

Secchi, first took up the heavenly science before his final return to Rome, where for 20 years he wrought for nothing else but the defence of the Church—and he never found anything in science to shake his belief in Church or religion; but the deeper his inquiries went the firmer became his faith 'in the greatness of God and the truth of the Catholic Church.' When he died a few years after the Italian occupation of Rome, which broke down his health, he was a member of all the leading scientific societies in the world.

Father Hagen has already published ten charts and catalogues of the stars as far south as the 23rd degree, and the other great observatories in the United States are chiefly engaged in checking the correctness of his results. The new institution at Bulawayo, which is between 4000 and 5000 feet above the sea level in a perfect climate, will be exceptionally situated for continuing this charting work to the South Pole, besides opening up a new region for meteorological observations. Among the most

Important Scientific Institutions in Asia

is the Dominican University of St. Thomas, in Manila. It was founded in 1619 and became a State establishment in 1680. Lectures are given in philosophy, theology, canon and civil law, physics, chemistry, medicine, Belles Lettres, and kindred subjects. The student list averages from 1200 to 1500 names. Since the war the Americans have recognised the University as a State institution. Another great Asiatic University was established as recently as 1874 by the Jesuits at Beyrout, on the Levant. It already contains 700 students in the various faculties, and its Oriental library is already the most important in Asia. A valuable treasure in manuscripts and liturgical and Church history has been collected by the Order throughout Western and Southern Asia, and deposited here. From the printing office of this University is issued an Arabic edition of the Bible, which is described as a unique work of art, and many periodicals and newspapers are also published from this press.

The Jesuit missionaries

seem to give considerable attention to astronomical and kindred sciences. Their famous observatory at Manila, one of the first in the world for completeness of equipment in its special departments, was recently described in the 'Freeman's Journal.' The Jesuits also control observatories at Shanghai, Calcutta, Antananarivo (Madagascar), Zambesi (East Africa), and Belen (Cuba), the last-named being famous for its inquiries on the subject of cyclones. Father Chevalier, S.J., of Shanghai, recently won the crown of the French Academy for his magnificent charts of the Yang-tse-Kiang district; Father Roblet, of East Africa, won a similar honor for a work on the topography of Madagascar, and another Father of Madagascar plant life, and on its invertebrate animals. The best charts of the Philippines have been drawn by the Jesuits and printed by the United States Government.

The Jesuit missionaries at Shanghai also busy themselves with studies of the numerous Chinese dialects, and periodically publish results. They are at creating a Chinese Christian literature, and publish from their own press a high-class newspaper in Chinese characters. They have a valuable Chinese library of over 20,000 volumes, and in the technical branch of their institution they teach Chinese students the principles of agriculture, building, painting, and other arts. As recently as February last the death of Father Zottoli, S.J., of this mission, was recorded, and concerning whom the London 'Times' said: 'Though Pere Zottoli was comparatively unknown to the outer world by reason of the modest and extremely retired life he passed, yet it is doubtful if any other European has ever attained to his immense and exact knowledge of Chinese literature. . . . He was closely engaged at the time of his death upon a universal dictionary of the Chinese language, in ten or twelve volumes, before the printing of which even the special resources of the Jesuit establishment may well shrink, but which it is hoped in the interests of science will ultimately be accomplished.' Such an encomium in a Catholic paper would be treated as hyperbole, but the 'Times' is not given to the extravagant eulogy of a Jesuit, even if dead. Not only the Jesuits but other

Catholic Missionaries

have lighted the lamp of science in dark foreign lands. The Parisian Seminary of Foreign Museums has, for example, established a printing press in Hongkong, which has obtained considerable fame in Eastern Asia. It has already published over 150 works such as theological, philosophical, and ordinary school books, in Chinese, Malay, Korean, Annamite, Japanese, and other languages of these regions. The Lazarists, another French Order, who distinguished themselves in East Asia, have lately lost by death one of their most venturesome companions, Father Armand David, M. Grandidier, President of the Parisian Geographical Society, said of him: 'The results of his discoveries have quite exceeded the expectations which may be looked for from the labors of one man. He published in 1877 a beautiful work on the birds of China, with an atlas of 180 colored plates in which 800 species are fully described. His book on Chinese plants is the standard authority with the leading students of this subject. Two other workers in this region, Fathers Hende and Rathouis, have combined to publish a work on the Natural History of the Chinese Empire, in which the shells and animals of Indo-China are specially treated.'

