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THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF GARUMNA AND
LETTERMULLEN,
IN THE COUNTY GALWAY.

BY

CHARLES R. BROWNE, M.D.

(PLATES IV. and V.)

A PAPER

Read before the ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY, November 30, 1898;

and

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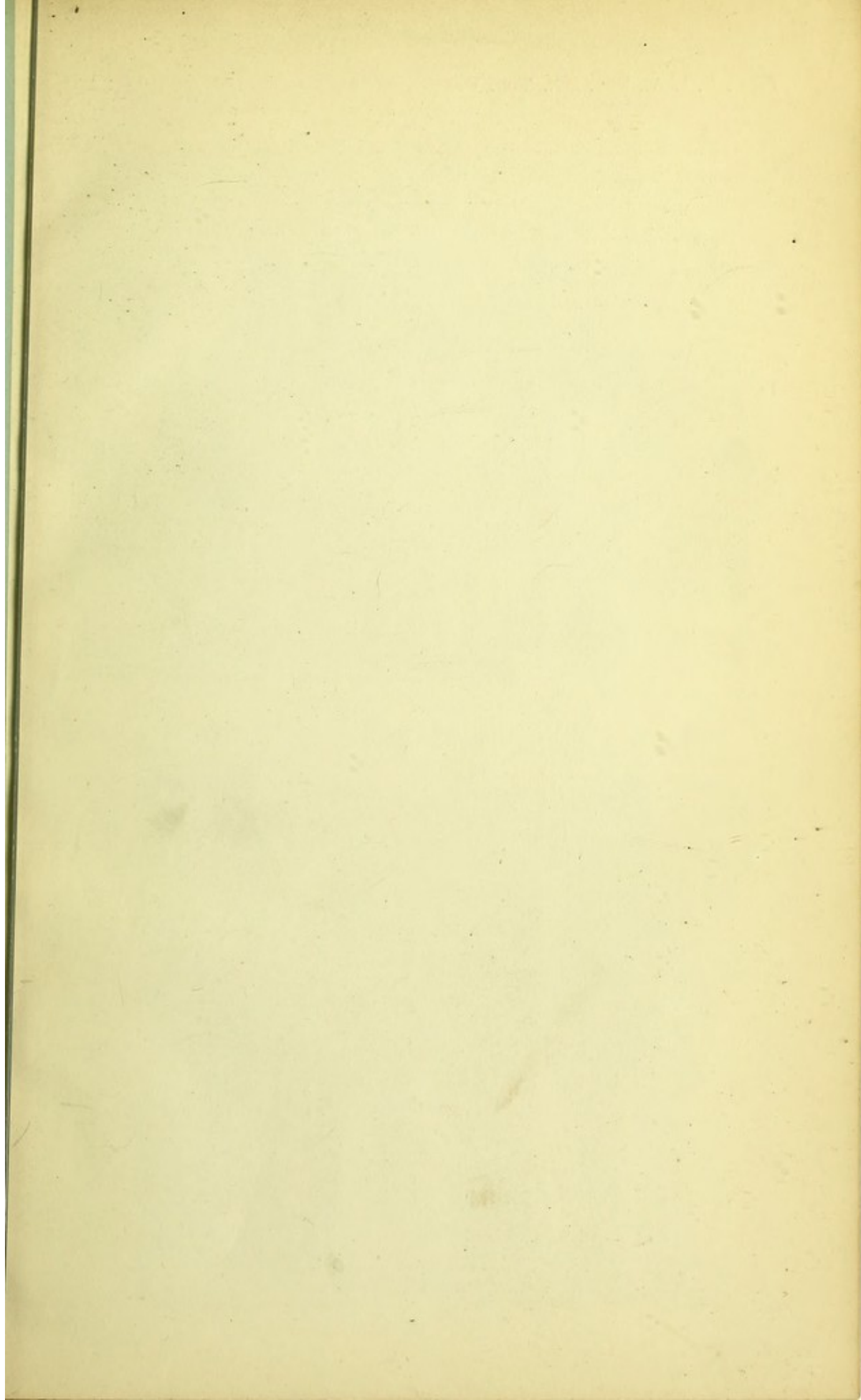
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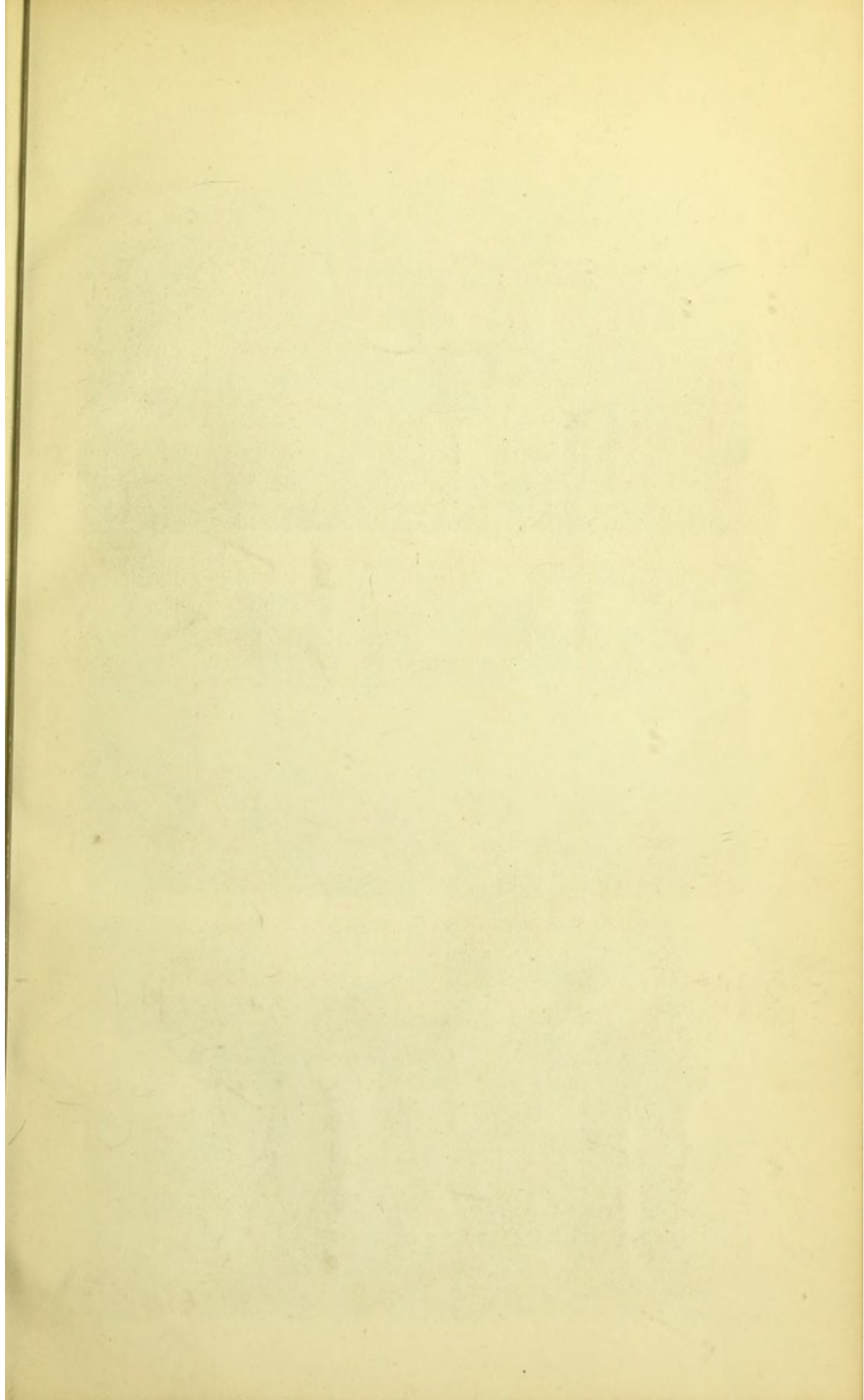


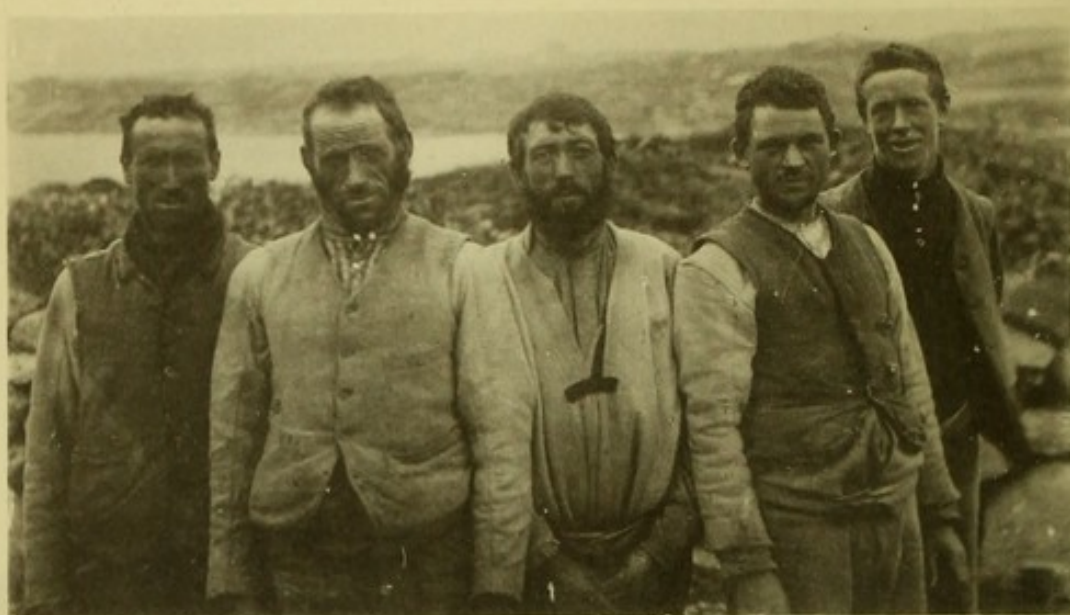


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XI.

THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF GARUMNA AND LETTER-
MULLEN, IN THE COUNTY GALWAY. BY CHARLES
R. BROWNE, M.D. [PLATES IV. AND V.]

[Read NOVEMBER 30, 1898.]

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I.—INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE group of islands which separates Greatmans Bay from Kilkerrin Bay, and which are of interest as containing probably the poorest and most primitive population in Ireland, was chosen as the field for the seventh of the annual local surveys which have, from the first, formed a regular part of the work of the Anthropological Laboratory of Trinity College. It was at first intended that the whole group of islands should be included in the scope of the inquiry, but the field proved too large to be thoroughly worked in the time available, so a

selection had to be made, and in consequence the remoter islands of the group, Garumna, Lettermullen, Furnace, and Dinish were chosen; and Lettermore, the most northerly island, and the one nearest the mainland, had to be left unworked. The methods of observation were those employed in previous surveys of this nature, and fully described in earlier reports, and so they need no description in this Paper. It should be stated that these islands were chosen for survey as being a secluded and primitive portion of the old territory of Iar Connaught, as the whole district could not be worked, and that what is said as to mode of life, customs, &c., applies, for the most part, to the state of affairs on the opposite part of the mainland, and especially to the wild and desolate Curraun peninsula to the east of the islands.

II.—PHYSIOGRAPHY.

The islands surveyed form part of a group which lies at the mouth of Kilkerrin Bay, about ten miles to the north of the Isles of Aran, and at a distance of about thirty miles from Galway. They are separated from each other and from the mainland, by arms of the sea, none of which are very wide, but they have always been greatly cut off from the outer world, as the part of the mainland which lies nearest to them (with the exception of the Crumpann peninsula, which is similar in soil and surface) is wild moor and bog, and very sparsely inhabited.

Garumna is the largest island of the group, measuring about five miles in length by four in greatest breadth. It has an area of 5870 acres, and a population, in 1891, of 1706. It is divided into four townlands, Cruagh, Knock, Maumeen, and Teernea.

Lettermullen lies to the south-west of Garumna, from which it is separated by a narrow channel nearly dry at low water. It measures about a mile and a-half long by a mile wide. It has an area of 787 acres, and a population of 549.

The other islands of the group, Furnace, Crappagh, Dinish, and Inishark, lie beyond Lettermullen. They are much smaller, the largest and best of them, Furnace, having an area of only 218 acres. Their combined area is 497 acres, and their population 251.

The islands are now connected to one another and to the mainland by a chain of causeways and swing-bridges, built, during the last few years, by the Government, and completed in 1897.

