party respectively. Enthusiasm ran very high in these games, in which, I understand, as many of the parishioners as chose would form a team. There was some rough play at times, and the game was played with both sticks and boots. It was a combination of the present-day hockey and football. Plenty of ale was the order of the day, and often there were arguments, quarrels and fighting. Before night, ruffianism would reign among representatives of both parishes. In the year 1833, the Rev. Enoch James, vicar of Llandyssul, in consultation with some of the neighbouring clergy, arranged a Sunday School festival to counteract the ill effects of the ancient custom of ball-playing. The neighbouring Church Sunday schools were invited to meet at the parish church, where they engaged in catechizing and singing hymns.

The Rev. Enoch James, the founder of the festival, had been curate of Llandyssul from 1819 to 1822, and from 1822 onwards he was vicar there until his death in 1849. Four of his sons became clergymen, and one of them was Archdeacon of Carmarthen.

A Sunday School in Wales contains large classes of adults as well as children. The present mode of conducting this hundred years' old festival is as follows. Associated with it are the thirteen church Sunday schools of Llandyssul, Capel Dewi (St. David's), St. John's, St. Ffraid's, Llanpumsaint, Llanfianges-ar-arth, Pencader, Cowil, St. James Llangeler, Capel Mair Llangeler, Penboy, and St. Barnabas. The members of each school recite simultaneously a portion of scripture and a collect (this year's apportioned tasks being from I John). The schools are then questioned on those passages by the clergymen attending, and each school renders an anthem. The allotted time for each school is twenty minutes, and they succeed one another in turn in the chancel. At first it was not the practice for each choir to sing an anthem separately; only the united choirs sang.

This Welsh festival has a continuous record of a hundred years in the spacious church of St. Tyssul—the one exception being 1874, when the church was in the hands of the re-builders. In that year the festival was held in Llangeler parish church. Of course, at the inauguration of the festival in 1833, much opposition was raised by the old participants in the game between the two parishes. It is said that they even invaded the church, kicking the ball in through one door and out through the other. The festival, however, triumphed, and the great two-parish game of Old New Year's Day soon disappeared.

JOHN EVANS.

MERRINGTON TOMBSTONE. — In Merrington Churchyard, Co. Durham, there is a table monument thus inscribed:—

Here lie the Bodies of
John Lane, and Elizabeth, children
of John and Margaret Brass
Who were murdered the 28th day of Jan., 1683
By Andrew Mills, their father's servant
For which he was executed and hung in chains.

Reader, remember, sleeping
We were slain:
And here we sleep till we must
Rise again.

"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his
blood be shed."

"Thou shalt do no murder."

Restored by subscription in 1789.

It may be as well to state that the last line is a pious fiction; the restorer of the monument was a private gentleman who did not desire it to be known that he had made himself responsible for the total cost.

The inscription exhibits a peculiar feature in that the word "executed" shows distinct signs of an attempt to obliterate it. Local tradition has it that the rubbing out was done by a relative of Andrew Mills; but a more reliable story is that it was the work of an old eccentric village innkeeper named Willy Lynn. This man was very fond of argument, and he was insistent in upholding his contention that Andrew Mills could not have been executed and hung in chains a well. The tragedy to which the inscription refers is mentioned in the diary of Jacob Bee (1636-1711), skinner and glover of Crossgate, Durham. The Diary covers the period 1681-1706.

H. ASKEW.

BROMLEY MARKET. — Established by charter in 1447, the market, after 5 Jan., ceased to be held in the Market Square on Thursdays and was transferred to the Corporation depot in Station Road. There is a useful picture of it in the Daily Telegraph, 30 Dec. (p. 14).

J. ARDAGH.