

The Catholic World

FRANCE

A FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Paris Society for Foreign Missions is far from decreasing. From the year 1888 to 1909 it nearly doubled the number of its priests. In 1888 they were 804; in 1909 they reached the never heretofore attained figure of 1415. As a matter of fact, in the history of the organisation, these last twenty years, as a whole, have been its banner years for vocations to the foreign mission field.

INCREASE OF CRIME.

The crimes that now abound in France are the theme of private conversations and of articles in the public press. The people are in a state of alarm and know not how to protect themselves. The malefactors have become very daring. Ruffians who carry deadly weapons are adopting all sorts of expedients to rob and plunder more effectively. The murder of a policeman in a crowded street by one of three men who had stolen and were driving in a motor car lately caused something of a panic. An extract from the speech delivered by M. Lepine, Prefect of Police, at the victim's funeral, will show what is the condition of the city. 'You will ask,' said M. Lepine, 'how many there are of these scoundrels. There are thousands of them. For twenty years I have been making complaints on the subject. Their number is increasing every day. Can we wonder that scattered, and, as it were, lost in a population of four millions, they at times notify their existence by some horrible crime?' The remedy which M. Lepine suggests is greater severity. French criminals are, he thinks, treated too leniently; owing to humanitarian sentiment they are not subjected to sufficient hardships. The Prefect does not go to the root of the evil. If he had done so he would have told the French Government that by their policy of opposition to religion they are placing French youth on the road to crime.

ROME

PROPAGANDA COLLEGE.

When Monsignor Bonzano, Rector of the Propaganda College, departs from Rome as Apostolic Delegate to the United States, he will leave perhaps the most cosmopolitan group in the world (says a Roman correspondent). For the idea of Urban VIII., in whose reign the Propaganda College was founded, was the training for the priesthood of young men of every race, no matter how remote. I have not a list of the students attending Propaganda this year, but that of 1910 well illustrates what a world-wide gathering lives under its ancient roof. The figures approximately are as follow:—Syrians, 4; Hungarians, 5; English, 2; Americans, 14; Irish, 17; Maronites, 3; Newfoundlanders, 5; Africans, 3; Albanians, 3; Greeks, 6; Turks, 2; Nova Scotians, 6; Japanese, 2; Norwegians, 1; Gibraltese, 1; Scotch, 4; Indians, 3; Australians, 5; Danes, 2; Asiatics, 1, and one or two each from Mesopotamia, Armenia, and other remote parts, so that a good idea of the universality of the Church is to be obtained from this gathering of black, yellow, and white-skinned men who use Italian as their common language.

THE BIBLICAL INSTITUTE.

On the first Sunday in March (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Glasgow Observer*) a very interesting ceremony took place in the Pontifical Biblical Institute. In May, 1909, the present Pope, carrying out a design of his predecessor, founded the Biblical Institute, or training school for the higher studies of Holy Scriptures. It was not till the summer of 1910 that a house could be obtained for the purpose. Through the initiative of the Rector of the North American

College, a very suitable building was procured in the Piazza Pilotta, opposite the North American College, and near the Balaestra Palace, the former home of the exiled Stuarts. But great alterations were necessary in order to adapt the building to the purposes of a school. These alterations have just been most successfully completed, and on Sunday, in the presence of fourteen Cardinals, numerous bishops and prelates, and a large number of clergy, this magnificent building was solemnly inaugurated. The speech of inauguration was made by the President of the Institute, Father Fonck, S.J.

SCOTLAND

DEATH OF A VENERABLE PRIEST.

The Church in Scotland has lost one of her oldest and most distinguished priests by the death of Very Rev. Dean Bernard Tracy, of Barrhead. He was born in Cumber, County Derry, Ireland, on April 24, 1832. For twenty years he was in charge of the mission in Pollokshaws, Scotland. While there he was chosen a member of the school board, and was the first priest in the country to be honored in that capacity. For thirteen years he was pastor of Neilston and for nineteen of Barrhead. He was conspicuous for his love for the poor.

UNITED STATES

POLISH CATHOLICS.

A golden volume of real history (says the *Michigan Catholic*) was written for the Polish immigration of this country, when 367 Polish priests, one Polish Archbishop, and one Polish Bishop gathered at the Hotel Cavillac, Detroit, recently, to unite their forces, exchange ideas, and deliberate upon the wants and dangers that confront the Poles of America. Never in the history of America has such a number of Polish priests gathered together for such a noble purpose.

AN ESTIMATE OF CONVERTS.

Some folks (remarks the *Catholic News*) are inclined to regard as extravagant the estimate that about thirty thousand converts are received into the Church every year in this country. If these sceptical ones would only pause to look into the claim they would readily see that, if anything, the estimate is too low. We learn from the *True Voice* of Omaha that the number of converts baptised in the Catholic faith by the priests of the diocese of Omaha from October 15, 1910, to October 15, 1911, was 402. Now, as there are nearly one hundred dioceses in the country, and as in a great many of them more converts are received than in Omaha, it is clear that it is not an exaggeration to say that more than 30,000 non-Catholics come into the Church here annually.

THE LARGEST DIOCESES.

The largest dioceses of the Church in the United States are:—New York, with 1,219,920 Catholics and 962 priests; Chicago, with 1,150,000 Catholics and 733 priests; Boston, with 900,000 Catholics and 680 priests; Brooklyn, with 700,000 Catholics and 448 priests; Philadelphia, with 525,000 Catholics and 582 priests; Pittsburg, with 475,000 Catholics and 495 priests; and St. Louis, with 375,000 Catholics and 528 priests.

GENERAL

THE HIERARCHY OF THE CHURCH.

By the direction of the Cardinal Secretary of State to his Holiness, the old-time *Gerarchia Cattolica* has been converted into an official publication under the title of *Annuario Pontificio* per l'anno 1912. From its pages we learn that there are in the Church 1754 archiepiscopal and episcopal titles, 11 apostolic delegations, 155 vicariates apostolic, and 68 prefectures apostolic. There are also 18 archbishops and abbots, one archpriest, one prior and five prelates who exercise jurisdiction or functions without depending on the diocesan authority.