The surface of the islands is extremely undulating, but nowhere reaches any great elevation. It mostly consists of rock and moor; and in the centre of Garumna nothing can be seen but bog interspersed with rocky tracts of bare granite, rounded and marked by glacial action, and studded here and there with large boulders of granite, many of which are from ten to fifteen feet, or even more, in diameter. Turn which way one will, great stretches of bare stony ground, thinly covered with peat in the hollows, meet the eye. Near the coast the soil is still rocky, but greener, and it is here that what cultivated land there is is to be met with. The islands contain several lakes, some of them of considerable size, and dotted with islets. These are said to be full of trout. The northern end of Garumna is greener, flatter, and less rocky than the southern and western.

Lettermullen has the same rocky surface as Garumna, but contains no bogs, which necessitates the inhabitants going to Garumna for fuel. Its soil is deeper and of a more clayey nature, and there is more grass and tillage.

Furnace is the greenest and best island of the group.

The shores of these islands are rocky and rough, but nowhere are they high, nor do they rise in any place into cliffs. At a few spots there are small stretches of strand, and the south-west shore of Lettermullen consists of rock and shingle.

The vegetation of the islands is scanty and poor; the soil is thin and unproductive at the best, but the surface has undergone great denudation, partly by nature, but more largely due to the surface turf having been stripped off for fuel for generations past, not only for the use of the inhabitants, but largely for export to the Aran Isles.

Many places on the islands which were green within the memory of man are now bare rock, the thin peaty layer of soil having been stripped off. There are but few trees, and these are chiefly to be found in the northern part of Garumna. The grass is scanty and poor, and even the heather is weak and stunted.

Mr. P. Toole, of Lettermore, estimates the area of utterly unproductive moor and rock in Garumna, at about 2500 acres. A more utterly barren, dreary looking region could hardly be imagined.

The climate is mild, but very wet; snow and frost are seldom experienced in winter, but rain and storms are frequent and severe.

The following description of the island was given in an article

by Mr. E. Keogh.¹ It applies, however, only to the eastern end:—

“The general contour is undulating, rising in general slopes or hills, the intermediate valleys in many instances being occupied by small lakes. The geological formation consists of granite rock, of which there is an unstinted supply. Approaching the island from the direction of Carraroe boatslip, the visitor is struck with the appalling desolation of the scene. From the water’s edge, across the whole island, the space seems occupied by bare rocks, those on the shore being washed white by the action of the sea. The peaty soil, if ever deposited, has long since been washed away² from the greater part of the surface. A perfect maze of granite walls, bounding the holdings and their innumerable sub-divisions, hides out all view of vegetation or of land. There are no trees or shrubs on Garumna, and were it not for the almost numberless cabins that dot the face of the island, one could hardly believe the place inhabited, it appears so utterly uninhabitable.”

III.—ANTHROPOGRAPHY.

1. *Methods*.—No new methods or instruments were used, everything being done exactly on the lines described in previous papers to which the reader is referred. Each district worked possesses difficulties of its own, but this one had none special to it, and the weather, during my visit, was for the greater part of the time more favourable to photography and open-air work than that experienced on some of the other surveys. In doing work of this kind, note-books ruled and headed for nigrescence tables (to be copied out from the cards as they are filled, and save time and trouble both when noting and afterwards), for indices, and for each subject to be investigated, are almost indispensable.

2. *Physical Characters*:—

(A) The *General Physical Characters* of the people are as given below, though some differences are said to exist between inhabitants of the different islands. On the whole, the people are well developed and good-looking, but they seem to age early.

¹ *New Ireland Magazine*, vol. ix., p. 193.

² Stripped off for fuel, rather.—C. R. B.

Stature and bulk.—The inhabitants of these islands are of average stature, or slightly above it; there are very few of the men who can really be termed small, and a good proportion of them are of tall stature. The mean height of the 65 adult males measured was 1739 mm., or 5 feet 8½ inches. The extremes were 1650 mm. (5 feet 5 inches), and 1855 mm. (6 feet 1 inch). Of these 65 men, 8 were of 1800 mm. (5 feet 11 inches) and upwards. The general build is stout and square, with great depth of chest, and their muscular strength seems to be far above the average. Their lifting power is especially great. They are very hardy, and capable of bearing a great deal of hunger, fatigue, and wet.

The women seem to be above the average in height, and are very stout and strong. One young woman of 18 who was measured had a stature of 1780 mm. (5 feet 10 inches).

Limbs.—The hands and feet are large and bony, the former being broad, with squarely tipped fingers. In spite of very hard work their hands are well-shaped. The forearm (measured from the styloid process to the head of the radius) is very long for the stature, and the span of the arms (*grand envergure*) is also in many cases great. In no case was this last measurement less than the stature.

The women's feet are large and flat, due to their constantly going barefooted and carrying heavy loads.

Head.—The head is well-shaped. The forehead is upright, with well-marked frontal eminences; glabella and superciliary ridges both rather prominent. The vertex is rounded; the occipital region does not, as a rule, project, but rises straight in the line of the neck. The eyebrows are thick and level, usually lighter in shade than the hairs of the scalp, and, in a large proportion of cases, meet in the middle line.

The mean cephalic index of the 65 men measured was 76·9 (or, deducting two units to reduce to the cranial standard, 74·9). It thus lies on the borderland between dolichocephaly and mesaticephaly. In 17 instances the men measured were brachycephalic, in 37 mesaticephalic, and in 9 dolichocephalic.

Face.—The face is of medium length, with prominent cheek-bones. It narrows in the bigonial region as in the case of the Aran Islanders. The angles of the jaws project somewhat, and are apparently everted. The nose is straight, and generally long and sharply pointed; in many cases it is aquiline. The mean nasial index is 63·4. The mouth is not large, and the lips are of medium thickness; the heavy hanging lower lip so commonly seen in the west of Ireland is not so noticeable a feature among these people as it is among the inhabitants of the

islands farther north. The chin is prominent and rounded. The teeth are usually good, sound, and even. The irides of the eyes are usually a light blue or blue-grey, seldom green or brown. The ears are generally small and well-shaped, and very few abnormalities of shape were observed.

Skin.—The skin is rather fair, sometimes ruddy, and turns a clear red; sometimes freckles on exposure, but in one or two of the villages some of the people are darker-skinned, and bronze on exposure instead of reddening. Wrinkles come early, and are usually deep, especially on the forehead and about the eyes. The transverse furrow at the root of the nose and vertical furrows between the eyebrows are common. The women do not seem to wrinkle as early as the men.

Hair.—The hair is usually a light brown. Next in order of frequency of occurrence is dark brown, then fair. Black hair and red hair are both infrequently met with. Genuinely black hair is very rare. The hair of the scalp is usually wavy, and very often curly. A considerable proportion of the elderly men are bald. The beard and eyebrows are much fairer than the hair of the scalp. In a good proportion of cases the beard grows only on the chin, or is very scanty on the cheeks (when this is the case it is usually reddish in colour). In other cases the beard is full and luxuriant, and on these it is either fair or dark brown.

(B.) *Tables of Hair and Eye Colours:—*

ADULTS.—I. *Males.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	6	0	0	6	3·23
Fair, ..	20	1	0	21	11·29
Brown, ..	100	7	1	108	58·06
Dark, ..	34	9	1	44	23·66
Black, ..	5	2	0	7	3·76
Totals, ..	165	19	2	186	100·0
Percentage Eye Colours, }	88·70	10·22	1·08	100·0	—

Index of Nigrescence, 16·66.

ADULTS.—II. *Females.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	5	1	0	6	3·08
Fair, ..	12	0	1	13	6·67
Brown, ..	88	7	2	97	49·73
Dark, ..	52	10	11	73	37·44
Black, ..	1	0	5	6	3·08
Totals, ..	158	18	19	195	100·00
Percentage Eye Colours, }	81·03	9·23	9·74	100·00	—

Index of Nigrescence, 33·85.

CHILDREN.—I. *Boys.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	4	0	0	4	4·55
Fair, ..	15	0	1	16	18·18
Brown, ..	39	8	6	53	60·22
Dark, ..	10	3	2	15	17·05
Black, ..	0	0	0	0	—
Totals, ..	68	11	9	88	100·00
Percentage Eye Colours, }	77·27	12·50	10·23	100·00	—

Index of Nigrescence, 5·68.

CHILDREN.—II. *Girls.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	4	0	0	4	5.00
Fair, ..	16	0	1	17	21.25
Brown, ..	34	7	3	44	55.00
Dark, ..	8	2	4	14	17.50
Black, ..	0	0	1	1	1.25
Totals, ..	62	9	9	80	100.00
Percentage Eye Colours, }	77.50	11.25	11.25	100.00	—

Index of Nigrescence, . . 6.25.

(c.) *Physical Proportions.*—The proportions borne to the stature (taken as 100) by the main measurements are given in this as in previous reports. They bring out distinctive points not otherwise obtainable, and show considerable differences from those obtained from the measurements of people in other localities.

FACE: The face is long in proportion to the stature, the average being 7.2 (as against 6.6 of the canon) but relatively with the average of other districts surveyed it is short. The extremes noted in the islands were 6.2 and 8.3.

Upper Face.—The mean proportion for this measurement is 4.0, as against 4.4 for Inishbofin, 4.3 for the Mullet and Inishkea, 4.16 for Ballycroy, 4.6 for Clare Island and Inishturk. The extremes noted were 3.3 and 4.7.

Nose.—This does not bear a very constant relation to the stature. The mean for this proportion is 2.9, and the proportions noted varied between 2.4 and 3.5.

SITTING HEIGHT: The proportion borne to the stature by this measurement is about the same as that noted in Clare Island. The mean of the 65 measurements is 52.2, and the extremes noted were 50.5 and 55.8.

UPPER LIMB: *Span.*—In no case was this less than the body height. The mean of those noted was 104·7, and the extremes 100 and 109·7.

Hand.—The hand is long relatively to the stature, its mean proportion being 11·3. The extremes met with were 10·5 and 12·1.

Forearm.—The forearm is very long, giving a higher mean proportion than that obtained in any other district yet surveyed. The average for the sixty-five men measured is 15·7, as against 15·18 for the Aran series, 15·03 for Inishbofin and Inishshark, 15·43 for the Mullet and Inishkea, 15·3 for Ballycroy, and 15·2 for Clare Island and Inish-turk. This measurement was fairly constant in its proportions to the stature. The extremes noted were 14·8 and 16·9 (an exceptional case).

(D.) *Detailed List of Measurements.*—(See accompanying Tables, pages 232–238.)

PROPORTIONS TO STATURE.—HEIGHT = 100.													
INDICES.													
No.	Cephalic.	Height.	Facial.	Bigonial.	Alveolar.	Nasal.	Hand.	Forearm.	Span of Arms.	Height Sitting.	Face.	Upper Face.	Nose.
1	80.0	63.0	109.2	83.0	99.0	65.2	11.7	16.2	105.4	53.0	7.5	3.3	2.6
2	78.9	66.3	100.2	86.4	100.0	56.4	11.5	16.2	101.2	54.1	7.9	4.7	3.5
3	76.5	66.0	107.7	84.6	101.0	68.0	11.1	16.0	107.8	51.5	7.3	3.8	3.1
4	75.7	57.0	105.3	82.7	101.1	61.8	11.8	15.6	107.3	52.0	7.8	4.5	3.2
5	80.1	65.3	103.0	78.8	96.9	61.5	11.4	16.2	104.3	52.2	7.6	4.3	3.0
6	79.8	63.8	105.6	81.6	100.0	52.7	12.1	16.1	103.7	50.7	7.2	4.1	3.2
7	77.2	64.4	113.9	86.8	102.0	72.0	11.4	15.3	106.2	53.2	7.4	4.0	2.9
8	76.5	66.2	114.5	96.7	101.0	61.8	11.6	15.9	106.5	55.8	7.6	4.2	3.3
9	80.2	66.0	106.7	77.6	101.0	67.3	11.1	15.8	103.4	50.1	7.6	4.3	3.1
10	77.5	64.0	108.1	82.2	104.3	55.8	11.2	16.2	105.2	52.2	7.1	3.8	2.9
11	79.4	68.6	114.5	81.1	104.2	66.7	11.2	15.8	105.3	52.2	7.2	3.9	2.8
12	75.9	66.2	108.3	88.3	101.1	55.8	11.5	15.2	105.0	51.2	6.9	4.1	2.9
13	82.3	66.1	114.5	88.7	97.0	64.0	11.6	15.6	107.8	52.0	7.0	3.7	2.8
14	75.0	65.0	121.8	95.8	100.0	62.0	11.7	15.5	104.2	53.0	7.2	4.0	3.0
15	82.5	65.0	101.6	85.5	100.0	63.5	10.7	15.4	101.6	52.4	7.2	4.1	3.0
16	78.4	64.3	101.4	81.2	96.9	63.0	11.0	15.6	104.2	50.4	7.4	4.3	3.0
17	80.0	63.5	101.6	88.0	102.1	71.2	11.4	16.0	104.0	52.1	7.3	3.8	2.9
18	80.0	63.1	107.8	79.6	101.1	54.9	11.5	16.5	109.7	51.6	7.5	4.0	3.0
19	83.0	68.0	120.8	86.7	93.9	73.1	11.6	15.5	106.2	52.8	6.9	4.1	3.0
20	77.0	62.2	113.6	92.8	100.0	56.6	11.0	16.0	102.8	51.3	7.0	4.2	3.0
21	79.8	65.7	107.6	87.8	100.0	57.9	10.9	16.6	102.0	50.5	7.6	4.4	3.3
22	76.0	67.5	122.0	93.2	100.0	77.3	11.0	15.8	104.1	50.8	6.7	3.3	2.5
23	81.4	67.6	125.4	93.2	96.9	71.4	11.1	16.3	104.9	52.6	6.8	3.7	2.8
24	74.3	61.9	111.7	79.6	102.1	77.6	11.9	15.5	109.4	51.4	7.3	4.0	2.8
25	75.1	68.8	116.0	86.4	100.0	80.0	10.9	15.5	105.7	53.4	7.2	3.7	2.6
26	79.8	64.1	120.8	91.7	100.0	66.0	11.9	15.8	102.8	52.8	6.8	3.8	2.8
27	77.4	66.3	109.4	88.3	100.0	61.2	11.4	14.0	108.0	50.4	6.9	3.9	2.8
28	74.3	62.3	104.0	85.0	106.8	51.7	10.6	13.0	104.4	48.0	6.0	4.3	3.0

