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Contributors

Browne, Charles Robert.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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THE
ETHNOGRAPHY OF CLARE ISLAND AND
INISHTURK, CO. MAYO.

BY
CHARLES R. BROWNE, M.D.

A PAPER

Read before the ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY, June 28, 1897;

and

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THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF GLASSBORO AND TRINITY TOWN OF MAYO, BY CHARLES C. DUFFIN, M.A.

(First Issue, 1907.)

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1. Introduction.

The first of the local ethnographic surveys which are carried out annually as a part of the work of the Anthropological Institute of Trinity College, was made by my first assistant, the late Mr. John Duffin, at the request of the Board of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1907.

There were selected as the best of specimens for several reasons: as one of the strongest of the native Irish family, and one of the centers of influence, still inhabited by descendants of that stock; and as the population differed in origin both from that of the English and

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THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF CLARE ISLAND AND INISH-
TURK, CO. MAYO. BY CHARLES R. BROWNE, M.D.

[Read JUNE 28, 1897.]

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I.—INTRODUCTION.

The fifth of the local ethnographic surveys, which are carried out annually as a part of the work of the Anthropological Laboratory of Trinity College, was made by me last autumn, the localities chosen being the two islands at the mouth of Clew Bay, Clare Island, and Inishturk.

These were selected as the field of operations for several reasons, as one of the strongholds of the ancient clan O'Malley, and one of its centres of influence, still inhabited by descendants of that clan; and as the population differed in origin both from that of Erris proper, and

that of Ballycroy, and might be considered as fairly representative of the people of South Mayo, another reason influencing the decision was the recent acquisition of Clare Island by the Congested Districts Board, and the changes in customs and modes of life to be apprehended from the improvements introduced, so that it became imperative that this district should be surveyed at once, if it was ever to be successfully attempted at all. One of the principles observed in choosing a district for survey is, that localities in which any great change is likely to occur soon should be chosen in preference to those in which the condition of affairs is more settled. In this instance there was especial need of promptness, as the changes had already begun, and have by now advanced so far that much of what is said in this report relative to the dwellings and mode of life of the people is now a record of the past.

II.—PHYSIOGRAPHY.

The two islands dealt with in this report lie outside Clew Bay, at a distance of about 18 to 20 miles from Westport, and about 6 miles from Louisburg, the nearest post town. Clare Island is much the larger of the two, having an area of 3959 acres. Its greatest length is about 6 miles, and it varies in breadth from 1 mile to 3 miles. The coast line all round is high and rocky, except at one place, the bay above which the castle is situated, where there is a stretch of strand backed by a few sandhills. All the rest of the coast is so high and rugged that there are only two other landing places, and these would be of little use if not artificially improved. The cliffs on the east side are low, ranging from 20 to 100 feet above sea-level, and pierced by coves, natural bridges, and caves; but on the north and west they are bold and rugged, rising like a wall from the sea, and attaining at Knockmore, on the west side, an altitude of 1520 feet. The surface is much varied, rising in places into high hills, covered with a thin layer of peat; most of the western half of the island is thus composed of hill and moor, and is used as a commonage. The lower lying part of the island and the central valley are fertile; and it is here that the main part of the population centres. Altogether there are about 1000 acres of arable land; all the rest is moor and mountain. There are several small rivulets among the hills. The rock of the island is sandstone conglomerate at the east end, but elsewhere it is mainly slate.

Inishturk, which lies four miles and a-half to the south-west of Clare Island, is much smaller, its greatest length being $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and its breadth 1 mile. Its coast is very rugged and rocky, and there are

only two landing places, one at the village, where an artificial harbour has been made, the other in a little circular basin, shut off from the sea by a wall of high rock, and entered by a sinuous passage. The surface is high, and in places very rocky, but its lower parts are fertile, much more so, the natives say, than Clare Island. The remarks made as to the fauna, flora, and climate of Inishbofin apply also to Clare Island and Inishturk, except that the golden eagle still nests in Knockmore, and that there are no rabbits on Clare Island.

III.—ANTHROPOGRAPHY.

1. *Methods*.—The methods of observation, the instruments and the forms and nigrescence cards were all precisely the same as those made use of in former surveys, and described in previous reports, so they need not be further referred to here.

2. *Physical Characters*.

(A) *General characters*.—The people are on the whole of the same physical types as those of the portion of the Mayo coast which lies opposite to these islands, but there is more uniformity in their appearance as is usually the case in islands and isolated localities. The principal physical characters are as follows:—

Stature and bulk.—The men are, as a rule, slightly below the middle height and of rather slender build, though looking much stouter than they really are owing to the thickness of the clothing worn. There are but few of the men who can be termed tall (the greatest stature observed was 1800 mm.), and there is, as in Inishbofin, a considerable proportion of men of small stature. The average stature of the fifty-six men who were measured was 1696 mm., or 5 feet 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, considerably below the Irish mean stature.

The women are more even in stature than the men (apparently), and show the personal resemblance more strongly. With a few exceptions, they cannot be said to be above the average in good looks.

Limbs.—The hand is usually short and broad with square-tipped fingers. The forearm is rather long. The span of arms (*grande envergure*) was greater than the stature in every case observed.

Head.—The head is well formed and of large size. The cephalic index is usually mesaticephalic, though both brachycephaly and dolichocephaly are met with, the former preponderating. The mean cephalic index, when reduced to the cranial standard by the subtraction of two units is 77.4 (exactly the same as the mean of the people of the Mullet). Of the fifty-six persons measured, eight were

brachycephalic and two dolichocephalic. The extremes were 86·6 and 71·2. The cranial height is less than observed in any of the places yet surveyed (the mean vertical index being 63·0 as against 66·2 for Aran 69·2, for Inishbofin and Inishshark, 65·8 for the Mullet, Iniskea, and Portacloy, and 65·6 for Ballycroy.

The cranial curve is even, and there is, as a rule, no occipital projection, the line of the posterior region of the head being continuous with that of the neck. The forehead is broad and upright with well-marked frontal bosses. The glabella and superciliary ridges are of fair size.

Some asymmetrical and abnormal forms of head were met with, including one instance of acrocephaly in Inishturk.

Face.—The face is long, but looks much broader than it really is, owing to the great breadth in the bigonial region. The cheek-bones are prominent. The eyes are deeply set, and often have wrinkles round them, which appear to come rather early, they are placed rather wide apart. They have irides of a blue or light grey, seldom dark grey, or green, and less often dark.

The nose is straight or sinuous, sometimes *retroussé*, but seldom aquiline. It is rather broad in the nostrils, as a rule, the mean nasal index being 69·1; in some cases the nostrils are rounded in form, and visible from the front.

The mouth is large and has lips of medium thickness. The teeth seem to be as a rule sound and even. The angles of the jaws are rather marked. The chin is square and often prominent.

Several abnormalities of the external ear were met with out of the fifty-six men noted. The lobule was attached in thirteen, and absent in fourteen. In some the pinna was slightly flattened out, and in nine the Darwinian tubercle was present.

Skin.—The complexion is fair or ruddy, usually turning a bright red from exposure to the sun, but in a considerable number of cases freckling. As in the people of most of the western districts wrinkles come early.

Hair.—The hair is usually a clear brown; next in order of frequency of occurrence comes dark brown, then black, then fair, and lastly red. The hair is often wavy or curly, and is usually thick and abundant. The beard is of lighter colour than the hair of the scalp. The nigrescence index for the adults of both sexes is 43·35. This description, however, must be taken as a general one, as there are considerable differences observable, especially some between the inhabitants of the two islands which will be treated more fully in another section.

