement over the stipulated 4ft. he handed over the hammer to a member of the American Athletic Union Committee who happened to be on the ground and took no further throws. Pat Ryan beat this performance two years later but then Pat was the only one who ever beat the mark in an American arena.

McGrath still holds world records for throwing the 56lbs. 40' 6¾" from a 7' circle, and 33' 1" from a stand, using both hands in each case. He also had a best on the books of 16' 6¼" slinging a 56lbs. for height against a board, being superseded by Pat Donovan.

The year 1912 saw him win his Olympic laurels with 179' 7½", at Stockholm, in his first throw, beating John Flanagan's Olympic high water mark by over 9ft., this being an unbroken best in the Olympics down to 1936, when Karl Hein of Germany beat 185' at Berlin.

No Olympiad was held in 1916 owing to the first World War and Matt was relegated to fifth place in the Antwerp Games of 1920 through a knee injury, Pat Ryan being an easy winner, although but 3ft. divided them, in favour of Ryan, in the American Olympic Trials.

Following Ryan's retirement, after winning the American title of 1921, Matt was still to the fore, and placed second to Freddie Tootell, U.S.A., in the 1924 Olympiad, with 167'. Matt was not selected to represent the U.S.A. in the 1928 Olympics, but quite a few of Uncle Sam's sports writers contend he should have been, for points were won there down to 153' odd.

McGrath never passed up an opportunity of visiting the homeland and, at Nenagh, in 1908, threw the hammer 176' from a 9' circle, the ground and measurements being certified by Mr. Robert P. Gill, Civil Engineer.

The "Freeman's Journal" Sports of 1912 were to have Matt as a competitor but inclement weather caused a postponement and, three days later, a special meeting was arranged for Jones's Road ground to enable the Nenagh Hercules to exhibit before Dublin enthusiasts, as he was anxious to do. Rain fell incessantly and in treacherous ground he threw the hammer 162'. The Tailteann Games, 1924, again brought Matt to Dublin and he won the hammer throw without being extended.

A keen student of physical culture, his grand physical condition kept him in Championship class for such a lengthy period of time that it contravened all laid down standards. As the years and the decades went rolling by it was extraordinary indeed to see him,

fast greying and with an over-abundance of waist line, beating, time and time again, the pride of the Universities of the New World, trained to a hair. He won Championships of America with both hammer and 56lbs. in 1925, and the hammer title of 1926, this latter when he was 50 years old. He was an active competitor right up to 1934, taking the circle, although unsuccessfully, for the American 56lbs. laurels, when he was almost 58.

Matt McGrath rose to a high rank in the New York Police Force and was in charge of one of the key traffic stations of that City where his humane and gentlemanly treatment of subordinates made him endeared to all. He died on 29th January, 1941, being a perfect specimen for his years up to 12 months before when he contracted cancer of the liver which brought about his untimely end. Many of the Irish population of New York have cause to mourn his loss, just as many emigrants, down at heel, had reason to pray for this stalwart son of Tipperary on affording them a fresh start in life through his unrivalled popularity and influential standing.

Had not War intervened, Matt may have been amongst us once again, for, in 1938, when considering retiring from police life, he expressed the wish to his great friend, Peter O'Connor, of Waterford, the old Olympic Champion, then in America, to reside in Dublin or Tipperary when freed from the strife and turmoil of the second City of the Universe. But it was not to be. Matthew J. McGrath, a Champion of Champions, who strode through International weight throwing arenas with a kingly mien, and proved one of our very finest Ambassadors, won 14 American and 1 Olympic Championship.

#### PAT RYAN OF PALLASGREEN.

The Gaelic Athletic Association Championships of 1902 were held at Limerick on 16th September, and something like a sensation was caused there by a tall, rangy youth of 19 years, Pat Ryan of Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick, who beat the famous Tom Kiely for the hammer throwing crown, at the moderate mark, admittedly, of 136'. It was, nevertheless, the first time for a long number of years that Kiely was beaten on level terms, excepting by John Flanagan, but his young conqueror blossomed into perhaps the greatest natural hammerman that Ireland, or the world, has produced. A few have beaten his figures in the European theatre, but these adhered to a much more careful mode of life, and systematic training, for Ryan was one to speedily turn his trainers grey-haired. What John L. Sullivan was in boxing, Ryan was in athletics, almost to the letter.

From 1902 to 1909, he won several Irish Championships, his best effort in these being 154' 5", in 1909, and his admirers were, by this time, bewailing the fact that he was not fulfilling early promise. The reason was that Pat, one of the very few lucky enough to hit upon the proper method of hammer throwing from the beginning, did not get down to serious training over any prolonged period. He was the superior man in his own land and was quite content to let matters rest at that.

Nature endowed the 6' 3" Ryan with a magnificent frame, his build, from the knees up, depicting strength in every line and curve, while, together with this all-important attribute, he was possessed of a pair of small and shapely feet which would do credit to a ballet-dancer . . . a rare combination. Landing in America in an era of hammer throwers extraordinary, he found Matt McGrath endangering John Flanagan's world record, and Con Walsh little inferior. At the Irish-American Games of October, 1910, Pat, up to now almost exclusively tied to the old straight handled hammer, minus the triangular grip, sent an up-to-date implement over 165' in an exhibition, and it was apparent that Flanagan, McGrath and Walsh must look to their laurels, for Matt, writing Tom Kiely, ventured this high opinion of the newcomer . . . "Ireland has sent us another great hammerman . . . perhaps the greatest of all."

Pat's first try for an American title was at Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, in July, 1911, and he secured third place behind Walsh and McGrath, but, a month later, he went within inches of McGrath at Celtic Park, with a throw of over 179', and then definitely established himself by taking the New York Senior Metropolitan hammer title at a shade under 175'.

In 1912 he retained his New York title, at Travers Island, and McGrath, then world record holder, also in the competition, became badly flustered, fouling all of his efforts. Ryan, in his best essay, threw straight across the ground and smashed the bell at the finish of the 100 yards, the distance reading 182' 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". He was unlucky in the American Championship a fortnight later, losing by 2ft. to McGrath, but beat Pat McDonald and McGrath for the 56lbs. title, doing close to 38'.

1913 was Ryan's big year. He won the American hammer crown at Grant Park, Chicago, at 177' 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", a Championship record, and broke McGrath's world record of 187' 4", with 189' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the Firemen's Games, Celtic Park. Behind on handicap up to the sixth and last effort, he achieved his greatest with half a foot to spare in the front of the circle. This mark remained a world record for a quarter of a century. The worth of Ryan's magnificent performance of 1913, can also be assessed at something like its real value, by reason of the fact, that the hammer event is the only standard event on the American athletic programme, in which fresh figures have not been shown in the intervening years.

Four special weight events were put on by the Irish-American Club, at Celtic Park, in 1st September, 1913, and there Pat smashed three more world records, throwing the hammer 189' 3" from a 9' circle, pushing a 42lbs. 28' 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and flinging a 35 lbs. weight over 57' from a circle. Three weeks afterwards he reached 185' with the hammer and beat 40' with the 56lbs., both hands, in taking two more New York Senior Championships, the latter figures being but inches short of the best on record by Matt McGrath. In that year also, Pat, in the Indoor Games of the Irish-American Club, Madison Square Garden, pushed a 56lbs. an unprecedented 25' from the shoulder. Incidentally, the Limerick weightmen have, for a lifetime, almost exclusively, held the world records for propelling both 42lbs. and 56lbs. from the shoulder. It is now more than 70 years since one of her gigantic sons, Ned O'Grady, registered 26' 8", for a world best with the 42lbs., at the Mardyke Grounds, Cork, and he repeatedly added to this until he came to 27' 11". Willie Real of New Pallas then took over, to be followed by James Barrett, Pat Ryan and John O'Grady, Caherconlish, Ned's nephew. John's name still appears on the books. In the 56lbs. putting, Real broke new ground in the 80's, Mick O'Brien of Bulgaden and John O'Grady advancing a trifle after a quarter of a century. Then came Ryan with his 25', and, at Cratloe, Co. Clare, in 1920, John O'Grady chalked up 25' 4", which may remain for all time, the event being now obsolete.

In July, 1914, at Buffalo, Ryan was credited with flinging a 12lbs. hammer 225', but the mark was not ratified by the athletic authorities. His 213' 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", of the previous Autumn, at Celtic Park, has never been surpassed in a certified throw.

The battle of the titans between Ryan and McGrath went on with even greater intensity during 1914, Pat winning the American hammer crown with a Championship record of more than 183', with Matt 4ft. away, while the culminating point came in the New York Senior Championships of 3rd October, the hammer standard reached in these being the highest ever attained by two men in the one competition on the American continent, Ryan winning at 186' 2", and McGrath registering 181' 11". In this year Ryan made an American 28lbs. record of 36' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Again, in 1915, Pat took the American Championship hammer event, held in conjunction with the Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, doing 176', and the New York Senior at a fraction short of 177', with McGrath but 2ft. behind. Pat's best performance of this year was a 187' 4" hammer throw at Celtic Park. McGrath was lucky in wresting the New York 56lbs. title from Ryan, by an inch.

Having taken the American hammer Championship of 1916, at Newark, New Jersey, beating McGrath 15ft., and annexed hammer and 56lbs. titles of 1917, Pat sailed for France, with the

American Expeditionary Force. He and the famous Gene Tunney, conqueror of Jack Dempsey, saw some rough service there, became fast friends, and they still correspond. Home on leave in 1919, Ryan took the Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championship at Lansdowne Road, doing 169', and then departed for the New World to regain the American hammer title with a 175' throw at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, beating McGrath, the holder in his absence, by several feet.

The American Championships of 1920 also served as Olympic Tryouts, and Ryan, the hammer winner, with 3ft. to spare from McGrath, was America's No. 1 choice for the Antwerp Olympiad. McGrath wrenched a knee in the qualifying rounds at Antwerp, and was unable to take his place in the final the following day, although his throw counted and brought him fifth place. The opposition in the final was not therefore what it would have been in other years. Ryan at this time was 37 years old and must have weighed in the neighbourhood of 19 stones. In practice, during the preceding week, he beat 181ft., but conditions were adverse on the day of the final, specially for a heavily built man. Rain fell all through the afternoon, and the circle, of grass, was greatly cut up by the throwers, leaving Ryan little scope for a big throw. However, he beat 173' for an easy win, the second man, Carl Lindh of Sweden, being short of 160ft. Pat also placed second here to Pat McDonald, in throwing the 56lbs. from the circle, the last occasion on which the event was put on an Olympic programme.

Nineteen years after winning his first Irish title, Ryan took his last American Championship, on Independence Day, 1921, at far-away Pasadena, California, where he was still good enough to beat 170' with the hammer and was runner-up to McDonald in throwing the 56lbs. Following his return to his native Limerick, on retirement, he proved a very able coach, his nephew, Patrick M. Ryan, of Emly, being his outstanding pupil. The latter, in August, 1930, when weighing just 12 stones 7lbs., and aged 20 years and 9 months, threw a 16lbs. hammer 166' 4" at Tipperary Town, which performance alone places him in line with the greatest exponents, pound for pound. John Doherty, ex-N.A.&C.A.(I.) Champion, still in competition, who has beaten 160', is also a pupil of the old world record holder.

Patrick J. Ryan is now farming near Pallasgreen, in quiet seclusion, far removed from the scenes of his triumphs and the thunderous acclamation of tens of thousands. There are times when the memories of a wonderful life and the great moments he knew must indeed stab and burn, but he may at least rest assured that, as long as athletic history is written, a prominent page will be reserved for his extraordinary exploits.

He won 11 Irish, 10 American Senior Outdoor, and 1 Olympic Championship.

### STAR ATHLETES OF THE N.A.&C.A.(I.) AND A.A.U.(E.)

Ireland has produced world record breakers in the jumping departments in Pat Davin, John Purcell, Dan Shanahan, Matthew Rosegrave, W. J. M. Newburn, Michael Sweeney and Peter O'Connor. She has had all-rounders second to none of their time in Martin Sheridan and Tom Kiely, and wonders of the track who beat all comers in Tommy Conneff, George Tincler and Beauchamp Day. But the greatness of her weight-throwers, in every generation, must undoubtedly give these the pride of place as a particular section when the history of Irish athletics comes to be written. To-day the high standard set by our Champion weightmen is again the predominant feature, although the figures of the high jumpers, Wall and O'Rafferty, and the distance men, Barry and McCooke have been of an exceptionally high order.