[illegible]

No.	Name.	Age.	Locality of		Eye Colour.	Hair Colour.	Skin.	Nose profile.	Ears.	
			Father's people.	Mother's people.						
1	M'Donagh, Michael,	35 (?)	Letter-mullen	Letter-mullen	blue	brown	ruddy	straight	Outstanding	200
2	Audley, Martin, .	60	"	"	blue	dark	pale	aquiline	Flat	190
3	Loftus, Timothy,	40	"	"	grey	red-brown	ruddy	straight	Outstanding	200
4	Conneely, Bartly,	36	Garumna	Garumna	grey	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding	214
5	M'Donagh, Mark,	23	Letter-mullen	Letter-mullen	blue	brown	pale	straight	Flat	196
6	Vaughan, Stephen,	40	"	"	blue	dark	dark	straight	Flat	188
7	Lydon, Colman, .	25	Garumna	Garumna	green	fair	pale	straight	Flat	202
8	Lee, John, .	40	Letter-mullen	Letter-mullen	blue	dark	ruddy	straight	Flat	204
9	Flaherty, Patrick,	30	"	"	grey	fair	ruddy	straight	Outstanding	197
10	Joyce, Patrick, .	22	"	"	grey	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat	200
11	Mullin, Patrick, .	45	"	"	blue	dark	pale	straight	Outstanding	194
12	Audley, Joseph,	40	"	"	blue	brown	pale	straight	Flat	196
13	Flaherty, Bartly,	20	"	"	blue	fair	ruddy	straight	Flat	192
14	Farmer, Laurence,	42	Garumna	Garumna	blue	brown	pale	straight	Flat	200
15	Trayer, Colman,	47	"	"	hazel	dark	pale	straight	Flat	200
16	Lee, Bartly, .	21	Letter-mullen	Letter-mullen	blue	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding	199
17	Folan, Bartly, .	30	Garumna	"	blue	brown	ruddy	straight	Outstanding, lobes attached	200
18	Flaherty, Patrick,	20	Letter-mullen	Arran I.	blue	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding, lobes absent	196
19	Curran, Martin, .	25	Garumna	Garumna	blue	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding	200
20	Walsh, Michael, .	20	"	"	green	dark	pale	straight	Outstanding, lobes attached	194
21	Folan, Patrick, .	50	"	"	blue	brown	ruddy	hooked	Outstanding	198
22	M'Donagh, Michael,	30	"	"	grey	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding, lobes attached	200
23	Curran, Patrick, .	33	"	"	grey	dark	pale	slightly curved	Outstanding	204
24	Walsh, John, .	24	Letter-mullen	Letter-mullen	blue	fair	ruddy	straight	Flat	210
25	Berry, John, .	23	"	"	hazel	dark	ruddy	retroussé	Flat, lobes absent	206
26	Walsh, Michael, .	20	"	"	grey	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat	198
27	Beatty, Colman, .	40	"	"	blue	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat	202
28	Walsh, Mark, .	24	"	"	blue	dark	ruddy	straight	Flat, lobes attached	199
29	M'Donagh, Jas.,	25	"	"	blue	brown	pale	aquiline	Outstanding, lobes attached	208
30	Keely, Thomas, .	22	"	"	blue	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding	219
31	M'Donagh, Michael,	22	"	"	blue	red	freckled	straight	Flat	200
32	Beatty, Malachy,	21	"	"	grey	brown	pale	straight	Flat, lobes absent	188
33	Dirrane, Patrick,	25	"	"	blue	black	pale	straight	Flat, lobes absent	202

CEPHALIC.		FACIAL.				NASAL.			AURICULAR RADII.			HEIGHT.		FORELIMB.		
Length.	Breadth.	Face length.	Upper Face length.	Breadth.	Bigonial Breadth.	Length.	Breadth.	Internal Bi-ocular breadth.	Vertical.	Nasial.	Alveolar.	Standing.	Sitting.	Span.	Hand.	Forearm.
00	160	130	68	142	108	46	30	30	126 112	101	100	1740	922	1835	204	283
90	150	125	74	128	108	55	31	31	126 112	99	99	1570	850	1588	180	255
00	153	130	67	140	110	56	38	33	132 118	100	101	1765	910	1890	196	283
14	162	133	76	140	110	55	34	28	125 111	95	96	1695	882	1820	200	265
96	157	132	74	136	104	52	32	32	128 114	98	95	1735	907	1810	200	282
38	150	125	71	132	102	55	29	31	120 106	92	92	1735	880	1800	210	280
02	156	129	70	147	112	50	36	31	130 116	100	102	1735	923	1842	198	265
04	156	124	68	142	120	55	34	34	135 121	98	99	1635	912	1742	190	260
97	158	134	76	143	104	55	37	32	130 116	97	98	1765	895	1825	196	280
00	155	124	66	134	102	52	29	29	128 114	93	97	1758	918	1850	198	285
94	158	124	69	142	113	48	32	32	133 119	96	100	1743	910	1835	207	275
95	148	120	71	130	106	52	29	31	129 115	95	96	1745	893	1832	200	266
92	158	124	66	142	110	50	32	32	127 113	100	97	1760	915	1898	205	275
00	150	119	66	145	114	50	31	31	130 116	100	100	1650	875	1722	193	256
00	165	124	71	144	106	52	33	30	132 116	90	90	1725	915	1753	185	266
99	156	138	80	140	112	56	34	31	128 114	96	93	1855	935	1933	204	289
00	160	126	66	146	111	52	37	33	127 113	96	98	1750	912	1820	200	280
95	156	128	68	138	102	51	28	28	123 109	91	92	1700	878	1865	196	280
00	166	120	70	145	104	52	38	34	136 122	99	93	1727	912	1835	201	268
96	151	125	75	142	116	53	30	29	122 108	100	100	1780	914	1835	195	283
98	158	132	77	142	116	57	33	28	130 116	95	95	1750	883	1786	190	291
00	152	118	58	144	110	44	34	31	135 121	98	98	1766	908	1838	195	280
04	166	118	65	148	110	49	35	34	138 124	98	95	1740	916	1825	203	285
10	156	128	70	143	102	49	38	33	130 116	96	98	1750	908	1913	209	272
05	154	125	65	145	108	45	36	35	141 127	100	100	1745	932	1845	190	270
98	158	120	68	145	110	50	33	34	127 113	100	100	1770	935	1820	212	279
02	150	128	72	142	114	51	31	31	133 119	105	105	1840	927	1938	205	311
99	154	133	74	140	110	49	30	30	130 116	95	95	1795	937	1950	205	265
98	150	128	75	134	116	58	32	32	125 111	103	110	1800	960	1880	191	287
10	156	120	63	142	114	46	33	34	132 116	103	102	1760	930	1820	185	275
00	160	127	75	145	112	55	32	30	130 116	103	105	1700	912	1770	198	260
38	156	125	75	138	122	55	33	33	128 114	96	96	1800	960	1860	192	285
02	148	130	75	136	110	50	34	29	126 112	97	101	1723	885	1850	198	260

No.	Name.	Age.	Locality of		Eye Colour.	Hair Colour.	Skin.	Nose profile.	Ears.
			Father's people.	Mother's people.					
34	Loughlin, Bartly,	20	Garumna	Garumna	grey	dark	pale	straight	Outstanding, lobes attached
35	Loughlin, Edmond,	22	"	"	blue	dark	pale	straight	Flat, lobes attached
36	Flaherty, Michl.,	19	Letter-mullen	Letter-mullen	green	black	pale	straight	Flat
37	Conneely, Martin,	50	"	"	green	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat
38	Conneely, Patk.,	35	Garumna	Garumna	grey	brown	pale	aquiline	Outstanding, lobes attached
39	M'Donagh, Patrick,	30	Letter-mullen	Letter-mullen	blue	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding
40	Lee, Patrick,	24	"	"	grey	brown	ruddy	straight	Outstanding *
41	Walsh, John,	35	"	"	blue	brown	pale	slightly aquiline	Flat
42	Lee, James,	22	"	"	blue	brown	pale	straight	Flat
43	M'Donogh, Patrick,	22	"	"	grey	brown	pale	straight	Flat, lobes attached
44	Toole, Michael,	20	"	"	grey	brown	pale	straight	Flat, lobes attached
45	O'Donnell, Bartly,	25	"	"	grey	red	dark	straight	Flat, lobes attached
46	M'Donagh, William,	30	"	"	blue	fair	pale	slightly curved	Outstanding, lobes attached
47	Walsh, Patrick,	30	Garumna	Garumna	blue	brown	ruddy	straight	Outstanding
48	Molloy, Thomas,	26	"	"	grey	brown	pale	straight	Flat
49	Folan, Patrick,	25	"	"	grey	brown	pale	retroussé	Flat, lobes attached
50	M'Donagh, John,	45	"	"	grey	dark	pale	sinuous	Flat, lobes attached
51	Walsh, Martin,	25	"	"	blue	black	pale	aquiline	Flat, lobes absent
52	M'Donogh, Michael,	45	"	"	grey	dark	ruddy	aquiline	Outstanding
53	Flaherty, Patrick,	26	"	"	grey	fair-brown	freckled	sinuous	Flat
54	Folan, Nathaniel,	23	"	"	grey	dark	pale	straight	Flat, lobes attached
55	Folan, John,	25	"	"	grey	brown	freckled	straight	Flat
56	Folan, Patrick,	24	"	"	blue	dark	pale	straight	Flat, lobes attached
57	Barrett, Patrick,	22	"	"	grey	brown	ruddy	sinuous	Flat, lobes attached
58	Kelly, Thomas,	22	"	"	hazel	dark	freckled	straight	Flat, lobes attached
59	Kelly, John,	28	"	"	grey	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat
60	M'Donogh, Colman,	22	"	"	blue	fair-brown	pale	straight	Outstanding
61	Flaherty, Patk.,	20	"	"	grey	dark	pale	straight	Outstanding
62	Folan, Patrick,	20	"	"	green	brown	pale	straight	Flat
63	Joyce, Patrick,	20	"	"	grey	dark	pale	straight	Flat, lobes absent *
64	Devane, Martin,	31	Kilkerrin	"	grey	dark	ruddy	sinuous	Flat
65	Coneely, Patrick,	50	Garumna	"	grey	brown	pale	sinuous	Outstanding