(B.) *Statistics of Hair and Eye Colours:—*ADULTS.—I. *Males.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	0	0	0	0	—
Fair, ..	5	1	0	6	8·10
Brown, ..	27	8	0	35	47·30
Dark, ..	19	7	0	26	35·14
Black, ..	3	4	0	7	9·46
Totals, ..	54	20	0	74	100·00
Percentage Eye Colours, }	72·97	27·03	0·00	100·0	—

Index of Nigrescence, . . 45·96.

ADULTS.—II. *Females.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	0	0	0	0	0·00
Fair, ..	2	2	0	4	12·50
Brown, ..	11	0	0	11	34·38
Dark, ..	13	2	1	16	50·00
Black, ..	1	0	1	1	3·12
Totals, ..	27	4	1	32	100·00
Percentage Eye Colours, }	84·38	12·50	3·12	100·00	—

Index of Nigrescence, . . . 40·74.

Combined Index (both sexes), . 43·35.

CHILDREN.—I. *Boys.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	1	0	0	1	2.44
Fair, ..	12	0	1	13	31.71
Brown, ..	21	0	0	21	51.22
Dark, ..	3	2	1	6	14.63
Black, ..	0	0	0	0	0.00
Totals, ..	37	2	2	41	100.00
Percentage Eye Colours, }	90.24	4.88	4.88	100.00	—

Index of Nigrescence, . . . 19.42.

CHILDREN.—II. *Girls.*

HAIR.	EYES.			Totals.	Percentage Hair Colours.
	Light.	Medium.	Dark.		
Red, ..	3	0	0	3	6
Fair, ..	10	0	0	10	20
Brown, ..	27	1	1	29	58
Dark, ..	2	1	5	8	16
Black, ..	0	0	0	0	0
Totals, ..	42	2	6	50	100.00
Percentage Eye Colours, }	84.0	4	12	100.00	—

Index of Nigrescence, 64.0.

(c) *Physical Proportions*.—The proportions borne to the main measurements to the stature (taken as 100) are of interest, as differing somewhat from those observed in other districts surveyed.

FACE.

The face is long in proportion to the stature, though less so than in any of the other localities reported on, the mean being 7·2, as against 7·3 for Ballycroy; 7·6 for the Aran Islands; 7·5 and 7·4 for the Mullet and Inishkea. The canon is 6·68. The extremes noted were 6·5 and 8·3.

Upper Face.—The mean is 4·6, as against 4·4 for Inishbofin; 4·3 for the Mullet; and 4·2 for Ballycroy, thus showing an exceptional length for this part of the face.

Nose.—This does not bear a very constant proportion to the stature, the extremes being 3·4 and 2·5. The mean is 2·9, less than observed in any of the other localities, the lowest of which (the Mullet) had a mean for this proportion of 3·1. The canon is 3·3.

SITTING HEIGHT.

The sitting height is, on the average, midway between that of the Mullet (51·3) and Ballycroy (53·1), the mean being 52·1. The extremes were 54·5 and 47·4, a wider range of variation than met with before.

UPPER LIMB.

Span.—The span stretch was in every case in excess of the stature, and in almost all the cases was exceptionally great. The average of the 56 men measured was 105·7, the same as for Ballycroy.

Hand.—The hand is short for the stature, the mean proportion being 11·2, with extremes of 12·2 and 10·6.

Forearm.—This section of the arm is long, as the mean proportion is 15·1, nearly the same as Ballycroy (15·3), the Aran Islands (15·1), and shorter than the average for the Mullet, &c. The extremes were 16·0 and 14·0.

CEPHALIC INDICES, CORRECTED FOR COMPARISON WITH SKULLS.

No.	Index.	Corrected Indices.	
21	86.6	}	8 Brachycephalic.
45	85.1		
15	84.7		
43	83.0		
41	82.8		
13	82.2		
22	82.0		
24	82.0		
2	81.9	}	25 Brachycephals.
28	81.8		
32	81.6		
47	81.5		
30	81.4		
10	80.9		
5	80.8		
6	80.8		
50	80.7		
3	80.6		
7	80.6		
8	80.4		
36	80.4		
1	80.3		
16	80.2		
34	80.2		
25	80.0		
26	79.7		39 Mesaticephalic.
29	79.6		
23	79.4		
40	79.2		
18	79.0		
37	79.0		
42	79.0		
14	78.9		
4	78.7		
39	78.7		
51	78.6		
53	78.6		
54	78.6		
33	78.4		
35	78.4		
46	78.4		29 Mesaticephals.
49	78.3		
27	78.2		
20	77.8		
44	77.6		
31	77.5		
38	77.3		
19	76.9		
12	76.0		
55	75.7	9	Dolichocephalic.
17	75.5		
56	75.5		
48	75.2		
52	75.2		
11	71.4	}	Dolichocephals.
9	71.2		

(D.) Detailed List of Measurements:—

No.	INDICES.					PROPORTIONS TO STATURE.—HEIGHT = 100.							
	Cephalic.	Height.	Facial.	Bigonial.	Alveolar.	Nasal.	Hand.	Forearm.	Span.	Height Sitting.	Face.	Upper Face.	Nose.
1	80.3	67.6	118.6	96.6	102.1	70.6	12.2	15.2	107.9	52.3	7.0	4.1	3.0
2	81.9	63.2	110.9	87.5	102.0	58.8	11.1	14.4	104.9	53.3	7.4	4.3	2.9
3	80.6	65.4	104.5	89.4	104.3	60.0	11.4	15.3	107.9	51.8	7.9	4.0	2.9
4	78.7	66.0	127.8	108.5	109.9	78.3	11.9	15.9	107.8	51.1	6.6	3.6	2.7
5	80.8	69.2	104.4	78.8	102.0	58.6	10.9	15.4	106.8	53.0	7.9	4.3	3.3
6	80.8	65.7	111.4	87.8	107.4	64.2	11.5	15.7	109.3	51.7	7.6	4.3	3.1
7	80.6	65.3	113.8	91.1	102.0	61.1	11.1	14.9	106.2	52.5	7.1	4.1	3.1
8	80.4	64.4	112.4	87.6	103.2	67.3	11.2	15.2	104.7	53.6	7.1	4.5	2.8
9	71.2	61.5	118.2	97.4	98.0	74.0	10.7	14.3	104.9	52.1	6.8	3.8	2.9
10	80.9	69.6	109.5	84.1	107.4	69.8	10.8	14.3	101.0	53.1	7.0	3.9	3.0
11	71.4	61.4	111.3	88.8	100.0	71.4	10.7	15.1	106.2	51.9	7.2	3.8	2.8
12	76.0	66.5	109.5	93.6	98.9	61.8	11.2	15.7	106.0	51.2	7.0	4.1	3.1
13	82.2	65.5	116.7	93.6	99.0	66.7	11.8	16.2	110.3	51.9	7.5	4.3	3.1
14	78.9	63.2	117.1	91.1	111.7	47.3	10.9	14.8	105.3	53.1	7.6	4.7	3.4
15	84.7	72.0	110.5	89.4	94.8	67.3	11.3	15.6	107.6	53.4	7.2	4.1	3.0
16	80.2	64.1	118.6	93.2	101.1	73.5	10.8	15.6	105.3	54.3	7.1	3.9	2.9
17	75.5	66.3	113.8	91.1	107.5	82.2	10.8	14.6	101.1	53.4	7.3	4.2	2.7
18	79.0	65.6	120.0	97.4	101.0	95.4	11.3	14.0	107.2	52.7	7.0	4.1	2.6
19	76.9	62.5	119.7	95.1	100.0	63.6	10.9	15.0	105.4	54.3	7.0	3.9	3.2
20	77.8	61.0	119.7	88.5	104.3	67.3	11.8	15.6	103.9	52.5	7.0	3.7	2.8
21	86.6	69.0	109.8	84.1	100.0	55.3	11.4	16.9	108.1	49.2	7.3	4.2	3.1
22	82.0	68.0	116.8	97.6	101.0	69.4	11.4	14.8	107.0	52.4	7.2	4.0	2.8
23	79.4	64.4	128.5	107.1	103.3	78.6	11.6	15.5	107.5	52.3	7.2	3.9	2.6
24	82.0	69.6	108.5	83.7	98.9	70.8	11.3	15.5	105.6	50.3	7.6	4.2	2.8