#### EDWARD TOBIN.

In the 56lbs. events herculean men of every era have strained muscle and sinew to the utmost and yet failed to come near the phenomenal marks set by the 35 years old and 6' 5" Tipperaryman, Edward Tobin. Up to the middle 90's a 13" weight was used, and the first big mark registered with the modern 16" implement was 26' 8" by Jeremiah Delaney, of Riverstown, Co. Cork, at Cork Park, on 14th August, 1898, but it only lasted a month, the gigantic John Mangan, of Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford, doing exactly 27', at the D.M.P. meeting, on 17th September. Mangan increased this to 27' 4½" at the D.M.P. Sports of 1900, which performance remained unsurpassed for more than 30 years and was long considered the limit of human effort. The hammer-thrower extraordinary, Pat Ryan of Pallasgreen, a Champion here for 7 years before leaving for the New World, Con Walsh of Macroom, Tom Ludgate, Lombardstown, Denis McDonald, Tullogher, and Pat Bermingham, tried all they knew to surpass it, to no avail, and, in 1931, it took one of the monumental figures of athletic history, Dr. Pat O'Callaghan, to go on to 27' 10", for distance, without follow, at Clonmel. Definitely, this appeared an all-time best, but in 4 short years, the towering Ballylooby man, Tobin, sallied forth on SS. Peter and Paul's Day, 1935, to break new ground with 28' 3" at Cashel. In the intervening years he has added an inch now and a few inches again and his existing record is 29' 1¾", of 15/8/'43, at Ballina.

Discussions arise as to what position Tobin would fill should the 56lbs. become a standard International event. The answer would appear to be that he would remain supreme if we compare his standards with those of the far-famed "Irish Whales" contingent, composed of James Mitchell, John Flanagan, Pat McDonald, Matt McGrath, Pat Donovan and Pat Ryan, rated universally as the mightiest ever to grace the weight-throwing arena. The American record for throwing the 56lbs. over the bar is 15' 2½", by the Corkonian, Pat Donovan, at San Francisco, on 25/10/1913. Tobin has eclipsed this more than once, his best reading 15' 5". The American throwing for height record (against a board) is 16' 11¼", also by Donovan, and second on the American calendar is 16' 6¼" by McGrath, Con Walsh coming a close third, Tobin's one and only competition in this sphere was at Sligo in 1943, where he struck the board at 16' 3¾", and bear in mind the remarkable fact that the Irish-American mammoths were allowed the use of both hands while Tobin used but one.

The sceptics may enquire, "What of the German king-pins who, as first and second in the last Olympic Games, now stand in command of the hammer-throwing field?" The inference here is that the great hammermen, down through the years, from Davin, Barry and Mitchell, to Flanagan, McGrath and Ryan, were universal leaders in throwing the 56lbs. The Teutons, Erwin Blask and Karl Hein, have thrown the hammer 193' 6¼" and 192' 10", respectively, as a result of the most intensive courses of training man's ingenuity could devise. Walsh, Flanagan, McGrath and Ryan threw 177' 6½", 184' 4", 187' 4" and 189' 6½", in that order, but all are acknowledged to have been physically stronger than the German pair, who were placed first and second at the Berlin Olympiad. Also consider that no other human has yet reached, in a certified competitive throw, the 195' 4¾" by Dr. Pat O'Callaghan, of 1937, yet Tobin has beaten the Doctor's best accepted 56lbs. sling by well over a foot.

Now that Tobin has shattered the 29' mark with the 56lbs., he may intend confining himself more to discus throwing, in which he retrograded to indifferent form for a few seasons, but came back with a vengeance at the Dundalk N.A.&C.A.(I.) Championships of 1944, where he surprised all present. After the first three rounds his best was 130', but in the fourth, the classic missile sailed over the heads of the judges, outfield, to 146', his left foot fouling by a meagre inch. The fifth throw read 139' and the sixth, which he took ultra-carefully, leaving a foot between him and the line, 145' 8½". Had one of the bigger throws come early, and Ned gone all-out with the succeeding ones, that Irish record, 152' 6½", in his own name, might well have received a shaking, or been erased. Tobin's 143' 11" in retaining his Championship at Ballinasloe, last year, was of equal merit, as he threw directly into a breeze.

### DAVE GUINEY.

Dave Guiney, born at Kanturk, on 31/1/1921, standing 5' 9" and weighing in the region of 16 stones, made a Championship shot-putting record of 48' 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " at Dundalk, in 1944, the previous best for an Irish crown being 47' 11" by Denis Horgan, in 1898. Horgan came to the fore in 1892 and was therefore 12 years wearing a Champion's laurels by the time his historic Irish native record of 48' 10" was achieved. This is Guiney's third Championship year, and he could, with any share of luck, have bettered Horgan's mark in 1945, for a fall of ground more than once thwarted him. The following are his bigger performances of the past season, which prove him the most outstanding Irish shot-putter, from the point of consistency, not excluding Horgan:—

|             |                       |                       |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Derry ...   | 48' 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | Parnell Park (Dublin) | 49' 2"                |
| Cushendall  | 48' 2"                | Corrinshego ...       | 49' 2"                |
| Fermoy ...  | 48' 4"                | Ballykinlar ...       | 49' 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| Draperstown | 48' 8"                | Draperstown ...       | 50' 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " |

He was rated 4th among the world's shotputters of 1945 (excluding America). The first 5 men in these rating were:—

|                        | ft. | ins.             |
|------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Hucklesy (Iceland) ... | 51  | 1                |
| Lehtila (Finland) ...  | 50  | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Willny (Sweden) ...    | 49  | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Guiney (Ireland) ...   | 49  | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| Barlund (Finland) ...  | 48  | 11 7/16          |

Barlund, placed behind Guiney, was second man in the last Olympic Games at Berlin.

The young Civil Servant is definitely short of these distances since his change over to the A.A.U.(E.), this year, his peak, up to time of writing, being 47' 1", at the Championships of that Association. Some years ago he was joint holder of the long jump Championship, with Kevin O'Flanagan, at 22' 6", and he cleared 5' 11" in the high jump, at Galway, and 5' 10" at Croke Park, in 1945. He may be prevailed upon to abstain from this event, with the shot-putting record a possibility for, as a matter of fact, he suffered a severely wrenched ankle through landing on a stone, last July, which threw him back several feet with the shot, at a time when he might have achieved his great ambition, at Ballinasloe. However, perhaps owing to his jumping activities, and decent turn of speed on the sprint track, he crosses the circle as only a born athlete can, like a flash and with dynamic force. He is considerably handicapped by his lack of height. The holder of the Irish "all-comers" record, 49' 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Ralph Rose of California, stood 6' 6".

In passing it would be unfair to exclude James B. Byrne of Tandragee from honourable mention in this review. He was the

most unlucky athlete in Ireland two years ago, for, having done 46' 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " with the shot, on two successive days, and reached 48' 4" in practice with Guiney, he injured his back while throwing the javelin, before the Championships, and has not yet come into his own. His figures in competition, so far, do not represent his capabilities, but, as he is now a member of the London Polytechnic Club, and is being coached on more scientific lines, we may hear something big from him any time in the immediate future. His winning distance of 44' 11", at the British Games of Whit Monday, augurs well.

### CUMMIN CLANCY.

6' 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Cummin Clancy, 22 years old and weighing 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  stones, is Tobin's protege from Oughterard, but is under the guidance of Dave Guiney for the past year or so. Cummin, a Garda and member of Civil Service A.C., secured runner-up medals in the Discus Championships of 1944 and '45. The best built athlete gracing Irish athletic arenas to-day, his performances in taking four Leinster 1945 titles at Enniscorthy rate with the best accomplished by any of our great weightmen of the past, at such an early stage. They were:—16lbs. shot, 40' 9"; 56lbs., without follow, 26' 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; 56lbs., over the bar, 14' 2"; discus 135". He threw the discus 140' 6" later in the season and has done 137' 10" a few weeks ago. Furthermore, he ranks as favourite for the N.A.&C.A.(I.) shot Championship at Dundalk with putts of 44' 9" at Dungiven, and over 43' at Ferns and Kilcoo, Co. Down. His winning long jump, an actual 20' 10" at Ferns, points to the ideal type of weight thrower, for, coupled with uncommon power, he has the necessary agility as well.

### BERT HEALION.

Bert Healion, 6' 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and weighing 17 to 18 stones, was born at Belmullet in May, 1916, according to his own statement, but is of Offaly stock. The claim has been made that he was one of the greatest weight throwers in world athletic history and this, in all fairness, does not appear to be overestimating his quality. When 21 years old he took part in the British hammer Championship at the White City and had the educational advantages of seeing the Germans, Hein, Blask and Lutz, in action, although they, in turn, were equally interested in his own style, for, having John Tallon as his mentor, they believed it to be on the O'Callaghan

principle. At the age of 22, Bert met the world record holder, Erwin Blask, in an International meeting sponsored by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, at Balmoral Grounds, Belfast. The hammer throwing there was contested in a rainstorm, and many will remember Harold Abrahams, in his broadcast commentary, referring to the shocking conditions prevailing. Blask found that he was pitted against a foeman worthy of his steel in the young Irishman, who threw 167' 10", against 171' 8" by the German. It was then contended that Blask was allowed a foul throw in registering his winning mark, while Healion, in putting one foot on the line, had an effort of 173' disallowed. Next month, Bert took the British crown with 172' 1½", which was only equalled by two previous winners, Blask, and Carl Lindh of Sweden. None of the great Irish or Irish-American exponents came up to such distances at 22, and Bert's tremendous throwing of after years came as no surprise to athletic enthusiasts. His career would have been all the more noteworthy but for World War No. 2, as his many prodigious 180-190ft. essays were not registered in the International field. He fell away to much lesser figures in 1945, his top performance being 173' 6½". Bert's peak achievement was 192' 11", which comes a close second on the International table, Blask holding world record with little more than half a foot to spare.

The American records for throwing a 35lbs. weight from a 7' circle, and for height, are 58' 8½" and 21' 6" respectively, and Bert has beaten 59' in the former, and reached 21' 6½" in the latter. He has now forsaken the amateur ranks for a professional wrestling career in the United States and has won all his contests to date.

#### DUNCAN McDONALD-CLARKE.

McDonald-Clarke, 30 years old member of the R.U.C., is the leading British hammer thrower at the moment, having done over 168' at the R.U.C. Sports a few weeks ago. This places him well above any other British competitor in this sphere, although his club-mate, Tom McAnallan, back to form after an operation, may push him close. McDonald-Clarke is a Scot, and now shapes like becoming the greatest of all Scots, which latter distinction has been held by the famous Tom Nicholson.

#### NOTABLE HIGH JUMPERS.

Dick O'Rafferty of the A.A.U. (E.), in Championship class for the past dozen years, whose highest was 6' 4", has kept up with

the best through more than one generation of jumpers, and his 6' in retaining his title this year confounded the critics who claimed he would not again negotiate "the fathom." Dick is the most stylish demonstrator of the "Western Roll" that Ireland has ever had and his lack of inches, only, has kept him out of Olympic class.

Tom Wall, the N.A.&C.A. (I.) Champion for seven successive years, who crossed a genuine 6' 3⅜" at Corrinshago in 1945, is the most consistent Championship jumper in Irish athletic history. In the six years, 1939 to 1945, inclusive, he gained his laurels with 6' 2" on three occasions and 6' on the three remaining. Search the Irish lists how you will, you cannot find another with a 6' 1" average in the Championships, over such a stretch. His jumping is of the straight "kick and turn" mode, in which his sole fault is covering too much ground, for he often covers about 16' in horizontal distance. Unassuming Tom began very young, in the Schools and Colleges competitions, and is far from being a spent force.

Pat Guiney, of the well-known Duhallow family, has displayed in-and-out form of recent years, but his remarkable exhibition at Kilcoo, Co. Down, on 16th June, makes him a dangerous candidate for Wall's title, when the pair meet at the N.A.&C.A. (I.) Championships, in Dundalk, which are scheduled for 4th and 5th August. Pat cleared a height, at the Northern venue, of 6' 2½", this reading to the centre of a lath which measured 6' 6" on the uprights. This effort is on a par with the best Pat has ever done in a long and varied career, dating back 15 years to the day when he won the Schools' and Colleges' Intermediate high jump, with 5' 8". Athletically, Pat is something of a patriarch.

The inclusion of Prince Adedoyin of Nigeria among Irish high jumpers adds considerable colour to the situation, and his 6' 3" of 1945 made him the best man in the country with the solitary exception of Wall. His 6' 2" and 23' 8" in the North-South match last month, prove him the best combination high and long jumper in British fields since Peter O'Connor's time.

#### HOP, STEP AND JUMP.

John J. Lavan, Sligo footballer, and holder of the N.A.&C.A. (I.) hop, step and jump honours for three consecutive years, reached 46' 7½" at a Provincial venue, last season, and must be given No. 1 choice in the selection of probables for this event at Dundalk. John Joe is set a problem in attacking the 48' 2" record, on the N.A.&C.A. (I.) lists, after the name of Eamonn Fitzgerald, but he has designs.

