

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

E.J.B.—Thanks for cutting. We have dropped the ghoul.

"W." (Wyndham).—We have the balance sheet and we can read. There is some amusing writing off in it. We have also evidence of the soldiers—Protestant and Catholic.

W. M. H.—Doctors differ on the question of "Twilight Sleep." There are dangers, but many medical men hold that they may be obviated by skill and care, and that there are good results to make up for the risks. As to Christian Science, it is a different thing altogether. It is based on a system which denies a personal God, the Divinity of Christ and the Trinity.

"READER."—The final schism between Greece and Rome took place in the eleventh century. The orthodox Greeks deny the primacy and infallibility of the Pope, the procession of the Holy Ghost from the Father and the Son, and the Immaculate Conception. In matters of discipline the chief differences are that the Greeks use leavened bread for the Holy Sacrifice and do not insist on clerical celibacy. Of course they have valid Orders and Sacraments.

"EITHNE."—Yes indeed! Snobs and other weak-minded persons think it is respectable to wonder why those Irish should ask John Bull to keep his word. For out-and-out Jingoism this would be logical. They put the Empire first and frankly admit that everything is justified that helps to build up "our power." But when people who have the Catholic faith, and know that they owe it to Ireland, air similar views we can only say that either their faith is very weak or else their mind is not robust enough to qualify them to go about unattended. Snobs, God help us, yes! and some of them are not only respectable but (in their own estimation) religious. If you cannot laugh at them, as we judge from the tone of your letter, try praying for them. What they want most is conversion to Catholicism—for they have lost Catholic principles.

"DEMOCRAT."—Saying that a thing is so does not affect facts, and the facts that are in possession are supported by common sense. In the old Roman Law, which is the basis of all that is sound in modern law, Occupation, Accretion, Delivery, and Specification were sound titles to property. Thus, although in the natural state all belonged to all in the abstract, the first comer acquired a right to land which he took up or occupied, and justice forbade another disturb him. The Marxian theory of value will not stand examination. It is contrary to common sense. If the people—as the people—acquired a right of occupation the land was theirs. But a common waiting to be occupied was not the people's until they actually occupied it.

R. O'H.—No, there was never anything like it anywhere. No pagan country, no barbarians, no Huns ever got together such a gang as the men who rule Ireland. Take a few of them: Mr. George publicly notorious as a pledge-breaker, as a traitor to his friends, as a clever jobber who will give billets to men who trade with British enemies in war-time, for—of course—reasons best known to himself: Carson on whose head is the blood-guilt of 1916, who trafficked with the Kaiser, who was instrumental in bringing on the war, who was made a British (not a Hunnish, mind you!) Cabinet Minister: MacPherson who made those beastly remarks about sexual problems and who lies like a lord in the House of Commons; French who failed at his own job and whose name was mentioned not too favorably in that Mrs. Cornwallis-West business; Maxwell the fool-general who murdered Connolly and many others and who added new lustre to the Empire's annals by leading 45,000 men to victory over 1700 men, women, and boys; Colthurst, the lunatic, who might be described as an official Jack-the-Ripper, etc., etc.

CATHOLICITY IN AUSTRALIA

ADDRESS BY ARCHBISHOP MANNIX.

Speaking at a Communion breakfast at North Brunswick, Melbourne, recently, his Grace Archbishop Mannix expressed the hope that the seeds of Catholicity and religion transplanted over the seas would always germinate and fructify in Australia, that Ireland would never have reason to be ashamed to be the mother of Australian Catholicity, and that the Australian people would always look to their mother with love and veneration. The Catholic Church was, he said, the Church of Christ, and those who had cut themselves off from Christ and from the Church which He established on earth could not expect to have the same fruits, and, as a matter of fact, did not have them. Catholics made sacrifices for religion especially in regard to education, which no other body had the least notion of making, even if called upon. Anglicans, Presbyterians, and others were beginning to see that Catholics had taken the right course. They did not claim any credit for it. The Catholic Church had a commission to teach, and was not afraid to do what Christ told it to do. It made laws in regard to marriage, and insisted upon their observance by its children. Some people made a stir because the Pope had decreed that the Church would not recognise the marriage of a Protestant and Catholic outside the Catholic Church. What was the attitude of the head of the Protestant Church towards mixed marriages and other marriages in Ireland not so many years ago? A marriage between a Protestant and Catholic celebrated by a Catholic priest was deemed to be absolutely invalid. This also applied to the marriage of two Protestants if the ceremony was performed by a Catholic priest. In the *Ne Temere* Decree the Pope was legislating for his own people. In what he referred to as having taken place in Ireland, it suited certain people to trample on the rights of the Catholic people. Catholics knew their position, and had not to look to Parliament to define their beliefs. Doubtless they had all read the excellent article that had recently appeared in the *Age* on titles. Canada opposed the conferring of titles by the British Government, and he thought they might follow that example. One good thing could, at least, be said about the Australian Prime Minister, and that was that he had no title. He quite believed Mr. Hughes could have had one for the asking. The Australian people generally should endorse the policy of objecting to titles. One man who had done something for the betterment of the human race might receive a title, but what distinction was it to him when another man who might have been whitewashed in the Bankruptcy Court also received a title? In the *Age* it was shown forcibly that no honor attached to titles, for which there should be no room in Australia. They turned the minds of people away from Australia and towards London. When people in Ireland looked for titles it was not for any service they rendered to Ireland, but because they were renegades to that country. Archbishop Mannix also touched on the war, the Peace Conference, industrial unrest, and the tariff question. He announced himself in favor of the tariff if it would benefit the people and not put more money into the pockets of manufacturers and capitalists.

ST. MARY'S RED CROSS CLASS, CHRISTCHURCH

The final meeting of St. Mary's Class (Catholic branch) of the Red Cross Society, was held in Ozanam Lodge on Wednesday evening, July 5. There was a large attendance, and among those present were Very Rev. Dean Regnault, Fathers Morris, Graham, Seymour, and Roche, Dr. Ardagh, and Nurses Buckley, Fitzgibbon, and Hilda Flynn, recently returned from the Front. Mr. P. Delany presided, and an apology for unavoidable absence was received from Mrs. Ardagh. The assembly room was tastefully and appropriately decorated for the occasion. As a prelude to a choice musical programme, the "Marseillaise" was played in honor of Dean Regnault (chaplain of the class) by Miss O'Brien. Mesdames Cronin, F. O'Brien, and McCullough, Misses O'Brien and D. Shaw, and Mr. J. Kingan also contributed items. Miss Erin Riordan read an address to the Dean, expressive of the appreciation of the class members of the practical interest he had manifested in their activities. This appreciation was shown in a more tangible manner by the presentation to the Dean of a parcel containing articles of comfort, and an initialled suede-bound blotter. The Very Rev. Dean, in expressing his grateful appreciation of the useful gifts, and of the thoughtful kindness on the part of the givers, outlined the work of the class, in the interests of the Red Cross organisation, since its inception; which showed results worthy of the highest commendation,