24	82.0	69.6	108.6	83.7	98.9	70.8	11.2	15.2	102.5	51.4	7.8	4.0	3.1
25	80.0	62.5	111.1	84.4	99.1	72.2	11.4	14.3	107.5	51.4	7.8	4.0	3.1
26	79.7	66.7	123.1	107.0	103.2	72.9	10.7	15.9	103.8	52.0	6.8	3.7	2.8
27	78.2	62.9	112.0	86.4	102.1	74.5	11.2	15.5	108.3	51.2	7.5	4.3	2.8
28	81.8	65.7	112.1	86.4	101.9	56.1	11.7	14.8	108.0	51.2	6.9	4.4	3.2
29	79.6	65.3	113.5	86.4	103.1	75.6	11.3	14.3	103.3	54.3	7.1	4.1	2.7
30	81.4	67.0	123.5	95.7	98.9	72.1	11.4	15.9	107.5	47.4	6.5	3.7	2.4
31	77.5	63.7	113.1	90.2	100.0	67.3	11.5	15.5	105.3	52.8	7.3	4.1	2.9
32	81.6	67.9	122.0	94.9	101.0	74.5	11.1	14.8	107.2	52.2	7.3	3.7	2.9
33	78.4	61.9	119.0	94.2	102.0	70.8	11.3	15.6	107.6	51.2	7.0	4.0	2.8
34	80.2	65.1	117.0	94.9	104.3	63.8	10.6	14.9	105.2	51.3	6.9	3.7	2.8
35	78.4	62.9	116.5	95.7	101.1	73.9	10.7	15.8	104.4	52.5	7.3	4.1	2.9
36	80.4	64.9	107.8	81.2	107.5	73.1	12.1	15.2	102.4	52.7	7.8	4.5	3.2
37	79.0	68.0	126.3	74.7	99.0	72.9	11.7	15.3	105.1	53.1	7.1	3.4	2.9
38	77.3	61.9	113.6	91.2	105.3	65.4	10.7	15.3	104.7	52.2	7.2	4.3	3.0
39	78.7	67.6	117.0	96.2	101.1	78.6	10.8	14.7	102.7	54.2	6.5	3.5	2.6
40	79.2	62.5	113.1	88.5	104.4	62.0	11.7	15.6	107.5	51.8	7.6	4.2	3.1
41	82.8	67.2	130.0	109.0	106.4	86.0	10.6	14.6	104.6	52.9	6.9	4.0	2.7
42	79.0	69.5	121.1	96.5	100.0	82.9	11.4	15.0	106.5	54.5	7.0	3.2	2.5
43	83.0	66.0	118.6	93.2	93.8	62.7	11.2	14.5	105.6	53.1	6.9	3.8	3.0
44	77.6	60.7	109.7	90.3	105.0	70.0	11.4	15.0	102.0	51.6	7.8	4.4	3.1
45	85.1	67.6	103.0	80.0	101.1	61.8	11.3	14.4	106.1	51.4	8.3	4.6	3.2
46	78.4	64.2	111.1	87.3	101.1	68.8	11.2	15.6	106.4	51.7	7.4	4.0	2.8
47	81.5	61.2	122.5	88.7	107.1	72.3	10.6	15.1	108.6	52.9	7.3	3.9	2.8
48	75.2	63.9	103.0	80.6	101.0	58.2	10.6	14.4	102.9	52.9	7.5	4.3	3.1
49	78.3	63.9	115.3	88.7	100.0	69.8	11.2	14.7	102.9	50.6	7.0	3.9	2.9
50	80.7	60.6	112.8	85.7	101.0	65.0	11.6	15.7	104.8	52.3	7.7	4.3	3.5
51	78.6	60.7	123.7	93.2	101.0	69.2	11.0	14.1	103.5	54.3	7.2	3.9	3.2
52	75.2	64.9	130.9	102.7	99.0	62.3	12.1	16.0	111.6	50.8	6.9	4.6	3.3
53	78.6	58.2	114.4	98.5	104.3	69.2	11.3	15.3	106.4	50.9	7.4	4.1	2.9
54	78.6	60.6	108.4	87.0	97.9	80.8	11.2	15.3	108.1	47.8	7.6	4.0	2.7
55	75.7	64.1	123.2	103.6	99.0	68.8	11.1	15.2	105.1	53.1	6.7	3.9	2.8
56	75.5	62.3	108.1	91.9	94.7	75.5	10.8	15.4	106.2	50.7	7.0	3.9	2.8
Mean,	79.4	63.0	115.1	91.2	101.9	67.6	11.2	15.1	105.7	52.1	7.2	4.6	2.9

No.	Name.	Age.	Locality of		Eye Colour.	Hair Colour.	Skin.	Nose profile.	Ears.
			Father's people.	Mother's people.					
29	Malley, Edward,	19	Clare I.	Clare I.	dark-grey	dark	pale	straight	Outstanding, lobes absent
30	Malley, Thomas,	19	"	"	dark-grey	brown	pale	straight	Flat
31	Moran, James,	20	"	Louisburg	green	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat, lobes absent
32	Burns, John,	35	"	Clare I.	blue	dark	pale	straight	Flat
33	Malley, Michael,	22	"	"	light-grey	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding
34	Malley, Edward,	19	"	"	light-grey	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat
35	Malley, Thomas,	21	"	"	green	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding, lobes attached
36	Toole, Patrick,	53	"	"	blue	brown	pale	straight	Flat
37	Scuffle, Peter,	40	"	"	light-grey	dark	pale	straight	Outstanding,* lobes attached
38	O'Malley, Edwd.,	52	"	"	light-grey	fair	pale	straight	Flat, lobes attached
39	Toole, Patrick,	24	" †	"	green	brown	ruddy	straight	Flat
40	Moran, Michael,	20	"	"	blue	dark	pale	straight	Flat, lobes absent
41	Burns, James,	32	"	"	blue	dark	pale	straight	Flat
42	Cannon, Michael,	19	"	"	dark-grey	fair-brown	pale	upturned	Outstanding, lobes absent
43	Toole, Patrick,	19	"	"	light-grey	black	pale, freckled	straight	Flat, lobes attached
44	Flynn, Michael,	27	"	"	blue	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding
45	Grady, Austin,	60	"	"	blue	dark	ruddy	acquiline, No. 4	Flat ‡
46	Toole, Austin,	24	Inishturk	Inishturk	dark-grey	dark	pale	straight	Flat
47	Toole, John,	35	"	"	blue	brown	pale	straight	Flat
48	Toole, Patrick,	53	"	Castlebar	green	black	ruddy	straight	Outstanding, lobes absent
49	Toole, Austin,	39	"	Clare I.	dark-grey	black	pale	sinuous	Outstanding ‡
50	Toole, Peter,	41	"	"	blue	black	pale	slightly acquiline	Flat, Darwinian tubercle
51	Toole, Timothy,	44	"	Inishturk	green	dark	pale	slightly acquiline	Flat
52	Faherty, John,	52	"	"	dark-grey	black	pale	straight	Flat §
53	Toole, Patrick,	30	"	"	—	—	—	—	Darwinian tubercle
54	Toole, Patrick,	63	"	"	light-grey	dark	pale	straight	Outstanding
55	Flaherty, Michl.,	20	"	"	light-grey	brown	ruddy	slightly acquiline	Outstanding
56	Toole, Peter,	24	"	"	dark-grey	brown	pale	straight	Outstanding, lobes attached

* Darwinian tubercle.

