

for a Christian minister to stand in. But it illustrates the dangers of ex-parte and ill-informed dogmatism. The ex-president's pronouncement will appear in a still more odious light when, in our next issue, we shall consider it in relation to the means adopted by the atheistic 'bloc' to bring about the extinction of Christian worship in the Third Republic.

Notes

Conscience and Beard

We take the following from a morning contemporary:—

'The method pursued by accused persons when challenging juries in the Supreme Court is often mystifying. A Maori, who explained to the judge at Auckland last week that all the jurymen were the same to him, nevertheless challenged every individual with a beard.'

History sometimes repeats itself in unexpected places. The notorious Jeffreys—the hanging judge—once objected to the testimony of a witness because the latter had a long beard. 'If your conscience is like your beard,' said Jeffreys, in effect, 'it is a swinging one.' 'My lord,' retorted the undismayed witness (who was a countryman), 'if you measure consciences by beards, you have no conscience.' There seems to be a sort of mental affinity between the hanging judge and the jury-challenging Maori.

'Verify Your References'

Brownson and Newman were sticklers for the sound and very necessary motto in all discussion: 'Verify your references.' The motto will, we think, be burned into the memory of a former M.H.R. (Mr. Meredith) who has been serving up some high-temperature anti-Home Rule misinformation to the 'Waimate Advertiser.' One item—a piece de resistance—was an alleged 'attack on street preachers at Clifton.' Trusting, apparently, with a faith that was simple and childlike, to an Orange leaflet that we dealt with some time ago, the ex-legislator credited the story to 'The Weekly Irish Times' of 13th September last, page 13. Whereupon Dean Regnault (who had taken the trouble to 'verify the references') promptly replied:—

"There was no issue of the 'Weekly Irish Times' of September 13th last; there is no such place as Clifton, County Fermanagh—Clifton is in England, and well known as the fashionable watering-place near Bristol. The allay mentioned by Mr. Meredith as related in the 'Weekly Irish Times' of September 13th last is not mentioned in any of the five weekly issues of that paper in last September."

And now there is a sum of £50 waiting to drop into the exchequer of the Waimate Hospital if the too trusting legislator can 'verify his references.'

The Quack

There is in New Zealand a large body of people whose serene simplicity affords a comfortable or luxurious living to the raucous horde of quacks that 'pour drugs of which they know nothing into bodies of which they know less.' These simple-minded people are (said Dr. Barnet, President of the New Zealand Branch of the British Medical Association at their inaugural meeting in Dunedin a few days ago) 'not only the ignorant, but the lovers of the mysterious, the neurotics, the half crazy cranks, and faddists who prefer the treatment of the quacks to that of the orthodox practitioners'. There is, he adds, 'a brisk demand for quack treatment; there always will be; and the supply will meet the demand.' Judging by the learned doctor's remarks, arguments against the fascination of the quack would seem to fall like paper pellets from the ironclad folly and prejudice of the unthinking. He adds:—

'We can probably point out to them that they will probably waste much money, and, worse than that, they may let the favorable opportunity for radical treatment slip by, and incipient cancer or consumption may have established itself too deeply for successful interference by the time the unfortunate or foolish dupes find themselves released from the coils of quackery. We may quote the confessions of victims who have left the hands of quacks sadder, wiser, and poorer men; we may ridicule the electric belts which are sold at prices ranging from three to twenty guineas, and possess as much electrical virtue as a dog-collar; we may prove to demonstration that the much-vaunted cures of hernia, cancer, epilepsy, goitre, asthma, nervous debility, and what not, are in nine cases out of ten ignorant frauds. Our denunciations fall upon unsympathetic ears; we are regarded as biased, as jealous, as self-interested. We can and do point out, to the public the risks they run in entrusting their precious bodies to the care of quacks. I doubt whether we ought to do more. If the public wishes to protect the ignorant and the silly from falling victims to the alluring snares of the irregular practitioner, it can demand legislation: to that end, and it can be sure of the sympathy and co-operation of the medical profession.'

We do not, however, despair of seeing the measure that was slaughtered during the last session of Parliament placed upon the statute-book for the protection of the poor against the wiles and frauds of the great fraternity of quacks.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday from last Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession. A sermon on the Blessed Sacrament was preached by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly (Thames).

The arrangements for the concert in connection with St. Patrick's Day, which takes place in the Garrison Hall on Monday evening, March 18, are well forward, and the committee have secured the services of some of our leading vocalists for the occasion.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran (Sydney), Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly (Thames), Rev. Father Walshe (Wollongong), and the Rev. Father Phelan (Lewisham, N.S.W.) spent a few days in Dunedin as the guests of his Lordship the Bishop. The Australian visitors will leave the Bluff for Melbourne next Monday.

At a meeting held last week in St. Joseph's Hall to consider the advisability of forming a football club in connection with St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Men's Clubs, a committee was elected to canvass probable members, and also to report on the possibility of being accepted by the Otago Rugby Union. On Tuesday evening the committee reported the result of their efforts to a representative meeting of young men held in St. Joseph's Hall, when, owing to the inducements offered, it decided to form a club called the Athletic Football Club, and to make application for admission to the Rugby Union. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Hon. J. B. Callan, M.L.C.; vice-presidents, Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., and Rev. Father Howard, Drs. O'Neill and Hall, and Messrs. T. Dechan and T. Heffernan; hon. secretary, Mr. Jas. Ward; hon. treasurer, Mr. D. Corcoran; committee, Messrs. J. O'Connor, E. Kehoe, J. Drumm, J. Mulholland, T. McDermott, J. Casey, and T. J. Hussey; delegates to the Otago Rugby Union, Dr. O'Neill, Messrs. T. J. Hussey, and Jas. Ward; auditors, Messrs. J. B. Callan, jun., and R. W. Spain.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

March 1.

Very Rev. Dean Hackett is to preach the panegyric of St. Patrick at the Cathedral on Sunday, March 17.

Very Rev. Father Clune and Rev. Father McDermott, C.S.S.R., will begin missions at Parnell and Newmarket on Sunday, March 17.

A new Station of the Cross will be erected by the Bishop to the memory of the late Carroll Nash, a benefactor to the Church in this diocese.

The Hon. Mr. Heydon, M.L.C., President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Australasia, arrives here next Sunday, and will be welcomed by the priests and several of the laity.