

as you are aware, under the supervision of Rev. Mother Mary Aubert. The works of that holy woman are so well known throughout the Dominion that to praise her would be an impertinence. My visit confirmed the view I hold, that statutory charity—necessary as human nature makes it—can never produce results like personal charity, actuated by self-sacrifice, and rendered effective by special training.

This generous appreciation is as creditable to our non-Catholic fellow-townsmen as it is well-deserved by the Home of Compassion.

The Papal Decree and the Civil Law

Most of the misconceptions that arise in connection with Catholic doctrine and practice have their origin in second-hand and untrustworthy information and in hasty and superficial thinking. To the latter class belongs the statement published in the Christchurch 'Press' by the Rev. Head of Christ's College—that the recent papal decree on marriage 'annuls the law of the land'. A similar blunder has been perpetrated by the collective voice of the Protestant Episcopalian Church in Ireland. It even went so far as to embody in a resolution its opinion that the recent Catholic legislation is 'an encroachment upon the laws of the United Kingdom'. The legal aspect of the decree is dealt with, and these misconceptions cleared up, in pp. 132-9 of the 'Tablet' book, 'Catholic Marriages'.

Women's Franchise

Women's franchise in New Zealand has certainly not justified the dire predictions made by some of its warmer opponents when it was passing from agitation towards realisation. During the past week Englishwomen who are pining for a similar right have, for the tenth time, demonstrated the amount of vocal energy and political horse-power that may be developed by the gentler sex when they 'take a day off' to agitate. English political parties, however, seem content to hold, with 'Mr. Dooley', that women need not agitate for mere rights since they have so many privileges. 'They haven't the right to vote', says 'Mr. Dooley', 'but they have the privilege of controlling the man ye elict. They haven't the right to make laws, but they have the privilege of breakin' thim, which is better. They haven't the right iv a fair thrile be a jury iv their peers, but they have the privilege iv an unfair thrile be a jury iv their admirin' infayriors. If I could fly, d'ye think I'd want to walk?'

Persecution Plants Religion

In a well-known passage of his 'Religio Medici', Sir Thomas Browne declared that 'persecution is a bad and indirect way to plant religion'. France seems, so far as we can learn, to be no exception to this general finding of human experience. Elsewhere in this issue we have quoted the admission of a French Freemason reviewer regarding the increased attendance at the Holy Week ceremonies in Paris. 'Never', says the Paris 'Figaro' (a secular journal) in the course of an editorial article, 'have the ceremonies of Holy Week attracted a more compact or more fervent crowd of worshippers. . . It is a strange illusion to believe in the action of anti-religious laws on souls. Nothing is easier than to get the Chambers to pass anti-clerical legislation, nothing is more simple than to oppress priests and people. But nothing is more futile. The religious sentiment which has such deep roots in the mystery of souls resists every brutality, and never gives way to force. On the contrary, persecution only succeeds in increasing energy, as a blast of air blows up, the fire that seemed almost dead.'

'Lloyd's' Romance

Since the lines on p. 10 of this issue were sent to press, Continental journals have come to hand giving

the sequel of the Fumagalli affair. An attempt was made to implicate Don Longo, a priest now exercising faculties on the Italian mission in New York. He, of his own accord, returned and faced his accusers. No evidence could be adduced against him, and he left the court without even the breath of a suspicion against him. The 'Unione', a leading secular paper of Milan, strongly protests against the 'illegal procedure' that characterised the whole trial, and calls upon the proper authority to see to the matter. It maintains that the sham 'nun', Fumagalli, was clearly innocent of complicity in the scandals, and holds that even in the case of Riva, there are the gravest grounds for doubting the justice of his conviction. There were (says Signor Meda, one of the most eminent advocates in Italy) no 'specific and certain evidence against him'; and he adduces testimony to show that (as happened likewise in the Stoke cases) little witnesses were tampered with in the court itself and taught to repeat the stories that they should tell. The whole affair (says Signor Meda) has been exploited by 'two or three journals' of anti-clerical hue and by 'a few hundred persons accustomed to create tumults in the streets'. As already stated by us (p. 10) the affair in no way implicates the Church or any ecclesiastical person of good standing. But the Fumagalli woman is entitled to a statement of the extenuating circumstances mentioned in this paragraph.

'CATHOLIC MARRIAGES'

FURTHER APPRECIATIONS

'It is neatly got up and well printed, and its matter embraces nearly everything that could be said on the Catholic marriage question. . . The book reads very well. . . It is a very informative and useful book on the marriage question, and a very neat little thing for reference'.—'W.A. Record' (Perth, W.A.).

(The 'Tablet') 'has done good service to the Church throughout the Commonwealth by the publication of the work on Catholic marriages. . . Not the least interesting and useful part of this work is the copious notes, comments, and references to authorities, by which the author has amplified and strengthened his able and convincing exposures of the falsehoods—some of them outrageously offensive—which were published against the Church. . . (The book) has provided Catholics with a series of splendid practical examples of how to expose and refute such slanders'.—The 'Age' (Brisbane).

'It will well repay perusal on the part of all interested in this important subject, and can be strongly recommended as a work which will materially aid in "fortifying the layman", as well as afford valuable information on difficult points connected with matrimony'.—The 'Southern Cross' (Adelaide).

Our Management is requested to state, for the benefit of Canterbury readers, that Mr. O'Connor, Catholic bookseller, Christchurch, has on hands a good stock of the book 'Catholic Marriages'.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Friday a Triduum in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, and in accordance with the directions of the Holy Father, will be commenced in St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Dr. G. East, well known in Dunedin, who has for the past two years been practising in Whangaparapara, Great Barrier Island, has removed to Huntley, Waikato. Dr. East is an ex-pupil of the Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin, and graduated at Otago University.

The St. Joseph's Harrier Club had a good muster for their run, which was held at St. Clair. The trail went up past the Castle, along the water's edge for some distance, and making a large circuit in the direction of Caversham, returned home along the hills overlooking St. Clair. A swim in the baths terminated a very enjoyable outing.

The members of St. Patrick's Young Men's Social and Literary Club, South Dunedin, held their usual weekly meeting on June 15, when there was a fair at-