† Originally Inishturk.

‡ Darwinian tubercle present.

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.
196	156	118	68	134	102	45	34	29	128	93	101	1660	902	1714	188	238
194	158	115	65	142	110	43	31	31	130	93	92	1778	842	1912	202	284
204	158	122	68	138	110	49	33	33	130	93	93	1677	886	1766	193	260
196	160	118	63	144	112	47	35	31	133	97	98	1625	850	1743	180	240
194	152	121	70	144	114	48	34	33	120	100	102	1722	882	1853	195	270
192	154	118	63	138	112	47	30	33	125	94	98	1695	870	1793	180	253
194	152	115	65	134	110	46	34	37	122	94	95	1580	830	1650	170	250
194	156	128	75	138	104	52	38	34	126	93	100	1650	870	1690	200	250
200	158	114	55	144	108	48	35	32	136	96	95	1602	850	1685	187	245
194	150	125	75	142	114	52	34	33	120	95	100	1735	905	1827	195	265
188	148	106	57	134	102	42	33	33	127	90	91	1629	883	1673	176	240
192	152	122	68	138	108	50	31	29	120	90	94	1605	832	1727	187	250
186	154	110	64	143	120	43	37	28	125	94	100	1604	850	1677	170	234
200	158	114	52	138	110	41	34	35	139	98	98	1625	885	1731	185	244
194	161	118	66	140	110	51	32	32	128	96	90	1720	913	1816	193	250
201	156	124	71	136	112	50	35	31	122	100	105	1600	826	1632	182	240
188	160	140	78	144	112	55	34	34	127	95	96	1683	865	1785	190	243
204	160	126	68	140	110	48	33	33	131	92	93	1703	880	1812	190	266
206	168	124	65	152	110	47	34	33	126	85	91	1695	896	1840	180	256
202	152	134	78	138	108	55	32	32	129	100	101	1798	952	1850	190	260
208	163	124	70	143	110	53	37	31	133	100	100	1778	900	1830	200	262
208	168	133	74	150	114	60	39	33	136	100	101	1720	900	1803	200	270
206	162	118	64	146	110	52	36	33	125	101	102	1640	897	1697	180	231
202	152	113	75	148	116	53	33	33	131	97	96	1624	842	1812	197	260
206	162	132	71	151	120	52	36	33	120	92	96	1768	900	1882	200	272
206	162	131	70	142	114	47	38	33	125	97	95	1733	830	1873	195	270
206	156	112	66	138	116	48	33	33	132	98	97	1665	885	1750	185	255
204	154	124	69	134	114	49	37	31	127	95	90	1757	890	1685	190	270

‡ Darwinian tubercle in right.

|| Darwinian tubercle in one ear.

(E) *Analysis of Statistical Tables.*—A belief appears to prevail that the people of Inishturk are darker haired and taller than the people of Clare Island, and the observations taken in this survey seem to indicate the correctness of this opinion. The differences are shown in the following table :—

—	Clare Island.	Inishturk.
Number observed,	45	11
Cephalic Index,	79·7	77·9
Altitudinal Index,	65·4	62·2
Mean Stature,	1693	1716
Proportion to Stature—Span, . .	(5 ft. 6½ in.) 105·5	(5 ft. 7½ in.) 106·4
„ „ „ Hand, .	11·2	11·2
„ „ „ Forearm, .	15·1	15·2
Nigrescence Index,	31·6	72·1

From this table it will be seen that the Inishturk men are not only taller, but they have also a longer head, as shown by the lower cephalic index. The proportions borne to the stature by hands and forearms being the same in both, and yet the span-stretch in the mean of Inishturk being greater than that of the Clare Islanders, seems to indicate either that the upper arms are longer, or, what seems more likely, from the appearance of the men, that they are broader across the shoulders. Five out of the nine instances of Darwinian tubercle observed were in Inishturk men.

3. VITAL STATISTICS (GENERAL AND ECONOMIC).

(A) *Population.*—The population of these islands, like that of all the others on the west coast, and indeed like that of Ireland in general, is steadily decreasing. The cause of this decrease has been the usual one, emigration. The population of the two islands was, in 1891, 702. In 1831 it was 1616.

Between the years 1851 and 1871 the population of Clare Island had decreased from 745 to 494, and that of Inishturk from 202 to 127. Since then the population of Clare Island has fluctuated,

varying between 621 and 557, while that of Inishturk has increased slightly from 127 to 145.

Census.	Population.	Houses.	Inhabitants. per house.	Acres per head.
1851	947	213	4.40	5.89
1861	856	172	4.98	6.50
1871	621	121	5.13	8.98
1881	753	151	4.32	7.47
1891	702	128	5.48	7.95

The density of population is thus seen to be about 81 to the square mile.

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

Islands.	Area.	POPULATION.			Houses.	Outbuild- ings and Farm- steadings.
		Persons.	Males.	Females.		
Clare Island,	3959	557	302	255	100	80
Inishturk, . .	1620	145	78	67	28	45
Totals, . . .	5579	702	380	322	128	125

From this table it will be seen that the males exceed the females by 58.

(B) *Acreage and Rental.*—The total area of Clare Island is 3959 acres, and that of Inishturk is 1620 acres. The Poor Law valuation of Clare Island is £507 18s., and that of Inishturk is £106 2s.

Three-quarters of Clare Island and a large part of Inishturk are commonage and mountain grazing.

The rental of Clare Island before it passed into the hands of the Congested Districts Board is said to have been about £580. The holdings were small and badly fenced, as stated in another section. It is hard to state the size of the average farm, the system of holding

in co-partnership (about as bad a mode as the mind of man could devise), making it hard to say how much each man held, but the average size of the cultivated land on each holding was probably about 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

The arable land has now been divided up into definite holdings, fenced, and sold to the people by the Congested Districts Board.

(c.) *Language and Illiteracy*.—I regret to be unable to record the number of Irish-speaking persons in the population; they are all practically bilingual, and do not, they say themselves, speak Irish well now. It was noticeable during this visit that the people were not observed speaking Irish among themselves, the way they did in Inishbofin and Inishark and other places. Several of the older inhabitants informed me that they all knew Irish, but spoke it so badly that they always felt ashamed in speaking it to the people from Achill. The younger generation growing up hardly knows more than a few words and phrases. It is to be regretted that the census returns only give the figures as to Irish-speaking peoples by baronies.

Illiteracy.—The return for this is given by parishes. In the parish of Kilgeever, which includes both these islands, there were in 1891 4847 persons, of whom 1413, or 29·2 per cent., were illiterate.

Population.	Persons.	Male.	Female.
5 years old and upwards,	4847	2504	2343
Number illiterate, .	1413	661	752
Percentage, . .	29·2	26·4	32·1

The rate of illiteracy on the islands is not high, as most of the men met with were able to read and write.

