

As we have already explained in these columns, the Board of Examiners consists of well-known and recognised authorities on social and economic subjects; and the examination questions are set as follows:—One half on the given text-book and the other half on the books recommended for a collateral course of study. Any student who has passed in either an Elementary or Advanced Course of any one Study-subject is entitled to a Pass; any student who has obtained Passes in the Elementary and Advanced Courses of any one Study-subject is entitled to a Certificate; and any student who has obtained Certificates for all three Courses A, B, and C is entitled to a Diploma. The Executive of the Federated Catholic Clubs have ordered a supply of the text-books, both Elementary and Advanced; and these will be obtainable only from the secretary of the Executive, and not from the *Tablet* office as hitherto. The books are due to arrive about the end of July or early in August. Subject to the approval of the Guild, the date of the examination will be fixed by the Editor of the *Tablet*, and will be as nearly as possible six clear months after the books are in the hands of our students. This would bring the date somewhere about the end of February or beginning of March. Full particulars as to the arrival of the books and date of examination will be given in due course in our columns. Intending candidates are requested to send in their names at earliest convenience to the Executive Secretary, to the following address:—Mr. T. H. Forster, Secretary Federated Catholic Clubs, 15 Kensington street, Wellington. Any applications sent to us will be duly forwarded to the Executive Secretary; but as all orders for books must be made to that officer, it would simplify matters if all applications were sent direct to him. Applications should in all cases be accompanied by the prescribed entrance fee of one shilling, which will be forwarded by the Executive to the Guild, and which must be paid to the latter body before the candidate is eligible to sit for examination. The examination questions, while adequate in scope and fairly covering the prescribed ground, are not really difficult or formidable. Of the nine New Zealand candidates who entered last year, eight secured a pass, and the ninth missed success only by the narrowest of margins. In acknowledging receipt of their certificates, almost all the candidates wrote to express the pleasure and profit they had received from the definite and systematic study of the great question of the day, and their unalloyed satisfaction at having taken up such extremely interesting and valuable work. Several of last year's candidates have already intimated their intention of proceeding to the advanced course this year. Although the candidates this year will probably be drawn mostly from the ranks of our Catholic Clubs, the examinations are, as we have before indicated, open to every Catholic man and woman without restriction or limitation of any kind. We hope and believe that the members of the societies affiliated to the Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand—and others outside the ranks—will take up the social study project with energy and spirit. This is the day of small things, but a successful beginning has been made; and we believe that, with patience and enthusiasm, the time is not far distant when the Catholic social study scheme, with its immense possibilities for good, will have secured a firm and sure footing in our Dominion.

Notes

To Help the Poles: What the Pope Says

In forwarding his donation the other day to the Polish Relief Fund which we have inaugurated, Rev. Father Cahill, of Kaponga, wrote: 'Your appeal on behalf of the unfortunate Poles is deserving of a hearty response from the readers of the *Tablet*. The cause of millions of starving people who have lost all they had is one that should appeal strongly to all who can give a helping hand. I enclose you a pound for the relief of the Polish victims of this terrible war; and trust that your effort on behalf of the Poles will be very

successful.' Other correspondents have expressed similar sentiments. One *Tablet* reader, who has sent a substantial contribution, writes: 'If every one in the Dominion would deny themselves one day's pleasure for the great need, it would make a presentable and worthy offering to the poor persecuted Poles, and surely no one would refuse or miss that.'

It may interest our readers to know that the movement for Polish relief has the warm sympathy, hearty approval, and practical endorsement of the Holy Father. Recently the famous writer, Henryk Sienkiewicz, as President of the General Relief Committee of Poland, sent a telegram to his Holiness asking his blessing on the Committee's work. The Holy Father sent the following reply through his Cardinal Secretary of State: 'The august Pontiff, instead of sending the usual telegraphic reply, has charged me to let you know of the feelings of gratitude and fatherly affection produced in him by the reading of the telegram, so full of devotion, of the General Relief Committee for the victims of the war in Poland. You know how deep the Holy Father's grief is at the terrifying spectacle of the awful slaughters and ruins which are the consequence of the present war. As Vicar of that merciful God Who has infinitely loved all men and given for all the price of His Blood, he suffers from the pains of all the combatants and is in mourning for all the families. His affection goes out to all his children without distinction and, as he said at the last Consistory, his heart is especially touched at the thought of the pain of all those sons of his who are most grievously tried by this horrible catastrophe. I can assure you truly that your Committee by relieving the victims of the war in Poland and thus carrying on a work eminently charitable and pitiful, has profoundly moved the fatherly heart of the august Pontiff. In his beloved sons of Poland he sees not only a people plunged in terror and desolation, but he recognises and loves in them children, especially affectionate and generous, who are devoted to the Holy See to the point of sacrifice. Hence, as his Holiness has already given a proof of his interest in Catholic Belgium by sending it a letter of encouragement with his personal offering and that of the Sacred College, so now he is especially glad to be able to confer the same privileges on his well-beloved people of Poland, by sending a similar offering in his own august name and in that of his College, together with an autograph letter to relieve their distress and comfort them in their anguish. And now his Holiness congratulates your Relief Committee on the truly charitable work which is relieving the miseries of his most beloved children of Catholic Poland, and in token of his fatherly affection he bestows with all his heart the apostolic blessing on all the Polish nation, on all who assist it, and especially on you and on the members of the Committee.—P. CARD. GASPARRI.'

Germany in Belgium

The Press Bureau of the Belgian Government has supplied to foreign journals a letter of Cardinal Mercier against an ordinance of the German Governor of Belgium which decreed the payment of ecclesiastical stipends on condition that the beneficiaries should sign a declaration of submission to the German Government. The patriot-Cardinal was promptly to the fore to checkmate this somewhat obvious bribe, and despatched the following letter to the German Governor:

'Mr. Governor General, A communication of your civil Administration informs us that the German Government offers to give effect—in the occupied portion of the country—to the payment of the emoluments of the clergy, beginning with the 1st September or the 1st October, 1914, on condition that the members of the clergy sign a declaration binding themselves to undertake nothing and to combat everything which can be prejudicial to the German administration.'

'Some considerations, which have perhaps escaped your civil Administration, will throw light on the juridical and legal position of the Belgian clergy, and