

SCOTT LECTURES TO FRESHMAN ON IRISH LITERATURE

Professor in English Department Gives First-Year Class Short History of Celts.

HIGH LEARNING IN 650

Danes and Romans Ravaged Country and Destroyed Universities—St. Patrick Christianized Irish.

The literature produced by the Irish people was described by Professor R. D. Scott of the English department, in a lecture on "Ancient Ireland" given to the freshmen of the College of Arts and Sciences Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning.

Professor Scott first gave a short history of the Celtic people, explaining that about 1000 B. C. they were dominant people in Central Europe and that they invaded England and Ireland from the continent about that time. The Celts that invaded and settled Ireland were almost destroyed by the Roman and the Anglo Saxon

conquests, so that the Welsh were the only people of Celtic extraction left in England.

The professor then told how St. Patrick came to Ireland in 432 A. D. and found the inhabitants living in a condition of paganism. St. Patrick Christianized the Irish and established a university. Another university was established at Kildare in 525 by St. Bridget, a woman missionary. By 650 Ireland was full of universities, there being 25 or more established there. At these universities Greek, Latin and some of the Sciences were taught. Professor Scott pointed out that at an early date an Irish geographer was advancing the theory that the world was round. The professor then pointed out that in 805, the Danes invaded Ireland and destroyed most of the universities and monasteries, and that although the Irish ultimately drove the Danes out, Irish learning never recovered from the effect of their ravages.

When the universities were in existence, Professor Scott explained, Irish literature had its beginning. The

monks in the universities began to print on hides. They printed their family trees and they also printed a number of Irish myths and folk-stories. With the invasion of the Danes, this writing stopped and it was not until the eighteenth century that interest in this Irish literature was revived. At that time a Scotch school master, David McPherson, who was visiting on the north-western coast of Scotland, heard some of these stories and decided to reproduce them in print. He was afraid that the sale of the book would not be a success, so he announced that he had found hides on which these stories had been

printed in 500 B. C. and that he had made a literal translation. His book became very popular, being read by people all over the world. This naturally began to stimulate interest in Irish literature and when investigations were made, tons and tons of hides with stories printed on them were dug up in Ireland.

Professor Scott then explained how in recent years these old Irish stories were used for political purposes. The Irish nationalists, in an attempt to rejuvenate a love of Ireland in the minds of the Irish, caused a large number of these stories to be printed in the old Irish tongue. As a result,

the Irish began to take pride in their nationality and a large number of them learned the old Celtic language. Professor Scott then enumerated some of the benefits of literature, pointing out that it was not only useful in stimulating and creating such ideals as patriotism, but that it also develops the ideals and character of the individual that reads it.

Coach Henry F. Schulte's University of Nebraska track squad will meet the Kansas Aggies in a dual track meet at Manhattan next Friday afternoon. This will be the closing dual meet of the season preliminary to

the Missouri Valley conference meet at Ames.

Kansas university defeated the Kansas Aggies in a dual meet at Lawrence last week, 81 1-2 to 35 1-2. The Cornhuskers defeated Kansas in a dual meet two weeks ago, 83 to 48.

Against the Jayhawkers, the Farmers counted five firsts. Reilly won the high hurdles in 15 3-5 seconds and took the low hurdles in 26 seconds. Kykendall won the two-mile run in 10 minutes 8 3-10 seconds and won the mile run in 4 minutes 37 seconds. Willey won the 880-yard run in 2 minutes 5 seconds.

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