

(Fr. O'Growney: conclusion).

student.

An outstanding feature of the lessons is the gradual manner in which the material is introduced. The rules of Irish pronunciation are spread over the first two books. Aspiration is not introduced until the end of the first book and eclipsis only in the middle of the second. The student does not encounter the verb "is" until the third book, not is the genitive treated until the fourth.

This series is often criticized by modern students as being outmoded. It is true that the work employs the old spellings. Serious students of Irish find, however, that they must read works in the older system of spelling in many cases, and it would seem to me to be easier to read the new, knowing only the old, than to read the old, knowing only the new. For example, a person who knows the Irish words for "red" and "yellow" as "ruadh" and "biudhe" should have no trouble recognizing "rua" and "bui", but the reverse process would tend to be confusing.

In regards to their being outdated, it is unfortunate, but within the past sixty years few books have been published which could replace them. Most textbooks published since Ireland gained her independence have been intended for use in the classroom by students who have been studying Irish since they entered school, while Father O'Growney's work was intended for the adult student alone. It is thus more in line with the situation to be found among Americans studying Irish than the more recent textbooks.

Unfortunately, Father O'Growney was never to finish the series of six books he had planned. Through

most of his life, he had suffered from heart disease, as well as a stomach condition. In the Fall of 1894, after completing three volumes of the series, the state of his health became so poor that he was forced to give up further work on it, turning the project over to John MacNeill. The latter published the fourth part in 1897 and the fifth in 1900. To my knowledge, of the series, being more exhaustive and grammatical in his treatment. He tended to lengthen the lessons, and to include a sometimes bewildering array of material in each. As a result, the fourth and fifth parts, while perhaps slightly better organized, are much more difficult to work with, in my opinion.

In the same year, Father O'Growney traveled to the United States in an attempt to regain his health. He arrived in New York City, where he was warmly received by the New York and Brooklyn Gaelic Societies. From here he went to San Francisco, and then to Arizona. When, after two years in America, his health had not improved sufficiently to enable him to return to Ireland, he resigned from his Chair at Maynooth. Three years later, on October 18, 1899 Father O'Growney died at the age of thirth-six.

BRIAN Ó FLOINN.

Ní raib briste ar bit ag Brian
Ó Floinn,
Is éannuig sé croiceann sean-
caoraí annsin;
An t-clann annuig is an croic-
eann istig:
'Sin briste tar barr' - Brian Ó Floinn.