

(Mayo East)

## I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,  
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF GallenTOWN OR VILLAGE Swinford PARISH Kilconuff COUNTY Mayo

## TOPOGRAPHY

*Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.*

The area, which is a large one, is made up of three districts, Swinford, Meek's, and Midfield. The latter are known as two half-parishes, Meek's lying slightly south-west and west of Swinford town and Midfield south and slightly south-west of it. Taking the River as one parish, its limits are approx. 2 miles north of Swinford to H. May and 5 miles south of the town to Castleson (Midfield area). West from Swinford for almost 4 miles (to Ardham-Meek's area), and east for about 3 miles in the direction of Charlestown. The parish's greatest length is from Tully in the N.E.

## GEOLOGY

*Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.*

Most of the parish is of drift-covered limestone and again of peat formation. The drift area is of long hills and humped hills sometimes drumlin-like in character. Chief amongst the geological aspect is the appearance of several small sand and gravel ridges like miniature eskers. One lowland is called Eskers. A good few of these short abrupt ridges are being quarried.

## MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

## OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

*Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections? Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?*

Brobegan Park House, now owned by the sisters of Meery and run by them as a daying and poultry school. This was the residence of the Brobegan family, the last of whom resided here about 1865. Anthony Brobegan occupied the place in the late 18th century. He was succeeded by Sir William Brobegan who was M.P. for the county. His man owned the Park and many townlands around it. In 1815 he granted building leases to the people of Swinford (then Swinford) which was at that time only a tiny thatched village. Sir William died unmarried circa 1840. The estate then passed into the landed estates court and in 1852 it was purchased by Major Hugh Brobegan who died in 1864. His real name was Higgins which he changed to Brobegan. He was succeeded by his son Major Gen. Sir John Palmer Brobegan who died in Switzerland 1922. The estate had descended to the Park, Rathscallow, Kilbuck, Tappan and Swinford. About 1920 the house and 20 acres were sold to the sisters of Meery by the Congested Districts Board and the remainder of the lands, approx. 200 acres, vested in trustees for the benefit of Swinford town - for grazing and other purposes, the profits for town improvements.

The house, which has been added to by the present owners, is a solid, square, plain-facaded three-storey building with basement.