

Mr. C. J. Molony

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IT'S just forty-seven years since young Irishman Charles Molony turned his back on the green hills of County Clare and set out with all the confidence of his seventeen years for London.

Forty-seven years—the last six of them in Christchurch—and he likes it so much here that he wouldn't go back to the Emerald Isle, even if he were paid to.

He didn't make a fortune, but he says he is very happy and happiness can't be bought with all the money in the world. Fame? Well, there are few people in Christchurch who don't know the C.C.A. Secretary and Chairman and founder of the Christ-church Horticultural Society.

DOES HE EVER REST.

This brisk little Irishman, who rolls his r's and still speaks with a pronounced accent, simply breathes enthusiasm. It is difficult to imagine him taking a rest. Twelve hours a week on C.C.A. work, another ten on the Horticultural Society's work, and the rest of the time in his beloved garden keep him very busy.

He came to Christchurch in 1942, and for eighteen months used to travel up from his house, "Rivermead," Walcott Avenue, to Mount Pleasant Sorting Office, where he was a superintendent.

He has been a civil servant all his life. He went up from sorter, overseer, to the rank of superintendent. For some time he was a night sorter on the mail train from London to Aberdeen.

TOWN WAS DEAD.

About Christchurch and the C.C.A. he says: "We have awakened the civic spirit of the town. People are alive now. In between the two wars they were dead."

In the first world war he was an A.B. in the Navy. He smiles and says: "I am really proud of that; there is no finer title in the world.

His three sons have all been uniform. One, who was a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, was killed in action and is buried in Malta. Another is just returning from Palestine.

Talk to him about Ireland and he will keep you engrossed for hours. "But don't take me for a typical Irishman," he grins, "I am not; I don't like rowing with people."