

ENGLAND.—Joining the Catholic Church.—The *Western Morning News* announces that the Rev. H. Patrick Russell, vicar of St. Stephen's Devonport, has decided to resign his living, preparatory to entering the Roman Church. Mr. Russell, who has resided at Devonport for about five years, has been known as an advanced Ritualist. This is the third secession within a recent date of clergymen in Plymouth, Devonport and district from the Church of England. The living of St. Stephen's is in the gift of Keble College.

Diocese of Christchurch.

(From our own correspondent.)

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

On the first and second days of the present month the diocesan school inspector, the Rev. Father G. H. Bowers, examined the Catholic schools in and near this city. Not fewer than 136 boys were presented at the Marist Brothers' School, and of this number 122 passed. Moreover, the latter number does not include the pupils in the preparatory classes, which comprise about eighty boys. The following is the inspector's report, which speaks of the school generally:—"This school has come through its examination this year with a good deal of credit. All the classes showed that they had been carefully instructed during the past year. It would be scarcely possible to select any one class or one subject for special commendation—all being equally meritorious. I think the teachers and pupils deserve to be congratulated upon the success of their year's work. The answering on Christian doctrine was quite satisfactory in all classes. Order, attention and manners were excellent." The examination, by the same inspector, of the convent schools in Barbadoes street, and of the Addington Catholic school, which are under the charge of the Sisters of our Lady of Missions, shows that good progress has been made during the past year by the pupils attending these schools. At the High School 88 were presented, and 53 passed. Eight pupils in class X. were very successful in sixth standard work. Most of their papers on arithmetic and geography were excellent. The preparatory classes made a very good appearance. The inspector's report runs as follows:—"This school has passed a highly creditable examination. The pupils are very strong in pass subjects. I have seldom, if ever, seen such intelligent work on arithmetic and geography. Drawing is also very neatly done in all the standards especially in V. and VI. The results in class and additional subjects are very satisfactory. Knowledge and Christian doctrine was very good in V. and VI. fairly good in III. and moderate in the other standards. Kindergarten work in the junior standards is done with a good deal of intelligence, but care must be taken not to make the work too mechanical. I examined several pupils of Standards V. and VI. in euclid and algebra; they showed satisfactory knowledge of both, the latter especially. Order, attention and manners at examination were good." In the convent parish school 198 were presented and 181 passed. The general remarks of the inspector are as follows:—"The pupils of this school acquitted themselves with a good deal of credit this year at the examination. Composition is still slightly weak, but the work done in all the other pass subjects is highly meritorious. The answering in class and additional subjects, also was, on the whole, very satisfactory. The answering on Christian doctrine was good in all the standards except IV., in which some of the pupils were backward. Order, attention and manners at examination were good. General results would have been 'excellent' had not half a dozen pupils been presented in Standards IV and III, who from some cause or other were quite unfit for their standards." In the Addington school 57 were presented for examination, and 53 passed. The inspector's report of the school in question says:—"This school has passed a good examination, with the exception of a little weakness here and there in arithmetic and composition. The results in pass subjects were good. The answering in class and additional subjects was also good, as a whole, but grammar and mental arithmetic will require closer attention during the coming year. Order, attention, and manners at examination were good. It must, however, be a severe strain on the teachers to maintain discipline in a schoolroom which is both unsemitable and overcrowded. The answering in Christian doctrine was moderately good. Some of the pupils in Standards IV and III were backward. On the whole satisfactory progress has been made during the past year." The inspector also visited St. Mary's parish, whose schools are taught by the Sisters of Mercy. At the convent high school about 40 pupils were presented for examination, about 150 at the parochial school and about 35 at the Papanui school. In all cases the results of the examinations have been a good percentage of passes and very favourable reports. Next week there will be a distribution of prizes at all the schools, and then they will break up for the Christmas vacation.

NEW CHURCH AT SUMNER.

The Right Rev. Dr. Grimes will open and bless the new Catholic church at Sumner on the coming New Year's Day. Mass will be said there in the morning and Vespers will be sung in the evening. The very pretty site and the building thereon, which has been transformed into a nice chapel, were purchased some years ago by the late Mr. A. J. White, who bequeathed them for church purposes to Dr. Grimes. The opening of a church in Sumner will be a great boon to Catholics residing at or visiting the watering place as Mass will continue to be said occasionally in the locality. For a long time back the Bishop has wished to utilise the property at Sumner as he is now doing, but from many causes was unable to do so sooner.

