

life of our day that they seem to be of the nature of things. Yet the first man that went under chloroform died in England only three years ago or thereabouts. And there recently passed away in Chicago William Hammon Hubbard, the man who was the first to hear the human voice vibrating through a telephone. He was a student at Harvard when, in the seventies, Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, chose him as an assistant in his experiments. Two years ago he described to the Chicago Literary Society how that historic voice came to him over the electric wire. 'Professor Bell,' said he, 'had an apartment consisting of several rooms. He had a transmitting instrument in the room at the front end of the suits and a receiving instrument at the rear end. He would work over the transmitter and call to me from time to time over the wire asking me if I could hear. The wire was dead. I could hear nothing. Finally the evening of the professor's triumph came. I could hear him say "Hello," and I ran toward the front of the rooms where he was. He heard me coming, and sprang to meet me. From the expression of my face he knew that I had heard, and then we exchanged places, and I talked to him so that he could hear. So Professor Bell himself was the second person to hear the human voice transmitted over the telephone wire.'

### Sarasate

A cable message in last week's daily papers conveyed this brief announcement of the passing of a star from the musical firmament: 'Señor Pablo Sarasate, the famous Spanish violinist, died suddenly at Biarritz from internal hemorrhage; aged 64 years.'

The great Catholic virtuoso won his way to the pinnacle of musical fame without any adventitious aid beyond the magic of his fingers and the soul of music that was within him. Paderewski and Kubelik would have been first-class successes apart altogether from their wonderful head-pieces and their unforgettable faces. These cultivated gifts help to turn the success into an enthusiasm. 'Both Paderewski and Kubelik,' says Max O'Rell, 'have heads that attract attention and cannot be forgotten. I maintain that if you possess, or can succeed in making for yourself, such a head that everybody will recognise you in the street, you will be a notoriety; and if, besides, you possess great talent, you will easily be a firmly-established celebrity. The Australian impresario who ten years ago engaged Paderewski to visit the British colonies, inserted a clause in the contract that the eminent pianist would not alter his appearance—in other words, that he would not get his hair cut.'

### 'Boil it Down'

In his advice to young writers, Dean Swift penned this crowning 'wisdom': 'Whenever you have written anything you think particularly fine, strike it out.' A more homely, and more needful, 'wisdom' was thrown into metrical form in the following stanza of a 'pome':—

'When writing an article for the press,  
Whether prose or verse, just try  
To express your thoughts in the fewest words,  
And let them be crisp and dry.  
And when you think that your task is o'er,  
And is done exactly brown—  
Just look it over again, and then  
Boil it down.'

With the pen, as with the tongue, the more it runs on, the less the weight it bears. But where there is a certain word-facility with either, it is too often accompanied by the tendency to follow the example of the gold-beater and beat out a pin-head of thought till it covers much space of time or paper-surface.

### Crime in France

Commenting on a Reuter Press Agency's telegram which is quoted elsewhere in this issue, the *Liverpool Catholic Times* of August 21 remarks:—'When Reuter's news-agency tells us, anything disquieting as to the condition of France under the rule of M. Clemenceau it may be taken for granted that the source of the trouble is deep. Its telegram stating that the enormous increase of juvenile crime in that country is causing alarm to criminologists is a clear symptom of a desperate condition of affairs. There can in truth be no dispute that the French people are face to face with a terrible evil. Amongst all classes criminal practices have rapidly multiplied, and the old respect for life and property is disappearing. Youths of from sixteen to

twenty years are conspicuous for disregard of the law. They are responsible for 4.20 per cent. of the whole of the crimes on the police calendars. It has been ascertained from statistics that the number of crimes in proportion to population has almost doubled in thirty years, and one of the worst features of the situation is that the criminals display so much art and skill in their sins against society that the detection of the outrages they commit has become exceedingly difficult. They have had mental but not sound moral training. The authorities are seriously puzzled as to how they can be dealt with effectually. In all the departments during the assizes the juries have been recommending the maintenance of the death penalty. Behind the juries are the better members of the population crying out for protection from the hands of assassins who are terrorising them.'

### The Church in Russia

In the course of an article in the *National Review* for September, 1891, Professor Geffcken paints a dark picture of the persecutions of Jews and Catholics that stained the reign of Alexander III. of Russia, who 'passed out' on November day, 1894. These persecutions (says the learned professor) 'seem incredible in our age.' Thousands of unoffending persons were, because of their fidelity to their faith, 'exiled to Siberia, or to distant regions without any means of livelihood. As regards Catholics,' adds he, 'these measures are principally directed against the clergy; but the Uniates (i.e., the Catholics who have the Slav liturgy) are unsparingly deported if they refuse to have their children baptised by an Orthodox pope' (that is, a Russian State Church clergyman), 'and this is done with men, women, and children, peasants and merchants. Twenty thousand Uniates alone have been removed from the western provinces to Szaratow. Those who remain at home have Cossacks quartered upon them, and all sorts of compulsory means are used to stamp out this sect.'

The subsequent course of events served to demonstrate the truth of Sir Thomas Browne's saying, that 'persecution is a bad and indirect way to plant religion.' The oppressive laws of Alexander III. were relaxed in 1897. But they had already sown the good seed; and when religious tolerance was decreed in 1905, and conversion to the Old Faith was no longer a felony, whole districts of the Empire were already whitening for the harvest. 'The Odessa correspondent of the *Standard*' (says the *London Catholic Weekly* of August 21) 'states that since the promulgation of the Religious Tolerance Edict of October 30, 1905, the conversion of Orthodox Russians to Catholicism has been of quite an intensive character, and all the efforts of the Russian Orthodox clergy to arrest the movement have proved utterly futile. In the Government of Vilna alone, 30,000 people have become Catholics, and a large number of Orthodox rectories and curacies have been closed. In the Governments of Siedlice and Liublin, in the diocese of Cholm, 200,000 Orthodox, and in the Government of Minsk 8000 Uniates, have been received into the Catholic fold.'

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The general Communion of the members of the H.A.C.B. Society takes place on Sunday week at St. Joseph's Cathedral.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration commences in St. Joseph's Cathedral on to-morrow (Friday) morning.

On Sunday a number of the children will receive their First Communion in St. Joseph's Cathedral.

A bazaar in aid of the new convent building fund will be opened in the Catholic schoolroom, Lawrence, on October 9.

We have received from Mr. James Holland, Gore, the sum of £4 10s contributed by the following to the building fund of the Church of the Irish Martyrs, Cromwell:—Mr. James Holland, £1; Mr. Daniel Ryan, £1; Mr. Michael Quirk, 10s; Mr. W. O'Brien, 10s; Mr. Malachy Hanly, 10s; Mr. Maurice Cotter, 10s; Mr. John O'Neill, 10s.

There was a good attendance at the usual weekly meeting of St. Joseph's Men's Club on Friday, when the Shakespeare class gave a very fine reading of Henry V. The following gentlemen sustained the various characters:—Messrs. T. Deehan, E. W. Spain, F. Heley, W. Rodgers, M. Rossbotham, Joseph Swanson, J. Cowan, and L. Coughlan. A hearty vote of thanks to the performers was proposed by Mr. D. S. Columb and seconded by Mr. R. Rossbotham. Rev. Father Coffey also