CEPHALIC.		FACIAL.				NASAL.			AURICULAR RADII.			HEIGHT.		FORELIMB.		
	Breadth.	Face length.	Upper Face length.	Breadth.	Bigonial Breadth.	Length.	Breadth.	Internal Bi-ocular breadth.	Vertical.	Nasal.	Alveolar.	Standing.	Sitting.	Span.	Hand.	Forearm.
2	154	135	75	143	122	56	31	30	130	98	96	1788	958	1870	199	281
6	154	127	73	146	122	51	33	32	135	96	93	1740	925	1835	200	276
10	152	112	63	124	100	44	32	30	128	95	96	1820	930	1910	210	295
18	154	127	72	144	110	54	35	35	125	99	99	1736	895	1805	191	270
18	153	135	80	138	114	60	33	33	131	97	98	1760	923	1930	213	287
24	156	133	70	141	113	50	33	33	128	100	100	1792	945	1830	208	276
24	150	128	71	134	118	50	30	30	120	93	98	1720	915	1840	190	265
24	146	126	67	136	108	47	32	31	125	98	98	1750	893	1835	193	275
24	156	127	61	147	116	45	32	33	133	102	100	1800	945	1875	193	290
20	160	124	77	147	124	56	30	30	136	95	95	1730	905	1812	190	276
28	155	122	68	140	112	50	30	30	134	94	95	1738	925	1850	195	259
24	158	125	68	144	108	49	33	33	129	96	95	1650	910	1690	181	255
22	156	128	71	138	112	47	31	32	125	98	93	1680	901	1683	185	264
20	154	125	69	140	108	46	32	32	135	99	100	1851	963	1970	205	288
20	152	124	71	134	104	52	36	27	130	92	88	1698	935	1770	199	259
25	150	120	66	136	110	50	33	33	135	92	94	1700	903	1790	186	277
29	162	129	73	152	114	54	33	33	136	103	100	1680	900	1742	198	259
20	155	132	75	136	106	57	31	31	134	96	99	1820	937	1875	193	283
22	160	127	73	145	110	58	30	30	130	100	100	1682	890	1810	191	270
28	154	126	67	132	105	46	34	33	133	96	95	1760	920	1818	201	262
27	155	132	73	149	115	54	33	33	128	103	98	1720	869	1828	202	267
27	151	135	77	135	110	59	33	33	122	96	95	1723	870	1780	190	264
25	154	147	83	144	114	63	36	30	128	97	100	1780	921	1864	202	287
28	154	118	59	139	103	46	32	32	132	100	105	1722	895	1722	182	257
24	154	114	58	144	113	49	34	31	131	106	106	1714	904	1790	188	268
26	154	125	64	140	114	53	32	32	128	109	111	1705	915	1745	199	274
28	155	117	62	142	114	45	33	31	128	94	94	1780	950	1822	196	278
22	154	126	68	135	110	51	32	32	128	95	96	1780	923	1808	186	283
25	153	118	69	140	116	51	27	30	120	95	92	1705	904	1755	184	270
200	151	125	71	140	108	50	30	28	128	94	90	1710	902	1791	191	272
200	160	131	73	145	118	52	32	32	134	96	95	1700	882	1833	198	277
296	152	115	58	136	102	48	33	31	129	96	99	1626	845	1692	190	268

CEPHALIC INDICES, CORRECTED FOR COMPARISON WITH SKULLS.

No.	Index.	A. Corrected Indices.
19	83.0	} 4 B. Actual Indices. Brachycephalic.
32	83.0	
15	82.5	
13	82.3	
23	81.4	} 17 Brachycephals.
45	81.4	
46	81.3	
39	80.4	
61	80.2	
5	80.1	
1	80.0	
17	80.0	
18	80.0	
31	80.0	
36	80.0	
43	80.0	
64	80.0	
6	79.8	
21	79.8	
26	79.8	
11	79.4	} 33 Mesaticephalic.
52	79.2	
56	79.0	
2	78.9	
62	78.4	
16	78.3	
44	78.3	
60	78.5	
37	77.8	
53	77.8	
65	77.6	
50	77.5	
10	77.5	
28	77.4	
38	77.3	
40	77.3	
7	77.2	} 37 Mesaticephals.
20	77.0	
47	77.0	
49	76.9	
55	76.6	
3	76.5	
8	76.5	
42	76.5	
63	76.4	
34	76.2	
22	76.0	
48	76.0	
12	75.9	
29	75.8	
57	75.8	
4	75.7	} 28 Dolichocephalic.
58	75.5	
41	75.3	
25	75.1	
14	75.0	
54	74.8	
24	74.3	
27	74.3	
30	74.3	
35	74.3	
59	74.2	
51	73.8	
33	73.3	
		} 9 Dolichocephals.

3. *Vital Statistics* :—

(A) *Population*.—Strange though it may appear when one considers the desolate and barren condition of these islands, yet it is a fact that the population to which they afford a home has hardly been affected by the drain of emigration which has so reduced the number of inhabitants in richer and more fertile districts in the West of Ireland. In spite of the hard conditions of life, and the apparently unattractive nature of the locality, emigration has been slight, and the population has sensibly increased since 1851, as will be seen at a glance at the tables given below :—

Census.	Population.	Houses.	Inhabitants per house.	Acres per head.
1851	1725	224	7.70	4.09
1861	1865	374	4.98	3.79
1871	2196	438	5.01	3.21
1881	2739	478	5.73	2.61
1891	2506	431	5.81	2.81

The density of population is, it will be seen, really greater than appears when account is taken of the poor quality of the soil and of the population of Garumna being practically confined to the belt of land near the shore. The actual density is 228 per square mile of surface. There appear to be signs of a slight decrease from emigration in the decade 1881–1891.

The distribution of population, inhabited houses, and out-buildings, was as follows in 1891 :—

Islands.	Area.	POPULATION.			Houses.	Out-offices and farmsteadings.
		Persons.	Males.	Females.		
Garumna, . .	A. R. P. 5870 3 11	1706	846	860	289	114
Lettermullen, .	787 2 5	549	286	263	97	44
Inishark, . .	64 2 19	40	20	20	6	0
Dinish, . .	95 3 3	50	21	29	10	5
Crappagh, . .	117 3 28	31	15	16	4	3
Furnace, . .	218 3 6	130	73	57	25	9
Totals, . .	7155 2 17	2506	1261	1245	431	175

(B.) *Acreage and Rental*.—The total area of the islands is 7155 acres, and the valuation £897.

The holdings are very small, and the area of cultivation per holding averages about 1 acre potatoes, and 1 acre oats, barley, or rye.

The rental varies greatly: in the poorest part of Garumna, about Trabane village, it averages about 15s. (the best holding there pays 30s.), but for the group of islands the average rental is about £2 to £3.

Owing to the kindness of a friend I am enabled to give the figures for Lettermullen. Valuation, £386 13s. Rental, £355 2s. 2½d.

The small size of the holdings may be judged from the fact that only forty-two of them pay rates.

The tillage land is often held by two or more men in partnership, about as bad a mode of tenure as could be devised, as there is no inducement to effort or improvement, and if one tenant falls behind-hand and gets into arrears, he and his partner are both liable to eviction.

There is a great stretch of commonage of a wild and poor description in Garumna.

(C.) *Language and Education*.—But few of the people speak English, and these in conversation with one another, and for all the ordinary purposes of life speak Irish only. The majority of the grown up people met with were purely Irish speaking, and many of the younger men and boys who had learned English at school seemed to be rapidly forgetting that language. In Garumna practically the whole population is Irish speaking, but in Lettermullen a considerable proportion know English well. The cause given locally for this is that the landlord and his family formerly dwelt in Lettermullen. Taking the population as a whole, probably about 80 per cent. speak Irish only. The language is now taught in the schools, and the children learn English through it.

As the islands form part of two parishes, I regret to be unable to give any figures as to the state of education. The parish of Kilmacmin had in 1891 a percentage of illiteracy of 55·1; Killanin (in which Garumna is) had at the same time an illiteracy rate of 60·0.

(D.) *Health*.—As before stated the people are, as a rule, robust, stout, and hardy, and capable of bearing fatigue, hunger, and wet to an unusual degree. On the whole the population is a wonderfully healthy one, in spite of the adverse conditions as to dwellings, food, and mode of life. At the same time several cases which will be remarked on later, or seem to show a somewhat greater proportion of unsoundness than has been met with in the other districts surveyed.

For most of the following notes regarding the health of the people, I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Connolly, the medical officer of the district. I had also the opportunity of seeing many cases personally.

Consanguineous Marriages.—Marriages between persons related in any near degree are not at all as common as in most of our western islands, but it is said that unions of those beyond the prohibited degree are not uncommon. The difficulties of communication in the past, and the strong clannish feeling which still remains, causes most of the marriages to occur within the community, and local feeling is against breach of this unwritten rule. Several of the people (fishermen and kelp-burners) stated that they considered it unlucky to marry out of the islands. Each island, as a rule, too, seems to keep much to itself in affairs of this kind. In spite of this feeling, however, the people of Lettermullen sometimes intermarry with those of Kilkerrin, and those of Garumna with the inhabitants of Aran and Carraroe, places at which the fishermen call habitually. The usual result of these marriages within the community is, as was observed in other places surveyed, a strong personal resemblance among the people, and a certain fixity of physical type.

Diseases.—The following notes embody what information could be obtained as to the state of the population as regards disease. It should be remarked that difficulty was experienced in getting accurate information on some points. Figures are given wherever they could be accurately ascertained. The principal diseases and diseased conditions are as follows :—

Insanity.—Is reported to be rare: all those that have occurred here are said to be melancholia. Two cases have occurred since 1895.

Idiocy and Imbecility.—There are two cases of idiocy in one family in Garumna (the parents were not related in any degree; father from Aran). There is also a case of slight imbecility in Lettermullen.

Cretinism.—A case of cretinism was met with (photograph taken) in the village of Trabane, in Garumna. A male 18 years of age, 3 feet high. There was no relationship between parents or grandparents. Another case, the diagnosis of which was less definite, but apparently of the same nature, was observed in Lettermullen. Parents in this case were distantly related. These are the only cases which have occurred on the islands.

Epilepsy.—Only two cases are known to exist, but there may

possibly be more, as cases of this sort in the remoter parts of Ireland do not usually seek professional aid, and probably, if treated at all, come only under the observation of some "wise women."

Deaf-mutism.—There are three cases on the islands, two of them in one family in Lettermullen. In none of the cases were the parents related in any degree. One of these deaf mutes is by trade a carpenter, and is very handy and clever at any work he undertakes.

Blindness.—Several of the old people are blind from cataract, including the grandfather of the cretin in Trabane. There are no cases of congenital blindness on the islands.

Malformations.—There is one case of "club foot" on the islands. I could not get seeing the patient, nor could information as to whether it was congenital be obtained. One informant stated that it was, another that it was not. No cases of hare-lip or cleft palate on the islands. Some cases of malformations, as the result of accident, rheumatism (*arthritis deformans*), and unset fractures are to be met with.

Hernia.—Dr. Connolly has come across several cases of inguinal hernia in elderly men. These are probably due to strain in gathering seaweed, rowing, lifting, and carrying heavy weights.

Fevers.—During the exceptional distress of last winter and spring influenza was very prevalent. Formerly there used to be an annual epidemic of typhus in the islands, especially in Lettermullen, but of late the number of cases has greatly diminished. No information could be obtained as to other febrile complaints.

"Constitutional" Diseases.—Contrary to what has been observed in most of the islands visited, phthisis is very common (as well as other tubercular complaints). A great deal of the blame for this must be laid on the wretched nature of the dwellings of the people. During the day they have some ventilation from the open doorway, but at night, the small cabins, consisting of only one or two apartments, and containing from five to eight or more persons, together with cattle, pig, and fowls, the fire on, and the windows not made to open, or non-existent, have no means of ventilation, and become simply hotbeds for disease.

One case of caries of the sternum was observed in Garumna.

Rheumatism is one of the most common complaints, especially in winter. There are a great number of chronic rheumatic cases among the old people.

Malignant tumours are said to be rare or unknown.

Dietetic Diseases.—Dyspepsia, in its various forms, is not uncommon, as might be expected from the nature of the dietary. The use, or

rather the abuse, of tea, and the share indian meal plays in the dietary during part of the year, may be counted as the most common causes. Diarrhœa is very common, in fact prevalent, when the indian meal first comes into use as a staple of the dietary.

As in most fish-eating communities entoparasites are a frequent cause of trouble. *Ascaris lumbricoides* is the worm most commonly observed, but Dr. Connolly has also seen others, some of which he could not identify. Cases of "gravel" and vesical calculus are of rather common occurrence it is said, but it is hard to be certain on this point, as all urinary troubles are classed as "gravel," in popular parlance; for instance, one case which really was traumatic stricture of the urethra was termed "gravel" by the people.

Respiratory Diseases.—Bronchitis and pneumonia are, as might be expected considering the hardships and exposure of the peoples' life, common in winter and spring months.

Eye Affections.—Seem to be rather common. Several cases of cataract in old people were noted.

Granular conjunctivitis, aggravated by the smoky condition of the houses, and corneal ulcers frequently come for treatment to Dr. Connolly.

Skin Affections.—Scabies, "sea boils," eczema, tinea tonsurans, and alopecia areata are common.

Venereal Diseases.—Here, as generally throughout the rural districts of the West of Ireland, syphilis and gonorrhœa are unknown.

Diseases of Women.—Few or no cases come for treatment except an occasional case of amenorrhœa.

Accidental Injuries.—Wounds, bruises, fractures, and burns are of common occurrence.

(E.) *Longevity.*—The people of these islands attain to a good old age, and persons of eighty years and upwards are not unfrequently to be met with. Two men died recently on the islands at the reputed ages of 105 and 108 years, respectively. One old man was met with who had walked several miles to get some goods at the shop, as he frequently does, though, to use his own expression, "weak in the legs now." He said that he was born on the 2nd of May, 1796, so that he is now over 102 years old.

