

and it will repay tenfold the expenditure of the 2s 6d net plus whatever our thriving booksellers exact by way of war bonus or what not. Here is a passage that caught our eye this morning when we wandered to the spot on our shelves where the book was, after having been pestered and exasperated for far too long by that modern abomination, the telephone:—

"There is no help in visions of Arcadia; yet it is a plain fact that in days gone by the peasantry found life more endurable, and yet were more intelligent than our clod-hoppers who still hold by the plough. They had their folk-songs, now utterly forgotten. They had romances and fairy lore, which their descendants could no more appreciate than an idyll of Theocritus. Ah, but let it be remembered that they also had a *home*, and this is the illumining word. . . . Well-meaning folk talk about re-awakening love of the country by means of deliberate instruction. Lies any hope that way? Does it seem to promise a return of the time when the old English names of the flowers were common on rustic lips—by which, indeed, they were first uttered. The fact that flowers and birds are well-nigh forgotten, together with the songs and elves, shows how advanced is the process of rural degeneration. Most likely it is foolish to hope for the revival of any bygone social virtue. The husbandman of the future will, I daresay, be a well-paid mechanic, of the engine-driver species; as he goes about his work he will sing the last refrain of the music-hall, and his oft-recurring holidays will be spent in the nearest town. For him, I fancy, there will be little attraction in ever such melodious talk about 'common objects of the country.' Flowers, perhaps, at all events those of tith and pasture, will have been all improved away. And, as likely as not, the word *Home* will have only a special significance, indicating the common abode of retired laborers who are drawing the old-age pension."

Progress

How true it all is! How true above all of New Zealand! Into what a small enclosure you could pen the favored few among us who have ever known the old flowers of which George Gissing speaks. For the average youth here old names such as bachelor's button, London pride, snap-dragon, sweet-briar, cowslips, fairy-fingers, and woodbine are words of a foreign tongue. To many the charms of the Bush are unknown and the mystery of the dimly lighted cathedrals of the woods has no appeal. In ugly towns and in broad acres where Utilitarianism is supreme and the landscape means nothing children are reared who will never know the delights of woods and streams and fields. Romance never got a footing here, and the awful schools see to it that it never shall. Visitors comment unfavorably on the low standard of taste revealed by the songs sung amongst us. The drab materialism of life which seeks its highest inspiration in a picture-show is hopeless. The smug placemen and politicians in whose hands the people are content to leave their interests are still more hopeless. Outside the Catholic Church, which, thank God, always stands firm for whatever is sane and lovely in life, there is little beauty or sanity or soundness in town or country. Faith is dead. The minds of the young are too earthly to appreciate the old songs, the old stories, the old romances and fairy lore. Home-life is decaying. The flapper with her latch-key, the old-faced youths of the Godless schools are in power. And we call it Progress!

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

At Vespers on last Sunday evening, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Mrs. J. Coventry gave an artistic rendering of "With Verdure Clad," from Haydn's oratorio "The Creation." Besides the ordinary music, the Cathedral choir sang the "Te Deum" in thanksgiving for peace.

The Sisters of Mercy and Children of St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin, tender sincere thanks to Mr. Andrew Hegarty, of St. Clair, who very

kindly donated a gift of £20 for the purpose of providing a special treat for the orphans during the peace holidays.

Requiem Masses for the repose of the souls of the soldiers who lost their lives in the late war were celebrated on Monday morning at the Church of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Port Chalmers, and at the Church of the Sacred Heart, North-East Valley. There were good congregations at both churches.

Members of St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's branches of the Hibernian Society, in good numbers, took part in the splendid procession in celebration of peace, which provided such a memorable spectacle in Dunedin on last Saturday. The Hibernian display was very creditable, and compared favorably with those organised by the other friendly societies.

Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the souls of the soldiers who died during the war was celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Monday. Rev. C. Collins was celebrant, Rev. E. Andersen deacon, and Rev. F. Marlow subdeacon. The impressive incidental music was sung by St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir. There was a crowded congregation. At the conclusion of Mass the Absolution at the Catafalque was given by Father Collins.

A meeting of the Particular Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Circumscription of Dunedin, was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Tuesday evening, July 15, all conferences being represented. In the unavoidable absence of Very Rev. Father Coffey, Father Kaveney presided. Miss N. Murphy was appointed delegate to represent the society on St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish Committee of the Catholic Federation. Mrs. W. Duffy, president of the Particular Council, expressed regret at the loss sustained by the society at the resignation of Miss M. O'Neill (late secretary), who has gone to the North Island, and Miss N. Murphy was appointed in her stead.

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

DUNEDIN DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The fifth annual meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation was held on Friday evening, July 18. Mr. D. L. Poppelwell, vice-president, presided in the absence, through indisposition, of Very Rev. Father Coffey (president). The following delegates representing parish committees were present: St. Joseph's Cathedral (Dunedin), Mr. E. Sandys; St. Patrick's (South Dunedin), Father Delany; Gore, Very Rev. P. O'Donnell, Mr. D. L. Poppelwell; Mosgiel, Mr. J. Walls; Winton, Father Kaveney (proxy); Invercargill, Mr. T. J. Hussey (proxy); Queenstown, Mrs. J. Hally (proxy). Mr. J. Hally (treasurer) and Miss Freda Kennedy (secretary) of the Diocesan Council were also present. A comprehensive report on the workings and finances of the Federation, under the jurisdiction of the Diocesan Council of Dunedin, was submitted, and incidentally touched upon subjects of interest such as Christian influence, Catholic patriotism, and Catholic education. In moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, Mr. Poppelwell referred to the satisfactory position of the Federation as regards membership and finance. He congratulated the compiler of the report on the manner in which Catholic principles were asserted, and in this connection paid a warm tribute to the *N.Z. Tablet*, a journal we had good reason to be proud of for its manly, outspoken attitude on not alone Catholic affairs, but on those of general public interest. In seconding the adoption of the report, Very Rev. Father O'Donnell said that while congratulating the Federation on its past progress, he felt that something should be done to interest country people in Federation aims and objects. There was (he said) plenty of room for an increase in membership, and, desirable as it was to progress, some such action as he indicated should be adopted to arouse and sustain interest. The scholarship question received at-