There are two National schools on Clare Island, and one in Inish-turk.

(D.) *Health*.—It was found to be very difficult to obtain reliable information on this part of the subject, but there was universal agreement among my informants that the people on the whole are very strong and healthy, and that the diseases from which they suffer are mainly those due to their mode of life and occupations, their food, and most of all to the unsanitary condition of their dwellings, described in another section.

Consanguineous Marriages seem to be of very frequent occurrence on both islands, as might be expected in an insular population; but

beyond the family likeness or fixation of type observable among the people, there seems to be little or no perceptible result. The inhabitants of Clare Island frequently intermarry with those of Inishturk, but unions with people from Achill seem to be of rare occurrence.

Diseases.—As before observed, considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining reliable information on the prevailing complaints; but the following, based partly on personal observation, partly on information received from trustworthy sources, is believed to be correct so far as it goes:—

Insanity.—Two cases known within the past few years (the exact period could not be ascertained).

Idiocy and Imbecility.—None.

Epilepsy is not common, but two cases are known to exist, both mild.

Deaf-mutism.—There are no deaf-mutes on either island, nor could I find that there ever had been any within the memory of any of the inhabitants.

Congenital Blindness and Malformations.—There are no cases of congenital malformations or blindness on either of the islands.

Fevers are stated to be of common occurrence, though not so much so as formerly. Typhus and enteric fever are the most common visitants. With new and improved habitations for the people these scourges ought in future to be of much less frequent occurrence.

Phthisis and "Struma" are said to be unknown on the islands; they certainly are not common.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia are not very common.

Rheumatism, especially lumbago, is one of the most common complaints. A man gathering seaweed or otherwise wet through will simply dry himself before the fire, or let the soaked garments remain on him as they are. Acute rheumatism is said to be unknown here, as on several of the islands visited in other surveys.

Dietetic Diseases.—As might be expected from the nature of the dietary, various forms of dyspepsia are commonly met with. The constant use of very strong tea at most meals is blamed by the older people for much of this, and, no doubt, with considerable justice. As fish forms so large a portion of the daily food, ento-parasites, as might be expected, are a common cause of complaint.

"Gravel" is said to be a very common affection.

Local Affections are few, and not very serious. Skin diseases are the most common of these; those most often suffered from are sea-boils, eczema, acne, and scabies.

Accidents, due to the nature of the occupations pursued by the people, are, as might be expected, pretty numerous, but are seldom very serious.

(E.) *Longevity*.—A good proportion of the inhabitants of these islands seem to attain to a considerable age. There are several very old people on Clare Island, and at the time of my visit there was a man of 100 years of age living in Inishturk. He was very active for so old a man, and in full possession of his faculties.

4. *Psychology*.—This is perhaps the most difficult part of the subject to treat in a report such as this. A stranger and a visitor to the islands can only get a very slight glimpse of the people's character, and naturally the best side is the one which is most likely to be shown him. For other things he has to depend on local informants, and local prejudices are apt to influence these; so the recorder has to sift and weigh carefully before accepting all he hears.

To the casual visitor the people are decidedly attractive. Like all dwellers in out-of-the-way places, they are somewhat shy of and suspicious of strangers at first; but after the crust is broken they are kind, obliging, and communicative. With each other they are rather social, and given to joking and laughing, and they seem to have a rather keen sense of the ludicrous.

They are very excitable, and said to be somewhat quarrelsome at times. The island used formerly have rather a name for outrages, but none of these seem to have been very serious, and they were most likely largely the outcome of this excitable disposition, and to the nature of the social surroundings of the time. They are decidedly talkative, especially among themselves. Drunkenness may be said to be unknown. They are very kindly to one another in times of trouble or distress.

The charge of laziness has been brought against them, and with some degree of justification; but the manner in which they worked when organised by the Congested Districts Board, and when they had some real inducement to do so, leads one to think that they did not work on account of having no real interest in doing so.

5. *Folk-names*.—The following list, kindly supplied to me by Sergeant M'Golderick, R.I.C., comprises all the surnames now to be met with on the islands except those of the police and lighthouse-keepers.

Surnames of Clare Island.

Surname.	Number of Families.	Surname.	Number of Families.
Barrett,	3	Lavelle, ¹	1
Burke,	1	Malley,	32
Burns,	5	Mac Namara, ..	2
Byrne,	1	M'Donagh, ..	1
Cannon, ¹	2	M'Hale,	1
Fergus,	1	Moran,	6
Flanagan,	1	Murray,	4
Flynn,	3	Ruddy,	3
Gallagher, ²	2	Salmon,	2
Gibbons,	1	Scuffle, ¹	2
Gordon,	1	Toole,	5
Grady,	8	Winters,	4
Hestor,	1		

The surnames on Inishturk are Toole (the most common), Malley, and Faherty.

As will be observed Malley is still the most common surname in Clare Island. In 1821 there were sixty-seven families of that name thereon.

The great majority of the names are those of families or clans anciently belonging to the territory of Hy Fiachrach in which these islands were included.

Barrett and Burke are, of course, Welsh or Anglo-Norman, and date from the thirteenth century.

Two names, Salmon and Winters, appear to be English; but the latter may probably be the Anglicised form of some Irish name which I have not been able to trace.

¹ The names marked thus, are common in Inishbofin, and probably came from there, Scuffle certainly did so.

² Gallagher is one of the Ulster names which came into this part of Connaught in the 17th century.

The following list gives the surnames which appear to have been in the district anciently, most of them are considerably altered, and are given in both their ancient and their modern forms.

Modern.	Ancient.
Burns,	Mac Conboirne,
Byrne,	O'Birn.
Cannon,	M'Coinin.
Flynn,	O'Floinn.
Flanagan,	Mac Flannagain.
Lavelle,	O'Maolfabhaill.
McHale,	Mac Cele.
Malley,	O'Maille.
Moran,	O'Moran.
Murray,	O'Muireadhaigh.
Ruddy,	O'Broduibh.
Toole,	O'Tuathal.

IV. SOCIOLOGY.

1. *Occupations*.—Though living on islands, but few of the men are fishermen by occupation, and those few sell the fish to the others. All are farmers to a greater or less extent, and some few have hardly ever been out of the islands.

The farms or holdings are of very small size, but have (or had, for the state of things described here is now a matter of history) unlimited right of grazing over the greater part of the islands.

The methods of farming are of the most primitive description, and no attempts at improvement seem ever to have been made until the Congested Districts Board took over Clare Island. The holdings were not properly fenced, many of them having their boundaries only indicated by land-marks. As soon as the crops were removed the land all became a common, and remained so during the winter; while the crops were down the sheep and cattle of the neighbours had to be kept away from them by some of the family being constantly on the watch with dogs to drive them away, and send them back to the mountain grazing again. There was thus no inducement to improve, as whatever change for the better was made was sure to be undone again. Another obstacle to improvement was the system of co-tenancy in which families had only a part share in a farm. The right of grazing on the mountains (two-thirds of the area of the islands) was unlimited, the result of which was that a man paying a very small rent might

really be a richer man and larger cattle holder than one paying a larger rental.

There are no ploughs or harrows on the islands, all the tillage being spade work. The manures consist of seaweed and farm-yard manure.

An average family has a couple of pigs, a cow or two, a number of fowl, geese, or ducks, and a donkey, or horse; most families keep a brood mare. The fuel used is turf, much of it "scraw" turf raised off the surface of the land which has been completely ruined in some places by this custom. There are no regular bogs, but in some of the hollows among the hills there are small areas in which the peat is from two to four feet in depth. A good deal of kelp is made, for which the people get about £4 per ton. Other occupations are few; there are very few tradesmen on the islands; two weavers make a little frieze and coarse flannel for use on the islands; the other tradesmen are one blacksmith, one carpenter, and two sawyers.

