ON ENTERING A. FEIS

The best way to obtain results in a competition (and there are all kinds of results) is as follows:

When Society X sends out entry blanks to be returned by a certain date, the only natural thing to do is to send your entry in a week or two afterward. In doing this, you provide the Feis Committee with excitement, not only because your entry is late, but because you did not give "all required information" as requested on the card. To gum up the works even more, neglect to pay the entry fee at this time. The Committee members can now use their new red to place red marks in all the empty spaces. You, too, have a moment of surprise when you open the envelope from Society X and find your very own entry blank, mailed only a few days ago, now has a slight addition - INVALID ENTRY is sprawled (scrawled?) across its face. The cheek of them!

The next step is to wait a while, then mail in another entry card. This one had better be correct: the Feis is very close. The Committee, however, doesn't get the entry till the week of the Big Event and, being a very_ slow committee, they neglect to mail you that admittance card to the Feis Grounds. You're doing par for the course....

On the day of the Feis - that is, after the only rainy morning in the month - go to the gate and try to walk in with your costume under your arm (or flaunting your fainne, as the case may be) and have a nice smile on your obviously Irish face as you pass the nice man. It is more than likely that the man will try to stop you and will ask you for your card. Don't let the old crab bother you. Just look in his direction with that "I-don't-know-what-you-mean" look and say, "Card? What card? I didn't get any card." After a few exasperating minutes, someone will probably direct, lead or carry you to the entrants' desk. Resist the temptation to trip the gateman while passing a mud puddle; he is probably struggling with the same temptaion.

At the entrants' desk, fight your way through the masses of little costumed children and explain your story to one of