### BARRY'S METEORIC RISE.

Although J. J. Barry of Ballincurry, Co. Tipperary, will not have attained his 21st birthday until October next, his name is already known wherever Irish sportsmen foregather. In 1944 news leaked out from Kilkenny that an unknown youth of that name had won the mile at Jenkinstown by about 40 yards and that the winner looked better than any miler the Noresiders had yet seen. In the following Spring, Barry won the Irish Junior and Senior Cross-Country titles, although he had to show of his very best to stave off a late challenge in the latter, by Kevin Maguire. In June, 1945, the Tipperary flyer came to the Dublin Civil Service Sports and won the mile from virtual scratch and next won the mile off scratch from Bryan Downey, the Champion, in 4 minutes 26 seconds at Crumlin.

"J.J." took everything in his stride, beating Martin Egan and Haughey for the 4 miles flat in Dundalk, by a distance, in 20 minutes 3 seconds, in pouring rain and on a sodden track, and taking Downey's mile title in 4 minutes 23 3/5 seconds, on a five lap course in Ballinasloe. His greatest race, to date, was the 2 miles flat at Iveagh Grounds, Crumlin, in early Autumn, as he clipped 16 2/5 seconds from the previous Irish record by J. J. O'Connor, with 9 minutes 18 seconds.

Barry opened the 1946 season with a 4-27 mile at Nenagh, advanced to 4-24 1/5 at Wexford, and went within 1 1/10 seconds of James Doyle's 4-19 Irish record, at Crumlin, on 8th June, this on an indifferent track containing a liberal number of pot-holes, and with nobody to press him in the concluding quarter. At Thurles, he took 5 1/5 seconds of another of O'Connor's records, doing 14 minutes 41 4/5 seconds for three miles. The conditions at this venue were also detrimental, for the ground was very heavy and the track was five laps to the mile.

Barry's style has improved noticeably within the past year and it would indeed be interesting to know what he really can do with the advantage of a really good four lap track and men to push him all the way through the medium of a specially framed handi-cap. He has been accused of not being too amenable to advices, but the fact seems to be that he has attained record breaking form by not being misled with too many advices. However, those who warn him of the dangers of taking on too many events are on the side of his best interests.

### STEVE McCOOKE.

The Northern representative, Steve McCooke, got down to within a fraction of the 59 years old four miles record, 19 minutes

44 2/5 seconds, by Tommy Conneff, at College Park, Dublin, in September last, and in the recent R.U.C. meeting made an Ulster 3 miles record reading exactly the same as Barry's, so, with each urged on with the times served up by the other, the year 1946 may see the oldest of Irish records go by the board, and Barry appears to have an equal chance of smashing it, although McCooke's 1945 time reads better.

### FURLONG AND QUARTERMILE.

Farrelly of the Civil Service A.C., by his convincing win in the Irish 300 yards Championship, last month, is favourite for the 220 yards title, but keen judges would like to see Joe Kelly of Farrenferris College, the ex-Youths' Champion, in the "quarter." Remembering his tremendous stride and fine action at Dundalk, two years ago, those who saw him there believe his real distance is 440 yards. If Joe elects to run at Dundalk he may be loping through the last 100 yards when the others are going up off the ground at the vital stage. Let us hope that Joe, who is a corner forward for Cork's Senior Hurling Team, will not be precluded from making an essay for the N.A.&C.A.(I.) "quarter" Championship owing to a County hurling engagement.

### THE N.A.&C.A.(I.) ALL-ROUND TESTS.

Many casual "fans" are not aware of the high standing of our performers in this gruelling type of competition, compared with current American form. The title "all-round" is a misnomer for it has really been a decathlon for the past few years, the ten events being identical with the Olympic decathlon. A slight change was made in 1944, a pole not being available for the vaulting and a hop, step and jump substituted.

Patrick Valentine Guiney, youngest of the famous trio of brothers from Kanturk, took over the title in 1943 after it had been held twice each by Ned Tobin, and Pat's brothers, Ted and Jack. Pat scored 5,809 points in 1943, which would have won him second place in the American Championship of that year, for the famous negro, Bill Watson, of Detroit, came out best in the New World, at 5,994, with Joshua Williamson, the runner-up, recording 5,808. Guiney held on to his laurels to date, scoring 5,404 points, in extremely bad ground conditions, in 1944. This was again better than the scoring of the second man in the American test, won by Irving Mondschien at 5,748. Wilbur Ross filled the runner-up berth with a total of 5,224.

## INVALIDS WHO HAVE BECOME ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS.

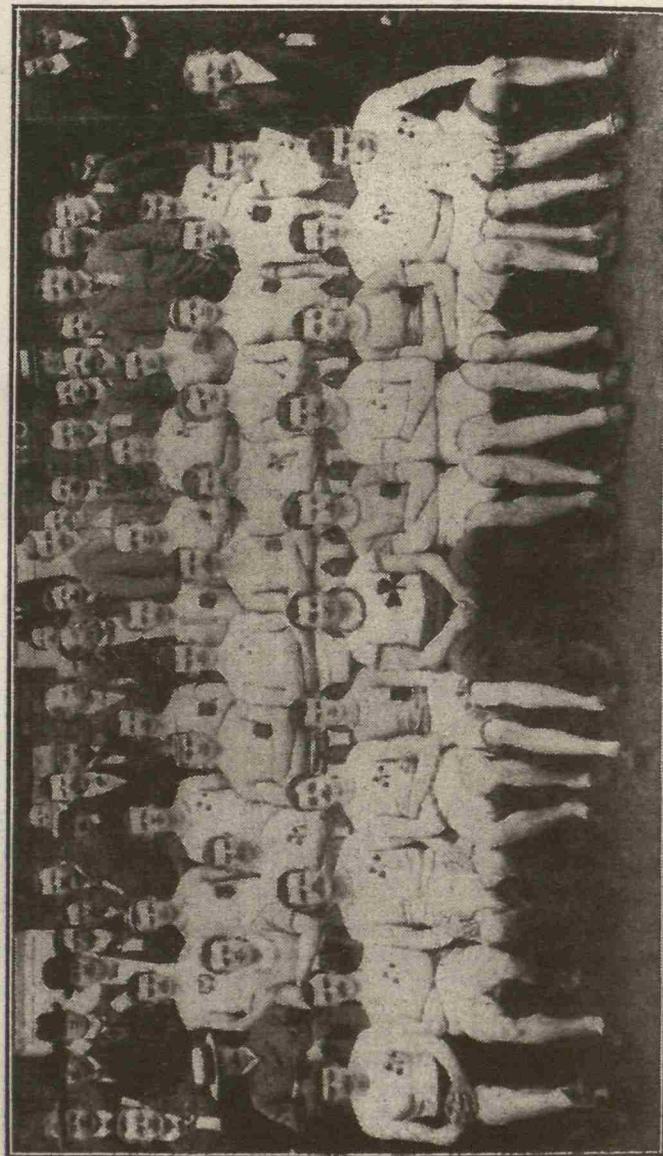
The era was when the parent looked upon athletic pursuits, generally, as detrimental to the schoolboy, but time has proven how senseless was this view, for occasional physical lapses at school have, more often than not, been occasioned by the education of the mind being pressed to the point of injury to the body, the latter a good and faithful servant when fairly treated but truly a foe when neglected.

Cases there are, happily rare, of boys experiencing injurious results from athletics, but it can safely be said that such injury was caused through indulgence in competition in a spasmodic and violent manner, devoid of training, or else being engaged in events with constitutions unfit for vigorous exercises. Master or trainer should know his charge better than to allow him out unfit, for the wants of the body are always to be remembered and a gradual tuning-up necessary to allow of its being prepared for exceptional tasks, involving speed, spring, strength or endurance.

It is quite a common belief among the younger generation that a frame of more than ordinary proportions or athletic ability of an abnormal order is imperative, even at school, prior to embarking on a successful athletic career. This ultra-safe doctrine has many disciples indeed, but it is a most misleading illusion, and nothing more, for the puny child has often become a champion of the future, and the cases of a few of the most noted athletes in the International field, of different generations, with their triumphs over invalidated youth, are here cited as instances.

Uncle Sam's track marvel of the 80's, Lon Myers, the first man to show the English public how a great quarter-mile should be run, by clocking 48  $\frac{3}{5}$  seconds in winning the Amateur Athletic Association Championship of 1881, makes a genuine subject for study in this regard. His mother died from tuberculosis when he was a baby and Lon, after four years of office work, which he took up after leaving school, was forced to quit the sedentary life owing to failing health. At this time the opinion was freely expressed at his place of employment that he would not survive another twelve months. Encouraged by his father to take up athletics as a means of fighting the disease, hereditary on his mother's side, he rapidly regained health and within a short time earned fame by breaking American records at 220 and 440 yards, the former while wearing a pair of shoes much too large for him, and the latter after losing a shoe 120 yards from home.

Myers had neither health nor physique in his early days, and at his best was but a handful, measuring 5' 7" in height and tipping the beam at little over 8 stones. He had a short body and abnormally long legs and, during the course of an extraordinary



Combined Ireland and Scotland teams on the occasion of the International of 1900, at Cliftonville Grounds, Belfast. Six of the celebrities dealt with in this volume are included. They are as follows, reading left to right:—Front row—(3) Tom Kieley; (6) Denis Horgan; (8) Denis Carey; (11) Beauchamp Day, at 18 years. 2nd row—(5) Peter O'Connor. 3rd row—(8) Pat Leahy. Note that the Irishmen wear shamrock emblems.

[Photo—Allison's, Belfast.

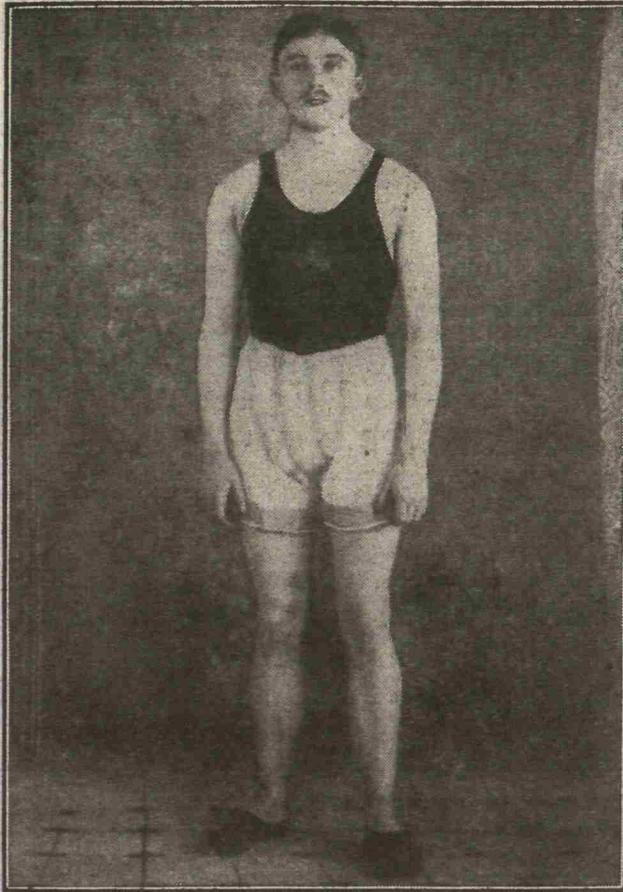
career broke several world records ranging up to 1,000 yards.

The famous American runner Glenn Cunningham, when a boy, was trapped in a burning house and had his legs badly burned, the marks on which always remained. This was a severe handicap, for his muscles had a cramping tendency, even at the peak of his career, making it necessary for him to run two or three laps before each contest, to warm up., yet he ran a mile in 4 minutes 4  $\frac{2}{5}$  seconds, on an indoor track, the fastest indoor time ever known.

The American decathlon winner of 1945, Charles E. Beaudry, of Marquette University, has only one lung, the other being collapsed many years ago when he was treated for tuberculosis.

The cases of Myers, Cunningham and Beaudry, as well as William Byrd-Page, mentioned elsewhere, are no more remarkable than that of 6' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Joe Scott, from Cleveland, winner of the American decathlon Championships of 1938 and '39. Joe, believe it or not, was once a victim of infantile paralysis and was unable to walk at 6 years old!

The boy with Championship aims must be prepared for a gradual approach to his objective and avoid over-work. As a matter of fact under-work is better than over-work. This is not intended to convey that he should be lackadaisical, but it is for the coach to regulate his activities. A youth may not experience the roar of the crowd as frequently in the athletic arena as when engaged in team games but, if he reaches the top, his reward is far greater. A member of a football team, for instance, winning the highest International honours, can be taken as but a 1/11th or 1/15th part in the accomplishment, but the Olympic athletic Champion stands out at the top of the world . . . alone.