The women attend to the ordinary household work, cooking, spinning, carding, &c.; they also rear fowls and geese which they sell at Westport, and export eggs in considerable quantities. The fish caught is eaten fresh in summer, and salted roughly and dried in the sun on roofs and walls for winter use.

2. *Family Life and Customs.*—The general characters of family life are much the same as those of the other islands (Bofin and Shark) to the south of them, and the description of the life there practically answers for Clare Island and Inishturk also.

Marriages are not a matter of romance as a rule, but are arranged by the parents and relatives of the young people. Some of the wedding customs are curious; the night before a wedding the bridegroom and friends go to the bride's father's house; when they arrive, four bottles are placed on the table, one at each corner, and the parties are treated by some responsible person at each corner. Feasting and story-telling are kept up until morning when all go to the chapel together for the ceremony; after which the bride is taken to the husband's house where feasting is kept up as before the next night.

On the occasion of a death, windows and doors are opened, and it is not considered right for any one to weep until the death actually occurs. Wakes are still held, but they are shorn of many of their old observances. As in Bofin and elsewhere, the grave is not dug until the coffin reaches the graveyard. Two funerals starting together, if there should be such an occurrence as two on the same day, would have a race for the cemetery, for the belief still lingers that the spirit of the person last buried has to sit and watch until the next funeral.

Unbaptized infants are buried in killeens or burial grounds by themselves.

The funeral customs are the same as described in Bofin except that the belief about the ill luck in giving the wood out of the house for the coffin does not prevail here. Tobacco is served out to those present at a funeral, and the unused pipes are placed on the grave as in Ballycroy.

3. *Food*.—The people take three meals in the day; many families take strong tea at each; the dietary consists of tea, flour-bread, potatoes, eggs, and fish (fresh or salted according to season). Indian meal stirabout is eaten when the potatoes are exhausted.

Clothing.—The work-day clothing is mostly home-spun; stockings and flannels are all home manufacture, and of rather coarse quality. Some native dyes such as lichen and purple loose-strife are in use occasionally. The men are clothed very thickly, wearing layer upon layer of thick heavy homespun flannel, which makes them appear much stouter than they really are.

Most of the women's clothing, and the men's best attire, is imported.

Dwellings.—The houses are much the same as those of Inishbofin, but poorer, usually containing only two apartments, the kitchen and the room. Owing to the absence of lime on the islands, the houses are built of dry stone, and plastered inside; many are now being whitewashed. Many of these houses are very old; I have been in one stated by the inhabitants to be over two hundred years standing. The houses are thatched with sougan thatch over scraws as described in the report on Bofin.

The end of the kitchen farthest from the fire is used as in the other islands as a sort of pen for cattle and pigs at night; it is paved, and has a small channel running out to drain away moisture. At the time of my visit there were only five or six houses on Clare Island, into which the cattle and pigs were not taken every night. The general style of the interior is the same as that of the houses in Bofin or Ballycroy, except that in one wall of the kitchen there is a recess called the *cailliogh*, which contains a bed which can be curtained off from the room. The furniture is scanty, consisting in the kitchen of a table or two, a few stools, a dresser, covered with coarse earthenware, a bench, and a spinning-wheel.

Above the "couples" at the stable end of the kitchen is a sort of loft in which implements, dried fish, &c., are stored. The domestic utensils are the usual three-legged pot, a griddle, a big chest, some

piggins, or wooden vessels (now being replaced in Clare Island by imported articles), a *boran*, spinning-wheel, &c.

The "room" is sometimes boarded, and is scantily furnished, a couple of tent beds and chair or two, a chest, a table, a couple of cheap religious pictures (perhaps), and an article of furniture known as the milk chest: it is mounted on four legs, and has a tightly fitting lid. It is used for containing the milk vessels. The sanitary condition of the houses is bad, owing to the absence of proper ventilation, the presence of the cattle and fowl in the houses at night, and the proximity (frequently) of stagnant pools and muck heaps to the doors of the dwellings.

Transport.—The modes of transport on land are very simple, the only two methods of conveying turf, sea weed, fish, or potatoes, being in baskets on the backs of the people themselves, or in panniers slung over the back of a horse or donkey. Stones for building are carried in rough wooden frames of a V-shape known as stone-cleaves.

There are about eighty horses on Clare Island; the number in Inishturk could not be ascertained.

The roads are pretty good, considering that there is no wheel traffic over them.

For conveyance by water as well as for fishing there are boats, twenty-seven of which are sometimes used for fishing; five of these are pookhauns, two hookers, one of which belongs to Inishturk; there are about a dozen curraghs.

V.—FOLK-LORE.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining much information on the many curious and interesting beliefs and customs still persisting in these islands, but the following items were collected, thanks mainly to Mrs. C. Kelly, Sergeant M'Golderie, R.I.C., and Mr. Edward O'Malley, of Clare Island. Some other information was gathered from the people of Inishturk. The information which I was able to obtain relates mainly to minor folk-lore.

1. *Customs and Beliefs.*—Reference has already been made to funeral and wedding customs. There are customs and beliefs relating to certain days, most of which are the same as those observed and reported on in Inishbofin, &c. The people will not give fire out of the house on May Day lest all good luck might go with it. On St. John's Eve bonfires are lighted, round which the people circle seven times in the name of the Trinity, bowing towards the fire each time.

Coals from this fire are taken home or thrown into the potato fields for luck.

As might be expected a good many things are supposed to bring misfortune or ill-luck, and some curious methods are employed for averting it. If the fishermen in one boat have to obtain bait from those in another, they always exchange by return of a ballast stone or something similar, lest they might take the luck away with them.

There is full belief in the "bad eye," and "overlooking" among the older people.

It is thought to be unlucky to meet a red-haired woman first thing on starting out to work or on a journey.

Nothing must ever be taken away from Caher Island, but all visitors must leave something, a button, fish-hook, coin or something of the sort, in the curious old stone bowl in the ruined church there. It is allowable, however, to take away the clay or gravel from this island, as it is believed that no rat can live on the island or in a house into which this clay is brought.

In his letters to the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, Dr. John O'Donovan mentions that, in his time, the boatmen when passing Caher Island used always to take off their hats and say, *umluígmio do dhia mór na n-uile éumácta agur do páoruis míorbúisteach*, i.e. "We bow, submit, or make reverence to the great God of all powers, and to the thaumaturgus Patrick."

Blacksmiths are believed to possess some magical powers, especially powers of cursing. The strongest and most fearful curses can be brought about by the ceremony of "turning the anvil." Another curse is brought about by boring a hole in a coin on the anvil. Whoever wishes to curse in this manner must first undergo a fast for several days, and then must make the hole in the coin in *the name of the devil*, giving utterance at the same time to the evil wished to the person cursed. These ceremonies, however, are looked upon with horror as acts of extreme wickedness.