4. *Psychology.*—A sketch of the mental characters of the people seems essential in a report such as this, and inquiries on this point have always formed a part of the work of these surveys. Besides personal observation such as could be made during a visit of limited duration, information was sought from people who are brought into daily communication and dealings with the inhabitants, and who, from

their positions and local knowledge, were likely to be reliable informants. Still the difficulty of treating this subject justly is great, as local prejudices and quarrels often affect the views of an informant, and care has to be taken to weigh and sift what reports are obtained, and to compare the views of one with those of another.

The following is believed to be an accurate account so far as it goes. The people of these islands are very shrewd and intelligent, and this applies especially to the inhabitants of Lettermullen. Among themselves they are very social but clannish, the people of the respective islands going together as a rule. They are fond of gossip and chaff, are quick at taking a joke, and have a keen sense of humour. They are passionately fond of music and dancing. In their dealings with one another they are very honest, and will pay up their debts whenever they can. Theft is of very rare occurrence. In time of trouble they are very kind and charitable to one another, and the totally destitute will always be able to obtain help from even the poorest of their neighbours. In spite of the illicit distillation which, for so long, prevailed in this district, the people are as a rule sober and not given to alcoholic excess. Women seldom or never take liquor. Excesses, when they occur, are usually connected with social gatherings of some sort, as wakes, funerals, and weddings. It is on occasions of this nature, too, that fights and quarrels generally arise. When a fight does occur it very rarely takes the form of a hand-to-hand tussle, but the men assail each other from a distance, first with hard words, and finally it may be with stones. One of their most noticeable characters is a strong local and personal pride. They are said to be greatly affected by praise or flattery, but this pride is very touchy and easily offended. From this pride arises a great spirit of emulation, and a certain sense of self respect which often makes people undergo hardships sooner than do what they would think mean or degrading. They show great patience and resignation under trouble or suffering, which seems, in part, to be due to the strong feeling of destiny or fatality which they share with most of the natives of our western districts.

They are extremely moral in their sexual relations, only one case of illegitimacy has occurred among them in the past eight years, and only two within twenty years. In other ways they are very excitable. Their veracity is their weak point. All informants agreed in stating that their word was rather uncertain. When law cases occur, which is seldom, cases of cross-swearing of great ingenuity are common.

Whatever may be said of the people of other western districts, the

people of these islands are not idle or lazy. They could not live if they were, as life is one long struggle to them.

As parents they are kind and indulgent. They object strongly to children being caned at school, as they do not usually punish them corporally themselves, or, if they beat them at all, only make a pretence of chastisement, using a bit of straw rope or something of that sort. Family affection is a very marked trait in their character. They are very devout in the practices of their religion.

As might be expected from the nature of their occupations and environment they have a strong faith in the supernatural, and their folk-lore is rich and varied. As boatmen and fishermen they are skilful, hardy, and courageous. With strangers they are at first shy and taciturn, but this is largely due to slight knowledge of English. Once they get over the first suspicion of the stranger they are very communicative as far as the language difficulty will allow. Curiosity and anxiety for news are very marked characters. On the whole the people are decidedly pleasant and attractive, once the first difficulties of acquaintance are got over.

5. *Folk-Names.*—The following list (on pp. 246-247) comprises all the surnames at present to be met with on the islands.

Double surnames, *i.e.* the use of one name when speaking Irish, and another, often a translation or supposed translation, when speaking English, are not known in this district, though common in some other parts of Ireland.

The custom prevails here, as elsewhere, of distinguishing between people of the same Christian name and surname by affixing to the latter the Christian name of the person's father, *e.g.* Tom M'Donogh (Simon).

Surnames of Garumna. No. of Families 279.

Surname.	Number of Families.	Surname	Number of Families.
Allen,	1	King,	5
Barrett,	1	Kilderry,	1
Bradley,	2	Landy,	1
Conneely,	14	Lee,	4
Cloherly,	2	M'Cann,	1
Cloonan,	2	M'Donogh, ..	47
Conroy,	3	Maguire,	1
Cooney,	3	Malia (Malley) ..	11
Coyne,	1	Mannion,	1
Crowley,	1	Mulkerrin,	3
Curran,	3	Molloy,	1
Devane,	1	Mullin,	5
Donohoe,	2	Murphy,	2
Faherty,	1	Nee,	3
Farmer,	3	O'Donnell, ..	6
Flaherty,	32	O'Loughlin, ..	13
Feeney,	5	Perkins,	3
Folan,	18	Quinn,	2
Gannon,	1	Rainey,	2
Griffin,	12	Trayer (or Traynor)	4
Hernon,	3	Toole,	4
Hogan,	2	Vaughan,	1
Hynes,	7	Walsh,	11
Joyce,	16	Wallace,	1
Keane,	1	Windle,	1
Kelly,	1	Wynne,	1
Kerrigan,	1		

Surnames of Lettermullen, Furnace, Inishark, and Dinish.

Surname.	Number of Families.	Surname.	Number of Families.
Audley,	2	King,	2
Barrett,	1	Griffin,	1
Beatty,	2	Larkin,	2
Berry,	9	Lee,	6
Blake,	1	Loftus,	3
Conneely,	10	M'Donogh, ..	22
Conroy,	2	M'Ging,	1
Devane,	1	Molloy,	2
Dirrane, ¹	3	Mulkerrin, ..	3
Feeney,	1	Mullin,	5
Flaherty,	28	Nee,	1
Folan,	3	O'Donnell, ..	8
Healy, ²	1	Toole,	5
Joyce,	1	Vaughan, ³ ..	5
Keely,	1	Walsh,	7
Kelly,	2		

The sixty surnames given above are all those to be met with on the islands; they are not all native, however, as some of the less common surnames are the names of teachers or other officials, or their descendants. The majority of the names are either (*a*) old West Connaught surnames, either in their original form or in many cases anglicised, or (*b*) the names of members of the Welsh and Anglo-Norman tribes who overran the district in the thirteenth century, (*c*) the names of people from other parts of Connaught (Kelly, O'Loughlin, and Molloy).

¹ Not native.² Originally from the Aran Isles.³ Originally from Clare.

(a) The ancient surnames of this district still prevail here, and the following list gives all those now extant that could be traced :—

Conneely.	Griffin.
Clogherty.	Hynes (O'Heyne).
Conroy.	Keane.
Cooney.	King.
Coyne.	Lee (O'Lee, <i>vel</i> O'Lye).
Devane (O'Dubhain).	M'Donogh.
Faherty.	Malia (or Malley).
Flaherty.	Quinn.
Gannon (O'Concannon).	Toole.
Folan.	

The Toolles of this part of Connaught are a branch of the O'Tooles of Leinster who settled in Iar Connaught under the O'Flahertys. The O'Lees were the hereditary physicians to the O'Flahertys. The great bulk of the names are those of adherents of the O'Flahertys and M'Donoghs.

(b) The Welsh or Anglo-Norman names on the list are Barrett, Blake,¹ Joyce, and Walsh. Williams is usually the modern form of M'Williams, a branch of the Bourkes (De Burgos). The Joyces settled in the district in the thirteenth century by permission of the O'Flahertys to whom they always acted as adherents and followers.

IV.—SOCIOLOGY.

1. *Occupations*.—From the poverty of the soil and the overcrowding of the district the people are driven to many shifts to make a livelihood. With one or two exceptions none of the people can be called farmers. The community is one of fishermen and kelp-burners, who till a little land and keep a few cattle and sheep. As has been stated in a previous section the average amount of cultivation for a family is about an acre of potatoes and an acre of oats or barley, or in some cases rye. The fields are small, irregular plots, varying in shape with the conformation of the ground, and taking the shape of the

¹ In the Appendix to O'Flaherty's "H-Iar Connacht," O'Donovan states (p.192) that "Richard Caddle, *dictus niger* or the Black *a quo* Blake," was the common ancestor of all the present families of the name in the West of Ireland. He was Sheriff of Connaught in A.D. 1306 and . . . "bailiffe of Galway under Richard de Burgo, the Red Earl of Ulster in A.D. 1312."

places between the larger rocks. Even these small plots are rendered still smaller by being cut up by rocks cropping to the surface, by large boulders, and by heaps of loose stones gathered off the land. The land is cropped alternately with potatoes and barley or oats until the yield begins to fail, when the spot is let run fallow and another plot is cultivated instead. The principal manure is "black weed" (*Fucus vesiculosus*), which is brought to the land from the seashore in basket loads on the backs of women, the distance it has to be brought varying with the proximity or otherwise of the plot to the shore. The men gather the weed, the women carry it. It need not be said that there is none but spade labour. The fences are lacework walls of loose stones similar to those to be seen generally in Connemara; they are not always sufficient, and on this account the sheep are constantly hobbled, and frequently trespass on the crops. There are considerable stretches of commonage, on which are kept a number of small, weak-looking sheep, mainly for their wool, and some cattle, also of a poor description. The number of sheep per family averages from 5 to 20. About ten per cent. of the families have no cattle.

Very few pigs are kept, and only about one family in every twelve has a horse or a donkey. Fowl and geese are kept, the former being a source of income through the eggs, large quantities of which are exported from this district. Very few ducks are to be seen. Cattle and fowl are taken into the houses for the night, and the pig, if there be one, has often a snug place by the fireside. The sheep are left to find shelter how they can. The cattle are sent out of the islands to the mountains in the late autumn. As before stated they are small and weak, and the mortality among them in winter is high. They are subject to two diseases, locally termed "the cripple" and "pine," to which my attention was first directed by my friend, Mr. G. H. Kinahan. The "cripple" attacks cattle on the mountains, and from what I could ascertain from inquiries seems to be simply rheumatism. The "pine" is simply starvation from insufficient food, and occurs in the islands.

Only a couple of villages in Garumna are composed of fishermen by profession, but practically all the men of Lettermullen fish for lobsters, using lobster pots made of osiers grown in small swampy spots on the islands, and from furze stems. From these osiers, too, are made the baskets and creels so largely used. The prices got for lobsters, which are sold to local dealers, are from half-a-crown a dozen for lobsters under 11 inches in length, and five shillings for those of larger size, in the summer months; up to ten shillings a dozen in winter.

The fish most taken are mackerel, herring, gurnard, cod, ling, glassan, seabream, and a few turbot. Unfortunately there has not up to this been a good market for fish, and it has largely been taken only for home consumption; some of the bream is roughly salted and dried in the sun, and sold to a local shopkeeper, who finds a market for it in the inland parts of Connemara. The fishermen are almost a separate caste, the kelp-burners fish only for home use. Until this autumn nets were not used by the fishermen of these islands.

Now two fishing stations have been opened by the Congested Districts Board, and nets have been supplied to the fishermen. These stations buy cod and ling, in winter and spring months, and mackerel in season, and cure it, the labour engaged in curing being all local.

One of the great means of livelihood is the manufacture of kelp, a very large quantity of which is made in these islands. The process is a very hard and laborious one, as the weed has often to be obtained from a distance. "Red weed" (*laminaria*) only is used,* black weed (*Fucus vesiculosus*) being looked on as an adulteration in kelp. When the supply of red weed off the shores of the islands falls short, boats go off even to the Aran Islands to cut it there. The weed is cut by an instrument having a sickle-like blade, on the side of which are three hooks (the blade cuts the weed and the hooks retain it); this blade is fixed into a handle of from 15 to 20 feet in length; curved two-pronged forks are also used. Large heavy rowing boats are used for weed collecting. It takes twelve boat-loads to make one ton of kelp. The weed is spread out in the sun to dry, and then piled in heaps for burning. Much of the *Fucus* is often gathered and stacked the winter before it is burned. Regular kilns are not made here, but a bare, rocky flat is selected or the thin soil pared off the rock at a suitable spot. It takes two men from three to four weeks to make one ton. The average amount made in one season is about four tons for a family which owns one boat, six or eight tons for one owning two boats. Men with no family may only be able to make one ton, but two men without family often combine forces and make the kelp in partnership. The price obtained varies with the quality of the product, from £1 10s. a ton to £4 10s. The kelp is taken by boat to Kilkerrin, and sold to agents. The Lettermullen people are practically all kelp burners.

Until lately another of the local industries was the distillation of illicit spirits, but this has been largely put down since the opening of the causeways connecting the islands. Garumna had a celebrity

* See note, p. 268.

formerly for the quality of the *poteen* made there, which was never distilled from treacle or adulterated.

It is made only from malted barley and oats. The proportion of oats used is one part to three of barley malt. Querns are used for grinding the malt.

Much ingenuity is often displayed in the methods employed to evade the police; the spirits have even been made in boats at sea in some cases. The prices obtained were considered remunerative for the labour and risk incurred. The *poteen* sold at from 8 shillings to 10 or 12 shillings per gallon according to quality. The stills were made by a travelling tinker who lived in the client's house while making them. The worm was, and is, always of copper, and is the most expensive part of the apparatus.