BEAUCHAMP DAY

## HINTS ON TRAINING.

### SPRINTING.

Strenuous training such as that recommended for the distance runner is not required for the sprinter, but some light work should be done during the winter unless the athlete takes part in team games during that period. In the latter case a few weeks rest should be taken before again donning togs in the early spring. Gymnastic exercises, especially those which develop the abdominal muscles, with deep breathing, are important in winter time. Some sprinters practice starting indoors, on boards, but care should be taken not to overdo this, as it causes sore shins.

Spend the first few evenings of the spring training in easy runs

of 100 yards, up and down the track, at about half-mile gait, with a few minutes rest after each run. Have particular regard for style. At this stage "all-out" sprinting should not be undertaken. After about a week a few starts could be taken from the gun, but not until you are well warmed up, a point to be remembered on all occasions before violent exertion. From this on starting should be practiced, with spins of 60 to 80 yards, and a genuine trial at week-ends. When training for 100 yards, runs of 120 yards should be taken occasionally. At week-ends, if specialising in the "100," run two heats by the watch, but if doing the furlong as well, one trial at each distance will suffice. Runs of 300 yards are good as training for 220 yards, to ensure that you finish with power at the shorter distance.

When coming out of the holes at the gun, jab the feet into the ground with short steps, after pushing off with the leading leg. Taking too long a step here will make you straighten up too soon and leaning too far forward may cause you to stumble. It is not usual to straighten up until at least 10 yards have been covered. Charlie Paddock, of California, fastest in the world of his time, was trained, early on, to take his starts from underneath a net, which allowed only of a crouched start in the first few yards. Some sprinters, particularly those with short legs, acquire a reaching motion from the hips, to increase stride length, but few can master this properly. Throwing the chest, or shoulder, on to the tape at the finish, is to advantage, but in order to be effective must be timed to the fraction.

It is usual for men to run the "100" on two deep breaths, the first at the start, and the second at about 60 yards. Rare cases are known of men doing the distance on one but this calls for phenomenal lung power.

Common sprinting errors are . . . (1) Not lifting the rear leg high enough at the "get set." (2) Making the first step too long. (3) Not digging the starting holes deep enough. (4) Forgetting to swing one arm in front and the other backward on starting. (5) Running with toes turned out. (6) Throwing the legs too high up, behind, and leaning too far forward, and (7) Throwing the head back and chopping the stride.

#### 440 AND 880 YARDS.

As the 440 and 880 yards races require great endurance, training should begin several months before the time of competition, and, in this regard, one cannot think of better than turning out in training spins with the local Cross-Country team during the

Winter and Spring. Keep to the fields as much as possible for running on pavements is to be avoided if at all possible. Try to begin regular track training about two months before the athletic season opens.

The first week could be taken up with light running. Run about three separate quarters, each day out, at an easy gait, with a good rest in between. There should be no forcing of pace and a halt should be made when the athlete experiences a slight muscular soreness, which will pass after the first few days. A slight increase in work could then be made. Coaches agree that there are three accepted forms of training, (a) running about three quarters of the standard distance trained for, at racing speed, (b) running the full distance a little slower than that required for actual competition, and (c) running over distance well within oneself. In 440 yards training, therefore, 300 yards could often be taken at quarter-mile speed; for the half-mile, 600 yards could be run at approximately competitive speed for the longer journey. Alternatively, distance over the required could be run, i.e., 600 yards in training for 440, and three quarters of a mile for the "880." To vary things, and working for endurance, an occasional run, longer than any of those set out, should be made at a fair speed. Sprints and starts with the gun should often be taken. If the runner is training for both 440 and 880 yards he could work a little more over the longer, rather than the shorter distance. The day's work could occupy about an hour, with a good rest after each run. Remember that training should begin lightly each day, and end lightly, with the heavy work in between. The stride will be less vigorous than in sprinting, and, in a relaxed way, the foot should be thrown more forward. Breathing should be taken through both nose and mouth, and the head carried naturally, or otherwise breathing will be restricted.

If the track is not laid out in lanes in the "440" it is good tactics to get into a position inside, next the flags, as soon as possible, while being careful not to foul. Do not run on the outside if possible for you are thereby adding yards to your distance. At the same time, if you require a breather, take it easy on the corners, which will make your opponent run on the outside and he will be less inclined to pass you at these points for it is not recommended. It is a good idea to practice sprinting for the inside berth for many a race is won by gaining this favourable position. As competition almost always comes at week-ends, have your time trials arranged accordingly and never run yourself out in the middle of the week. The things to avoid are: (1) Running too many trials. (2) Running the first part of the race too fast or too slow. (3) Running wide on the bends. (4) Holding the muscles rigid. (5) Throwing the head too far back.

### MIDDLE DISTANCES.

Training at distances from the mile, upwards, entails concentration over a long period of time and should be begun lightly. A beginning could be made with cross-country walking, and then easy cross-country canters. During the walking deep breathing should be practiced. A curb must be kept on the novice at this stage for he is far too much inclined to walk and run too much in the mistaken idea of getting results quickly. Regular training commences about two months before competition time. After a little limbering out in the first couple of days, running should begin with one or two miles stretches at a moderate pace, the runner never to finish in anything like an exhausted condition. Form should be acquired very gradually. A little sprinting could next be added with three and four mile runs for two-milers, and from two to three miles by milers. Be careful, all the time, not to overdo things even if form does not come up to expectations. After about a month's training a miler should, if capable of registering a 4 minutes 45 seconds mile, run the distance in about 5 minutes 15 seconds, on Monday evenings, at about 5 minutes on Wednesdays with a couple of half-mile runs on Tuesdays, and a few sprinting starts and light running on Thursdays. At this stage he could have a trial in some sort of club competition each Saturday or Sunday. Apart from this it is good to run three quarters of a mile, now and then, at mile pace.

Men should know how fast they can run each quarter in order to get best results as judgment of pace is most important. An even pace all the way is recommended but something must be left in reserve for a sprint at the finish. Know your sprinting power and where to start it. The average distance is about 120 yards from home, but the best coaches always advise their charges never to make two sprints in the one race. If the pace is too fast, first try to get in front, and then slow down a little. Your opponent may accept you as a pace-maker and remain behind, or, alternatively, your slowing down may cause him to break his stride and then go round you, which imposes a handicap on him. When passing an opponent, do this suddenly if you can manage it. This takes him unawares and, on the other hand, the quick turn of speed may serve to dishearten him.

Keep up on the toes in the middle distances. If unable to do so in early training, persevere, and the calves will eventually become strong enough to bear the weight on the toes. There have been a few great flat-footed runners, but these have been exceptions, and their efforts have taken more out of them than the "springy" runner.

Faults in middle distance running are . . . (1) Running flat-footed. (2) Awkward carriage of the arms. (3) Running the

early stages of the race too fast. (4) Beginning the sprint too early. (5) Running outside on the turns, and (6) Looking back.

### LONG JUMP.

The jumping pit should be dug from five to six feet wide. The clay should be made very fine, for lumps or small stones are dangerous under foot. The take off board is usually about 8 inches wide and dead level with the surrounding turf.

When the board is fixed, measure off about 38 feet from same, and ascertain if you can get right on to the board in six strides, following your speediest approach. If not, either shorten or lengthen according to length of stride. A second distance, to allow of six running strides, should be marked out beyond the first mark, but this should be slightly shorter, for the jumper will not travel altogether as fast as in the last few yards of the run-in. With a little practice the board can be taken with good judgment by such a procedure. The complete run need not be more than 35 to 40 yards. It is not advisable to start at full speed but every ounce of speed is to be thrown into the last few yards. A first-rate sprinter has a definite pull in the long jump, and the greatest of all amateur sprinters, Jesse Owens, was also the greatest of all long jumpers.

The bane of youthful jumpers is over-indulgence in practice for this has a tendency to injure the jumping leg. Eight or ten jumps, about every second evening, are quite sufficient. It is important that the jumper should attain a fair altitude in the air, and a tape or light rod could be placed across the pit, more than half way from the board to cultivate height. Some athletes put a hurdle in the pit but this is to be discouraged for injury to the legs may result.

Don't forget that an athlete does not stride as long in cold weather as in warm, and allow for a slight shortening in stride when making measurements. Likewise, make allowances for the velocity and angle of the wind.

The "hitch-kick" in the air is rather difficult to master. When leaving the board one leg should reach out in front of the other, the second then being brought forward to give the impression of striding through air, but the chief problem here is to cultivate the "hitch-kick" and attain proper elevation as well. Reach the arms over the head and this will help to lift the body forward. Shoot the legs out in front, for keeping them underneath the body takes considerably from distance. Avoid falling backward at all costs. Correct measurement of a jump is to the first break of clay nearest the board, and if the jumper falls back on a hand, the jump is measured to the break of clay made by the

hand. That grand little jumper, Pat Anglim, was denied a place on the Olympic team of 1932 through such a circumstance. The Olympic long jump standard set here was 23' 10". Pat landed out over the 24ft. mark, fell back on one hand, and the tape was put on the hand-mark, which made 23' 8" from the board.

Novices often wonder why they foul the board in competition after taking it comfortably in practice. The reason is that the jumper should make it a rule to take off a couple of inches back, in training, for, when keyed up in competition he travels a shade faster, without knowing it, and consequently increases stride length by a trifle.

It is not wise to do altogether as much jumping exercises in cold weather as in warm. Should the temperature prove unfavourable, a few runs at the board, for judgment of distance, with one or two jumps, will be quite good training. Wearing a rubber pad in the heel of the jumping shoe is an excellent idea to avoid bruises.

### THROWING THE DISCUS.

A discus is 8½" in diameter, weighs slightly less than 4½ lbs., and is thrown from a circle measuring 8' 2½" across. The world record throw is 180' 2¾", by Bob Fitch, U.S.A., and the Irish record, 152' 6½", by Edward Tobin.

When taking the circle the discus is held loosely in the first joint of the fingers, the second joint going over the edge. The thrower usually stands with his left side in line with the direction of the throw, at the back of the circle, with weight equally divided on both feet, which are planted about a foot apart. Placing more weight on one foot than the other tends to overbalance the performer when he pivots. At the beginning of the turn a short backward step is made with the left foot. The right foot is then brought round in an arc, across the left. Pivoting on the right foot, the thrower spins round and brings the left foot to the front of the circle. The throw is made from this latter position, the right foot being brought up to check the body from going over the line, as the discus leaves the hand. The position of the body on turning, is a semi-crouch, with knees slightly bent, but a bracing of the knees and forward jerk of the body is most important on the moment of delivery. Get your throw going straight out in front, for if the discus sails away at a tangent, this means that the throwing arm is going away from the body, and lacks power.

The throwing arm should be kept well behind the line of the shoulder until the body has come completely round for final delivery. The momentum of the body will then drag the arm, to give an added force to the throw. Also remember to bring the

throwing hand right round to the tip of left shoulder, after delivery. If this habit is cultivated it will be found that it creates an extra spin on the discus when same is at arm's length.

The perfect discus throw is only achieved when the athlete feels himself turning almost as smoothly as on a ballroom floor. Taking the first turn too fast is a mistake, unless you are well trained, for it causes over-balancing in the second.

Handball in moderation is of value to the discus man for there is no better form of exercise for loosening out the shoulder but it will have quite the opposite effect if overdone.

Discus practice exceeding half an hour in duration is not recommended. About 18 to 20 throws will be enough, and these should be taken with ease, or style will be sacrificed. A man can throw a discus for a long time at moderate distances and then reach a big mark all of a sudden. Furthermore, his best effort will often be made without undue exertion, for rhythm is the keynote of this classic event.

While size and strength are important in this sphere, some small men have attained great prominence. Nicholas Syllas of Greece, standing about 5' 7", has reached 166', owing to his amazing speed in turning. Clarence "Bud" Houser, Olympic winner, 1924 and '28, was about 13½ stones in weight, and Willie Schroeder of Germany, who beat 174', was little more than average in size.

### THROWING THE HAMMER.

The weight of a regulation hammer is 16lbs. and the complete length, over handle and head, combined, must not exceed 4ft. Some hammermen use a double gripped handle, the right hand grip half an inch shorter than the left, while others favour the single grip of thick wire with a roll of adhesive tape or some such substance to save the hands from being cut.

It is not proposed to go into the more highly technical points of hammer-throwing here, for it is given to few men to have the art of bringing along a performer on the best lines. It is fairly safe to assert that the really competent trainers in this country could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and, therefore, an attempt, on paper, to start a novice, might possibly create faults which would later take much time to eradicate. The only reasonable line for a would-be performer to take is, to place himself in the hands of a coach or a seasoned thrower, and only throw under his eyes until he has at least learned how to pivot, and his faults will be explained on the spot, these being many for quite a considerable time.

