

As we explained some time ago, the Catholic Social Guild was inaugurated at a conference summoned by the Catholic Truth Society and held at Manchester some four years ago. The objects of the guild are officially defined to be: (1) To facilitate intercourse between Catholic students and workers; (2) to assist in working out the application of Catholic principles to actual social conditions; and (3) to create a wider interest among Catholics in social questions, and to secure their co-operation in promoting social reform on Catholic lines. In order to furnish definite lines of work, the guild has devised a scheme in accordance with which three separate courses of study are mapped out, examiners appointed, and certificates and diplomas granted to those who gain a given percentage of marks. Each course is divided into two stages, each of which covers one year's work; and the courses are: (A) Economic Theory (Elementary and Advanced); (B) Social and Industrial History; and (C) Some Social Problems of the Day (First and Second Year). A fair idea of the character of the work done may be gathered from the syllabus for the year ended July, 1913. It will suffice for our present purpose to give the syllabus for the first course only, which is as follows: Study-Subject A.—Economic Theory. I.—Text-Book—*The Elements of Social Science and Political Economy*, Dardano. (Gill and Son, Dublin. 3s 6d, discount 2s 8d). II.—Books of Reference—(a) *The Science of Wealth*. J. A. Hobson. (Home University Series. 1s net.) (b) *Social Duties of Catholics*. Devas. (C.T.S., 3d.) (c) *The Pope and the People*. (C.T.S., 1s.) Containing Encyclicals of Leo XIII. on (1) The Condition of the Working Classes. (2) The Duties of Christians as Citizens. (3) Christian Democracy. The Board of Examiners consists of the following, who are all well-known and recognised authorities on social and economic subjects:—Right Rev. Mgr. Parkinson, D.D., Ph.D.; Rev. Thos. Gerrard; Rev. Michael Maher, S.J.; Rev. Thos. Wright; A. P. Mooney, M.D.; Leslie A. Toke, P.L.G.; F. F. Urquhart, M.A., Fellow of Balliol; Miss G. Broughton, L. School of Economics; Mrs. V. M. Crawford, P.L.G. The questions are set as follows:—One half on the given text-book and the other half on the books recommended for a collateral course of study. Any student who has passed in either an Elementary or Advanced Course of any one Study-subject is entitled to a Pass; any student who has obtained Passes in the Elementary and Advanced Courses of any one Study-subject is entitled to a Certificate; and any student who has obtained Certificates for all three Courses A, B, and C is entitled to a Diploma.

Knowing something of the working of our young men's clubs and of the splendid material which is to be found within their ranks it seemed clear to us that such work as is outlined above could be easily and successfully taken up as a side line to their regular literary programme; and we put ourselves in communication with the secretary of the C.S.G., Mrs. Philip Gibbs, and with the energetic and enthusiastic co-secretary, Father Thomas Wright. Both write that they are delighted with the suggestion, and consider it entirely feasible. The only important point to be arranged is as to the holding of the examinations; and this does not present any insuperable difficulty. Not because we have not already plenty to do, but merely to give the movement a start and to show our deep personal interest in the work, we have ourselves undertaken to act personally as supervisor of the examinations for the Dunedin district, and have agreed, also, to act as general representative of the C.S.G. in New Zealand for the purpose of making arrangements for the examinations in other centres until such time as a more complete machinery can be organised. The C.S.G. have given us a free hand in the matter of arranging the examinations providing that we undertake to hold them not later than the back end of August; and have assured us that the Examiners will be pleased to examine all papers sent through us or by us. The point of present importance is that we should have as soon as possible some idea of the probable

number of candidates, so that we may be able to give our Catholic booksellers some approximate estimate of the number of text-books that are likely to be required. Will, therefore, the members of our Catholic clubs, Catholic Federations, Newman Societies, and Catholic laity generally (men and women) who are willing to take advantage of the opportunity to take up this invaluable course of study kindly send us their names at earliest convenience? In so doing they will not, of course, bind themselves to anything; but early information as to their probable intentions will furnish us with a rough indication as to where and to what number books will be required. The names of the text-books prescribed for the current year, ending July, 1914, have not yet reached us, but we expect to have them certainly not later than the end of next month; and the information will be published in our columns at the earliest possible date. The only condition imposed on candidates to which reference need now be made is the payment of an entrance fee of one shilling, which must reach the office of the guild by June 1.

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Although we anticipate that candidates will be drawn mostly from the ranks of our Catholic clubs, the examinations are, as we have already indicated, open to every Catholic man and woman without restriction or limitation of any kind. In England the movement has appealed to a very large degree even to busy men and women, who have, according to the examiners, been able to show very satisfactory and in some instances excellent results in all three branches of the Study Scheme. The great advantage of the scheme is that it supplies definite lines of study and a definite objective. Most people are interested in the social question and are vaguely desirous of studying it—only, they do not know where to begin. The C.S.G. scheme furnishes the necessary starting-point; and in such a way that the candidate who goes through even the first elementary course will have gained a knowledge of general economic principles which will serve as an admirable foundation for wider and more extended study. The special benefit which our Catholic clubs will derive from taking up the scheme is almost self-evident. By the time they meet again in winter session members will have had time to go through the whole of the text-books for the first course, and will be in a position to contribute essays and carry out discussions on questions involved in the course as part of their regular syllabus work for the session; so that the club work will help members in carrying out the study scheme, and the study scheme will furnish a welcome addition to the regular programme of the club. We believe our best clubs will take the matter up with energy and enthusiasm. At any rate we have done our part in giving them the opportunity; and it only remains for them to do theirs. As one of the guild circulars admirably puts it: 'Do not argue whether you can or cannot try—give yourself and the scheme a trial. Furthermore, you have friends—bring the scheme to their notice, and urge them to try with you. There are passes, certificates, diplomas,—the C.S.G. desires to see them won.'

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'Our Protestant Faith' and how it is defended—an extraordinary piece of garbling and misrepresentation exposed. Page 22.

'Popery' in Presbyterian hymn-books—how a well-known hymn-writer disposed of the objection. Page 21.

The notorious 'Limerick Medical Mission'—remarkable confession of a former active worker in 'the cause.' Page 15.

ST. MARY'S ORPHANAGE, AUCKLAND

We have received the following subscription for the building fund of St. Mary's Orphanage, Auckland:—Mr. P. J. O'Brien, Five Rivers, 10s.

Wm. R. Kells

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