

enjoyed old-fashioned ceilidh was given by singers from villages on the west of Lewis.

At its second ceilidh of the winter, under the auspices of the **Tobermory branch**, Captain M. Black was Fear-an-tighe, and an enjoyable programme was submitted, which included a short sketch by Mrs. N. Mactaggart and Mrs. Kay Matheson.

At a meeting of representatives from Sutherland branches of An Comunn held in Lairg, with Mr. J. Maclean, Dornoch, presiding, it was agreed to hold this year's **Sutherland Mod** at Golspie on 1st June. There was a credit balance of £246 on the last county mod, and donations were made as follows—£30 to An Comunn's Central Fund, £5 to the National Mod, and £30 to Dornoch branch to promote Gaelic in that area.

At an enjoyable ceilidh held by the **Dornoch branch**, Mr. John Maclean, branch President, being Fear-an-tighe, a varied programme was sustained by members of the Brora branch.

At a ceilidh held by the **Golspie branch** (Mr. A. M. Paul, President), the programme was sustained by artists from Inverness, Helmsdale, and Golspie. The Northern Organiser, Mr. D. J. Maclean, took part in the proceedings.

At the opening ceilidh of the **Killin branch**, Dr. D. MacColl, President, was Fear-an-tighe, and an excellent programme was submitted.

The **Johnstone Highlanders' Association** was originally formed in 1887 and continued until 1914. It was revived in 1929, and it is interesting to note that several descendants of the leading members of the earlier period are still active in the Association. At the annual gathering in November, the chairman, Mr. Norman Keanic, made a strong plea for greater support for the Association. The Association's President is Mr. Alex. Fraser.

Mr. D. C. Murray, branch President, was Fear-an-tighe at a successful ceilidh held by the **Grantown branch**. Selections were given by the Grantown Ladies' Choir.

The **Gaelic Society of London**, at a special "Gaelic evening," has had an opportunity of hearing a selection of entries submitted at the Society's last mod for the competitions in poetry, prose, and "new word formation." We hope that some of these contributions may appear in print.

At a ceilidh held in Gladstone's Land, Edinburgh, by the Edinburgh branch of **Comunn na Clarsach**, General Sir Philip Christison, President of Clarsach, spoke of the scarcity of clarsachs. A great many instruments, he said, had been exported to the United States of America. The lack of clarsachs is restricting the number of learners of this ancient and beautiful musical instrument.

At a later meeting of the branch Miss Jean Campbell gave a talk on the history of the clarsach followed by a programme of music on the clarsach. The singers were General Sir Philip Christison, President of Comunn na Clarsach, Mr. Iain Robertson, and Mrs. Gilbert Mitchell, accompanied on the clarsach by Miss Campbell. Clarsach selections were played by Mrs. Rose Begbie, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, and Miss Jane

Gray. Among those present were representatives of the Clan Campbell and Clan Diarmid Societies.

At the February ceilidh of the **Kyle branch** of An Comunn, Captain D. Macleod, of M.S. "Lochmor," was Fear-an-tighe. A programme of song, story, and instrumental music was provided by Donald Joseph Mackinnon (Barra), M. D. Macdonald (Lewis), N. MacRaid, D. Nicolson, E. Nicolson, D. A. Macdonald, Miss J. Clayton, and the Chairman. A presentation was made to Mr. D. A. Macdonald, piper to the branch, who is retiring, and who played his specially composed march, "The Kyle Ceilidh."

At a ceilidh held by the **Golspie branch**, there was an excellent programme of songs and recitations, and selections on the accordion and on a set of miniature bagpipes. Mr. William Macdonald, Lairg, was Fear-an-tighe.

Mr. Harry Macrae, Ferintosh, was Fear-an-tighe at a ceilidh held by the **Dingwall branch**.

**Perth Gaelic Society Ladies' Choir**, a comparatively new organisation, are hoping to compete at the National Mod at Largs.

The **Clan Donald Societies** have raised a fund to provide a Flora Macdonald Memorial in South Uist. Some time ago a plaque was placed on the cairn that marks Flora's birthplace. Now the residue of the fund has been used to provide a silver cup, embellished with Celtic designs, entitled "The Flora Macdonald Trophy—1956." It is to be presented annually to the best piper in "the Long Island."

A very enjoyable Gaelic concert was held by the **Ullapool branch** of An Comunn, in aid of the funds of the **Wester Ross Provincial Mod**, which is to be held in Ullapool on 11th May. Artistes included a party from Inverness and Mr. Donald Maclean, Northern Organiser.

At a ceilidh held by the **Beauly branch** Mrs. Mackintosh was Bean-an-tighe. The speaker was Mr. Murdo Murray, M.A., H.M.I.S. The programme was sustained by Chrissie Macdonald, Chrissie Mackinnon, Ruth Macpherson, Catherine Macleod, Helen Macrae, Margaret Lobban, Alex. Mackenzie, Norman Macleod, Pipe-Major C. Macdonald, George Wiseman, and the Castle Troupe of Dancers.

The **Fort William branch** celebrated Old New Year's Day with a tattie and herrin' ceilidh in the Town Hall, with Rev. J. Galbraith as Fear-an-tighe.

The **Edinburgh branch** of An Comunn has begun to hold its monthly meetings in the newly reconstructed St. Thomas's Hall at the West End (Rutland Place). About 150 members and friend almost filled the hall for the first ceilidh there.

At the annual business meeting of the **Gaelic Society of Inverness** Mr. D. J. Macdonald, Rector of Inverness Royal Academy, was appointed Hon. Secretary in succession to the late Dr. D. J. Macleod. Mr. Alex. N. Nicolson, continues as Secretary and Treasurer, an office which he has occupied with marked distinction for a very long time.

The **London Mod**, organised by the Gaelic Society of London, is to be held on Saturday, 21st April. Copies of the syllabus may be obtained from Miss A. N. Fraser, 27 Wallingford Avenue, London, W.10.