Irishmen have won 7 of the 8 Olympic hammer Championships

they contested so we can assume that nobody can tell our star representatives how to throw a hammer. Considering the extraordinarily high ranking held here by sons of the Emerald Isle in all eras, a survey of their methods, and advices, in general terms, should prove of unusual interest.

James Mitchell advised novices to "throw, and throw and throw" until they could make two turns, and that, when they found themselves doing 120 to 130 feet, the work should be diminished. Pat Ryan agrees here, saying that novices should take about fifteen throws a day, but, when reaching some degree of proficiency, half that number of throws would do. Ryan maintains that the most important points in hammer-throwing are the balancing of the swings and the timing of the turns, and to strike a medium between a too fast and too slow swing at the start. Winding the hammer too fast around the head inclines to drive the thrower's feet into the ground and the momentum of this also puts such force into the hammer that the performer is carried out of the circle. There should be always something left in reserve for a full-blooded heave at the finish. Some of the great throwers have had themselves so coiled up for this latter that they appeared only about half their normal size when turning at speed. Mitchell advised turning well up on the toes and Ryan "on the ball of the foot," which is the same.

Up to recent years those who led the world in hammer-throwing came from one comparatively small district in Ireland, spread into three Counties, and on this account the suggestion went round that these had some secret in hammer-throwing of which the rest of the world was not aware. Ryan denies this, asserting that whatever he knew he gradually picked up himself, as did Flanagan and McGrath. McGrath just studied Flanagan, and Ryan studied McGrath.

For generations the toe-turning of the Irish-Americans was accepted as the acme of perfection in a circle, but now the world record is held as a result of the "heel and toe" efforts of the Germans, which, incidentally, is not, strictly speaking, a German style at all. Back in 1931, those in charge of a French team which competed against Ireland at Croke Park, voiced their amazement at Dr. O'Callaghan's using his heels. Actually, slow motion pictures of O'Callaghan's heel and toe turning were shown throughout Germany, especially after Los Angeles, and the present German style was built on the O'Callaghan foundation.

It is argued that, where using a toe turn, the hammerman must be lucky in getting the hammer away exactly in unison with the hop, as he flings himself round, while, in the heel and toe method, he is planted to the ground at all times and can get the pull at the finish in a more satisfactory way.

Years of time and patience are necessary in the making of a hammer-thrower, and a glance over the careers of the more famous

exponents will bear out this contention. Against this, when he reaches the Championship grade, the performer can be assured that it is possible to compete in class company much later in life in this particular sphere than in other athletic events.

John Flanagan was competing for close on 20 years before he reached his zenith. Pat Ryan was a Champion for a period of 11 years by the time he reached world record, and 18 years when he took his Olympic laurels, being 37 years old at the Antwerp Olympiad.

Matt McGrath was a type who did not reach American Championship form until he was about 31 years, broke world record at 35 and became Olympic Champion at 36. At 50 years he won the American Championship of 1926, with over 162', and threw the 56lbs. in the American Championship, 1933, when 57 years old.

Pat McDonald, giant Clareman, won the American junior 56lbs. title, with a record distance, in 1907, and took his last American Senior crown 26 years later.

Denis Carey won an Irish hammer Championship in 1892, and won the hammer event at one of the leading Dublin Sports meetings 30 years later.

William Britton, fine hammerman, saw his best jumping days in 1915 and his best hammer-throwing 15 years after, and Tom Nicholson of Scotland was in Championship class for over 20 years.

The Swedish Champion, Skold, who led Dr. O'Callaghan to the last throw at Amsterdam, was then 46, while Ville Porhola of Finland, winner of the shot-putt at the 1920 Olympic Games, came second in hammer-throwing to O'Callaghan in 1932.

On the other hand, there are exceptions, a few having come to the fore at an early stage. Bert Healion, for instance, brought home a British hammer Championship in 1938, at 22 years, reaching 172' 1½", and Dr O'Callaghan was an Olympic Champion at 23.

## THE HIGH JUMP.

The high jump is one of the most spectacular of all events. The main object is to cross the lath as near to the horizontal as possible, and in order to perfect a style it is necessary to study several movements, separately, and then to work all in together in cohesion. The two best accepted modes are (a) the "Eastern Cut-Out" and (b) the "Western Roll."

In the "Eastern" method, run for the centre of the bar, and when bringing down the left foot for a take-off, turn the toe half left, this being the preliminary movement towards executing the reverse above. In making the spring the right foot and arms are flung aloft, the foot, when at its highest, being also turned to the left to continue the turn. At this point the foot should be well

above the bar. The left foot follows and this will come horizontal with the bar, the right foot being pushed over. As the left leg comes in line with the bar, the upper body is forced down to the bar until body and leg are parallel with it. A quick muscular effort will then draw the right leg taut and fully extend the arms, to assist in turning and raising left leg still higher. Concentration should now be centred on raising the buttocks which will be assisted by the action of the arms, then cut the left leg across the bar and down quickly, throwing the arms up to bring the upper body clear. The jumper will in that way come down facing in the direction of his approach.

In the "Western" style an approach is made at an angle ranging from 45 to 60 degrees. The foot nearest the bar is the one almost always used to take off, and this is not to leave the ground until the other, which kicks upward with all its power, is well in the air. When the left leg follows the body is actually being thrown upward with both arms forward to assist in the lift. As the jump is taken from the leg nearest the bar, the body goes up on a curve, or roll. To avoid the hip striking the lath the body is quickly straightened out, which movement lifts the hip a little higher. If the body is not completely straightened out here, as well as the arms, the buttocks or an elbow will topple the lath. The roll is accelerated by flinging the lower arm downward, this being again lifted as a final movement, to take it clear of the bar.

In both the "Eastern" and "Western" the jumper should mark his take-off point so that he will know the exact number of strides to take him in. By practicing from this control point there will be none of old-fashioned hopping, or changing of stride, in his run, and he will be in the position to throw all of his spring on the point of take-off.

The world record, 6' 11", now held by the American, Les Steers, was registered through the medium of the "Straddle" jump, a variation of the "Roll," the title originating from the marked resemblance of the jumper going over to a boy lying along the back of a horse or pony. In the "Straddle" the jumper lies flat on his stomach and the economical advantages in clearing the bar would appear to be more marked in this form than in any other. The approach and take-off are similar to that employed in the "Roll."

With a few exceptions, the great high jumpers have been tall men. The first four in the last Olympic Games, Johnson, Albritton and Thurber, U.S.A., and Kotkas, Finland, averaged 6' 4" in height, but the fifth, Asakuma, Japan, standing 5' 8", topped 6' 5½", and later did 6' 7", by means of the "Eastern" form. Johnson and Thurber used the "Western," Albritton the "Straddle" and Kotkas an off-shoot of the "Eastern," so it can be seen that there is no particular style adhered to even amongst the greatest exponents.

## THE HOP, STEP AND JUMP.

The hop, step and jump requires some patience, and accuracy, in determining, to the best advantage, the proper length of each of the three parts. The run, in length and style, is about the same as that for the long jump. Exceptionally strong legs are required, owing to the complete weight of the body being thrown on each leg, alternatively, in forceful fashion, at top speed. It is a problem to maintain perfect balance all through. The hop should be minimised so that the jump will prove somewhere near the same length. Covering too much ground in the hop results in the jumper more or less "falling through" the remaining two movements. The world record is 52' 5½" by the Jap, Naoto Tajima, at the Berlin Olympics. An analysis of this performance is interesting. He cleared 20' 3½" in the hop, 13' 1" in the step, and 19' 1¼" in the jump.

When attaining the maximum altitude in each part, keep the body upright, with the jumping leg trailing down, and the other drawn up. Keep the rear leg well behind during the step by relaxing the muscles on that side of the trunk, and slightly contracting the ones on the other side. Have the leading knee well drawn up during the step, also, and swing the arms upward as a lift.

Striving for too much height in the hop causes loss of balance. Take less height again in the step, but remember that most height is required in the jump.

When going on one leg the tendency is to turn sideways, but this is to be avoided. A good idea towards keeping the body faced directly for the pit is to delay the swing of the arm until you have taken off for your hop from the opposite leg.

Only take a few essays at a time, for this is a most strenuous event, entailing great strain on the legs.

## PUTTING THE 16lbs. SHOT.

The shot is propelled from a 7' circle with a toe-board in front to hold the competitor from going over the line. The 16lbs. sphere is used in adult competitions, the 7lbs. in junior school athletics and the 12lbs. in senior school competitions.

When taking the circle place the right foot just inside the line at the back of the circle. Don't carry the weight in the putting hand until you are quite ready to start for this will cause the hand to tire. Begin by extending the left arm at shoulder height as a balance and kick upward and backward with left foot. The Continental putters favour an extra high kick, in front, and then backward, so that the backward drag of the leg will serve to make the

putter fall forward to the centre of the circle as if he had been pushed in the small of the back. This is a good idea towards gathering maximum momentum. At the start the right knee should be slightly bent, and the point of toe, bent knee and shot should be all in line, and kept in line after the completion of the glide to the centre. The left leg, on then being sent forward to the front of circle, should be straightened, and the right shoulder is not to be brought round until the right hip is carried forward with a jerk. When the shoulder comes round square with the line of the throw, drive the arm full length after the shot, stiffening the fingers for a final "flick," which, if executed properly, can mean as much as the extra 4ft. in a 44' putt. The ideal finish is to have the fingers and hand twisted away from the body. Don't give the final punch of the arm until the shoulder has come round or the shot will be sent away from a position partially in the rear of the body, taking feet off the putt. When getting away the sphere get the left leg firmly planted, as well as the right, and have all the limbs properly straightened out, with the chest high, so that everything will be behind the final delivery. The great fault with the novice is to jump with the shot and let it go when off the ground. Photographs of the great shot-putters all show the left leg tensed with the muscles corded. The reverse, that is the bringing up of the right leg to the front, is not executed until the shot has left the hand, and this movement is only made to maintain balance after the effort is made. At no time should the back be rounded, for otherwise the complete strength of legs and body combined cannot be kept underneath the shot for the greatest effort in propelling it upward at the usual angle of 45 degrees. Careful study must be made as regards putting at the proper elevation. If the shot strikes the ground hard and rolls a distance it is a proof that much of the force which should have been expended in sending it further into space is lost in the ground. The shot should be held at the base of the first and second fingers for these are the strongest and the thumb and little finger are only spread around it to keep it in that position. Place the shot close to the chin with forearm and elbow outward. Do not hold it down in the palm of the hand unless the fingers are not strong enough to keep it up. Good exercises towards strengthening the fingers are pressing them hard against a wall and the usual gymnastic "press-ups." Any exercises which tend to strengthen the arm, leg and trunk muscles are also highly beneficial in the development of the shot-putter.

*There is always a welcome for Athletes*

AT

**INNISFREE HOTEL, THE MALL, SLIGO**

**NATIONAL ATHLETIC & CYCLING ASSOCIATION  
(IRELAND) CHAMPIONS.**

(In Standard Events).

