

age abundantly prove; proving, moreover, that it was by the experience of those times that the former of these virtues were realised and presented to posterity.

The 'Smart Set'

Father Bernard Vaughan is still fly-blistering the vices and follies of the 'smart set.' 'A genial, giddy youth, with great expectations,' said he in a recent sermon, 'has not much chance of holding his own when set upon by fast, smart women. Some women of the set to which I refer seem to combine the savagery of the animal with the cunning of the devil. Of one thing, any man who ventures into the society of the fast, smart set may be sure, and that is, if he goes into it with any money he will come out of it without any.' And then he 'said things' about fashionable 'girl gamblers,' the moral ruin that overtakes so many of them at the hands of 'devils in disguise,' and the 'sewer of putrid filthiness' in which their grasping after gold is carried on. It is indeed a dark and terrible picture. He then showed how the betting mania had seized upon every walk of society, and pointed out the distinction between the legitimate and the illegitimate resort to games of chance and skill. 'I have been told,' he added, through the pages of the press that he wanted to stop, not bridge only, but everything that put merriment into life—for instance, elegance in dress, dainties in food, all diversions in the week, with all recreation on Sunday. 'I state emphatically,' said Father Vaughan, 'I want to do nothing of the sort. On the contrary, I like elegance in dress, but not extravagance, I like delicacies in food, but not dainties only. I like amusement in the week, but not till work has earned it, and I like relaxation on Sunday, but not till God is worshipped. In fact, so strongly do I feel about Sunday recreation that, in spite of what some will say, as soon as my sermon ends, I am going to take some 200 costers with other poor brother friends to spend the afternoon in the country. But this is very different from spending one's life in a riot of pleasure—gone mad. You can no more live a human life on mere pleasure than you can on whipped cream, and the so-called smart people who spend their time and wealth picking pleasure out of it would in my judgment be better employed picking oakum. They form our worst class of tramps. Father Vaughan exhorted his hearers to tear out of their being, no matter what it might cost, that special evil thing, be it betting, be it drugs, or be it sensuality, which was spoiling if not ruining life.'

Imaginary Ailments

Apropos of the measure now before Parliament for the suppression of quackery, a story is going the rounds of the press that a French surgeon treated a poor woman who was convinced that she had had a lizard in her inside for forty years by an imaginary operation followed by exhibition of a lizard obtained for the purpose. 'A like device (remarks the 'British Medical Journal,'—commenting on the case) has often been successfully practised in similar circumstances. To show the length to which imagination may carry a neurotic person, we may mention the case of a great lady who had an ineradicable persuasion that all kinds of foreign bodies found their way into the throat and stuck there. Nothing was ever to be seen, but she was not to be satisfied with the most solemn assurance to that effect. So she went, spluttering and choking, especially when she went out to dinner, till life became a burden to her and to those about her. At last she found a physician who relieved her suffering. As he has long since gone to a place where he sleeps untroubled by the imaginings of hysterical patients, there can be no harm in telling how he did this. The method was simplicity itself. He laid in a stock of small coins, frag-

ments of bone, feathers, small tangles of hair, pieces of wax, and the like unconsidered trifles, and triumphantly removed one or other of these objects as the occasion required. This may be condemned by the righteous as quackery, and quackery of a kind it undoubtedly was. But if the real end of medicine is to cure, can she, when legitimate means fail, afford to despise anything that relieves suffering, even though the suffering be imaginary? Or must all such sufferers be allowed to drift into the net of the quack who applies his imaginary remedies not for their benefit, but for his own?

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Rev. Father Cleary will deliver a lecture at the South Dunedin Catholic Literary and Social Club rooms on Monday evening.

A lecture under the auspices of St. Joseph's Men's Club will be delivered in St. Joseph's Hall on Friday evening by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, of Invercargill.

The roof of the new Senior House at Holy Cross College is now covered with Marseilles tiles, and the building begins to present a striking and finished appearance. A new avenue is being formed around the building.

At the usual weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday the question, 'Is conscription necessary to form an efficient defence force for the Colony?' was debated. Mr. P. Carolin led in the affirmative, and Mr. T. J. Hussey opposed him in the negative. Both gentlemen did full justice to their respective sides, and were supported by the following speakers: Messrs. E. W. Spain, D. S. Columb, W. Bevis, D. O'Connell, J. Wilkinson, and H. Miles. On a vote being taken those on the negative side were declared winners by a large majority.

The St. Joseph's Harriers ran from the Wakari School on Saturday. Messrs. Bernech, Simis, and Beard went out with the bags a little before three o'clock, and laid a good trail. Taking to the hills opposite the school till alongside Ashburn Hall, a turn was made to the left and along the district road, and the trail led back round the hills at the head of Fraser's Gully, and home by the Main road. Some difficulty was experienced on account of the strong wind blowing the paper, but the trail was kept. The pace all through was very fast, and the run throughout enjoyed by all the runners. This club will hold one more run this season—a sealed handicap and championship.

Oamaru

(From an occasional correspondent.)

September 10.

A very enjoyable evening was spent last Thursday at the rooms of the lately formed Men's Catholic Club. The programme was a mock banquet, and a large number of members assembled for the occasion. Rev. Father O'Neill occupied the chair, the vice-chair being filled by Mr. M. Hanley. Numerous toasts were proposed and duly honored, several members of the club making their maiden speeches and acquitting themselves with credit. The toasts were interspersed with songs and recitations, and the whole programme gave satisfaction to all present.

The club, since its inauguration a few weeks ago, has increased in membership. A debating class has been formed. Messrs. M. Hanley and V. Veitch have undertaken a physical culture class, while Mr. C. Kane is president of the cricket club. The intellectual side of the club is not forgotten, as it is intended to start a library immediately. A piano has been purchased, and as several of the members possess musical talents, the instrument will prove a valuable adjunct. The club has become affiliated to the Federated Catholic Societies, and on September 27 will enter for the oratorical contest—'Mr. Seddon as a statesman and as a man.' The contest will be carried on under the rules of the executive of the Federation.

It will pay our readers in Dunedin, Oamaru, and Invercargill to patronise Messrs. H. R. Scott and Co., where they will have the opportunity of inspecting a comprehensive stock of Home and Colonial hosiery, which is offered at very moderate prices.