

The number of teachers teaching Irish in their schools is reported as 2,418 out of 3,928.

The return for the Intermediate schools is not yet ready for publication, nor is the return from the primary schools complete, and the secretary expresses a hope that the managers will send in the returns as soon as possible. He hopes to have a complete census of all the schools before Christmas.

Add to that number the numbers of children who left school every year for the past fifteen years or more in Ireland, and basing a calculation on the proportion given in the foregoing extract you will find that there are probably half a million young Gaelic speakers in the country to-day, not to speak of the older native speakers and of the Gaelic speakers in the Greater Ireland. Lies told by day-lie hirelings cannot kill the language of the Irish people any more than the lies told by British Ministers can kill their love of freedom. It strikes one that the British press at the present moment is nearly as rotten as British finance, and that just as the approach to London along the Thames is lined with dead ships to-day, the temples of Propaganda, at home and abroad, are lined with men in whom all sense of truth and honor is also dead.

Psycho-Analysis

Recently a correspondent wrote to us concerning a book dealing with the subject of Psycho-Analysis. We searched for the book everywhere and it had gone the way of so many other books that fold up their tents and steal away in the night to return no more. However, here is an extract from the *Fortnightly Review* which throws some light on the subject:

"In a recent lecture at the Catholic Institute, Glasgow, Dr. Charles G. A. Chislett described the methods of the psycho-analyst. He said that psycho-analysis was a legitimate means of medical treatment, and it was admitted by leading psycho-analysts that it is a method of treatment less needed by Catholics than non-Catholics, for the Church has made provision not so much for the unearthing of mental complexes as for their repression. Every time the Catholic goes to confession he indulges in introspection by the examination of his conscience. He does not repress his bogies and his sins into his unconscious mind, for he confesses them, and the suggestion that they are for the future non-existent is so powerful that the unconscious never receives them.

"A debate ensued, which was participated in by physicians and clergymen and the general result of which is summed up thus by the *London Universe* (No. 3154):

"It was the general opinion of the speakers that while psycho-analysis might do good in cases of shell-shock and other sudden shocks to the mind, and also in hysteria, it was of no value where the neurosis resulted from an early stage of some organic disease, such as an aneurism or a cancer. For the sexual pervert the best remedy was a double dose of moral teaching by a minister of religion, and especially a Catholic priest. It was also the feeling of the meeting that psycho-analysis lent itself to quackery, and the professional and moral credentials of the psycho-analyst should be very closely scrutinised."

Planchette

When there is a large number of silly, weak-minded people in any community you will always find superstitious practices flourishing among them. Hence it is not surprising to find various and more or less harmful forms of superstitious practices in vogue in New Zealand. We are told that fortune-tellers reap a rich harvest from their gullible dupes; Ratana had his army of followers, and even some divines to approve him with a text; and among the sensible people who as a rule make up the crowd of racing people you will find now and then a few who prefer to lose their money by investing it on a horse which has a tail like one that their grandmother dreamed about three nights running. A correspondent invites us to say a word concerning the Planchette, which is certainly not one of the harmless forms of superstition. We shall confine ourselves

to giving a summary of the conclusions arrived at by persons who are qualified to pronounce judgment on the subject as a result of their investigations. There are people who look on the little board simply as a toy, and as a means of entertainment. They admit that they receive strange messages, that they are often false and unusually silly, or, what is almost the same thing as silly, reflexes of their own thoughts. But there are also experimenters who study the matter deeply and who come to the conclusion that in many cases an external and independent intelligence must be directing the board. Psychological research has shewn that there is a great subconscious activity of the mind—subliminal or lying below the threshold of the ordinary conscious mind. In the subliminal mind are stored up all the complex experiences of life, from childhood onwards. Records are preserved that the conscious mind cannot recall, but which at times come to the surface in dreams or trances. In the second place, experiments have proved that in proportion as the active and conscious mind is passive and lethargic the subconscious activities are more likely to come to the surface. And when the material brought back in this manner comes into play it is, owing to the distraction and inattention of the conscious mind, often casual and haphazard. Thirdly, experience has demonstrated that the habit of suspending the activities of the conscious mind and developing those of the subliminal self gradually opens a door through which external intelligences may and do invade the mind and gain access to its subconscious storehouse. Applying those principles to the board we find that results depend on the mental condition of the experimenter. At first, before the mind has become very passive, the slightly awakened subconscious mind probably directs the pencil without the interference of an external intelligence. As greater experience is gained and as the mind becomes more passive the phenomena pass from the natural to the preternatural and startling messages are now and then interjected. Disclosures are made and messages given that indicate information beyond the powers of the experimenter. Later, in answer to questions, the experimenter may be told that the answers come from the spirit of some deceased person, and gradually instructions are given that lead to closer communications. In fine, while much of the Planchette writing is automatic and natural, it seems certain that real intercourse with spirits can be established by means of the board. In answer to the further question concerning the identity of the spirits, facts go to prove that the claim that the spirits are really those of the dead is unjustifiable and untenable. The practical conclusion is that the planchette, or ouija board is not a mere toy, and that recourse to it exposes experimenters to grave mental and moral dangers. Dr. Carrington says: "I doubt not that hundreds of persons become insane every year by means of these experiments with the planchette board." Such being the case, the New Zealand Government ought to be sent to a lunatic asylum for permitting the sale of these boards in our shops.

ARABS INTERVIEW CARDINAL

The Palestine Arab delegation to England has issued the following (says the *London Catholic Times* for September 24):—The Arab delegation had the honor on Friday last of an interview with his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. After a review of their interview in Rome with his Holiness the Pope, the delegation explained the reasons why they had approached his Majesty's Government on the subject of Zionist activities in Palestine. His Eminence reminded the delegation of the speech he had made in Liverpool on his return from a visit to the Holy Land in 1919, and expressed his sympathy with the Arabs in the difficulties in Palestine at the present time. He expressed regret that the commission appointed to inquire into questions concerning the sacred sites had not yet been able to carry out its work.

• Gratitude for favors and gifts received is a thing loved and esteemed in heaven and on earth.—St. Ignatius Loyola.

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