**60 YARDS DASH.**

|      |                                           | secs. |
|------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1939 | K. P. O'Flanagan (University College) ... | 6 4/5 |
| 1941 | C. Sheehan (Mercury A.C.) ...             | 6 3/5 |
| 1942 | D. Flanagan (St. James's Gate) ...        | 6 1/5 |
| 1943 | D. Flanagan (St. James's Gate) ...        | 6 2/5 |
| 1944 | M. Kelly (An Dara) ...                    | 6 2/5 |
| 1945 | K. Connolly (Dundalk) ...                 | 6 1/2 |

**100 YARDS.**

|      |                                                                           | secs.   |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1923 | R. R. Woods (Dublin University) ...                                       | 10 2/5  |
| 1924 | W. J. Lowe (Manchester) ...                                               | 10 3/5  |
| 1925 | D. J. Cussen (Dublin University) ...                                      | 10      |
| 1926 | S. Lavan (University College) and<br>J. B. Eustace (Croke A.C.) dead-heat | 10 1/5  |
| 1927 | S. Lavan (University College) ...                                         | 10 1/10 |
| 1928 | D. J. Cussen (Dublin University) ...                                      | 9 4/5   |
| 1929 | J. B. Eustace (Dublin University) ...                                     | 10 1/5  |
| 1930 | J. B. Eustace (Dublin University) ...                                     | 10 1/5  |
| 1931 | W. P. Burke (Clonliffe Harriers) ...                                      | 10      |
| 1932 | W. P. Burke (Clonliffe Harriers) ...                                      | 10 1/5  |
| 1933 | W. P. Burke (Clonliffe Harriers) ...                                      | 10 1/5  |
| 1934 | M. J. O'Sullivan (University College) ...                                 | 10 3/5  |
| 1935 | F. G. Moran (City & Suburban H'rs) ...                                    | 10      |
| 1936 | F. G. Moran (City & Suburban H'rs) ...                                    | 10      |
| 1937 | S. De Lacy (Limerick) ...                                                 | 10      |
| 1938 | J. C. Holohan (University College) ...                                    | 10 1/10 |
| 1939 | E. Fitzmaurice (University College) ...                                   | 10      |
| 1940 | E. Fitzmaurice (University College) ...                                   | 10 1/10 |
| 1941 | K. P. O'Flanagan (University College) ...                                 | 10 2/5  |
| 1942 | D. Flanagan (St. James's Gate) ...                                        | 10 4/5  |
| 1943 | D. Flanagan (St. James's Gate) ...                                        | 10 1/5  |
| 1944 | M. Kelly (An Dara) ...                                                    | 10 1/5  |
| 1945 | M. Kelly (An Dara) ...                                                    | 10 1/5  |

**220 YARDS.**

|      |                                     | secs.  |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1923 | R. R. Woods (Dublin University) ... | 23 2/5 |
| 1924 | W. J. Lowe (Manchester) ...         | 23 3/5 |

|      |                                            |         |
|------|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1925 | S. Lavan (University College) ...          | 22 4/5  |
| 1926 | S. Lavan (University College) ...          | 23 2/5  |
| 1927 | S. Lavan (University College) ...          | 22 4/5  |
| 1928 | S. Lavan (University College) ...          | 22 3/5  |
| 1929 | P. C. Moore (University College) ...       | 22 4/5  |
| 1930 | J. B. Eustace (Croke A.C.) ...             | 22 1/5  |
| 1931 | P. C. Moore (University College) ...       | 23 2/5  |
| 1932 | J. B. Eustace (Croke A.C.) ...             | 23 1/5  |
| 1933 | M. McAlinden (D.M.G.A.C.) ...              | 23 2/5  |
| 1934 | M. J. O'Sullivan (University College) ...  | 23 3/5  |
| 1935 | F. G. Moran (City & Suburban H'rs.) ...    | 22 3/5  |
| 1936 | F. G. Moran (City & Suburban H'rs.) ...    | 22 3/5  |
| 1937 | J. A. Phelan (Shamrock A.C., Kilkenny) ... | 23 7/10 |
| 1938 | J. C. Holohan (University College) ...     | 23 7/10 |
| 1939 | E. Fitzmaurice (University College) ...    | 23 1/5  |
| 1940 | E. Fitzmaurice (University College) ...    | 23      |
| 1941 | E. Fitzmaurice (University College) ...    | 23 1/5  |
| 1942 | J. R. Thornton (University College) ...    | 24 1/5  |
| 1943 | D. Flanagan (St. James's Gate) ...         | 23 2/5  |
| 1944 | D. Flanagan (St. James's Gate) ...         | 23      |
| 1945 | T. A. Daly (University College) ...        | 23 4/5  |

## 440 YARDS.

|      |                                      | secs.  |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1923 | S. Lavan (University College) ...    | 52 4/5 |
| 1924 | S. Lavan (University College) ...    | 52 1/5 |
| 1925 | S. Lavan (University College) ...    | 51 4/5 |
| 1926 | S. Lavan (University College) ...    | 52 2/5 |
| 1927 | S. Lavan (University College) ...    | 51 3/5 |
| 1928 | S. Lavan (University College) ...    | 51 2/5 |
| 1929 | P. C. Moore (University College) ... | 50 4/5 |
| 1930 | P. C. Moore (University College) ... | 49 2/5 |
| 1931 | P. C. Moore (University College) ... | 51 2/5 |
| 1932 | D. Ryan (Croke A.C.) ...             | 52     |
| 1933 | G. A. Levis (Dublin University) ...  | 52 3/5 |
| 1934 | D. Ryan (Croke A.C.) ...             | 51 2/5 |
| 1935 | J. S. M. King (Civil Service) ...    | 51 1/5 |
| 1936 | J. O. Collins (Drogheda) ...         | 52 3/5 |
| 1937 | F. J. O'Connor (Kenmare) ...         | 52 4/5 |
| 1938 | W. J. McKee (Belfast) ...            | 54     |
| 1939 | W. Beckett (Cork) ...                | 53     |
| 1940 | N. J. Robinson ...                   | 51 3/5 |
| 1941 | W. J. McKee (Belfast) ...            | 51 3/5 |
| 1942 | W. J. McKee (Belfast) ...            | 52 1/5 |
| 1943 | P. J. Flanagan (Kells) ...           | 57     |
| 1944 | Des. Flanagan (Phoenix Harriers) ... | 51 4/5 |
| 1945 | T. A. Daly (University College) ...  | 52 2/5 |

## 880 YARDS.

|      |                                         | mins. | secs.  |
|------|-----------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| 1923 | J. F. Clarke (East Antrim Harriers) ... | 1     | 59 4/5 |
| 1924 | N. J. McEachern (Clonliffe) ...         | 2     | 0 3/5  |
| 1925 | G. N. Coughlan (Army A.A.) ...          | 2     | 1 2/5  |
| 1926 | N. J. McEachern (Clonliffe) ...         | 1     | 58 2/5 |
| 1927 | N. J. McEachern (Clonliffe) ...         | 1     | 57 3/5 |
| 1928 | N. J. McEachern (Clonliffe) ...         | 1     | 59 4/5 |
| 1929 | E. Hale (Croke A.C.) ...                | 2     | 0 4/5  |
| 1930 | J. J. O'Sullivan (U.C. Cork) ...        | 2     | 0 2/5  |
| 1931 | S. McCall (Civil Service) ...           | 2     | 2 1/5  |
| 1932 | D. Ryan (Croke A.C.) ...                | 2     | 1      |
| 1933 | T. P. O'Brien (U.C. Cork) ...           | 2     | 1 2/5  |
| 1934 | J. J. O'Sullivan (U.C. Cork) ...        | 1     | 58 3/5 |
| 1935 | D. Ryan (Croke A.C.) ...                | 1     | 59 2/5 |
| 1936 | D. Ryan (Croke A.C.) ...                | 2     | 2 3/5  |
| 1937 | W. Beckett (Cork) ...                   | 2     | 0 2/5  |
| 1938 | W. J. McKee (Belfast) ...               | 2     | 4      |
| 1939 | W. Beckett (Cork) ...                   | 2     | 2 4/5  |
| 1940 | P. J. Flanagan (Kells) ...              | 1     | 57 3/5 |
| 1941 | P. J. Flanagan (Kells) ...              | 1     | 59     |
| 1942 | W. J. McKee (Belfast) ...               | 2     | 4      |
| 1943 | D. McDermott (Phoenix Harriers) ...     | 2     | 3 2/5  |
| 1944 | D. McDermott (Phoenix Harriers) ...     | 1     | 59 2/5 |
| 1945 | P. J. Flanagan (Kells) ...              | 2     | 6 3/5  |

## MILE.

|      |                                      | mins. | secs.  |
|------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| 1923 | J. F. Clarke (East Antrim H'rs.) ... | 4     | 37 1/5 |
| 1924 | J. F. Clarke (East Antrim H'rs.) ... | 4     | 44 3/5 |
| 1925 | F. B. Quinn (Birchfield H'rs) ...    | 4     | 27 2/5 |
| 1926 | D. Coard (Donore H'rs.) ...          | 4     | 24 4/5 |
| 1927 | G. N. Coughlan (Army A.A.) ...       | 4     | 36 2/5 |
| 1928 | G. N. Coughlan (Army A.A.) ...       | 4     | 28     |
| 1929 | D. Coard (Donore H'rs.) ...          | 4     | 34 3/5 |
| 1930 | M. O'Malley (Westport) ...           | 4     | 33 2/5 |
| 1931 | M. Murphy (O'Callaghan's Mills) ...  | 4     | 31     |
| 1932 | J. S. Doyle (Dublin City H'rs.) ...  | 4     | 27 3/5 |
| 1933 | J. S. Doyle (Dublin City H'rs.) ...  | 4     | 33     |
| 1934 | J. S. Doyle (Dublin City H'rs.) ...  | 4     | 27 2/5 |
| 1935 | J. S. Doyle (Dublin City H'rs.) ...  | 4     | 27 2/5 |
| 1936 | J. S. Doyle (Dublin City H'rs.) ...  | 4     | 28 4/5 |
| 1937 | J. S. Doyle (Dublin City H'rs.) ...  | 4     | 22 2/5 |
| 1938 | J. S. Doyle (Dublin City H'rs.) ...  | 4     | 25 2/5 |
| 1939 | W. Gavin (Drogheda) ...              | 4     | 39     |
| 1940 | T. Healy (Coolcree) ...              | 4     | 28 2/5 |

|      |                                  |   |    |     |
|------|----------------------------------|---|----|-----|
| 1941 | T. Healy (Coolcroo) ... ..       | 4 | 34 | 4/5 |
| 1942 | B. Downey (Civil Service) ... .. | 4 | 30 | 1/5 |
| 1943 | B. Downey (Civil Service) ... .. | 4 | 29 | 3/5 |
| 1944 | B. Downey (Civil Service) ... .. | 4 | 25 | 2/5 |
| 1945 | J. J. Barry (Ballincurry) ... .. | 4 | 23 | 3/5 |

## 4 MILES.

|      |                                           | mins. | secs.  |
|------|-------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| 1923 | C. A. Woods (North Belfast H'rs.) ... ..  | 20    | 50 3/5 |
| 1924 | J. J. Ryan (Tipperary) ... ..             | 20    | 44 3/5 |
| 1925 | J. J. Ryan (Tipperary) ... ..             | 20    | 19 2/5 |
| 1926 | J. J. Ryan (Tipperary) ... ..             | 20    | 21     |
| 1927 | P. Groarke (Roscommon) ... ..             | 20    | 50 3/5 |
| 1928 | M. Feeney (Civil Service) ... ..          | 20    | 57     |
| 1929 | T. Kinsella (Army Metro.) ... ..          | 20    | 46     |
| 1930 | F. B. Quinn (Birchfield H'rs.) ... ..     | 20    | 28 2/5 |
| 1931 | T. Kinsella (Army Metro.) ... ..          | 20    | 43     |
| 1932 | T. F. Smythe (O'Callaghan's Mills) ... .. | 20    | 16 2/5 |
| 1933 | J. J. O'Connor (Limerick) ... ..          | 19    | 48 2/5 |
| 1934 | M. Healy (Galteemore A.C.) ... ..         | 20    | 47 2/5 |
| 1935 | J. J. O'Connor (Clonliffe) ... ..         | 20    | 46     |
| 1936 | J. J. O'Connor (Fearon's A.C.) ... ..     | 20    | 45     |
| 1937 | H. Sheehy (Limerick) ... ..               | 20    | 47 4/5 |
| 1938 | P. Hackett (Killenaule) ... ..            | 21    | 1      |
| 1939 | T. Maguire (Killenaule) ... ..            | 21    | 23     |
| 1940 | P. Hackett (Killenaule) ... ..            | 20    | 55 1/5 |
| 1941 | B. Downey (Civil Service) ... ..          | 20    | 52 2/5 |
| 1942 | B. Downey (Civil Service) ... ..          | 21    | 45     |
| 1943 | B. Downey (Civil Service) ... ..          | 21    | 55     |
| 1944 | M. Egan (Gort) ... ..                     | 20    | 5 2/5  |
| 1945 | J. J. Barry (Ballincurry) ... ..          | 20    | 3      |

## 120 YARDS HURDLES.

|      |                                                | secs.  |
|------|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1923 | H. Conway (University College) ... ..          | 16 4/5 |
| 1924 | J. Donovan (Youghal) ... ..                    | 17 1/5 |
| 1925 | W. Shanahan (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                | 17     |
| 1926 | J. A. Price (Queen's Univ., Belfast) ... ..    | 17 1/5 |
| 1927 | S. Lavan (University College) ... ..           | 16 2/5 |
| 1928 | A. F. Clarke (Belfast) ... ..                  | 15 2/5 |
| 1929 | A. Nolan (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                   | 15 3/5 |
| 1930 | R. M. N. Tisdall (Cambridge University) ... .. | 15 4/5 |

|      |                                           |         |
|------|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1931 | T. D. Phelan (University College) ... ..  | 15 2/5  |
| 1932 | R. M. N. Tisdall (Nenagh) ... ..          | 15 1/5  |
| 1933 | T. D. Phelan (University College) ... ..  | 16      |
| 1934 | T. D. Phelan (Milocarrian A.C.) ... ..    | 16 1/5  |
| 1935 | L. H. Braddell (Dublin University) ... .. | 16 1/5  |
| 1936 | L. H. Braddell (Dublin University) ... .. | 16 1/5  |
| 1937 | R. E. Coote (Dublin University) ... ..    | 16 1/5  |
| 1938 | P. A. O'Farrell (Limerick) ... ..         | 16 4/5  |
| 1939 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..              | 16 3/5  |
| 1940 | W. J. Phelan (U.C. Cork) ... ..           | 16 3/5  |
| 1941 | M. J. Corbett (Dublin City H'rs.) ... ..  | 16 1/10 |
| 1942 | B. Flanagan (University College) ... ..   | 16 2/5  |
| 1943 | B. Flanagan (University College) ... ..   | 16 2/5  |
| 1944 | Cpl. Sheehan (Curragh A.C.) ... ..        | 16 2/5  |
| 1945 | M. J. Corbett (Celtic) ... ..             | 17      |