Trades are few; there are seven weavers who make the homespun flannel and frieze largely used by the people, for making which they receive tenpence a yard. The looms and warping frames are of primitive type. There are five boat-builders in the islands, who can build all the types of boats in local use; three or four tailors, and a carpenter.

There are several general shops at which goods of all kinds may be obtained, and since the causeways have been opened carts from the mainland come through the main roads of the islands and sell goods of various sorts.

There is no regular work for labourers, but occasional work is paid at the rate of 1s. 6d. a day and the man's food. None of the men from this district migrate to England or Scotland as field labourers, but some of them go to the county Clare to dig potatoes, where they are boarded and lodged and get about 9 shillings a week.

In some parts of Garumna turf is cut for export to the Aran Islands and the opposite coast of Clare. A good deal of the denudation of the surface of the island is due to this cause, as Garumna has been for generations the principal source of the fuel supply to Aran and Lettermullen. The price obtained could not be ascertained. The turf exported is mostly carried in boats of about four tons, termed, according to their rig, *pookhauns* and *glouthoges*.

The women, besides their ordinary domestic duties, take part in all field work of every description, cut and carry turf and seaweed for manure. In the case of the Lettermullen women they have to carry the turf home in baskets on their backs, a distance of over four miles. They shear the sheep, an operation looked on as woman's work, and, as a rule, only carried out piecemeal, just as much wool being taken as

is required, and no more.¹ They card, dye, and spin the wool thus obtained; they rear fowl for the eggs, which are either bartered for goods or are sold to the shopkeepers at a rate varying from 10s. the long hundred (120) in winter to 3s. 6d. in summer. They also gather carageen moss from the rocks at low water, which they dry in the sun and sell at from fourpence to sixpence a stone. The moss, however, requires picking after purchase, as other weed is often mixed with it.

Even the young children have to take their part in the struggle for existence; they help at carrying home the turf when saved, tend cattle and sheep and keep them out of the crops, and gather periwinkles, which they sell by the "bucket," for which measure they get about 1s. 6d. in the winter season. These periwinkles all find their way to the London market.

Very little work is done during the winter months. Weed for manure is gathered then, and it is then, too, that poteen is made.

Altogether, the life of these people is one long struggle against adverse circumstances. The margin between a good year and one of distress is, and must be, from the nature of things, a very narrow one, and a bad season means destitution.

2. *Family Life and Customs.*—Families are large, as a rule, and from an early age the children have to help at household and general work. Quite young children do a lot of work in the way of tending cattle and sheep, carrying turf, &c., as back-loads. They go to school, if at all, at about six years of age, and leave at thirteen or fourteen. They are said to be smart and intelligent, but are hindered greatly in their progress by the irregularity in attendance caused by their being kept at home to aid in various kinds of work. The result of the early participation in the struggle for existence is that, to use the words of Mr. Healey, National Teacher of Lettermullen, "there is no childhood, properly speaking. From infants they become little men and women at one step." After leaving school they enter at once into the regular work of grown-up people. Very few of the young folk emigrate, though a larger number do so now than formerly. As before stated there is no annual migration to England or Scotland for field work, but a few go to Clare and the east side of the county Galway. The young people of different sexes are not, as a rule, to be seen together, but go in groups by themselves. Public opinion is very strict on the score of their relationship, and a girl would not be allowed to

¹ The average weight of a fleece is about 1½ lbs. Wool is bought to make up deficiency at the average rate of tenpence a pound.

walk a hundred yards up the road after sunset even with a cousin. Marriages are arranged by the parents, and there is, as a rule, no previous courtship. The fortune is seldom or never money, but consists of two or three cattle, or a couple of sheep, but considerations as to suitability of families, &c., are often taken into account as well as the dowry. Sometimes marriages are occasions of festivity, but in many cases they occur without any social rejoicings, and the young couple go home quietly after the ceremony. The people marry early, the age in the case of men being from eighteen to thirty years, and for girls from sixteen upwards.

After the marriage ceremony the bride and bridegroom go out of the church door together, as it is believed that, if one went out before the other, the first to go out would be the first to die.

The small holdings are constantly subdivided when the young men of a family marry, new houses being raised on the smaller subdivisions in the cases of the elder sons. The youngest son brings his wife home to live with the old people, as a rule, and inherits the father's holding. In these cases the house is often divided by a party wall, and the young couple live in one of the divisions thus formed.

Infants are carefully watched before baptism and at special times, as when about to be vaccinated, lest they should be changed by the fairies or come under any other evil influence. It is customary to put little crosses made of straw into children's clothing when they are taken to be vaccinated. Women frequently carry their infants slung in a shawl on their backs, thus leaving the hands free to knit or do other work. Delivery is, in normal cases, usually effected in the kneeling posture. Unbaptised and stillborn infants who die are not interred in the regular grave-yards, but are buried in the mearing between two holdings. Many old customs and ceremonies relating to deaths and funerals still persist. It is believed that if a person is dying he will expire at half-tide, but that if he lives beyond that he will linger until the next tide. When anyone is dying of phthisis, all the relatives are cleared out of the house lest they might catch the disease as the person dies. After a death the body is usually kept two days before burial. Wakes are still held, but they are shorn of many of the old customs. Now the people merely sit and drink and tell stories. The coffin is always borne to the grave on men's shoulders, as there is no road to the grave-yard, and fences and walls have to be crossed. Cairns are raised at spots where a funeral has stopped on the way to the grave-yard, and the people never pass these without a prayer for the repose of the soul of the person on whose account the cairn was built. It was from the

desire to make these monuments more definite and permanent that the curious memorial pillars of the Aran Islands took their origin.

As is usual in the West, the grave is not dug until the funeral reaches the grave-yard, but before this work is begun the coffin is borne thrice round the old church in the direction of the sun. The old *caoine* is still used at all funerals. A good deal of liquor is usually drunk on these sad occasions. The custom of smoking at the grave does not seem to obtain here.

The people are early risers as a rule, except in the case of fishermen, whose hours, of course, cannot be regular. They are timid about going out at night on land, and stay closely to their houses after nightfall. During the winter months little work can be done by the men; the women have the usual household occupations. Formerly there was a strong feeling against selling eggs, but now large quantities are exported. Even still the people look on selling butter as something to be ashamed of. The same is the case as regards milk. The sale of either of these is considered a thing to conceal lest the neighbours should know that the family was reduced to such a state of poverty as to have to do so.¹ For fuel turf either from the bogs, or where these are at a distance, scraw turf (made by raising the thin peaty layer off the rock, a very poor stony fuel), and bog pine are used. The houses are now lighted at night by cheap lamps burning petroleum, but formerly rushlights were used. Fuel is so scarce, and has to be fetched in back-loads for such a distance, that the people of Lettermullen are extremely careful of it, and are sparing in its use.

3. *Food*.—The food consists principally of fish, potatoes, indian-meal stirabout, soda-bread, and tea. Most of the people have never tasted flesh meat, and many would not eat it if offered them. Potatoes last on the average for ten months of the year, and for the remaining two months indian meal has to be fallen back on as the staple of the dietary. In a bad season, however, potatoes may not last until the New Year. Fish is eaten fresh in summer, salted in winter. Many prefer the salted to the fresh fish. The kinds cured for winter use are gurnard, bream, glassan, ling, and pollock. These are split, roughly salted, and dried in the sun on the roofs of the houses. Tea is consumed in great quantities, and is drunk very strong. Two varieties of

¹ All the people are more or less in debt to the shopkeepers, though they pay whenever they can. Barter still exists to some extent, but the system mainly followed now is, that eggs, lobsters, &c., are brought in to the shops and their price either credited to the account of the vender, or the equivalent of their price is given in groceries, tobacco, or other goods.

sea-weed, *cranagh* and *dilisk* are dried, and used as "kitchen" or relish to food. They are both varieties of the same weed (*Rhodymenia palmata*); but the former, which is found attached to mussel-shells, is esteemed the better of the two, and is looked on as a luxury. It is often sold to the inland people at about threepence a pound. Three meals a day are usually taken.

4. *Clothing*.—The working dress of the people is usually much torn and patched, and many of them, especially the children, wretchedly clad. On Sundays and holidays the attire is neater and better. Homespun fabrics are most used and seem to wear best. Some of these are good, and efforts are being made to introduce good patterns and improve the quality; but the most common sort is simply a rough coarse flannel, grey or white in colour for the men, red for the women. The clothing is more uniform in type than noted in other districts owing to the seclusion. The dress of the men is of the usual Connemara type. Flannel shirt and drawers, white coat (*bawneen*), waistcoat, often worn over the coat, and heavy trousers split for a few inches up the outer seam. The clothing is made by local tailors, of whom there are three or four. The head-dress is in many cases the old flat knitted bonnet, of the shape known popularly as Tam o'Shanter. These caps used formerly to be made at home; but most of them are now imported, and they are no longer always blue with red knob and diced border, but many fancy patterns and tartans are worn. This form of head-gear retains its popularity as it is not easily blown off, and so is suitable for wearing in boats when fishing; soft felt hats are also worn. The men wear woollen stockings and heavy boots (which are imported ready-made); a few men were seen wearing *pampooties* or sandals made of raw hide with the hair outside, exactly similar to these worn in the Aran Islands. Most of the elder men in the village of Trabane wear *pampooties* while fishing, as they are not likely to damage the canvas curraghs in which they fish, as heavy boots would. Women and children go barefooted, except on Sundays.

The dress of the women consists of a close bodice and short skirt of red flannel; a shawl, usually one of the red tartans for which the people seem to have a partiality, is worn over the head and shoulders. In unsettled weather a petticoat of red or white flannel is worn round the neck in cape fashion.

On working days many of the women wear *mittauns*, footless stockings or knitted gaiters. The so-called Claddagh ring, with the device of a heart clasped by two hands, is worn by some of the women. These rings are handed down as heirlooms.

Young boys wear the kilt-like frock of grey or white homespun to a later age than noted elsewhere, sometimes up to thirteen or fourteen years of age. A belief prevails that to put boys into trousers too early is likely to check their growth. Children usually go bare-headed and barefoot. At Trabane National School, on August 22nd, out of fourteen boys present only five had caps. The children are usually the worst clad members of the community, and their clothing is often very ragged. Some of the dyes for the homespuns are obtained from plants growing on the islands. Rag-weed gives a yellow dye; heather, water lily roots, and purple loose-strife give browns and blacks. The red dyes for the women's clothing are bought at the shops, and are usually madder and aniline colours.

5. *Dwellings*.—The houses are of a very poor description, but vary much in type. As a rule they are built of dry stone, without mortar, and thickly plastered inside. In some of the poorer houses, tempered cow-dung is used for plastering. The best houses are those built along the main roads which have only been erected within the past ten years. The worst are those in some of the coast-villages. The floor consists usually of bare rock or large stones, the spaces between being filled up with mortar or beaten clay.

The poorest class of dwellings consist of only one apartment, and are often very small, the smallest seen measuring about 10 feet in length by 8 in breadth internally, and the average size being about 18 feet by 10. A house of this class has, like the rest, two doors or doorways opposite one another, and about 5 feet in height, the one on the windward side being kept closed. The door is composed of a few rough boards. In some cases there is no door, but a straw mat or bundles of furze in a wooden frame take its place. Windows are represented by a couple of holes in the wall, a foot or 18 inches square, sometimes glazed, and in these cases not made to open, sometimes filled with rags or a few sods of turf. These are on the side of the house sheltered from prevailing winds. A house of this sort may appear from the outside to have a chimney, but this is merely a structure built around the hole in the roof at the gable which serves the purpose of letting out the smoke; there is no flue inside, and the hearth is merely a few stones against the end wall of the house. The floor is bare rock. The rafters are made of drift wood or bog timber sawn, and are black from the smoke. The roof is thatch laid on over scraws of turf, and held on by sougans (or straw ropes) fastened down either by pegs driven into the walls, or by large stones tied on to them. About one-third of the dwellings in Lettermullen are

of this class, the proportion in Garumna is about the same or a little less.

