

## Besprechungen

*Liosta Focal as Ros Muc*, T.S. O Máille, Irish University Press, 1974.

This volume consists of a list of words, phrases and idioms together with the relevant explanations taken down during the last thirty years in Rosmuck, Connemara.

Rosmuck, some thirty miles west of Galway City, has long had a fine reputation as an Irish-speaking centre. It was here that Patrick Pearse had his cottage, preserved to-day as a national museum, and it is here also that the well-known summer college, Coláiste na bhFiann, is situated. The writer, Pádhraic Óg Ó Conaire, was from Rosmuck and, more recently, the place has provided the Irish-reading public with a poet of considerable merit, Caitlín Maude.

It is perhaps a little strange that up till now no description of the dialect had appeared in print. Studies of related dialects include Finck's pioneering *Araner Mundart*, Professor Tomás de Bhaldraithe's phonetic study, *The Irish of Cois Fhairrge* (Dublin, 1945), and his magnificent morphological description, *Gaeilge Chois Fhairrge* (Dublin 1953). A more recent work on the Irish of Carna is Wigger's *Nominalformen im Conamara-Irischen*, which applies the methods of generative linguistics to the description of the dialect – and none too happily either, for Wigger's little book is flawed not only by inaccuracies of fact, but by inadequacies in the application of generative phonology as well.

The Irish dialects of West Galway and the Aran Islands fall into two major groups. The northern area, Leenane, Cleggan, Cornamona, agrees with Co. Mayo against the southern speech-area, Cois Fharraige and Iarchonnachta, in preserving a short vowel before a long sonant. Thus Co. Mayo and North Galway have [im'] 'butter' against [i:m'] in the south. The southern dialects themselves can be divided into two areas again: Cois Fharraige and the Aran Islands on the one hand and Iarchonnachta on the other. Irish-speaking Iarchonnachta includes the area from Rossaveel in the east to Cashel in the west. The main difference between the western and eastern dialects is that the