## HIGH JUMP.

|      |                                                                           | ft. | ins.  |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 1923 | T. J. Carroll (London) ... ..                                             | 5   | 9 1/2 |
| 1924 | L. Stanley (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                                            | 6   | 2     |
| 1925 | L. Stanley (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                                            | 6   | 0     |
| 1926 | C. O'Connor (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                                           | 6   | 2     |
| 1927 | C. O'Connor & W. Shanahan (D.M.G.A.C.) tied                               | 6   | 2     |
| 1928 | W. Shanahan (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                                           | 5   | 11    |
| 1929 | C. O'Connor & M. A. Moroney (Univ. Coll.) tied                            | 6   | 1     |
| 1930 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk) ... ..                                       | 6   | 0     |
| 1931 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel) ... ..                                       | 6   | 0     |
| 1932 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan & T. J. Guiney (Duhallow) tied ... ..                  | 6   | 0     |
| 1933 | C. O'Connor & E. Fitzgerald (Univ Coll.) tied                             | 5   | 10    |
| 1934 | C. O'Connor (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                                           |     |       |
|      | P. V. Guiney (Duhallow) & R. O'Rafferty (Donore H'rs.) all tied at ... .. | 6   | 1     |
| 1935 | R. O'Rafferty (Donore H'rs.) ... ..                                       | 6   | 2     |
| 1936 | R. O'Rafferty (Donore H'rs.) ... ..                                       | 5   | 11    |
| 1937 | P. V. Guiney (Duhallow) ... ..                                            | 6   | 0     |
| 1938 | J. J. Guiney (D.M.G.A.C.) ... ..                                          | 5   | 9     |
| 1939 | T. Wall (University College) ... ..                                       | 6   | 2     |
| 1940 | T. Wall (University College) ... ..                                       | 6   | 2     |
| 1941 | T. Wall & J. J. Guiney (D.M.G.A.C.) tied                                  | 6   | 0     |
| 1942 | T. Wall (University College) ... ..                                       | 6   | 2     |
| 1943 | T. Wall (University College) ... ..                                       | 6   | 0     |
| 1944 | T. Wall (University College) ... ..                                       | 6   | 0     |
| 1945 | T. Wall (University College) ... ..                                       | 5   | 10    |

## LONG JUMP.

|      |                                             | ft. | ins.             |
|------|---------------------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1923 | H. Conway (University College) ...          | 22  | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1924 | H. Conway (University College) ...          | 22  | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1925 | J. Connor (Belfast) ...                     | 22  | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1926 | R. J. Cussen (Dublin University) ...        | 22  | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| 1927 | R. J. Cussen (Dublin University) ...        | 22  | 4                |
| 1928 | P. Anglim (Garda) ...                       | 23  | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1929 | M. A. Moroney (University College) ...      | 22  | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1930 | S. B. Potter (University College) ...       | 23  | 11               |
| 1931 | P. Anglim (Campile, Wexford) ...            | 23  | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1932 | P. Anglim (Oylegate, Wexford) ...           | 22  | 11               |
| 1933 | P. Anglim (Oylegate, Wexford) ...           | 22  | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| 1934 | P. Anglim (Clonmel) ...                     | 22  | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1935 | P. Anglim (Clonmel) ...                     | 22  | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| 1936 | P. Anglim (Clonmel) ...                     | 22  | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1937 | D. Sheehan (University College) ...         | 21  | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1938 | K. P. O'Flanagan (University College) ...   | 22  | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1939 | K. P. O'Flanagan (University College) ...   | 22  | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1940 | P. V. Guiney (Duhallow) ...                 | 21  | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1941 | K. P. O'Flanagan & D. D. Guiney (C.S.) tied | 22  | 6                |
| 1942 | A. Lyons (University College) ...           | 22  | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1943 | A. Lyons (University College) ...           | 21  | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1944 | T. Joyce (University College) ...           | 22  | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1945 | S. Collins (College of Surgeons) ...        | 21  | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  |

## HOP, STEP AND JUMP.

|      |                                        | ft. | ins.            |
|------|----------------------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1923 | M. Kissane (Listowel) ...              | 43  | 0               |
| 1924 | J. Connor (Belfast) ...                | 46  | 3               |
| 1925 | J. Connor (Belfast) ...                | 47  | 5               |
| 1926 | W. J. Moloney (Longford) ...           | 44  | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1927 | W. J. Moloney (Longford) ...           | 43  | 11              |
| 1928 | T. D. Phelan (University College) ...  | 46  | 9               |
| 1929 | M. A. Moroney (University College) ... | 46  | 6               |
| 1930 | E. Fitzgerald (University College) ... | 48  | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 1931 | J. J. Guiney (Duhallow) ...            | 42  | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1932 | E. Fitzgerald (University College) ... | 48  | 2               |
| 1933 | E. Fitzgerald (University College) ... | 46  | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 1934 | E. Fitzgerald (University College) ... | 46  | 2               |
| 1935 | F. Fitzgerald (Killarney) ...          | 45  | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1936 | F. Fitzgerald (Killarney) ...          | 46  | 3               |
| 1937 | D. Sheehan (D.M.G.A.C.) ...            | 45  | 2               |
| 1938 | D. Sheehan (D.M.G.A.C.) ...            | 44  | 7               |
| 1939 | J. Dunne (Inchicore Harriers) ...      | 44  | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1940 | J. Dunne (Inchicore Harriers) ...      | 46  | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

|      |                                   |    |                 |
|------|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1941 | J. Dunne (Inchicore Harriers) ... | 44 | 3               |
| 1942 | J. O'Brien (Civil Service) ...    | 43 | 8               |
| 1943 | J. J. Lavin (Boyle) ...           | 43 | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1944 | J. J. Lavin (Boyle) ...           | 45 | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1945 | J. J. Lavin (Boyle) ...           | 45 | 4               |

## POLE JUMP.

|      |                                    | ft. | ins. |
|------|------------------------------------|-----|------|
| 1929 | P. Anglim (Depot Garda) ...        | 10  | 6    |
| 1930 | P. Anglim (Wexford) ...            | 10  | 6    |
| 1931 | P. Anglim (Wexford) ...            | 10  | 9    |
| 1932 | P. Anglim (Wexford) ...            | 10  | 6    |
| 1933 | P. Anglim (Wexford) ...            | 10  | 6    |
| 1934 | P. Anglim (Clonmel) ...            | 10  | 9    |
| 1935 | T. Myles (Curragh A.C.) ...        | 11  | 0    |
| 1936 | T. Myles (Polytechnic, London) ... | 11  | 0    |
| 1937 | J. P. Murphy (Limerick) ...        | 11  | 0    |
| 1938 | P. A. O'Farrell (Limerick) ...     | 11  | 0    |
| 1939 | T. P. Murphy (Limerick) ...        | 11  | 3    |
| 1940 | J. E. Vallely (Armagh) ...         | 10  | 9    |
| 1941 | J. E. Vallely (Armagh) ...         | 10  | 6    |
| 1942 | H. Gibney (Castlepollard) ...      | 10  | 6    |
| 1943 | J. O'Brien (Curragh A.C.) ...      | 11  | 0    |
| 1944 | J. O'Brien (Curragh A.C.) ...      | 10  | 6    |
| 1945 | J. O'Brien (Curragh A.C.) ...      | 11  | 0    |

## 10 MILES FLAT.

|      |                                 | mins.    | secs.  |
|------|---------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 1934 | J. J. O'Connor (Clonliffe) ...  | 57       | 11     |
| 1935 | J. J. O'Connor (Clonliffe) ...  | 55       | 42     |
| 1936 | J. Hannon (Galteemore A.C.) ... | 56       | 57     |
| 1937 | J. Sweeney (Coolcroo) ...       | 57       | 21     |
| 1938 | J. Fahy (Coolcroo) ...          | 56       | 3      |
| 1939 | J. Fahy (Coolcroo) ...          | 55       | 58     |
| 1940 | D. Walsh (Feakle) ...           | 55       | 23 1/5 |
| 1941 | Not held.                       |          |        |
| 1942 | D. Walsh (Feakle) ...           | 56       | 24 4/5 |
| 1943 | M. Egan (Gort) ...              | 56       | 5      |
| 1944 | T. Reilly (Drogheda) ...        | 55       | 45     |
| 1945 | J. Egan (Shanaglish) ...        | No time. |        |

## 16lbs. SHOT.

|      |                                   |     | ft. | ins. |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| 1923 | M. Kennedy (Kilcommon)            | ... | 41  | 7½   |
| 1924 | J. O'Grady (Caherconlish)         | ... | 43  | 2½   |
| 1925 | J. O'Grady (Limerick)             | ... | 45  | 6½   |
| 1926 | A. L. Colhoun (Belfast)           | ... | 42  | 5¼   |
| 1927 | A. L. Colhoun (Belfast)           | ... | 43  | 1¼   |
| 1928 | T. Healy (D.M.G.A.C.)             | ... | 42  | 5½   |
| 1929 | A. L. Colhoun (Belfast)           | ... | 41  | 6    |
| 1930 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk)      | ... | 44  | 5½   |
| 1931 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)      | ... | 45  | 5½   |
| 1932 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)      | ... | 44  | 10¼  |
| 1933 | T. Healy (D.M.G.A.C.)             | ... | 44  | 0    |
| 1934 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)      | ... | 44  | 9¾   |
| 1935 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)      | ... | 42  | 9    |
| 1936 | C. O'Callaghan (Cork)             | ... | 41  | 7½   |
| 1937 | C. O'Callaghan (Cork)             | ... | 42  | 0    |
| 1938 | T. A. Headon (University College) | ... | 42  | 7½   |
| 1939 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)             | ... | 42  | 6½   |
| 1940 | J. J. Guiney (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 42  | 5    |
| 1941 | J. B. Byrne (Armagh)              | ... | 44  | 11½  |
| 1942 | J. B. Byrne (Armagh)              | ... | 42  | 10   |
| 1943 | J. B. Byrne (Armagh)              | ... | 43  | 11   |
| 1944 | D. D. Guiney (Civil Service)      | ... | 48  | 2½   |
| 1945 | D. D. Guiney (Civil Service)      | ... | 45  | 9    |

## 16lbs. HAMMER.

|      |                              |     | ft. | ins. |
|------|------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| 1923 | W. Britton (Ballinamore)     | ... | 150 | 7½   |
| 1924 | W. Britton (Ballinamore)     | ... | 148 | 6    |
| 1925 | W. Britton (Ballinamore)     | ... | 142 | 8    |
| 1926 | W. Britton (Ballinamore)     | ... | 147 | 8    |
| 1927 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk) | ... | 142 | 3    |
| 1928 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk) | ... | 162 | 6    |
| 1929 | W. Britton (Cavan)           | ... | 150 | 0    |
| 1930 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk) | ... | 170 | 0    |
| 1931 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel) | ... | 168 | 11   |
| 1932 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel) | ... | 167 | 11   |
| 1933 | W. Britton (Cavan)           | ... | 146 | 6    |
| 1934 | M. Curtin (Cork)             | ... | 158 | 2    |
| 1935 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel) | ... | 158 | 10   |
| 1936 | J. J. Doherty (D.M.G.A.C.)   | ... | 153 | 8    |
| 1937 | D. Coyle (Dundalk)           | ... | 157 | 1½   |
| 1938 | D. Coyle (Dundalk)           | ... | 157 | 1    |
| 1939 | M. Curtin (Cork)             | ... | 160 | 2    |
| 1940 | D. Coyle (Dundalk)           | ... | 160 | 0    |

|      |                            |     |     |     |    |
|------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1941 | J. J. Doherty (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | ... | 155 | 6  |
| 1942 | D. Coyle (Dundalk)         | ... | ... | 138 | 4  |
| 1943 | M. Curtin (Cork)           | ... | ... | 152 | 6½ |
| 1944 | D. Coyle (Dundalk)         | ... | ... | 150 | 5½ |
| 1945 | D. Coyle (Dundalk)         | ... | ... | 145 | 7  |

