

Notes

Newman and Ingersoll

A very thoughtful review of a recent biography of Ingersoll appears in a recent issue of the *Nation*. The writer asks how it is that the *Apologia* of Newman still lives, while the writings of Ingersoll are already dead. And he answers by alleging that Ingersoll lacked the 'saving surplus qualities.' He wanted balance, 'effective tolerance' and complete civilisation.' Raw young men of the early '80's thought Ingersoll a demi-god, 'an immortal.' They have lived to see him forgotten and to forget their own callow admiration.

A Doctor's Testimony

A French-American physician, Dr. S. A. Dandelin, who has been spending several years in Europe, was asked recently whether his stay in the Old World had lessened or increased his faith. We quote his weighty answer, as it is given in the *Ave Maria*. 'I return,' he replied, 'with greater faith than ever. I was always a real Catholic in former years, but occasionally events would jar me. Now I am content to believe all. I have seen the whirlwind of unbelief, in France, turning about in the great hollow, unable to ease itself on any point. Then I have seen the people of the German Rhineland, happy, energetic, industrious, and contented in their boundless faith. I have met great men of my profession, and great scientists, in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Fribourg,—men who have struggled with Rationalism only to discover at last that it was a circular route that had no beginning and no end, and was unsatisfying to the soul. The happiest people are those who have the faith. Others, so far as my experience went, do not seem to be happy. I know that the Church is right in her teaching. I know that she can not deceive us, and so accept all her teachings, even to the most unimportant detail, without a doubt, without a whimper.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The annual schools' picnic takes place on Wednesday, February 7. The locality has not yet been decided upon, but it will probably be Wingatui.

On the Feast of the Circumcision Masses were celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 6, 7, 8, and 11 o'clock. There were good congregations at all the Masses, and at the early Masses large numbers approached the Holy Table.

Mr. J. A. Scott, editor of the *Tablet*, left on Tuesday for the North for a fortnight's holiday. Matter intended for insertion in the paper should be addressed to the Editor. Communications addressed personally to Mr. Scott will be forwarded to him.

Rev. Father Skinner preached his first sermon at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday evening. The subject was Faith, and was based on the second Epistle to Timothy, fourth chapter, and seventh verse: 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.' His Lordship the Bishop pontificated at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Rev. Father Corcoran being deacon and Rev. Father Skinner sub-deacon. At Benediction the choir sang the 'Te Deum,' it being the last Sunday of the year.

Mr. C. Columb, jun., who has been manager of the *N.Z. Tablet* for the past eight years, and who has severed his connection with the company for the purpose of taking a trip to Europe, was on Saturday the recipient of a presentation from the combined literary, business, and mechanical staffs. The presentation was made by Mr. J. A. Scott, who eulogised the tact, courtesy, and straightforwardness of Mr. Columb, his remarks being endorsed by Messrs. Kennedy, Spain, and Cliff. Mr. Columb, in the course of a brief reply, thanked the donors for their gift, and the speakers for their kind references.

HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP VERDON

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF HIS ORDINATION

On December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, the revered Bishop of Dunedin, celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. A few months ago when it became known that the jubilee would occur this year, the priests of the diocese approached his Lordship with the view of getting his permission to hold a public celebration of the event. His Lordship absolutely declined to consent to any such celebration, much to the regret not only of the clergy but also of the laity, who would have been only too pleased of the opportunity to honor in a befitting manner their beloved Bishop. On the morning of the jubilee his Lordship celebrated Mass in the Chapel of the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, and later on attended an entertainment given in his honor by the children of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage. After the entertainment the children adjourned to the dining hall, where ample justice was done to a bountiful luncheon, to which his Lordship had sent a substantial donation. In the afternoon his Lordship entertained at dinner at the Palace a number of the clergy of the diocese, amongst whom were some who had received their ecclesiastical training at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, and had been ordained by him. Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, speaking at the dinner on behalf of the clergy of the diocese, congratulated his Lordship on the attainment of the golden jubilee of his ordination, and expressed the fervent wish that he would be spared for many years to rule over the diocese.

It is now fifteen and a-half years since Dr. Verdon was consecrated Bishop of Dunedin, and during that time the diocese has made steady progress. Among the principal events of Dr. Verdon's episcopate have been the introduction of the Sisters of Mercy into the diocese, and the founding of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin, an institution which is doing most necessary and praiseworthy work; the founding of Holy Cross College, an ecclesiastical seminary which, in the short time it has been in existence, has done much to supply, in some measure, the needs of every diocese in New Zealand; and the introduction of the Little Sisters of the Poor, whose work on behalf of the aged and needy is well known to all. During the same time several churches have been erected and dedicated to the service of God, convents founded, schools erected and placed in charge of religious Orders, and other useful and necessary works carried out, such as, for instance, St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, which serves the purpose of a parish hall and meeting place for the various societies. As previously stated, steady progress has been made during the past fifteen and a-half years, and the laity, knowing how much of this progress is due to his Lordship's wise and devoted administration, regret that he had not seen fit to allow them the opportunity of showing their respect and appreciation in some public and tangible manner. This being denied them, they have to content themselves by joining with the clergy in their congratulations, wishing his Lordship many years of health and strength to rule over his diocese.

RELIGION AND POLITICS

HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP GRIMES PROTESTS

The letter on 'Sectarianism and Politics,' signed by 'Limelight,' and making certain allegations in connection with the election for the Westland seat, was discussed by his Lordship Bishop Grimes last evening (says the *Christchurch Press* of December 26).

His Lordship said that it was not his practice to take any notice of anonymous communications which affected him personally. The letter, however, was a reflection on the clergy and Catholics of a district with which he was well acquainted. When it appeared, he telegraphed to the Dean of the district, and to the