

# Unique Monument

**T**HE monument which stands at Murroe (Co. Limerick) to the memory of the fallen soldiers of the Mid-Limerick Brigade of the Old I.R.A., is unique. The 21-foot high monument in the form of a Celtic cross with five Mysteries of the Rosary, is, I am told, the only one of its kind in the country and stands on a mound at the end of the village.

The monument is the work of a Waterford sculptor who never knew the noble cause it has served or where it was erected. He had completed work on it a few years before it was decided to erect it at Murroe and during those intervening years he passed to his eternal rest.

Now the monument is to get a face lift to the extent of £1,000, and it is a coincidence that only one of the men responsible for its erection has survived to see its completion.

The sculptor died in 1921 and two years later the monument was unveiled at Murroe. MR JOHN RYAN of Brittas is the only surviving member of the committee who erected it.

Captain John Ryan, Thomas O'Grady and Michael Hayes, brother of the late Canon Hayes, founder of Muintir na Tíre, have since died.

Over the years the monument has somewhat deteriorated; but, proud of the memorial that stands in their village, the people of Murroe are setting about having it greatly improved.

The work envisaged includes the erection of a bronze chain railing, the building of new steps and a thorough cleaning of the monument.

Chairman of the committee is SENATOR PATRICK RYAN, M.C.C., and MR. EDWARD RYAN is hon. secretary.

£500 has been given by the Government towards the cost of the work and Limerick County Council have contributed £225.

A further £275 has been collected locally.

The inscription on the monument reads: "Greater love than this no man hath than a man lay down his life for a friend. Erected by a grateful people to the memory of Brig. Sean Wall, Adjt. Patrick Ryan, Lieut John Frahill; soldiers of the I.R.A., East Limerick and Mid-Limerick Brigades and the other noble men who fell in 1920 and 1921 fighting English aggression. They sought not honour, praise, renown. They loved and died. 'Tis the Martyr's Crown. Lord, have mercy on their souls.