Ghosts are believed in by many. The belief in fairies, too, is common, and several men are reported to have seen them. One man (John Neddy) claimed to have seen about a hundred of them, clad in white, running on the side of the mountain in the spring of 1896. The legend as to their origin is that found throughout Ireland, that they are fallen angels, condemned to wander the earth until the day of judgment. They are mischievous in disposition, and are believed to damage people and cattle. They carry off or change children, and a tale is told of their having once attempted to steal a child which

was rescued from some people passing. As a protection against them a red cord is tied around the wrist of a parturient woman, also round the infant's wrist when born. Cattle having their tails cut or the hairs taken off are thought to have been injured by the fairies. Fairy boats are said to have been seen at Inishturk; and at Clare Island a fairy or phantom ship is reported to have been observed some months ago passing over the land, and lights at sea have been seen to which supernatural origin was ascribed. There are also beliefs about seals which, as in Bofin, are thought to be enchanted people, and which, like the fairies, are credited with having once stolen a girl from Clare Island. It is believed that if any one shoots a seal, the weather will be wet or stormy for the two days following.

2. *Leechcraft and Charms.*—The belief in the efficacy of charms for certain complaints is common; for others, local herb remedies are much used. Some old people have a charm for the aid of women in labour, which they repeat; and they claim that, when they reach a certain point in the repetition of the formula, they know whether the case is going to turn out well or ill.

"Head-measuring," as described in the report on the Mullet district is practised for the cure of headache. For "the rose" (erysipelas) anointing with butter is practised, as described in the report referred to above. There is a woman on Clare Island who gives herbs for coughs and for "the evil"; in the latter case a decoction of nine herbs (boiled in milk) has to be taken before sunrise every day for fifteen days.

All coughs are supposed to be due to pleurisy, and for this the usual remedy is bleeding from the foot. A syrup made with sugar, vinegar, broom-tops, and the roots of nettles is used as an expectorant. A poultice of mashed ferns is applied to burns. A decoction of wild geranium is employed for the cure of cases of "gravel."

Cattle becoming ill are treated by boring the ear, and inserting a thong of goatskin. Should the complaint be worms, the treatment is the old and well-known charm of tying the worm-knot.

In his report to the Ordnance Survey, Dr. O'Donovan says, with respect to Caher Island, 1839:—"Caher.—Any woman or child suffering from epilepsy or 'falling sickness,' would be immediately and *for ever* cured of it after sleeping for a few minutes in the little church of Teampull Phadruig, but more especially on St. Patrick's Bed outside, and some say on any part of the island."

3.—*Legends and Traditions.*—There appears to be a rather large stock of old legends and tales still surviving the shocks of modern

innovations on the islands; but, owing to the reticence of the people on the subject, it was found difficult to get even the mention of many of them. A few, however, were obtained, and are given here.

The dun or fort in Inishturk is said by the inhabitants of the island to have been built by pirates, whose boats or galleys used to lie in the little circular basin below it, screened by the high rocks of its narrow and crooked entrance from observation from the sea. These pirates were the last men in Ireland who possessed the secret of making beer from heather tops. The fort was surprised and taken by enemies, who slew all the pirates except two—the chief and his son—to whom they promised life if they would reveal the secret of how to make heather beer. The old man promised to reveal the secret if his son were first killed; this the captors did at once, and then the father broke from his enemies and threw himself over the cliff into the sea, taking his secret with him.¹ It is also said that a few years ago a man digging in the old fort found a pot of gold coins, with which he went off to America. Both these stories were obtained from a very old man in Inishturk.

On Caher Island is a large stone, which lies on the altar of the ruined church, which tradition says was once thrown at St. Patrick by a "bad friend" of his; and he not being able to avoid it, and in imminent danger of being brained by it, made the sign of the cross between him and it, when the stone at once fell harmlessly to the ground.² A sea captain once took away this stone from the island, but met with such bad weather that he could not get away from the neighbourhood until he restored it (E. O'Malley).

In spite of the improvements being introduced by the Congested Districts Board, there are some old folk who take a pessimistic view of the future of Clare Island. They say "it may all do for a time, but cannot succeed for long"; and allege, as the reason, that the island is under a curse. The tradition about this is, that once on a time long ago the shore of the one little sandy bay on the island stretched out further than it does now, and that a weaver's cottage stood just above the spot where now a large rock juts out from the middle of the strand. A boat one day came ashore at this spot from a wrecked ship, and a man stepped out from it. The weaver saw the

¹ A variant of this story is that the secret concerned the treasure which the pirates had concealed.

² It is doubtful whether the stone mentioned in this story is the large piece of conglomerate known as *leac na naomh* which lies on the altar in the church, or, another stone, a rounded piece of pumice, which is also there.

stranger, and snatching up a cudgel ran out to question him as to who he was and what he did there; but the stranger, being a foreigner, could neither make himself understood nor understand what was said to him. This enraged the weaver, who struck him on the head and killed him on the spot. Now this stranger was the Pope's brother (another version says the brother of the Emperor of Rome), and by some means or other the Pope got to know that his brother, when seeking hospitality, had been murdered on an island far away, so he laid a curse on that island for all time (E. O'M.).

There are several legends about Grace O'Malley; but the only one which could be got in its entirety seems to have been the skeleton on which Maxwell built his novel the "Dark Lady of Doona," as it agrees in most points with the plot of that story.

According to the tradition there was an early romance in Grace O'Malley's life prior to the matrimonial adventures recorded of her in the histories. When she was a girl a young man was cast ashore from a wreck and rescued by Grace, with whom after a time he fell in love. The young couple were married by a priest on the island, at the altar near the holy well at Kinacurragh, and lived very happily together for some time. There was, however, at the period a quarrel between the M'Mahons of Ballycrov and the O'Malleys of Clare Island, and Grace's husband when engaged in a deer hunt in Achill was murdered by one of the M'Mahons. The widow swore vengeance on the whole clan and watched her opportunity, which soon came. A man from Erris came asking aid at Clare Island, and was asked was there nothing to be got in his own district. He said that there used to be, but that a curse had come on the M'Mahons because they had murdered a young man in Achill, so that their prosperity had departed, and that they had been told that the only way to atone for what had been done was to make a pilgrimage to Caher Island at a certain time. Having got this information the O'Malleys lay in wait in their galleys behind Caher, slew a large number of the M'Mahons and captured the rest, including the murderer, who were taken back to Clare Island and hanged there. Grace O'Malley then sailed northwards to Ballycrov, surprised and captured Doona Castle, the M'Mahon's stronghold, and put the garrison to the sword.

VI.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

The islands contain many remains of interest to the archæologist, but as in former reports no detailed description of any of them is

ventured upon, all that can be done here being to indicate as far as possible what may be worthy of the attention of those who are skilled in this subject, which the writer cannot pretend to be.

Survivals.—The survivals are comparatively few now. Querns have gone altogether out of use. The old wool wheels, cards, and handloom are still to be found in use. As there are no wheeled vehicles, all loads too heavy or bulky to be carried by hand or on the human back are conveyed in pardogues or clieves slung over the backs of horses. Stones for building are carried in stone-clieves, V-shaped wooden frames slung pannier-wise across a horse's back over the usual straw mat and pannier frame. Clothes are still washed as described in the report on Inishbofin. The milk-chest described in a previous section is another survival. Only a few curraghs are now in use, they having been largely superseded by heavier boats.

Antiquities.—There are a good many ancient buildings and monuments on the islands, but only bare mention of them can be made here.

In Clare Island there are—

(1) O'Malley Castle, built on a projecting rock between the one little bay, where there is a good landing-place and a deep narrow cove, to which tradition says there used to be a subterranean passage, as galleys used to lie there. The castle is a square tower of no great size, three storeys in height, and built of rough stone. It was used as a police barrack early in the century, and during its occupation as such it was rough-cast outside, and the projecting chambers high up in the walls were weather-slatted. A porch to the door was also added, and some of the loopholes in the walls built up. There are traces of an enclosing wall surrounding a sort of court.