There is scarcely any furniture in these houses. A couple of chests, one or two small benches, and a rough table, perhaps a rude dresser knocked together from a few boards, and containing a few jugs and cups of rude delft, are all that can be called furniture. In houses of this class there is in very many cases no bed,¹ a litter of dried bracken, and some tattered blankets laid on some boards, or on the floor, takes its place. In some cases the bedstead is a pile of stones,



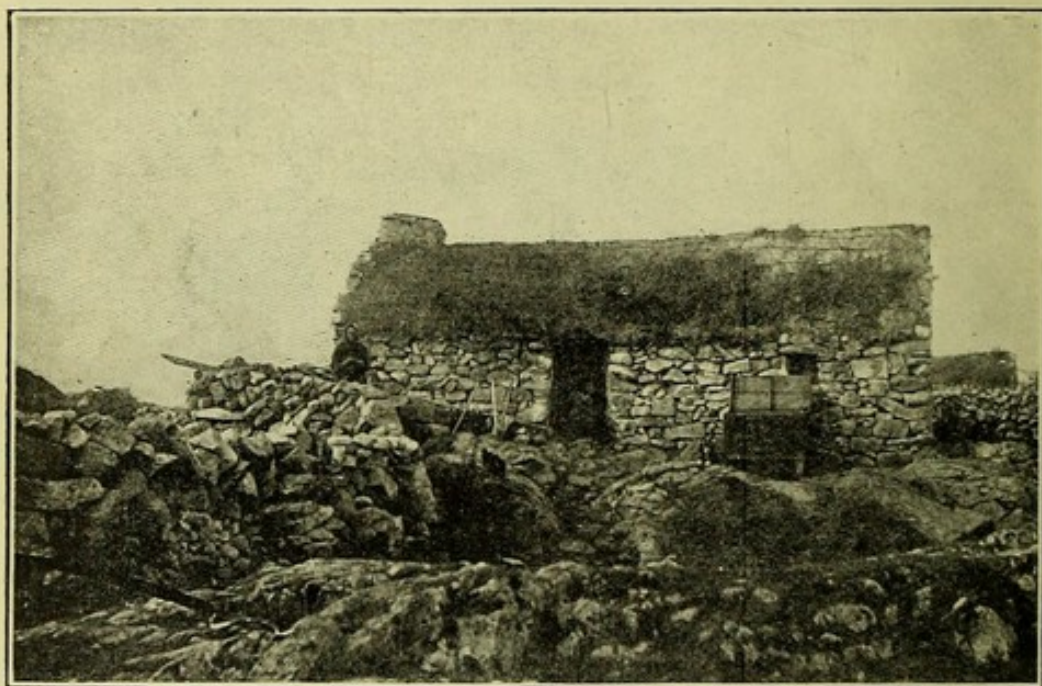
Cabin in Garumna.

or the wooden frame of the bed is supported on stones at both ends. In two houses visited banks of stones had been built up to form seats. A pot, a tub, some baskets, a tin lamp and a few mugs form the domestic utensils. The only ventilation at night is through the clinks in the stones around the badly fitting door frame.

A better class of house consists of a kitchen, off which are one or two sleeping-rooms formed by partition walls about 7 feet in height, and covered in by a few beams and boards to form a loft in which to

¹ Of ten houses visited in the village of Creggs in Lettermullen only *two* had bedsteads of any sort (23rd August, 1898).

keep domestic stores, &c. This loft is often lighted by an unglazed hole in the gable. These sleeping-rooms may or may not be lit by a window, and are often densely dark. They contain one or two beds stuffed with straw or bracken, the rude bedsteads being made of drift-wood or bog timber. In some cases the sleeping-places are only divided off by a partition wall, or a wooden screen, and the bed is on the floor. The kitchen contains a table, a rude dresser with crockery, a couple of chests, straw ropes stretched across the room for drying clothes, or a couple of benches or stools, a chair (perhaps), baskets, a griddle, and a pot or two. This type of house, if two-roomed, may or may not have a chimney. If there be three rooms there will be a chimney against the central wall. About sixty per cent. of the houses have some sort of



Cabin in Garumna.

division or partition in them. All are thatched as before described. The thatch is put on once in six years, new thatch being laid on over the old. The cattle are taken into the house at night, and fastened at the end of the kitchen farthest from the fire.

The pig, if there be one, has often a snug place beside the fire, and the fowls roost on the couples overhead. In many cases there is a stagnant pool outside the door.

There is a still better class of house which is whitewashed outside (perhaps), has a floor kept neatly sanded; there are glazed windows, and more furniture, and a pig-stye is built outside the house. It is evident that the reason why there are not more houses of this class is

not ignorance or laziness, but lack of means. Spinning wheels are not to be found in every house; about one family in eight or ten has one, but they are lent from house to house. Querns are to be seen in a few houses, but are becoming very scarce now.

In the northern end of Garumna the houses are larger and better than in the rest of the island, and are thatched in a different manner, the thatch being held down by bands or ropes of twisted osier held in place by pegs.

6. *Transport.*—Formerly all communication between the islands and the mainland had to be by boat, and boats are still largely used, and vary in type with the locality. In one village, only currachs are in use, which are sailed whenever possible, and usually carry three men. Heavy rowing and sailing boats are used for conveying weed for kelp, hookers are used by the shopkeepers for conveying goods to and from Galway, they are also used for taking turf to Aran and Clare, and for fishing, but boats of about four tons termed, according to their rig, pookhauns and glouthoges are more used for these purposes. These boats are built on the islands. The currachs are of good size, and they take twenty yards of tarred canvass to cover them. The cost is £4 5s.

For internal traffic there are but few beasts of burden, there being only thirty-five horses, and fifty donkeys in Garumna, and only five horses and two donkeys in Lettermullen, so the greater part of the work of carrying turf, sea-weed, &c., is performed by human beings, these things being carried in baskets on the backs of human beings. Before the new roads and causeways were constructed there were no wheeled vehicles on the islands, and even now there are only two carts, both belonging to Mr. P. M'Donogh, J.P. The beasts of burden carry their loads in *cleeves*, or panniers slung from a wooden frame over a straw saddle or pad.

The islands are now connected with one another, and the mainland, by a series of causeways and swing bridges constructed by the Government. Before their completion in 1897 the islands were difficult of access. The old roadways were only rough foot tracks often obstructed by rocks, and very rough and irregular. Roads were laid out and commenced in 1847, but until 1889 they were not completed. Since then good roads have been and are being laid down, partly as Government works, and partly by means of the relief funds raised in times of distress like last year.

Before the construction of the causeway between Lettermore and Garumna people who wanted to get across the channel, if they could

not get by boat, had often to wait for days until the water was low enough in the channel to ford, but even when fordable the current was very strong, and people have more than once been swept away, and drowned in the attempt to cross.

V.—FOLK-LORE.

Connemara is reputedly rich in folklore, and it may be presumed that a secluded part of it, like this group of islands, still retains much that may have died out elsewhere, but owing to the natural reticence of the people on this subject, especially with strangers, very little information could be obtained, and that only on what may be termed minor folklore. Legends, traditions, and hero tales no doubt exist, but no specimens could be obtained, nor could any information be obtained about them.

The following notes were collected, however, mainly through the kindness of the Rev. E. A. Lavelle, Mr. Michael Lavelle, Mrs. McDonogh of Crappagh, and Mr. P. Healy, National Teacher, Lettermullen.

1. *Customs and Beliefs.*—Much faith is placed in omens or portents, and the number of things considered lucky or otherwise is large. It is considered unlucky to move into a new house on a Monday, while Friday is thought to be the proper day for this. To build an addition to one's house on the west side is thought to be always followed by misfortune. A story is told of a man in Garumna who built on to his house on the west side and got "touched in the head" shortly afterwards (which, of course, was ascribed to his rash action in building in the prohibited direction), and remained so until the addition was altogether removed.

To meet a red-haired woman on starting out in the morning is looked on as an unlucky omen for the day's work. It is unlucky also to see a hare cross one's path, or to mention the name of this animal while fishing. A crowing hen is thought to portend evil, and one which indulges in this habit is killed at once and thrown over the house three times to avert the misfortune which her action would otherwise produce. Undersized lobsters when taken are never put back into the water lest returning anything to the sea which had been taken out of it might spoil the luck of the fishery.

Milk will not be given out of a house on a Monday or on May Day. On the 1st of May also a fire is not put down early, as it is thought to be unlucky for a house to have the "first smoke" on this day. If

a person is sick, fire will not be given out of the house in which he is. To trip or fall in a graveyard is looked upon as portending death within a year. Salt is taken in the pocket when going to a funeral, to avert evil influences. The appearance of a number of *primpulans* (*Geotrupes stercorarius*) or large dung beetles flying about in the evening is looked upon as a sign of good weather to come, and it is considered to be a very unlucky action to kill one of these insects. The belief in death warnings or omens is general, and some of these are from the actions of animals, as four magpies seen together, the appearance of ravens about a house. Others are of a supernatural character. It is said that "when a boat is about to be drowned" a man without a head is sometimes to be seen in it. Before a death occurs in a house the sounds of someone making a coffin may be heard outside at night. Near a village or hamlet (Creggs) in Lettermullen is a curious rock in which local rumour says that a child's voice may be heard crying previous to the death of any of the children of this village. The death coach is believed in by most, and a man from this district is said to have seen it on his way to county Mayo, and to have died shortly after. It is thought also that in some cases before a person dies his apparition or wraith may be seen by some of the neighbours to walk past them and suddenly vanish; as apparitions of various kinds are thus still a matter of common faith, the people do not like to be out after nightfall on this account. The spirit of the person last buried in a graveyard has to watch until the next funeral. Mr. Michael Lavelle was informed by some of the people that a Mayo-man cannot be harmed by a ghost "on account of St. Patrick." Among the appearances seen in these islands is a merman of whom the fishermen talk much. He is said to have been a drowned man, and men who claim to have seen him describe him as having long black hair, a flat face, a double chin, and webbed hands. Another water monster said to be sometimes seen is the water horse or *Each Uisge*, which is said to haunt two of the lakes, and of which several stories are told. If, on this creature's emergence from the water, a man sees it first the apparition will do him no harm, but if on the contrary the water-horse should first set eyes on the man the latter will certainly die within the year. A story is told of a woman who lived in a house beside the largest and most southerly of the lakes in Garumna who happened to come suddenly across one of these creatures which shook himself so as to sprinkle the water shaken off over the woman, who became paralysed in consequence.

There is thought to be a connexion of some sort between the

people bearing the name of Conneely and seals. They boast that they "have seal's blood in them, and that is why they are such good swimmers." The belief in this connexion is mentioned by O'Donovan, who states that there was an old tradition, "that at a distant period of time several of the clan Conneelys (*Mac Conghaile*), an old family of Iar-Connaught, were by 'Art Magick' metamorphosed into seals!" It does not, however, seem to be the case in these islands that the killing of a seal is looked upon as a very unlucky and heinous action, as is the case in some other places on the west coast.

Many of the people retain a belief in fairies, and some claim to have seen them. The usual story is told as to their origin, *i.e.*, that they are fallen angels who must wander the earth until the judgment. They are malicious if provoked, and hurtful to men and animals.

The *Phuca* is believed only to come out on November Eve, and carries off people to a distance and takes them back again. The banshee is described by those who "have been told by those who have seen her" as like a little woman in a red cloak. She may be heard singing before a death. Infants and parturient women have to be especially guarded against the machinations of these beings; fire, iron, and salt are supposed to avert their influence—for this reason horse or donkey shoes are nailed on the cradle or over the house door. In a paper published some years ago by Professor A. C. Haddon he quotes the following information obtained from Dr. T. V. Costello of Bealadangan, the medical officer for this district:—"On Lettermore Island, which also is in South Connemara, immediately after the birth of a child—which, by the way, is always delivered with the mother in a kneeling posture—the father throws (counting as he does so) *nine* articles of clothing over the mother; the number never varies."

"A piece of the ash from the remains of the peat fire is tied up in a red rag and attached to the cow's tail to prevent the fairies from milking her during the night."

The fairies are believed to carry off and change children, and it is thought that a changeling may be detected by making the child sleep over a weed got from the lakes (*cauleenagh*) over which no fairy can rest.

When the infant is taken to be vaccinated, coals of turf and straw crosses are put into its clothing to avert fairy influence. Men also take out a coal with them when fishing to bring good fortune.

Means are sometimes adopted to propitiate the "good people." The hearths are swept up at night and clean water is left out for them,

and when making poteen some leave a little of the "first shot" out in a jug for them. Fairies are believed to pass from one place to another in the day time in whirlwinds. Fairy or phantom boats are also said to be seen from time to time, and a fairy piper is said to be heard at times playing in one of the large granite boulders.

The belief in the evil eye prevails in the district, and one woman is dreaded as having this malign power. It is said that the "bad eye" is acquired by a person through the priest having forgotten some minor part in the rite of baptism. The effect of the evil eye cannot be intentionally produced, but only comes by chance. A story is told of an old woman who met a girl and said she wondered that she could carry such a heavy basket. The girl, when she got home, was seized with severe pains and died soon after, and her death was ascribed to the effect of "the bad eye." The first time an infant is taken out, people spit upon it to protect it from this evil influence and from the fairies.

The customs observed at deaths, funerals, and wakes have been mentioned in another section.

On St. Bridget's Eve and November Eve a peculiar shaped cross of wood, in the form of the suastica, is sometimes nailed on a rafter to keep off fairies and avert other evils.