## DISCUS.

|      |                               |     | ft. | ins. |
|------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| 1923 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 128 | 2    |
| 1924 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 138 | 3    |
| 1925 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 141 | 8    |
| 1926 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 135 | 6    |
| 1927 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 138 | 4    |
| 1928 | T. Healy (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 133 | 10   |
| 1929 | T. Healy (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 145 | 8    |
| 1930 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 141 | 11   |
| 1931 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)  | ... | 131 | 2½   |
| 1932 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 139 | 9    |
| 1933 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | 135 | 0½   |
| 1934 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 135 | 4    |
| 1935 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 143 | 5    |
| 1936 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 143 | 0    |
| 1937 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 146 | 5    |
| 1938 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 142 | 7    |
| 1939 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | 152 | 6½   |
| 1940 | J. Duggan (U.C. Galway)       | ... | 124 | 7    |
| 1941 | E. Tobin (Galway)             | ... | 130 | 3    |
| 1942 | J. J. Guiney (D.M.G.A.C.)     | ... | 118 | 3    |
| 1943 | E. Tobin (Oughterard)         | ... | 133 | 3½   |
| 1944 | E. Tobin (Oughterard)         | ... | 145 | 8½   |
| 1945 | E. Tobin (Galway)             | ... | 143 | 11½  |

## JAVELIN.

|      |                                  |     | ft. | ins. |
|------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| 1923 | M. O'Halloran (Clonliffe)        | ... | 118 | 1    |
| 1924 | S. Keavey (Kickham A.C.)         | ... | 140 | 9½   |
| 1925 | S. Keavey (Kickham A.C.)         | ... | 151 | 7    |
| 1926 | S. Keavey (Kickham A.C.)         | ... | 155 | 1½   |
| 1927 | S. Keavey (Kickham A.C.)         | ... | 161 | 4½   |
| 1928 | S. Keavey (Kickham A.C.)         | ... | 153 | 7    |
| 1929 | T. Healy (D.M.G.A.C.)            | ... | 150 | 2    |
| 1930 | T. Healy (D.M.G.A.C.)            | ... | 154 | 1    |
| 1931 | T. Healy (D.M.G.A.C.)            | ... | 151 | 4    |
| 1932 | J. C. Conroy (Dublin University) | ... | 140 | 7½   |

|      |                               |     |     |     |                  |
|------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1933 | M. Watters (Cloonacool)       | ... | ... | 146 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1934 | M. Watters (Cloonacool)       | ... | ... | 168 | 8                |
| 1935 | P. Fallon (Louisburgh)        | ... | ... | 154 | 11               |
| 1936 | M. Watters (Tipperary)        | ... | ... | 155 | 10               |
| 1937 | J. J. McGettigan (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | ... | 162 | 4                |
| 1938 | M. Watters (Templemore)       | ... | ... | 159 | 9                |
| 1939 | M. Watters (Castlecomer)      | ... | ... | 151 | 3                |
| 1940 | M. Watters (Enniscorthy)      | ... | ... | 161 | 1                |
| 1941 | M. Watters (Enniscorthy)      | ... | ... | 166 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1942 | J. J. Guiney (D.M.G.A.C.)     | ... | ... | 155 | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1943 | M. Watters (Enniscorthy)      | ... | ... | 149 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1944 | M. Watters (Enniscorthy)      | ... | ... | 153 | 6                |
| 1945 | M. Watters (Enniscorthy)      | ... | ... | 154 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

### THROWING 56lbs. (no follow).

|      |                               |     |     | ft. | ins.             |
|------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1923 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | ... | 25  | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1924 | J. O'Grady (Limerick)         | ... | ... | 25  | 0                |
| 1925 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | ... | 25  | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1926 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | ... | 25  | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1927 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | ... | 25  | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1928 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk)  | ... | ... | 26  | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1929 | W. Gore (D.M.G.A.C.)          | ... | ... | 25  | 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| 1930 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk)  | ... | ... | 25  | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1931 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)  | ... | ... | 26  | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1932 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)  | ... | ... | 26  | 1                |
| 1933 | M. Costello (Portarlinton)    | ... | ... | 25  | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| 1934 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | ... | 25  | 9                |
| 1935 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | ... | 27  | 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 1936 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | ... | 27  | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1937 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | ... | 28  | 1                |
| 1938 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | ... | 27  | 8                |
| 1939 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)         | ... | ... | 28  | 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| 1940 | F. O'Mahoney (Cork)           | ... | ... | 27  | 8                |
| 1941 | F. O'Mahoney (Cork)           | ... | ... | 26  | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1942 | F. O'Mahoney (Cork)           | ... | ... | 25  | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1943 | E. Tobin (Oughterard)         | ... | ... | 28  | 7                |
| 1944 | E. Tobin (Oughterard)         | ... | ... | 28  | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  |
| 1945 | E. Tobin (Galway)             | ... | ... | 27  | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  |

### THROWING 56lbs. OVER BAR.

|      |                               |     |     | ft. | ins. |
|------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1923 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.) | ... | ... | 13  | 9    |
| 1924 | J. O'Grady (Limerick)         | ... | ... | 14  | 6    |

|      |                                |      |     |    |                 |
|------|--------------------------------|------|-----|----|-----------------|
| 1925 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.)  | ...  | ... | 14 | 6               |
| 1926 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.)  | ...  | ... | 13 | 0               |
| 1927 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk)   | ...  | ... | 14 | 3               |
| 1928 | J. O'Grady (Limerick)          | ...  | ... | 14 | 6               |
| 1929 | P. J. Bermingham (D.M.G.A.C.)  | ...  | ... | 13 | 9               |
| 1930 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Kanturk)   | ...  | ... | 14 | 0               |
| 1931 | Dr. P. O'Callaghan (Clonmel)   | ...  | ... | 14 | 0               |
| 1932 | J. O'Grady (Limerick)          | ...  | ... | 14 | 3               |
| 1933 | J. O'Grady (Limerick)          | ...  | ... | 14 | 0               |
| 1934 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)          | ...  | ... | 15 | 0               |
| 1935 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)          | ...  | ... | 15 | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1936 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)          | ...  | ... | 15 | 7               |
| 1937 | E. Tobin & F. O'Mahoney (Cork) | tied | ... | 14 | 0               |
| 1938 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)          | ...  | ... | 15 | 0               |
| 1939 | E. Tobin (D.M.G.A.C.)          | ...  | ... | 15 | 0               |
| 1940 | E. Tobin (Galway)              | ...  | ... | 14 | 6               |
| 1941 | F. O'Mahoney (Cork)            | ...  | ... | 13 | 6               |
| 1942 | F. O'Mahoney (Cork)            | ...  | ... | 13 | 0               |
| 1943 | E. Tobin (Oughterard)          | ...  | ... | 13 | 6               |
| 1944 | E. Tobin (Oughterard)          | ...  | ... | 15 | 1               |
| 1945 | E. Tobin (Galway)              | ...  | ... | 14 | 0               |

### MARATHON.

|      |                                |     |     | hrs. | mins. | secs.  |
|------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|--------|
| 1925 | J. O'Reilly (Galway)           | ... | ... | 2    | 56    | 4      |
| 1926 | J. O'Reilly (Galway)           | ... | ... | 2    | 58    | 30     |
| 1927 | J. O'Reilly (Galway)           | ... | ... | 2    | 55    | 0 3/5  |
| 1928 | P. J. Doyle (Donore H'rs.)     | ... | ... | 2    | 55    | 40     |
| 1929 | D. McKeon (Blackrock)          | ... | ... | 3    | 11    | 15     |
| 1930 | D. McKeon (Blackrock)          | ... | ... | 3    | 11    | 35     |
| 1931 | J. McKenney (Highgate H'rs.)   | ... | ... | 3    | 0     | 2 3/5  |
| 1932 | D. McKeon (Blackrock)          | ... | ... | 2    | 57    | 27     |
| 1933 | J. Timmons (Dublin City H'rs.) | ... | ... | 2    | 49    | 52     |
| 1934 | J. Timmons (Dublin City H'rs.) | ... | ... | 3    | 24    | 15     |
| 1935 | J. Doyle (Carlow)              | ... | ... | 2    | 52    | 31     |
| 1936 | W. Morton (Clonliffe)          | ... | ... | 2    | 48    | 27     |
| 1937 | J. Hayden (Curragh A.C.)       | ... | ... | 3    | 2     | 25     |
| 1938 | J. Hayden (Curragh A.C.)       | ... | ... | 3    | 15    | 9      |
| 1939 | J. Hayden (Curragh A.C.)       | ... | ... | 3    | 4     | 0 2/5  |
| 1940 | Not held.                      | ... | ... |      |       |        |
| 1941 | J. O'Connell (Army)            | ... | ... | 3    | 45    | 16     |
| 1942 | P. Ryan (An Dara)              | ... | ... | 3    | 3     | 31     |
| 1943 | P. Ryan (An Dara)              | ... | ... | 2    | 54    | 23     |
| 1944 | M. Egan (Gort)                 | ... | ... | 3    | 22    | 22 2/5 |
| 1945 | M. Egan (Shanaglish)           | ... | ... | 2    | 58    | 58     |

## N. A. &amp; C. A. (I.) ALL-ROUND CHAMPIONS.

|      |              |     |     |     |     | pts. |
|------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1936 | E. Tobin     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5367 |
| 1937 | E. Tobin     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6136 |
| 1938 | T. J. Guiney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5697 |
| 1939 | T. J. Guiney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5926 |
| 1940 | J. J. Guiney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5299 |
| 1941 | Not Held.    |     |     |     |     |      |
| 1942 | J. J. Guiney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5846 |
| 1943 | P. V. Guiney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5809 |
| 1944 | P. V. Guiney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5404 |
| 1945 | P. V. Guiney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5269 |

## ATHLETIC RECORDS OF THE A.A.U.(E.)

|                         |                                     | hrs. | mins | secs.  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| 100 Yards               | F. G. Moran }<br>D. J. Cussen }     |      |      | 9 4/5  |
| 130 Yards               | R. Kerr }<br>*J. E. London }        |      |      | 12 4/5 |
| 220 Yards               | *W. Rangely }<br>*S. E. Englehart } |      |      | 21 2/5 |
| 300 Yards               | S. Lavan                            |      |      | 31 3/5 |
| 440 Yards               | *D. G. A. Lowe }<br>P. C. Moore }   |      |      | 49 2/5 |
| 880 Yards               | *F. R. Handley                      | 1    | 55   | 2/5    |
| 1,000 Yards             | *C. E. Ellis                        |      | 2    | 15     |
| 1 Mile                  | *D. Wilson                          |      | 4    | 15 3/5 |
| 3 Miles                 | *G. M. Carstairs                    | 14   | 29   | 4/5    |
| 4 Miles                 | T. P. Conneff                       | 19   | 44   | 2/5    |
| 10 Miles                | W. C. McCooke                       | 55   | 31   | 2/5    |
| 1 Mile Relay (4 x 440)  | *South London H'rs.                 | 3    | 29   | 4/5    |
| 1 Mile Walk             | *W. Campbell                        |      | 6    | 39     |
| 3 Miles Walk            | *R. Bridge                          | 22   | 2    | 2/5    |
| Marathon (26m. 385yds.) | W. Morton                           | 2    | 47   | 28     |
| 120 Yards Hurdles       | *S. J. M. Atkinson                  |      |      | 15     |
|                         |                                     |      | ft.  | ins.   |
| High Jump               | T. J. Carroll                       |      | 6    | 5      |
| Long Jump               | P. O'Connor                         |      | 24   | 11 3/4 |
| Hop, Step & Jump        | D. Shanahan                         |      | 50   | 0 1/2  |
| Pole Vault              | *F. R. Webster                      |      | 12   | 4      |
| 16lbs. Hammer           | B. Healion                          |      | 192  | 11     |
| Discus                  | P. J. Bermingham                    |      | 151  | 6 1/2  |
| Javelin                 | *D. Pilling                         |      | 205  | 3      |
| 56lbs. (no follow)      | E. Tobin                            |      | 28   | 3      |
| 35lbs. weight (circle)  | B. Healion                          |      | 59   | 2      |
| 16lbs. Shot             | *R. Rose.                           |      | 49   | 3 1/2  |

\* Denotes performances by foreign competitors. Robert Kerr, co-holder, with J. E. London, of the 130 Yards record, although representing Canada in the Olympic Games of 1908, was born in Enniskillen.



## WingedFist.Org

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**Author:** William Dooley

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