

A Hint to Policy-holders

Some of our readers who are holders of life-insurance policies may be interested in the following paragraph which we extract from the Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard.' It is a copy of a letter written to the manager of a life insurance company by a policy-holder, and runs as follows: 'I hold a policy in your company for 20,000 dollars, on which I have paid the yearly premiums. I have now to inform you that my physician advises me that I have a pronounced case of appendicitis, and his diagnosis is confirmed by a specialist whom I have consulted. I am told that the only hope of saving life is an operation, which, with hospital expenses, will cost 800 dollars, an amount that I have no means to pay. I am sensible that I owe it to you, who have so large a pecuniary interest in my life, to give you the option to pay the cost of this operation to save my life, that I may continue to pay you the yearly premiums on my policy (I believe that I am otherwise strong and healthy), or in the alternative to pay the 20,000 dollars to my beneficiary within a few weeks. I am quite willing to be examined by any physician, you may name and to have you select the operating surgeon. Immediate attention is, of course, imperative.'

Catholic Missionaries

Madame Lohman is a well-known Dutch Protestant writer, with strong rationalistic tendencies. She is also pretty outspoken in her opinions, as may be gathered from the following extract which the London 'Tablet' translates from one of a series of articles by her in the 'Amsterdamsche Courant' on a long and recently completed scientific expedition made by her in the East. Here is what she has to say concerning Catholic missionaries in the Orient:—

'It is impossible not to be filled with sincere respect at the sight of the immense benefits which are diffused by the Catholic religious Orders and missionaries. Catholic faith retains a power which very soon must win a final victory over Protestantism. I know that these assertions will draw down upon me the wrath of a large number of my fellow-countrymen, but I do not hesitate to repeat that modern Protestant Christianity must end by becoming an empty phrase. In both the East and West Indies, as well as in various parts of Europe, I have had opportunities of observing at close quarters the exemplary lives of the Catholic religious and missionaries, and the prodigies of charity of both the teaching and nursing Sisters. Many of our people, before visiting these countries, either through ignorance or human respect, used to insult Catholicism. But I have heard them confess with shame, on seeing the miracles of the Catholic Apostolate among the lepers and the despised negroes, that the heroism of Catholic charity surpasses all that can be imagined, that it is unique in the world and in history.'

Newspaper Sensations

The tendency to sensationalism is not so pronounced in the daily papers of Australia and New Zealand as in those of the United States. Daily journalism there is, as a rule, not so much a means of catering for legitimate information regarding current events, as of tickling the blase appetite of readers with highly seasoned accounts of common happenings and spasms and jumps of the thrilling and the sensational. Somebody has remarked that the secret of the success of the daily paper is the fact that everybody is interested in what everybody else is doing that is wrong. That is why long accounts of murders, suicides, and divorces form, on occasions, such a feature even in our relatively staid and respectable newspapers in these colonies. The effect of this class of sensationalism upon weak and morbid minds is so well known to the medical profession, and to legislators as well in some countries, that in most of the German States no newspaper is permitted by law to give more than the bare announcement of such happenings. A similar law would be a public benefit in Australia and New Zealand.

The rampant sensationalism of the more shrieky American daily paper reaches its culminating point in the newspaper detective-reporter and in the screaming headlines that announce the results of his work. 'Nowadays,' says 'Mr. Dooley,' 'larceny is discovered by a newspaper. The lead pipe is dug up in ye'er back yard by a rayporther who knew it was there because he helped ye bury it. A man knocks at ye'er dure airly wan mornin' an' ye answer in ye'er nighty. "In the name iv th' law, I arrest ye," says the man, seizin' ye by the throat. "Who are ye?" ye cry. "I'm a rayporther

f'r the Daily Sleuth," says he. "Photygrafter, do ye'er jooty!" Ye're hauled off in th' circylation wagon to th' newspaper office, where a confession is ready f'r ye to sign; ye're thried be a jury iv th' staff, sentenced be th' edithor-in-chief, an' at tin o'clock Friday the fatal thrap is sprung be th' fatal thrapper iv th' fam'ly journal.'

