

Casier. The accompanists were Miss Kathleen Owens and Mr. Harry Hiscocks. Mrs. Ralph accompanied the orphan children, and Mr. P. F. Hiscocks was conductor. Before the last item on the programme was given his Lordship the Bishop ascended the stage and said he felt proud of the whole proceedings that day and the fitting culmination in the fine concert. On his return from Europe he was pleased to learn that his priests and people had determined to make an effort to worthily commemorate their national festival, and at the same time to assist the schools of the diocese by devoting the proceeds to their support. No better object could be chosen by them upon which to bestow their money and energies. That morning, when standing on the steps of the Grey statue and looking over the big throng of children, his mind was taken back to that memorable Saturday afternoon in London when he saw that huge children's procession which, like their own that morning, sang 'Faith of Our Fathers.' Both were cheering and comforting events, and nerved one to do still more in the interests of Faith and Fatherland. He felt proud at being their Bishop, and proud of being an Irishman. The committee he wished to thank, and only wished they were present on the stage that he might thank them in as public a manner as possible. He also desired to thank the performers, especially Misses Lorrigan and Quinn and Madame Casier, who were always ready to assist in any good cause. His Lordship was warmly cheered as he left the stage. The concert concluded with the singing of the chorus of 'God save Ireland' by the audience.

'THE SECRET OF THE SUCCESS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME'

Under the above heading the following letter and extract appear in the current issue of the *Dunedin Outlook* (Presbyterian):—

Sir,—In your issue of February 20, a letter appeared addressed to Mr. Cameron, signed 'A Son,' which very much appealed to my own ideas on the subject. 'A Son' showed how the Church of Rome is successful in gaining converts, by the 'self-restraint, courtesy, and kindness' of her clergy. If these virtues were more pronounced in our clergy, would our Church not be benefited too? Let me give an instance! In a certain town of Auckland, there lives a young couple with their only child. The father of the child took seriously ill with lung trouble, which confined him to his bed for some weeks. Though there were both Church of England and Presbyterian Churches in the district, neither of these ministers came near them; but Father—, a Roman Catholic priest, heard of the trouble, and though he had never met either of them, he called one day, saying that he had just learned that the husband was ill, and had come to see if they had everything that was required, or if he could assist in any way. Day after day he called, and cheered the patient with his tactful conversation. Up to this time both my friends had a strong aversion to Roman Catholic priests, but naturally enough their aversion was decreased, though neither of them could for a moment think of accepting the Roman Catholic faith. This same Father— has a rule which might profitably be followed by our ministers. Every evening he goes round certain chemists' shops to learn who had called for medicines during that day, and all else that could be learned about the patient and his circumstances; and no matter whether of his own denomination or otherwise, Father— many times takes from an adjoining store what is necessary in the way of food or clothing for them. He is frequently paid for it, but not always. 'Never mind,' he will say, 'just pay when you can, and if you cannot it will be all right.' Now, does not this speak for itself?

I enclose a clipping from a pamphlet entitled 'Britain, Awake!' which shows what strides the Catholics are making. Perhaps you may find room for it in your valuable and appreciated *Outlook*. Surely it is time for our ministers to rouse themselves to action, and to get more life and activity in our Church.—I am, etc.,
A READER.

'ACTIVITY OF THE ROMAN CHURCH.'

—Propaganda Abroad.—

Rome, August 12.

Great interest has been aroused in Rome by the report brought by the Rector of the Apostolic Mission House at Washington, the Very Rev. A. P. Doyle, of the remarkable work which is being done by that institution, and the hundreds of missionary priests who are being trained there for the purpose of preaching the doctrines of the Roman Catholic faith to the non-Catholics of the

United States. The aim of the organisation is no less than to make the whole of America dominantly Roman Catholic, and, judging by the extraordinary success of the first ten years' work, it is difficult to foretell how great may be the results of the next few years.

The work of the Washington Mission starts from an entirely new point of departure. Instead of the negative and controversial attitude of the past towards Protestants, the old-fashioned priest who denounced them to his people as bigoted and aggressive enemies of them and of religion—the carefully selected young priests who are trained at the Washington Mission are taught to avoid entirely all harsh and controversial methods, to consider in every way the feelings, and even the prejudices, of their hearers, and, while instructed in the most elaborate way to present the doctrines of the Roman Church in such a manner as to convince the non-Catholic of the superior advantages of the Roman Church, equally great attention is given to training the young in the art of persuasion, in patience, gentleness, unaffected good temper, and that tactful and sympathetic manner which goes far to disarm criticism and undermine the prejudices of opponents. In addition, they are trained in elocution, good taste, charm of manner, and even in such comparatively small details as the management and use of the local press. It is hoped that eventually every diocese will contain a band of these missionary priests to the non-Catholics, who will hold constant missions and devote all their energies to the great ideal that they have set before themselves of guiding a constant stream of converts into the Roman Catholic fold.

Though the work is at present in its infancy, with such highly-trained and magnificently-equipped instruments, it is not surprising that through their agency some 6000 converts have already been received into the Roman Catholic Church, while 62,500 have been placed under instruction to be received later. In order to give some idea of the militant methods of the Roman Catholic Church in America at present, it is sufficient to state that during last year over 25,000 converts in all were received, among them no fewer than thirty Episcopalian ministers. Such wonderful success has induced the Roman hierarchy in England to desire to start a like organisation in every English diocese, and Father Herbert Vaughan has been sent by Archbishop Bourne to study the methods and ideals of the Washington Mission House in order that a thoroughly organised movement may be started in England and Scotland on the same lines, establishing a similar Apostolic Mission House to be the great nerve centre of a widespread missionary movement. It is said that Pius X. and his Secretary of State, Cardinal Merry del Val, consider this movement one of the most important in the Roman Catholic Church of to-day, and one which may have even more far-reaching results than the Oxford Movement that gained for the Roman Church Manning and Newman. They will accordingly give it every help and encouragement in their power.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

March 27.

A beautiful fountain has been erected on the St. Bride's Convent grounds at Masterton by Messrs. Taylor and Hodges. The fountain is a gift to the convent.

At the statutory meeting of the Charitable Aid Board on Friday the following estimates for 1909-10 on account of charity disbursements were passed:—St. Joseph's Orphanage, £260; St. Mary's Orphanage, £320.

Miss Hannah Sweeney, of Gore, an ex-pupil of St. Mary's Convent, Wellington, was a passenger to London by the Athenic. It is her intention to prosecute her musical studies while at home.

There was an interesting and impressive ceremony at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, on March 19, when three young ladies were professed. These were Miss Theresa Sullivan, Wellington (in religion Sister Mary Josephine); Miss Emma Crombie, Wellington (Sister Mary Cecelia); and Miss Gough, Christchurch (Sister Mary Lawrence). His Grace the Archbishop performed the ceremony, and preached an impressive sermon. The choir of the Sisters of Compassion sang the appropriate music. There were many friends and relations of the newly professed Sisters present, who were entertained after the ceremony at breakfast by the Rev. Mother Mary Aubert.