Bonfires are lighted in Garumna, as in most other places, on June 24. On St. John's Eve (*bealtinne*) in Lettermullen, as Mr. Healy informs me, they often only put up a flag on an oar, or something of that sort, as fuel is so scarce. The people circle round the fire three times, and carry away coals from the fire to throw into the potato fields to produce a bountiful yield. The hunting of the wren on St. Stephen's Day (26th December) is a custom but little observed here.

2. *Charms and Leechcraft.*

(a) *Charms.*—Reliance is placed in charms for the relief of various troubles, physical and otherwise. These charms are dispensed by wise women, and one, who lives in the northern part of Connemara, is visited even by the people of these islands that they may consult her about the suitable site for a house or for disease, &c. Should a house be infested with rats, a written charm can be obtained, which is laid near the rat-hole, and it is thought that the oldest rat will take it in his mouth and leave the house, and that the rest will follow him.

Charms are also used for the rose (erysipelas), for toothache, and for worms in children.

(b) *Leechcraft.*—The methods in vogue for the treatment of disease vary from charms to herbal simples.

Headache is treated by the method of head-measuring described in the report on the Mullet. Worms in cattle by the tying of the worm knot. The remedy advised for toothache is rather a terrifying one: it is that the person affected should go to a burial ground, bite some of the grass from a grave and chew it. Enlarged glands in the neck may, it is believed, be cured by rubbing them with a dead man's hand. It is doubtful, however, if these are used now. For post-partum hæmorrhage a red cord is tied around each of the woman's fingers.

Whisky, especially poteen, is looked upon almost as a specific for everything. It is used internally for most complaints, and externally for sprains and bruises, and also for rheumatism. A remedy which has been taken for a cold is punch, made thus—poteen is heated in a saucepan, then sugar is added and then cold poteen. A large number of herbs are used, but particulars could only be obtained about the following:—

Watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*) is taken boiled with whisky and loaf sugar for bronchitis.

Flag-root (*Iris pseud-acorus*) is pounded and applied as a dressing to wounds.

Crowfoot (*Ranunculus acris*) is pounded up with fresh butter and used as an ointment for "the rose" (erysipelas).

3. *Legends and Traditions.*—Of these there are probably a number still extant among the older people, but so far, as could be learned, few, if any, of the younger people seem to know them, or else they are unwilling to speak about them. Men seldom can speak of anything before their grandfathers' time, and no one was met with who seemed to know anything about the tower on Golan Head, which is probably only one of the old coastguard signal towers built during the great French war. No man was met with who had heard of any tradition about the old castle of the M'Hughs in Lettermullen. Oilither church is said to have been built by one of the M'Donoghs. O'Donovan mentions that the people of this district in his time (about 1845) had a tradition respecting Greatman's Bay (*Cuan an fir moir*) "The people here relate that the Great man who gave his name to this bay was a giant; that he lived a long time ago, and seized and plundered all the vessels that passed that way. They still show a large hollow rock which they call his churn, *Cuineog an fir moir*; and three other rocks called *Brannradh an fir moir*, which supported the caldron in which he boiled the whales which he caught with a fishing-rod."

VI.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

These islands contain but few monuments or ancient buildings, but on the other hand are rich in survivals, the seclusion of the islands, the poverty of the people, and their overcrowding having caused their mode of life to remain in a very primitive state, and preserved in use many ancient implements and articles of daily use.

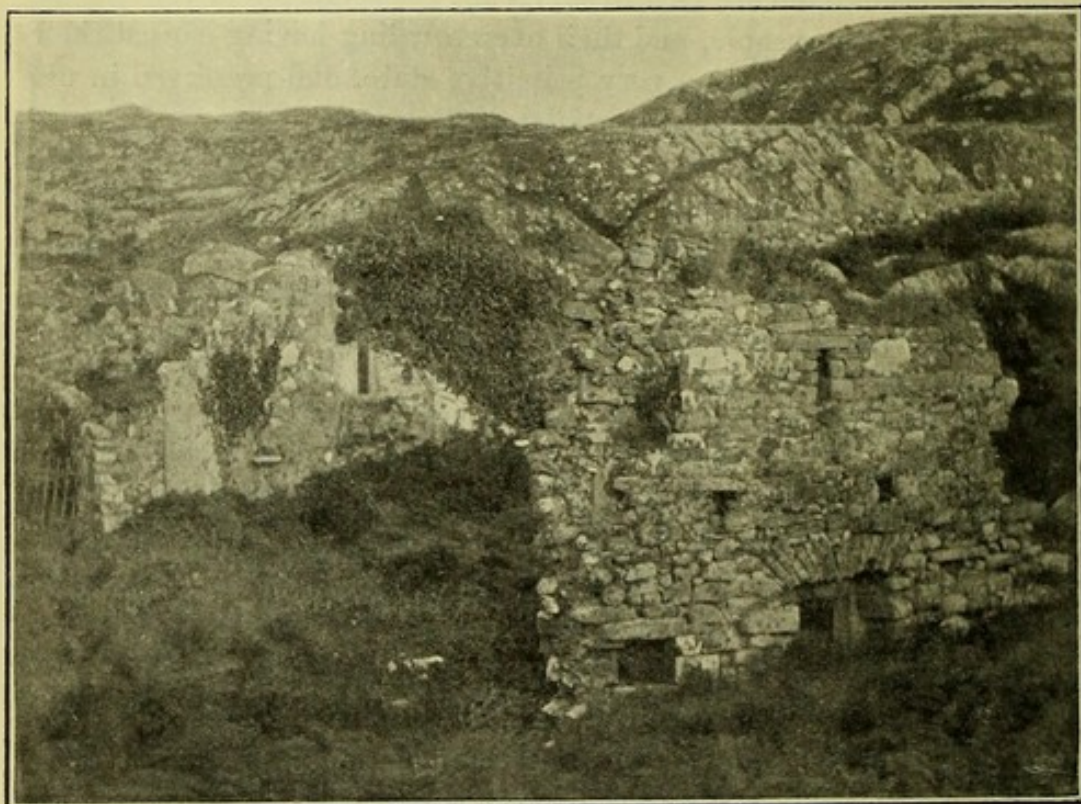
1. *Survivals.*—The poorest class of houses are a survival of a state of things which is fortunately becoming a thing of the past almost everywhere else. The straw mats used for cutting off the draught from the door on the windy side of the houses, the use of querns for grinding malt or barley meal, the spinning-wheels, *cōrds*, warp frames, and rude looms are the principal survivals among domestic implements, if we except the *slish*, a beetle or paddle used for beating clothes when washing them, as described in the report on Inishbofin, and the use of homespun clothing, the dyes of which are in part still obtained from local sources as well as the fashion of the garments. The dress of the young boys seems to be almost identical in form with the woollen frocks dug up out of bogs and preserved in the Academy's Museum. The flat cap, too, and the pampooties or sandals of raw hide are other remains of ancient costume, as are the *mittauns* or footless stockings worn on working days by the women. The so-called "Claddagh" rings worn by some of the women have been mentioned before.

The method of winnowing is the same as that described as still in use in Inishbofin.

Curraghs of the usual west coast type still remain in use in some of the fishing villages. The anchor used for them is an oblong stone fixed in a V-shaped wooden frame. Mention has before been made of the memorial cairns raised where a funeral has stopped.

2. *Antiquities.*—As has been before remarked, these are few in number. There are two old churches, one which is almost complete and is situated in a hollow just below the village of Trabane. It is a small building of uncertain date, and is reputed by tradition to have been built by one of the M'Donoghs. The other, which appears to be an older building, is situated in a very picturesque spot at Shanvalla. It is in a very ruinous condition, only the gable walls being left standing. It has a flat-topped doorway in the west gable, and a fine splayed window in the east one. This is the Oilither church, or *church of the pilgrims*, mentioned by O'Flaherty. In Lettermullen stands all that remains, only two very ruinous walls, of the old

castle mentioned in the "Annals of the Four Masters" as being the residence of Morogh M'Hugh in A. D. 1584. The only other building worth noting is the old tower on Golam Head to the S. W.-of Lettermullen.



Omther Church, Garumna.

VII.—HISTORY.

The earlier history of these islands is shrouded in obscurity. It was probably the same as that of the Islands of Aran.

This part of Ireland was anciently occupied by the Clann Humoir, a Damnonian or Firbolg people who held this territory until the third century, A.D. Connaught was in this century overrun and taken possession of by Milesian settlers, and indeed the province is said to have received the name *Connacht* from its being occupied by the "race of Conn," or the descendants of Eochy Moyvane, king, first of this province and then of Ireland, who himself was a descendant of Conn. One of the three branches of this race of Conn was the Hy Briuin, descendants of Brian, one of the sons of Eochy Moyvane. These took possession of the eastern part of the province of Connaught, and the O'Flahertys, one of their subdivisions, occupied the district of Magh Scola, now known as the barony of Clare, to the east of

Lough Corrib, and occupied Galway itself. At what period the O'Flahertys got possession of Iar Connaught is not certain, but it seems to have been somewhere about the tenth century. O'Donovan says that "the Shoyces or Joyces¹ settled in the district of Partry, west of Lough Mask, near the O'Flahertys, in the middle of the thirteenth century, although the O'Flahertys themselves had no jurisdiction there or anywhere west of Lough Corrib until after A.D. 1235." At this period, owing to the pooriness of the soil, Iar Connaught was probably very sparsely inhabited. In the thirteenth century the Anglo-Normans entered upon the scene. Their first appearance on the scene was when William Fitz Adhelme (De Burgo) led a mixed force of Irish and English into Iar Connaught. From that time forth they took advantage of local dissensions to acquire more and more power, until, in 1225, Hugh O'Flaherty, who had joined the sons of Roderick O'Connor against Hugh, King of Connaught, who was leagued with the English, was defeated and compelled to give up the islands in Lough Corrib to Hugh O'Connor, shortly after having been taken prisoner in Galway, where he had held out for a time. The O'Flahertys were then driven out of Moy Seola, and took possession of Iar Connaught, which henceforth became the seat of the tribe, and where they afterwards became as powerful as they had been in Moy Seola. It seems likely that the southern and sterile part of the district, including this group of islands, had been uninhabited, or almost so, before this time, the only people we get mention of in Iar Connaught being the O'Flahertys and the Joyces before referred to. There seems to have been no new element introduced into the population since then.

The "Annals of the Four Masters" record that Morogh M'Hugh lived in the Castle of Lettermullen in 1584, but nothing more. There are no M'Hughs on the islands now. Nothing more seems to be known of the islands until of late years. During the Famine the people had suffered very heavily, and at that time the first regular roads were traced out.

The islands have lately been brought into fuller communication with each other and the outer world by the building of the chain of causeways. These were built in the following order:—The causeway from Garumna to Lettermullen as a relief work in 1886. That from the mainland to Lettermore in 1891, and the final link in the chain, that from Lettermore to Garumna, in 1897.

¹ A Welsh Tribe.

VIII.—CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Very little remains to be said. It would seem that the population of these islands remains practically what it was generations ago, and that the bulk of it is made up of the descendants of the old tribes, the MacDonoghs, the O'Flahertys, and families such as the Lees and Conneelys, Tooles, Folans, and others which were adherents of the Clan O'Flaherty. The other surnames to be found there are mostly those of people who lived in adjacent territories, as the O'Maillis (now Malia) and O'Heynes (Hynes), &c., from neighbouring parts of Galway and Mayo, and the O'Loughlins and Vaughans from the opposite coast of Clare. It may thus be presumed that the people of these islands possess the characteristics of the ancient inhabitants of this Iar Connaght, their ancestors. It may be remarked that the people here are, on the average, taller, more dolichocephalic, and of lower nigrescence index (fairer-haired) than the inhabitants of any district yet surveyed. In cephalic index (76·9, 74·9) and the fairness of skin and hair, they resemble the Aran Islanders, but they are both taller and stouter than the latter.

Very hearty thanks are due to the Rev. E. A. Lavelle and his brother, to Messrs. P. M'Donogh, J.P., of Crappagh, P. Toole, J.P., of Lettermore, Dr. Connolly, Bealadangan, and Mr. P. Healy, National teacher, Lettermullen, for the great assistance they afforded in the work, for the valuable information received from them, and for the great kindness experienced from them all.

Very few books beyond official reports make any mention of these islands. Reference may be made to the Reports of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, the Census Returns, and the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Ireland. Mention has been already made of an article by Mr. E. Keogh, entitled, "In Garumna Island," which appeared in the *New Ireland Review*, June, 1898.

The Plates are from photographs taken in Garumna and Lettermullen by C. R. and J. M. Browne.

NOTE ADDED IN THE PRESS.

The term "red weed," used in the mention of kelp manufacture, means the brown *laminaria*, and not any of the really red seaweeds which are *not* used. "Black weed" is looked upon as an adulteration.

