

one side as from anti-Catholic Protestantism on the other.' As Cardinal Newman did before him, Monsignor Benson soon found that this half-and-half arrangement would not work. 'It was necessary,' Mr. Marshall observes, 'that Hugh Benson should feel that he had widely-admitted authority behind him. That has been impossible in the Church of England since the Oxford Movement turned its level plain into a mountain, upon one slope or other of which its clergy must find a foothold, each for himself. There is no authority that is universally accepted in the Church of England, and with Hugh Benson's temperament, when he had once set foot upon the slope that is on the Romeward side, he was bound to end where he did, little as he or his friends thought it.' While still an Anglican minister, Monsignor Benson developed considerable power as a preacher, but it was not until he became a Catholic priest that he reached the zenith of his fame in this respect. Mr. Marshall says he carefully prepared his sermons and addresses. He spent most of his mornings writing them out. He did not commit them to memory, but he read them over several times, and thus got them fixed in his head. The result was that he seemed to be speaking extemporarily and without any perceptible trace of previous study. He did not prepare any oratorical effects at all.

His Eloquence Was Purely Natural.

inspired by his interest in the subject and his impetuous habit of mind and speech. As his mind became more stored, his need for self-expression greater, and his powers of speech more flexible, he gave every indication of developing into a great preacher. He was exceedingly fond of children, and they loved him. With the boys of the Westminster Cathedral Choir he was an immense favorite, and he delighted in their performance of the Christmas plays he wrote for them. As an Anglican curate at Kensing he was on the best possible terms with the village children, and for them he wrote three fairy plays, which they performed with conspicuous success. Mr. Marshall concludes with the expression of his conviction that Robert Hugh Benson did the right thing in joining the Catholic Church. 'With the break-up of our circle at Kensing our continuous contact ceased, though I think our friendship deepened in spite of widely-divergent ways of life and thought. I have spent very happy days with him since, and found him an even more delightful companion than he was during the years of which I have written. Our common sympathies, if more sober, were much wider than those of our youth, and a certain friction, that made itself felt before he finally found what I believe to have been his true vocation in life, had completely vanished. He had the most lovable qualities, and they seemed to shine out in him more and more each time we came together.'

OBITUARY

MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS ROCHE. CHRISTCHURCH.

It was with very genuine sorrow (writes our Christchurch correspondent) that his numerous friends and acquaintances in the community learned of the death of Mr. William Francis Roche, which occurred on last Tuesday in the Christchurch Hospital at the age of sixty-three years. The late Mr. Roche was a native of Cahir, County Tipperary, and as the son of a contractor for supplies to the army (Cahir being a garrison town and his father storekeeper in a large way there), he acquired a good commercial and general education, which was of immense service to him in after life. The late Mr. Roche was for a lengthy period travelling representative for the Kaiapoi Woollen Company, and as such, owing to his genial personality, integrity, and exceptional business abilities, was esteemed and respected alike by clients and fellow-travellers. Some years ago he decided to leave the road and enter business on his own account. Ill-health almost from the start, however, pursued him, and he was obliged recently to

enter the hospital for treatment. His constitution was so broken, that medical skill was unavailing, and he passed away as previously mentioned. The Rev. Father Murphy, B.A. (chaplain), and other priests visiting the hospital afforded all the spiritual consolation possible, and being always a faithful and fervent Catholic, his death was peaceful and happy. The late Mr. Roche leaves a widow and family, his eldest son being Lieutenant Arnold Roche of the Marist Brothers' School Cadets. He also leaves a sister to whom he was greatly devoted—Mother M. Augustine, of the Sisters of Mercy, Auckland, and late of Onehunga, where for many years she did noble and enduring work in connection with the local Catholic schools. To all of these the sincerest sympathy is extended. A Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, by the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., on last Thursday, the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., afterwards officiating at the interment in the Linwood Cemetery. Among the oldest and closest friends attending the funeral were Messrs. M. Cleary, T. Gaffney, J. Molloy, J. S. Barrett, W. Hayward, sen., G. C. Hayward, J. Power, M. O'Donohue, and Bowler, the four last mentioned being pallbearers.—R.I.P.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

WELLINGTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the executive committee was held at the offices of the Federation, Cuba street, Wellington, on April 7. The Rev. Father Daly presided, and the following members were present:—Messrs. Sievers, Corry, Smyth, and the secretary. An apology was received from the Very Rev. Dean McKenna. The Rev. Father Daly reported that the building at Trentham Camp was near completion, and would be ready for use in about a week. The secretary stated that the amount asked for by the Dominion Council £40 had been paid in. It was decided to expend a sum not exceeding £5 on literature, stationery, etc., for use in the Territorial camps. The secretary brought down a statement showing the cost of providing the fare of the delegates to the council meetings, and, after considerable discussion, it was decided to postpone the consideration of the question until a future meeting.

The following remit from the Thorndon committee was considered. 'That it be a recommendation to the Diocesan Executive, that on Federation Sunday all the members of the Catholic Federation in Wellington be invited to attend Holy Communion, and that this be followed by a breakfast to be held in some place to be arranged by the Diocesan Executive.' Considerable discussion ensued, and it was the general opinion that a demonstration of the kind would have good results, but owing to the small attendance it was decided to hold the matter over till next meeting.

A letter was received from the head office suggesting that prizes should be offered to the scholars in the Catholic primary schools for the best essay on the subject of the Federation. After some discussion, it was decided to defer the matter to a future meeting. The secretary reported that very few returns for the quarter ended March 31 had been received so far. It was hoped that by next meeting all returns would be in. This information is required for statistical purposes, and parish secretaries will materially assist in the work by promptly sending in the returns and remittances when due.

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

(From our own correspondent.)

The executive committee of the Christchurch Diocesan Council met in the Federation rooms, Wiltshire Buildings, on last Thursday evening. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Mr. J. R. Hayward (vice-president) presided, and those present were