

COMMONWEALTH NOTES

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Owing to the continued spread of the influenza the clergy of the archdiocese are taking pains to abide by the regulations laid down by the Government with a view to reducing to the lowest possible minimum the risk of infection. Large congregations are attending the Masses in the various churches, and the regulations regarding spacing, etc., are being carried into effect. At St. Mary's Cathedral on Sundays the Masses are being attended by the usual large and devout congregations.

Addressing a large gathering at the opening, recently, of a new Catholic school at Parramatta, his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney, who was applauded on rising to speak, said that it was a noble work they were engaged in. The new school was a primary school, and, therefore, it provided for the beginning of things—for the beginning of a happy life in this world, and in the next. At the present, affairs in this world seemed to be in watertight compartments, as it were, and there were those who said the Bishops should not be speaking on the Labor question, as it was quite another affair from religion.

"There are those who say we Catholic priests are working for ourselves," his Grace continued. "They say that at the cost of dividing the people of the various religious sections, we insist upon our own points of predilection. These are facts which you know. Of these things the daily press is witness. But I say, in the name of commonsense, it is all wrong. I should not interfere in any secular question in a secular way, or interfere with politics politically; but where there is a question of truth, or finding out the right way, where there is a question of good and evil, we must interfere. If not, the sooner the influenza or something else takes us away, the better for the world. Our Lord did it, and we shall continue His mission.

"Therefore, I say here in your new school, you have the beginning of a prosperous life for our boys. Your new school will be for the welfare of Parramatta and of New South Wales, and of Australia. Confining ourselves to the Labor platform, and recognising that it is a divided platform, I would say to them all: 'You will never get peace if you study economy only; if you look at it as merely a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence. The more you gain the more your passion is fed; if you are defeated, then you are looking out for revenge. The more a man gains the more he desires, and whatever he gets fails to satisfy him. Without God there is no content, and those victimised by circumstances cannot be comforted, and cannot be upraised.'"

Continuing, his Grace referred to the mutilation of the report of his speeches by the daily papers. His Grace asked how it was that whenever his speeches were reported the context was destroyed by the omission of certain words. In fact, words which he did not use were inserted at times. Even with the Gospel, when sentences were disconnected it could be seen what would happen. For instance, in one part of the Gospel it was related that Judas went and hanged himself. In another part it is said, "Go thou and do likewise." "That is the way," said his Grace, "my speeches are reported. I do not blame the stenographers. No doubt it is the way the report comes from the editorial room."

VICTORIA.

Newman College, within the University of Melbourne, is being richly endowed with books for its library. It began with the fine mathematical, scientific, and historical collection of 7000 volumes bequeathed to it by the late W. L. Bowditch, M.A. It has acquired by purchase a splendid collection, rich in Australian literature, which formed the library of the late Rev. Dr. Bevan, a well-known Congregational minister of Melbourne. The late Father O'Reilly, of Castlemaine, was a fine Dante scholar, and had a good

collection of works on the poet, together with 2000 well-selected works on religious and scientific subjects. These have been given to Newman College. The late Dr. Kelly, of Fitzroy, had a splendid Irish collection, and the late Councillor John McMahon, also of Fitzroy, specialised on Australian literature. Both collections were given to Newman College. The books are being catalogued on an up-to-date system, and will easily form the best collection in Australia outside the national libraries of Melbourne and Sydney.

At a meeting of the Board of Health representatives of metropolitan and provincial centres held a short time ago, the Government was denounced in unmeasured terms for its incompetence in dealing with the outbreak of influenza. Councillor Curnow (ex-Mayor of Bendigo), speaking at the meeting of the Board of Health, characterised the Cabinet as a lot of asses and declared that it deserved all it got at the hands of Dr. Mannix in connection with the disgraceful and discreditable action over the Exhibition Hospital. The correspondence that passed between his Grace the Archbishop and the Minister of Health is being published in pamphlet form by the Australian Catholic Truth Society. It contributes a most damning indictment of the wretched wowsers Cabinet which will be ignominiously kicked out of office as soon as the electors and the ballot-box meet. The Very Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, C.M. (Rector of St. John's College, Sydney), made reference to the ugly incident at the opening of the new convent at Kyabram. He said that the wowsers, having no charitable organisations of their own, said in effect that the whole people could die to the last kiddie rather than be saved by the nursing of the Catholic Sisterhood. It seemed to him that the Victorian Government must get a declaration from the people who offered their services that they had never made the sign of the cross. He had been in Australia for a full quarter of a century and he believed the average Australian had no time for the wowsers or the bigot. There was room for a reform movement—a movement that would reform the Cabinet and reform it out of existence. Mr. Bowser, or wowsers, or whatever his name was—had rattled from the position, and in spite of his chief's protest he accepted the behest of the wowsers, but he had mistaken the temper of the people and backed the wrong horse. Wowsers, he added, was dying in this country, but it was dying a hard death. The devils of wowsers were being exorcised from the Australian community, but the wowsers was making great grimaces in his last gasps.

QUEENSLAND.

Missions were recently conducted in the Mackay district of the diocese of Rockhampton by Fathers Taylor and Herring, of the Society of Mary. Father Herring was at Mirani, where a very successful mission was conducted. About 100 persons received Holy Communion, which represents practically all the Catholic adults for a good many miles around. Father Herring later on gave a mission at Marian. Father Taylor went to Sarina and put in a full week at that important centre. As might be expected, there was a very good attendance, which, it was hoped, would be kept up at Eton during the following week.

WEST AUSTRALIA.

The bold, bad Irishmen of Perth, who walked in procession on St. Patrick's Day, in spite of the Sand-groper bumbles, have been "punished with the utmost rigor of the law" (says an exchange). The police magistrate settled the awful problem by deciding that the Perth Council had power to prohibit processions. He fined Walter Dwyer, formerly Labor member for Perth, who was selected by the council for prosecution, 10s and 29s 6d costs. No one has explained why they picked on Walter out of the 31,000 inhabitants of Perth. There were some very high dignitaries in the procession, but the Perth John Hops did not see them. Perhaps it was because he was once a Labor member and the Nationalists are now in office.