

Unable to Attend Funeral

The widespread sympathy and poignant regret created by the death of Dr. John Wallis, Medical Officer of Health for the Charleville dispensary district, which sad event took place early on Sunday morning, after a very brief illness, was fully manifested at the obsequies on Monday, when a most representative gathering of all classes in the community attended at the family burial ground in Holy Cross cemetery to pay the final tribute of respect to his memory. As Dispensary Medical Officer of Health for the Charleville area, the late Dr. Wallis, in the course of his professional duties, came into very close contact with the poor of the district with whom he was most sympathetic, and whom he regarded as under his special care. He was always prepared to make sacrifices on their behalf at no small share of inconvenience to himself, and his unremitting attention to their needs was a characteristic feature of his sympathetic nature, and earned for him the gratitude and love, not alone of the poor, but of those who were blessed with more worldly goods and admired the nobility of mind which prompted him to so many acts of kindness towards the less well endowed people of the district. He was one of the most genial and affable of men, who always looked upon the brighter side, being possessed of a quality of character which seemed to lift depression from the minds of others.

There is a feeling of intense sorrow permeating the whole district that his untimely demise should have bereft a large and ever growing clientele of a most capable medical adviser and a kind and sympathetic friend. The deceased was a member of a family who originally hailed from the Abbey district of Killinane, in the Co. Limerick, descendants of the famous "Staker" Wallis who was executed by the British in the town of Kilfinane in the year 1798 for his activities on behalf of his fellow countrymen, who were most cruelly oppressed by penal enactments. The head of "Staker" Wallis was placed on a spike over the market yard gate, at a place which is now dedicated by a grotto and statue to the Sacred Heart. The late doctor's grand-uncle, Dr. John Wallis, came to Charleville in 1820, and was appointed to the charge of the Fever Hospital in 1844, a position which he occupied through the period of the Great Famine. On his demise some years after, he was succeeded by his brother, Dr. Patrick Wallis, who married Miss Teresa Clancy, daughter of John Thomas Clancy, Deputy Lieutenant of Belfort. The late doctor's father, Mr. Edmund P. Wallis, who died some years ago, was a gentleman farmer, and married Miss Mary Mannix, sister of His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Mannix, the illustrious Archbishop of Melbourne, and Dr. Wallis was the third son of the family. Six years ago he married Miss Clarson, daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Thos. Clarson, of Newtownshandrum. In the course of his early studies he developed a penchant for the medical profession, and immediately after being qualified he was appointed dispensary medical officer of the Charleville district by the North Cork Board of Health, a position which he occupied up to the time of his death, and which he filled to the satisfaction of rich and poor alike. Last year he was appointed a Peace Commissioner for the district and was subsequently nominated on the local Slaugh Committee in connection with the formation of the new Volunteer Force. His premature death at the early age of 34 has evoked feelings of profound sorrow and sympathy for his young wife and family, to whom the heartfelt condolence of all classes is extended in their bereavement.

The remains of the late Dr. Wallis were removed from his residence to Holy Cross Church on Sunday evening, accompanied by a large gathering of friends and sympathisers. Requiem High Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated at 10 o'clock on Monday morning in the presence of a large congregation. The celebrant of the Mass was Rev Fr. R. J. Ronayne, C.C., Dp.h., Charleville; deacon, Rev Fr. Jas Nagle; and sub-deacon, Rev Fr J. Burke, P.P., Charleville.

Amongst the large number of letters and telegrams received through

out the day was a telegram from President de Valera, expressing deepest sympathy with the wife and relatives of the late Dr. Wallis. The President later sent a telephone message regretting his inability to be present at the funeral.

The funeral cortege, which left Holy Cross Church at 4 o'clock for the local cemetery, was of immense proportions. A dense mass of people followed the hearse while a large number of motors containing sympathisers were in the rear. The Venerable Archdeacon Corbett, P.P., V.F., Mallow, officiated at the graveside, assisted by Rev Fr. J. Burke, P.P., Charleville; Rev Fr R. J. Ronayne, C.C., do.; and Rev Fr. J. Nagle, C.C., do.

Mrs. Mary Wallis, widow of the deceased, was unable to attend owing to illness.

The chief mourners were: Miss Ella Wallis (sister); J. T. Clanchy, M.R.C.V.S., Belfort and Mrs Clanchy; Mrs Liston, Rathkeale House, Rathkeale; Mr Augustine Quinlan, Newcastle West; Mr John Quinlan, do.; Denis P. and Mrs Kelliher, Cork; Dr M. R. Cleary, Hospital; Dr John Cleary, Chas E. Cleary, Asst. Sec., Limerick Co. Board of Health; Maurice Wallis, Kilfinane (relatives); etc., etc.

Amongst the clergy present were: Ven. Archdeacon Corbett, P.P., V.F., Mallow; Very Rev Fr Schmidt, C.S.S.P., Rockwell College; Very Rev Fr John McCarthy, President Rockwell College; Very Rev. Dr. Dinneen, P.P., Youghal; Rev John Burke, P.P., Charleville; Rev. P. Dawson, P.P., Castlemagner; Rev. P. J. Sheahan, P.P., Mourneabbey; Rev Fr Rea, P.P., Shandrum; Rev. Fr Wilson, P.P., Ballyhea; Rev Fr. Foley, P.P., Churchtown; Rev Fr. Rea, P.P., Athea; Rev D. Barry, C.C., Mallow; Rev Fr Condon, C.C., Kilmallock; Rev Wm O'Farrell, Sacred Heart College, Cork; Rev. Fr J. Nagle, C.C., Charleville; Rev Fr R. J. Ronayne, C.C., do.; Rev. Fr J. McCarthy, C.C., Athea.

Amongst the members of the medical profession present were: Dr O'Connor, Millstreet; Dr Cleary Kilmallock; Dr T. F. McNamara P.C., do.; Surgeon and Mrs O'Connor, Co. Hospital, Croom; Dr Croin, Boherbee; Dr Quinlan, Newcastle West; Dr M. R. Cleary, Hospital; Dr James McCarthy, M.O.H. Mitchelstown; Dr O'Sullivan, Doneraile; Dr C. Molan, Milford; Dr Kelly, Ballyhea; Dr Cecil Hartigan, Charleville; Dr. Fitzgerald, Killaullen; Dr O'Connell, Mallow; Dr. Lenihan, Kanturk; Dr Vaughan, Mallow; Dr. Smith, Fermoy; Dr. Egan, Cork; Dr. Corbett, Buttevant, etc., etc.

The Christian Brothers present were: Rev Bro. Burke, Superior; Brothers Carew, Collins and Murphy.

It would be impossible to enumerate the list of the general public who were present from all parts of the South.

Charleville Cumann of Fianna Fail passed a vote of condolence with the wife and family of the deceased and sent a Mass card, while the local branch of the British Legion of Ex-Servicemen sent a beautiful wreath.