It would take up more space than we have at our disposal to detail

The Triumphs of our Missionaries in Various Lands.

Fathers Buleon in West Africa, Cambone in Madagascar, Loga and Egg in Peru, and Renard in West Africa have published beautiful works on entomology and natural history. Fathers Faurie in Japan, Butaye in Congo, and Schafferer in West Africa have given their attention to the botany of these regions. Father Kolberg, who recently died in Ecuador, received flattering notices from the leading European learned periodicals—but it is somewhat unfortunate that ordinary English journals take but little interest in these laborers, who form, as Max Muller says, 'the pioneers of science.' It has frequently been remarked that English journalists form a class apart, while on the Continent there is a continuous interchange of thought and information which makes them all kin. Thus a foreigner must be specially distinguished, unless he is a soldier or a politician, in order to attract English attention, and, moreover, if he be a Catholic priest, a special reason is supplied for discounting his eminence in scientific work.

In this short article we have not noted the work of the Catholic University of Washington, since that can scarcely be called a missionary enterprise, nor have we taken into account the labors of the Marist Fathers in New Zealand and the Islands, for they are well known to most of us. In Australia the Orders are not yet numerically strong enough to undertake much work besides the preaching and teaching to which they are specially called, but we have had some distinguished members in our midst—the late Father Julian Tennison Woods and the present Father John Milne Curran in geology, and Father Slattery, C.M., the physicist of St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, amongst them—and we may confidently look forward to the publication of their studies on the problems of science in this country.

Facts about Appendicitis

Appendicitis is no new disease. An examination of an Egyptian mummy over 2000 years old (says a writer in an American exchange) showed that death must have been caused by that illness. But although the disease occurred thus early, it was probably never frequent until the latest decades. Three of the London hospital reports give the number of appendicitis cases treated in 1890 as 38, while in 1900 nearly 400 operations were performed. It is comforting to note that all but 10 of the patients recovered. Sir Frederick Treves, the most noted authority on the subject, has performed successfully more than 100 consecutive operations. It is said that appendicitis may be caused by imagination, but modern foods are probably responsible for most cases, according to Dr. H. C. Howard, of Campaign, Ill. Until the trade demanded an exceedingly white flour the disease was rare. Where coarse breads were used the disease was unknown, as in rural communities, where people secured their flour from small, old-fashioned mills. The malady did not increase until the smaller mills were crowded out by the larger ones and the farmers had to buy the fine flour. Southern negroes, as long as they ate corn bread, were exempt. Germans had appendicitis little or not at all until they began to eat the new process flour. Dr. Howard says that, prior to 1875, in 25 years' practice among the people of his section, he did not meet with more than 40 cases. Now they are common. Very small children are sufferers. A boy had 13 well defined attacks, but came through all without an operation. After changing his food to corn bread and coarse breads in general, fruit, vegetables, and very little meat he had no further trouble.

The general belief, says another authority, that it is a new disease, manufactured by modern surgeons, is incorrect. Only recently during some excavations in Egypt a mummy was brought to light upon which the doctors made further excavations; and at this strange post mortem it was discovered that the cause of death, at least 2000 years ago, must have been appendicitis. To come down to more modern times, though to a date sufficiently long ago for the matter to be regarded as an old one, it may be mentioned that Addison published a book on appendicitis in 1836. In those days the complaint, with all its variations, was comparatively a rare one, and usually was referred to as typhilitis or perityphilitis. And by those names it was commonly known till about three years ago, when its rapidly-increasing prevalence necessitated its closer study. Up to about 1898, indeed, the reports of the various hospitals contain no mention of the word appendicitis, speaking only of perityphilitis. Why during the last few years the complaint has increased by leaps and bounds not even the greatest authorities can explain. The majority of them, however, agree that the old theory that appendicitis could be set up by swallowing a cherrystone is untenable for the simple reason that the appendix—that unaccounted-for little cul-de-sac in one's interior organisation—is not large enough to admit of such an intrusion. It may be caused by some hard matter lodging in the intestines, by a blow, or even by imagination! At least one authority, speaking of the matter recently, declared that many of those who are operated on were not really suffering from the complaint at all, but that they worried themselves into the belief that they were, and would not be satisfied until they had their appendix removed.

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