

ing Cameroons.

Sister Brigid entered the Order of Religious of the Cross a French foundation, 19 years ago, and spent a long time in England before going abroad.

The nuns run a primary and a secondary school at Mbanga, as well as a special school in which young native girls are taught household management and other practical subjects in preparation for marriage. Sister Brigid gives these courses, and speaks highly of the girls she helps to train. They respect authority, and there is never any rancour after a scolding. The schools which are run according to the French system, are well attended and the majority of the students are the daughters of planters and are Catholic. Protestant and pagan. There is poverty in the district too, of course, but even in the poorest home a visitor is treated to some refreshment.

At all functions in the area the priests and nuns are honoured guests.

The climate is very hot, as Mbanga is near the equator, and Christmas, which usually coincides with the coffee harvest, is very different from the Irish feast. Fruit abounds, especially bananas, oranges, pineapples and lemons, and Sr. Brigid has had a surfeit of them!

She will be returning to West Africa in September for a further year. There is a great shortage of European nuns in those places.

Before entering the religious life Sr. Brigid was a popular employee of M/s. Stevenson's Ltd., Balbriggan, and she has been busy meeting old friends during her stay in Balbriggan.

#### BLESSING OF GRAVES

Heavy rain was responsible for a small attendance at the annual ceremony of the blessing of the graves in Balcadden.

Very Rev. A. Tonge, P.P. blessed the graves in the two cemeteries, and then the people returned to St. Mary's Church, where Benediction was given by Rev. G. B. Walsh, C.C.

## Farewell function for a Priest

Rev. George Lally, who leaves for the United States on Sunday next to take up duty in Providence, Rhode Island, was the guest of honour at a function organised by the Yellowbatter Social Committee in the White Horse Hotel, Drogheda, on Saturday night last.

There was a fine attendance of two hundred present to send off officially the first priest from the Yellowbatter district and the occasion proved as successful and enjoyable (if not more so) as the homecoming function organised by the same Committee following Fr. Lally's ordination.

Rev. James Crowley, C.C., wished Fr. Lally, on behalf of the parish, the best of luck in his new life. It was very difficult to become a priest nowadays, he said, owing to the many distractions and the best thing the people could give Fr. Lally was their prayers.

Rev. Michael Crowley, C.C., remarking that he was absent at the time of Fr. Lally's ordination, congratulated him and wished him well in the United States. He praised the people for the wonderful reception they

had given Fr. Lally and expressed the hope that the people of Yellowbatter would continue to meet like this, even after Fr. Lally's departure.

Mr. Thomas Jain, president of the Reception Committee, who welcomed all the people who had come along, thanked the management of the Hotel for the meal provided.

#### CONCERT ITEMS

Music for dancing, which followed, was provided by the popular local combination, the Royal Stars. Many of the attendance contributed to the entertainment while Fr. Lally himself evoked comparisons with "the singing priest," Fr. Michael Cleary, when he sang some well-known numbers and earned loud applause from the attendance.

The committee responsible for the function, in addition to the fund-raising activities earlier on, were: president, Mr. Jain, secretary, Mr. C. Quigley, joint treasurers, Messrs. F. McGahey and S. Kierans; committee members, Mrs. G. Woods, Mrs. S. McCarthy, Mrs. A. Clinton, Mrs. T. Reynolds, Mrs. C. Quinn, Mrs. R. Sharkey, Mrs. T. McArdle, Mrs. M. Woods; Messrs. K. Aspell, J. Walker, M. Yelland, T. Woods, R. Sharkey, B. Nulty, T. McCarthy, K. McKenna, A. Reynolds and S. Mohan.

#### COLLECTION FOR GORTA

The members of Balbriggan I.C.A. collected outside SS Peter and Paul's Church during all the Masses recently and raised £100 for Gorta.

This was a most praiseworthy effort, especially as the weather was unpleasant at the time.



Rev. George Lally, who leaves for the United States on Sunday, chatting with Mr. James O'Brien, home on holidays from the U.S.A. and originally from the North Road, and Mr. Tommy Jain, President of the Yellowbatter Social Committee, who organised a farewell function for Father Lally.