

The Eisteddvod is very comprehensive in its constitution. Last year's gatherings were conducted by a State Church clergyman and a Radical M.P. On the platform could be seen the Tory peer, Lord Tredegar, and the religious enthusiast, Father Ignatius, clad in his monk's habit, rope-girded waist, and shaven crown, expatiating in his speech on the work of the Non-conformists, especially the Calvinistic Methodists or Presbyterians of Wales. To conduct a four-day's gathering of the kind, at a time when the people are organizing themselves for a quiet revolution, was a grand achievement. Political strifes in the Principality are shorn of much of their asperity by the conciliatory influence of the Eisteddvod.

The programme of the Eisteddvod is as varied as the capabilities of the people. Prizes are offered ranging in value from one to a hundred or two hundred guineas. Sometimes the expenses reach four thousand pounds. The range of subjects can be guessed from the following items culled from last year's programme:—Ode for the Bardic Chair, "The Welsh Bible." Essays: "The Industrial Resources of Wales and the Means of their Development;" "The Place of Welsh in the Aryan Family of Languages;" "The History of Welsh Literature from A.D. 1650–1850." Translation of "The Death of Hector" (Homer) from Greek into Welsh." Two great choral competitions (1) for choirs of 80 to 100 strong, five choirs competing; (2) chief choral competition for choirs of 120 to 200 strong. First prize £150 with gold medal for the conductor, second prize £50. Total number of singers who entered the competition, 1,267. Each choir had to sing three test pieces: 1, "Ye Nations, Offer to the Lord" (Mendelssohn); 2, "Lullaby of Life" (Leslie); 3, 'Twas then ye Sons of God (Jenkins). There were also orchestral and musical composition competitions. Prizes were also offered for works of art, modelling in clay, carving on wood and stone, painting on terra cotta, and free-hand drawing. The proceedings each day were interspersed by eloquent orations by representative men and solos by some of the most eminent vocalists. Last year's Eisteddvod was graced by the presence of the Queen of Song, Adelina Patti. She sang some of her favorite airs, and she allowed herself to become a member of the fraternity of druids, bards, and minstrels of the Isle of Britain, and she is to be known henceforth on Eisteddvodic platforms by the pseudonym, "Llinos y Dê" (Linnet of the South).

Of the ancient ceremonies observed, the two most impressive