

emigration from Ireland to America and the British colonies from 1840 to 1888 numbered 4,661,000. That fact alone accounts for the apparent drop in the relative proportion of Catholics to the rest of the population if Ireland be taken into the calculation. As a matter of fact, however, the Cardinal's statement referred only to England, and there was no reason at all why Ireland should have been brought into the question. Mr. Hughes' letter was promptly taken up by the Rev. Father O'Doherty, who, after showing the hopeless confusion in which the writer gets involved in his "statistics," concludes by making the following challenge:—"The Anglican Bishop of Ballarat once disputed Cardinal Vaughan's testimony on this same subject of Anglican converts to Catholicism. I took the liberty of proposing that we should count heads, beginning with the clerical converts, subject only to such conditions as would ensure the genuine character of each convert, whether to Anglicanism or Catholicism. On the same conditions I propose to name 25 genuine clerical converts for every one Mr. Hughes can name. If I fail to name 25 for his one I shall contribute £50 to any non-sectarian charity you, Sir, may mention, and if he fails to name one for every 25 I name, then I take leave to propose that he pay £50 to a like charity. When we have got through the list of clerical converts we can take up the lay list." Mr. Hughes replied in a very lengthy communication, but carefully ignored Father O'Doherty's very awkward offer. In the course of his letter he remarked that "one very significant feature of 'converts to Rome' is the paucity of intellect shown amongst them since 1870." Whereupon Father O'Doherty makes the following additional challenge:—"I leave fair-minded men to draw their own conclusions from his unwillingness to have a practical solution of the convert difficulty by counting heads. But I am anxious to give him another chance. Many of the converts from Anglicanism do not come up to his high intellectual standard. Well, I undertake to subscribe £50 to any non-sectarian charity you, sir, may mention, if he can name one religious or theological work, written, compiled, or edited by a clerical convert from Catholicism for every fifty such works that I shall name by converts from Anglicanism. This should be an easy task to one who can refer so jauntily to all the great authorities on statistics. Further, I shall give the sum mentioned if he can prove one pecuniary sacrifice to the amount of £5, by clerical converts from Catholicism, for every pecuniary sacrifice to the amount of £1000 that I shall prove for clerical converts from Anglicanism. When we are done with the clerical list, I am quite willing to take up the lay list, and contrast the literary work and heroic sacrifices of lay converts to Catholicism with those of converts to Anglicanism. I trust Mr. Hughes will agree with me that this puts the whole matter into a nutshell." Father O'Doherty certainly offers very heavy odds, and if the Anglican representative has any confidence at all in his position he has a splendid opportunity for showing it. We are very much afraid, however, that Mr. Hughes will content himself with a vain and useless juggling with "statistics," and that Father O'Doherty's plain and practical challenge will be discreetly ignored.

THE PHARMACY Bill, which is being introduced by THE HON. W. C. WALKER, is a measure of considerable interest to the general public. The main object of the Bill appears to be to provide for the establishment of a Pharmaceutical Society for the colony, and to introduce a number of restrictive provisions which shall make admission to the ranks of the registered chemists a matter of greater difficulty than it is at present. By section 4 all persons who at the commencement of this Act are duly registered as pharmaceutical chemists under "The Pharmacy Act, 1880," and all persons who thereafter are duly registered as pharmaceutical chemists under this Act, are declared to be a body corporate under the name of "The Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand." The affairs of the Society are to be managed and controlled by a board, to be elected under the provisions of this Act, and to be called "The Pharmacy Board of New Zealand," and the existing Pharmacy Board is to be deemed the first board appointed under this Act. It is the duty of the board from time to time to cause the names of all duly qualified persons to be registered in a book to be kept by the board for that purpose, and to be called "The Pharmaceutical Register of New Zealand," and if any registered chemist is convicted of any offence which in the opinion of a majority of all the members of the Board renders him unfit to be on the register, the Board has power to remove his name therefrom. Hitherto the only qualification required of a candidate for admission as a registered chemist was that he should have passed the prescribed examinations in materia medica, botany, chemistry and pharmacy, but for the future no candidate will be admitted unless he has in addition served for at least three years under articles of apprenticeship as the apprentice of a registered chemist keeping open shop for the compounding and dispensing of prescriptions. This will press hardly on candidates who are now studying for chemists, but allowance is made for them to the extent of providing that apprenticeship shall not be necessary in the case of any

person who passes the prescribed examinations on or before the first of July, 1899. The provision requiring apprenticeship is obviously intended to restrict the number of applicants for registration as chemists and to make the calling as far as possible "a close borough." We note that the Premier has expressed serious doubts as to the possibility of getting the measure through this session, but its promoters are very determined, and even if it fails to pass this session it is practically certain that next session at least it will find a place upon the Statute Book.

