

## ÇHIBBYR ASH \*



### MANX STORIES

In the midst of the Curragh named Close Chibragh at Ballaugh is a well called Shibbyl Ash. It is clear as chrystal, and is said to be fathomless, and always cool. One upon a time a horse wearing a straw lankard strayed from a neighbouring farm and was lost in the curraghs. It was supposed to have fallen into the well Shibbyl ash. After the horse had been missing 3 months, ~~the~~ its dead body was found on the beach at Killane, a mile away; but instead of wearing a straw lankard it had on one made from iron.

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This story comes from a manuscript composed likely in the early 1900s and passed on to Sophia Morrison. The writer is at present unknown. Cyril I. Paton's *Manx Calendar Customs* (1942), has a listing of Manx wells (see 119–23), both those used for domestic and for healing purposes, but Çhibbyr Ash is not listed. Those wells that do appear there are Çhibbyr Anlash (*or*, Phinlowe's Well); — Claddagh; Ferish; Glass; Laish;\* Lhey; Woirrey (“On the shore at low water Ballakeig”); — y Çhiarn. (\* indicates a healing well.) This number does seem to be scanty and indeed one well name at least can now be added to the list. No doubt more remain to be recorded or recalled though whether those wells known can be discovered still flowing is another matter indeed.

### REFERENCES

Paton, Cyril I. *Manx Calendar Customs*. Publications of the Folk-Lore Society. Vol. cx. London: Folk-Lore Society, 1942.

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