(2.) The Abbey—a Carmelite monastery erected in A.D. 1224. This building has been often described. It is remarkable for the frescoes on the roof and for containing the curious old O'Malley monument. At one time a skull and a pair of gold earrings used to be kept in a recess in the wall, and were shown to visitors as the skull and ornaments of Grace O'Malley. Downing writes that the Abbey was built by Dermotius Caladus O'Maly for the Order of St. Bernard, and that Dermotius was buried there.

(3.) There are two holy wells, the well of the festival of the Virgin Mary and the well of St. Bridget. Near these wells are some curiously carved and inscribed stones.

“ In Inishturk there is a kill dedicated to St. Columb, and traces

of a *doon*.”¹ Of the old church nothing but the barest trace now remains, and the dun is not very clearly traceable. It stood on a hill overlooking a very safe little harbour, where tradition says the owners of the fort used to keep their galleys.²

Caher Island is full of antiquities; it is best described in the words of Dr. O'Donovan. “Caher Island, called by the Irish *Oilean na Cathrach*, *Cathair na naomh*, and *Cathair Phadruig*, is esteemed next to Inisglora (Inis Gluaire), the most holy island in that part of Connaught, now entirely uninhabited. No *cathair* or stone fort is on the island. The natives of Inishturk and the opposite coast understand the name as the *city* of the saints, or the city of St. Patrick, and that it was called city in the same way as Armagh, Leighlin, and other distinguished ecclesiastical places.”

“It contains a small church in the rude primitive style, which is called *Teampull na naomh* by some and *Teampull Phadruig* by others. There are several penitential *leachtas* or monuments around it, at which the pilgrims pray and go through their circumgyrating round, much in the same way that they do on the Reeks. The names of these monuments are not known. East of the east gable of the church there is a stone inscribed with a cross, called *Leabaidh Phadruig*, which is prayed at during the station. “Within the church and laid on the altar is a farfamed stone called *Leac na naomh*, i. e. the *flag of the saints*. It is of a roundish form and about two feet in diameter, and composed of different kinds of stone, which appear as if they had been artificially cemented together, but the compound is, however, the work of nature.” . . . “Whenever anyone on the west shores or on the islands in the vicinity of Caher find themselves aggrieved or scandalized openly and wrongfully, they have always recourse to the miraculous powers of this stone *to elicit the truth*. They first fast and pray at home for a fixed time, imploring that God, through the intercession of St. Patrick, and the other saints who blessed this *flag*, would show that they were *wronged* on such occasions; and after the fasting and praying are over they sail over to the Caher, and *turn Leac na naomh*. After the flag is *turned*, the weather immediately becomes unfavourable, and storms and hurricanes most frequently ensue to the great destruction of boats and curraghs, and some event is ere long brought about which shows clearly to the eyes of all the neighbours that the character of the person who turned the *Leac* had

¹ O'Donovan, *loc. cit.*

² “Ordnance Survey Letter,” Mayo, p. 471.

been unjustly and wrongfully attempted to be blackened. This may be shown in various ways, such as some great misfortune happening to the scandalizer, or in case of theft the real thief being discovered, &c."

O'Donovan does not mention that on the altar there is also a very curious stone basin, with rounded bottom, two handle-holes and a groove cut all round the side, in which votive offerings are placed by all visitors to the island.

"On the north-west side of Caher Island there is a holy well, which is also prayed at and held in great veneration by the pilgrims." . . . A kind of cloghan or road is shown under the waves leading from this blessed island in the direction of the Reek. It is called Boher na neeve—*via sanctorum*—because it was passed by St. Patrick, by his charioteer Bionnan, the widow's son (who was buried on the Reek), by St. Bridget, and other saints who were along with the apostle.

VII.—HISTORY.

A report of this nature would be incomplete without some sketch of the history of the people that it may be seen what changes or admixture the population may have undergone. Unfortunately, however, the materials for such a sketch are extremely scanty, the islands having received very little mention.

The whole surrounding district, north and south, as well as the islands, were inhabited anciently by a Damnonian (Firbolg) tribe, the Clan Huamoir, one of whose chiefs, Modha, gave his name to Inis Modha, or the Clew Bay islands. In the second century, Tuathal Teachtmair, a Milesian or Scotie king, conquered and enslaved the Clan Huamoir, and occupied their territory. From this on, there is a great gap in the records; there is nothing known about the territory except the records of the deaths of some of the chiefs, and a mention in the 9th century of the incursions of pirates (probably Scandinavian). In the 10th century, after the establishment of surnames in Ireland, we find the O'Malleys, descendants of Conn of the Hundred Battles,¹ established as rulers and lords of Umhall, a district which comprised the present baronies of Burrishoole, or Murrisk, and here they have remained ever since. In the 14th century we get mention of the O'Malleys as being famed as sailors, a reputation they long held.

¹ "Another shoot of the race of Conn is the Clann Mailli, valiant the branch (every country is heard selecting them)." Duaid Mc Firbis, *Genealogies, Tribes, &c.*, of Hy Fiachrach.

O'Dugan (as quoted and translated by O'Donovan) wrote of them (1372):—

“A good man never was there
Of the O'Malleys, but a mariner;
The prophets of the weather are ye
A tribe of affection and brotherly love.”

In the Annals of Ireland (A.D. 1235) we get the following:—
“Donnal and Murtough, two sons of Murray O'Malley, were slain by Donnell, son of Manus, who was son of Murtough O'Connor, and by Niall Roe, son of Cathal, son of Conor (*recte* O'Conor), in Cliara, and was interred there.

Clare Island and its inhabitants came greatly into notice in the 16th century through the deeds of the O'Malleys upon the sea, and especially by those of the famous Grace O'Malley, whose birthplace and one of whose chief strongholds was on the island, where, too, she was buried. As a glance at the list of folk-names will show a large proportion of the population is still composed of O'Malleys. We have no record of any colony or foreign strain such as were introduced in Inishbofin.

The population of Inishturk is composed of Malleys and Tooles, of whom O'Donovan says:—“This island is said to be in the possession of the O'Tooles for an unknown number of centuries; some say they came from Leinster. Mr. Owen O'Toole, the present occupier of Inishturk (1839), says that he always heard from his father and the old shanachies that the O'Tooles of this island are descended from Tuathal O'Malley.” This indeed seems to be the most probable origin of the name.

The islands underwent no great change until the present century, when Clare Island passed into other hands. A few years ago, during the “disturbed times,” Clare Island got rather a bad name for outrages, but there seem to have been none of them of a very serious nature. The most important change that has yet occurred is the purchase of the island by the Congested Districts Board, and the improvements introduced by it, which it is to be hoped will open up a brighter future to the islanders.

VIII.—CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Little remains to be said. It is evident from the list of surnames given that there has been no great change in the composition of the population during the last three or four centuries; in fact, the bulk of the people are descendants of the ancient inhabitants of this part of Connaught. The taking over of Clare Island by the Congested

Districts Board has already benefited the people greatly, and opened up to them a brighter future. New dwellings have been built, of a type suited to the climate, and composed of materials obtainable on the island, and old ones improved. The commonage has been separated from the arable land by a wall running the whole length of the island; holdings have been enlarged and properly fenced; accommodation roads made; the fishermen instructed in new methods, &c. In the course of these works, the people developed, after a time, abilities hardly expected of them at first; they proved quick to learn and able to work, and they take a pride in telling the stranger that they have paid off their arrears of rent, due to the Congested Districts Board, out of the wages got from their work, without one single case of default.

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TYPES AT INISTURK.



TYPES AT CLARE ISLAND.





