

A Limerickman's Diary

By **OBSERVER**

New Works By Criostoir O'Flynn

THE gifted Limerick writer, Criostoir O'Flynn, has had another brilliant literary success with his prizewinning poem, "Eiri Amach na Casca" (The Easter Rising) which was recently published by Sairseal agus Dill.

This work is an evocation, in a series of related poems, of the origins and meaning of the Rising, studied in the context of the Irish nation, past and present. The sequence of poems, varying in style and metre, is symbolic of the chain linking the generations in spirit and culture. Sairseal agus Dill will shortly publish another work by Criostoir O'Flynn. This is entitled "Cofa Bán Christ."

and is the original Irish version of the play "The Order of Melchizedek," which caused a sensation at last year's Dublin Theatre Festival.

AWARD

In its Irish version the play took the major playwriting award in the Oireachtas literary competitions. The adjudicator was the late Walter Macken, who hoped to play

the role of the priest in the play at the Taibhdhearc in Galway and subsequently at the Abbey Theatre.

Both theatres, however, refused to put on the play, and its first production was in English at the Gate Theatre.

The play has aroused considerable interest among international impresarios, and already the theatre and television rights for Holland have been taken up by an Amsterdam agency.

This controversial work is likely to prove the most talked-of book published in Irish for many years.

PRAISED

On the list of the Club Leabhar (Irish Book Club) for the current season there is another new work by Criostoir O'Flynn, a satirical novel — "Learairi Lios an Phuca" ("The Lads of Lissapooka"). This deals in a lighthearted manner with the discoveries made by a young Dubliner who is sent by a National Development Board to explore the potential for development of a "backward" area in the West.

The "Lios" in question is not, of course, to be found on any map.

The original and modern style of this novel has been highly praised by the Club Leabhar directors. It breaks new ground in the writing of modern humour in Irish.

TELEVISION

Readers who remember Criostoir O'Flynn's television play, "The Lambs," which dealt with the emigration of young

people and the pitfalls which await them, will look forward to the screening of Criostoir's new television play by R.T.E. This one is called "Legion of the Rearguard" and is a comedy set in a typical town.

R.T.E. will also be showing a play in Irish by Criostoir. "Lámh Dheas, Lámh Chlé," is a play which shows that the Irish language can deal fluently with an urban and sophisticated theme.

Viewers who enjoyed "The Lambs" will not be surprised to learn that it was the most popular original television play shown by R.T.E. last year. The author has been asked to write the story as a novel and hopes to see this in the bookshops during the coming year.

ABBEY

This year also the Abbey are to present in the Peacock Theatre a new stage play in Irish by Criostoir, "Is e duirt Polonius" (That's what Polonius said), is a study of the man v. management theme, the individual's appraisal of his integrity and its consequences. This play has already won two prizes in Manuscript form, and is to be published by An Gum (Government Publications Office).

While working on these new productions, Criostoir has found time to collect his short stories, many of which have won Oireachtas and other prizes, and been published in English versions by magazines in the U.S. This collection, entitled "Oineachlann," is also to be published by An Gum.

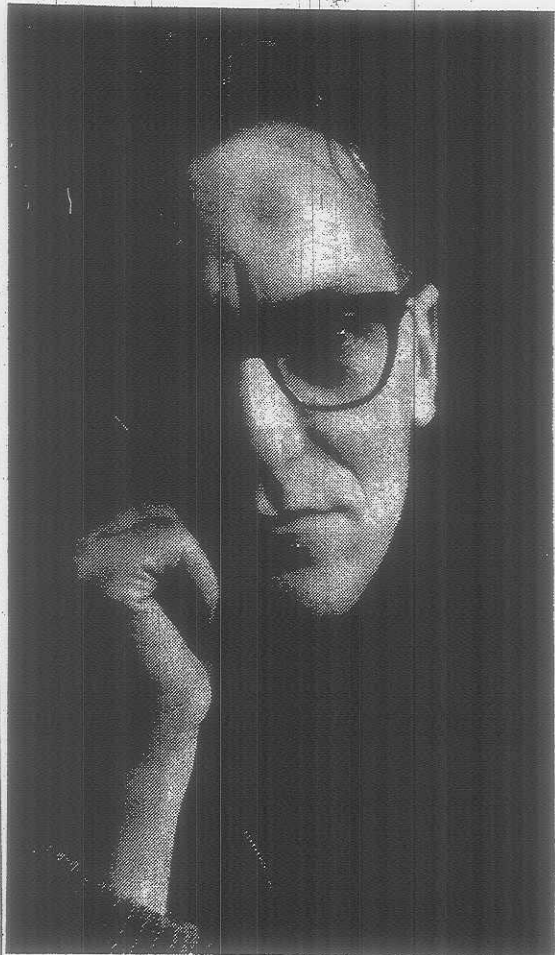
WON T COMPET



The promising Limerick balladeer, Brian Coughlan, gave further evidence of his talent last week by winning a competition at the Lakeside Hotel, Killaloe. The negro spiritual, "Summertime," swung the marks in his favour, and he will now make a recording with Menlo Studio in Limerick.

Seventeen year-old Brian, who accompanies himself on the guitar, has made appearances at Roches Stores Ballad Beat show in Crescent Hall during Mission Week; at Sexton Street teenagers' dance, the Savoy Cinema, Cruise's Hotel, The Big Tree, Presentation Convent charity concert, and Kennelley's in Wickham St.

He made his debut with a beat group, called the Bluebeats, a well-known combination in



Prizewinning Limerick writer, Criostoir O'Flynn

Will be Married next Month

Sheehan Brothers & Great Football Pro

THE Sheehan brothers — Christy, Pat, Noel and Michael — of 40 Hyde Road, Ballinacurra Weston, are four of Limerick's most promising footballers. In addition to winning an aggregate of fifty trophies they have established regular places for themselves on Hyde Rovers' schoolboy teams.

Their father, Mr. Pat Sheehan, is team manager of one of Limerick's most successful clubs, Hyde Rovers, and in his earlier days won almost every trophy on offer with the now defunct Wanderers. The honours included minor league and cup, four league medals, Cromer Cup and North Munster Cup. He also played hurling and football

on graduation to the under-15 side, performed a similar feat.

It was in under-15 ranks that he met with most of his successes. In addition to winning three under-age Cups in that age group he also helped Hyde win two League titles.

But perhaps his greatest innings with Hyde was in the reaching of the Evans Cup

St. Brendan's team that beat St. Munchin's in the Spillane Cup final.

In the school sports he won the bicycle race from Paschal Buckley, and was also on the successful tug-o'-war team with Bill Slattery, Martin Mullane, Phil Collins and Jack Ryan. He is now attending the Technical Institute.

NOEL

ick,
rish
wn,
who
mer
Mr.
lub,

ster
nes-
and
l to

g the
Jub-
comed
even-
f Kill-
ed the
o the
asions
area.
Pres-
1 that
Irish
been
s 1924.
people
ten he

behalf
Club,
mbers
Golden
Kill-
noted
good