THE present land laws of New Zealand are the outcome of a genuine attempt to carry out the principle of "the land for the people," and there can be little doubt that, under the "free selection" system the acquirement of land is made as easy as legislation can possibly make it for even the poorest settler. Would-be settlers are, however, often in a difficulty and are sometimes prevented from taking advantage of the system by ignorance or doubt as to the regulations and formalities to be complied with in order to bring them into the position of being actual applicants for the land. On this point the last number of the *Labour Journal* just to hand has an interesting article, in which plain practical directions are given to intending selectors as to the proper way to go about the work of selecting the land. As the matter is one of very practical interest to many we reproduce the most important of the directions given:—1. Apply to the Commissioner of Crown Lands either at Auckland, Napier, New Plymouth, Wellington, Nelson, Blenheim, Hokitika, Christchurch, Dunedin, or Invercargill for a "Land Guide" for the district in which the land is required. This will be given or sent free. The Commissioner will also show maps of all land in the market. 2. (a.) Turn up the first two sheets of the "Land Guide," where will be found particulars of the different systems of acquiring land, and decide which system will suit you. (b.) Then search further in the "Land Guide" for land available under that system. (c.) Note carefully the block and section number and the district and area of the land you require. 3. Inquire personally or by letter from the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the provincial district in which such land is situated as to whether or not such land is still available, and ask for a map showing the position and description of the land; also ask for a form of application for such land. These will all be supplied without charge. 4. Make all possible inquiries as to the suitability of the land required, and also, if possible, see it personally. This is strongly urged, as dis-appointment and money may perhaps be saved by so doing. 5. Having finally fixed upon suitable land, make application for it at once (on the form mentioned in paragraph 3, above) to the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the provincial district in which the land is situated, but be sure that your name is plainly written in full thereon, and that the declaration required has been made before a Justice of the Peace, and also that the agreement at the back of the form, to the effect that you will pay the deposit as required therein, has been signed. The application will be treated as informal without the agreement or declaration. 6. Inquire on the day after putting in your application, or on the day after which the land is first opened for sale, as to whether you are or are not the only applicant. If you are the only applicant, either attend personally or by your agent at the next meeting of the Land Board after your application has been made to the Commissioner, as it will then be dealt with. If you are not the only applicant, appear personally or by your agent at the Land Office on the day fixed for the ballot, when you can draw for choice. At this stage of the proceedings you must be prepared to pay the necessary deposit; and if you omit or are unable to do so your application will be incomplete, and the Land Board may proceed to grant the land to another applicant without further notice. The date and time of the meeting of the Land Board can be ascertained on application to the Commissioner. 7. The amount of the deposit can be ascertained by referring to the first few pages of the "Land Guide," under the heading of the system on which the land you apply for is to be sold or leased; and all other necessary particulars will be found therein.

MR. T. D. SULLIVAN, noting that the Dublin Independent asks for a new song for popular use in the coming centennial of '98, says:—"I think it a great pity that there is not in the Irish book-market a selection from the songs of Robert Dwyer Joyce in a neat and handy volume, price not more than one shilling—for at anything beyond that price I believe there is no chance of a paying sale for an Irish nationalist publication. Joyce sought to utilise the old, imperfect, and sometimes worse than rude folk songs of Ireland as Burns had availed of the gems and gold embedded in a similar stratum of Scottish literature. He took a number of little known compositions, the output of a rough time, the work of uncultured, though in many cases poetically gifted, men, and shaping them, polishing them, and fitting them in with brilliant work of his

TIGER BLEND TEAS HAVE NO EQUAL.