A project of legislation against newspaper sensationalism is at present before the State legislature in Minnesota. The Pittsburg 'Observer' has the following remarks upon the subject in a recent issue:

'The baleful sensationalism on which so large a portion of the secular daily press of this country thrives is threatened with a set-back in Minnesota. A member of the Senate of that State has announced his intention to introduce a Bill, under which a fine of 100 dollars will be imposed on any newspaper which publishes more than a bare announcement of any murder, suicide, manslaughter, or other felony. The only statement to be published of such events will be the mere mention of names, places, and dates. The details of the crime must be omitted. The statement must not be printed in type larger than the ordinary type of the paper, and must contain no headlines, sketches, or pictures.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Rev. Father Hogan left Dunedin on Monday, via Christchurch and Wellington, on his return journey to Dookie, Victoria.

The handsome stone church in course of construction at Clyde is fast approaching completion. It follows the same general lines as the church at Alexandra. A fine two-storey Convent of Mercy at Winton is also nearing completion.

The fine new church at Garston is almost completed. The building is roofed and lined, and the entire woodwork will be completed in about a week. Mr. Owen Kelly, of Gore, is the contractor, and the skilled and conscientious work which he has put into the sacred edifice has won the warm approval of the pastor (Rev. J. F. O'Donnell) and the Catholics of Garston. It is expected that the church will be opened about the middle of May.

The Hibernian Society scored a double success in Oamaru on Easter Monday by their annual sports and concert. The sports (ninth annual) took place in pleasant weather on the Show Grounds. The attendance was large, although the takings at the gates did not quite reach the amount received last year, which was the record year in that respect. An excellent programme was provided, and the North Otago Pipe Band furnished an added attraction to the proceedings. In the evening the annual concert was held in the Theatre Royal. There was a large and very appreciative audience, and the programme was one of high and exceptional merit. The following performers contributed the various items: Misses Rose Blaney, Marks, and D. Wilkinson, and Messrs. Farquhar Young, C. A. Jefferson, and J. Swan. The accompaniments were nicely played by Miss M. Duggan.

The solemn ceremonies of religious reception and profession took place in the chapel of the Dominican Convent, Dunedin, on Tuesday morning. His Lordship the Bishop was celebrant. He was assisted by Fathers Murphy and O'Malley, and there were also present the Rev. Fathers O'Donnell (Queenstown), M. Ryan, and P. O'Neill (Mosgiel), and Howard and H. W. Cleary. Miss Jane Hayes, of Cromwell (in religion, Sister Cuthbert) received the white veil, and the following young ladies made their religious profession: Miss Rita Prendergast, of Athy, Ireland (in religion, Sister M. Barbara), Miss Anne Hughes, of Invercargill (in religion, Sister M. Chanel), and Miss Kate Donnelly, of Ophir (in religion, Sister M. Perpetua). At the close of the ceremonies the community entertained the clergy and the relatives of the young Sisters to a choice dejeuner.

A very enjoyable Catholic entertainment was given in St. George's Hall, Milton, on Monday evening, when there was a fair attendance. The programme opened with a nicely played pianoforte duet by Misses Nellie and L. Scanlan. Miss Coleman and another young lady, whose name we have been unable to ascertain, sang a duet which was received with well-merited applause. Miss May Morrison also met with an excellent reception, her vocal items being encored by Mr. T. Hussey, a Dunedin visitor, was in splendid voice, was recalled several times for his vocal items. Other attractive features of the programme were a sailor's hornpipe and an Irish jig danced by Mr. Powley, who was also encored. Mr. J. A. Scott's vocal item was given in a finished manner. Mr. W. H. Haydon Jun., Dunedin, amused and mystified the audience with several conuring tricks, which were very cleverly performed. During the evening Mr. J. A. Scott thanked the performers, especially those who had come from a distance, for their services, and the audience for their attendance.

There were large congregations at all the Masses at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Easter Sunday. The eleven o'clock Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Hogan (Dookie, Victoria), a sermon on the Resurrection being preached by the Rev. Father Coffey. The music was Weber's Mass in G, which was given in