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PATHE GAZETTE: 43/14. (DUBLIN)

CANDLEMASS BALL GAME

With the coming of Candlemass at Deadborough in Scotland, comes also the historic handball game. As windows might be broken as well as heads, the shops are boarded up. Nobody seems to know how the game originated but everybody wants to take a hand and a ball and play. Either for the Uppies or the Downies, according to which part of the town they live in. The idea of the game is as rough as the game itself, all you have to do is to seize the ball and go with it as far as the boundary wall over which you throw it. Entirely by yourself or with great gusto. Thousands of other players want to do the same thing with the same ball and the slight argument that follows is the historic game of handball. Every ball that goes over the wall scores a point for the Uppies or the Downies and there is as much rivalry about it as between the Oxford and Cambridge boat crews, sometimes the boat race is a trifle drier. The score is Uppies 9 - Downies 2, which only goes to show.