THE BAZAAR AT LYTTLETON.

On the coming New Year's Day the local parish priest, the Rev. Father Salvador, will open a bazaar in Port Lyttelton. The object of the bazaar is to raise funds for parochial purposes, and those persons who have articles which they intend to present to the

bazaar are requested to forward them as early as possible to the Catholic Presbytery in Lyttelton. The Rev. Father Salvador has erected a very nice new presbytery, and in order that he may get ample means to defray the expense of this and other necessary works in the parish, it is to be hoped that everyone will assist him in connection with the coming bazaar.

ST. MARY'S.

What is always a most interesting and devotional sight took place on Sunday last at St. Mary's, when a large number of children of both sexes made their first Communion and were confirmed. The girls were beautifully attired in white dresses, with wreaths and veils, and the boys wore purple sashes. The Right Rev. Dr. Grimes said the 9.30 a.m. Mass and gave holy Communion to the children and to others who assisted at the sacred rite. When Mass was over the children were entertained at an excellent breakfast, provided for them in the school hall by the ladies of the parish. The Bishop presided at the repast and when it was ended he made an episcopal visitation of the parish. At 11 a.m. the Rev. Father Malone sang High Mass, which was largely attended. The music on the occasion and at the various services during the day was excellent. At 3 p.m., which was the hour fixed for the administration of the sacrament of Confirmation, the very pretty grounds around the presbytery, which were thronged with children and a large number of the faithful, presented a picturesque and animated appearance. On entering the church Vespers were sung and then the Bishop explained in beautiful language the nature of the sacrament that the children and several adults, 135 persons in all, were about to receive. The Bishop was assisted in the administration of the sacrament by the vicar-general and the Rev. Fathers Marnane and Malone. The church was crowded to overflowing, and the beautiful and edifying ceremonies of the day ended with the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

STRONG ENGLISH WORDS.

WHEN a person says, "I suffered excruciating pain," he expresses a fact in the strongest words afforded by the English language. The word "excruciating" comes from *crux*, a cross, and signifies an intensity of agony comparable only to that ending by one who undergoes the barbarous punishment of crucifixion. There are some diseases which, for a time, cause pain of this acute and formidable nature. To find a relief for it, when possible, is at once the impulse of humanity and the studious desire of science. Two brief examples may indicate what success is attending the effort to both comfort and cure cases of this kind.

"Nearly all my life," writes an intelligent woman, "I have borne the burden of what appeared to be an incurable illness. I always felt heavy, weary, and tired. My appetite was poor, and after eating I had a *cruel pain* at my chest and between the shoulders. Frequently the pain was so intense that I was impelled to loose my clothing and walk about the room. My nerves were disordered and impressible, and I was, consequently, easily disquieted and upset. My sleep was habitually bad, and I seemed none the better for spending a night in bed. Eating but little my strength waned of necessity, and I came to be very weak. For a long time I got about feebly and with difficulty.

"In August, 1887, I had an attack of rheumatic gout, which gave me the most harrowing experience of my life. The complaint took its usual course and refused to yield to the ordinary treatment. Through the partial failure of the liver and kidneys dropsy set in and my legs and feet became puffed and swollen. I suffered *excruciating pain* and was confined to bed for *thirteen weeks*. Remedies of every description were tried but to little purpose.

"My brother, visiting me one day, said he had been cured of an attack of dropsy by a medicine called Mother Seigel's Syrup. I got a bottle from Mr. Hewett, the chemist, in Seven Sisters' Road, and after taking it felt a trifle easier. I continued taking it and soon the pain and swelling abated. I could eat without pain or inconvenience, and by a few weeks' further use of the Syrup I was not only free from any local ailment, but felt better than I ever did in my life before. Since then I have enjoyed continuous good health, taking a dose of Mother Seigel's Syrup occasionally for some transient indisposition. You are at liberty to publish my letter. (Signed) (Mrs.) Elizabeth Rogers, 42 Plevna Road, South Tottenham, London, September 13, 1895."

"In January, 1892," writes another, "I had an attack of influenza and was confined to my bed for eighteen weeks thereafter. Subsequently I was very weak and could get up no strength. What little food I forced down (having no appetite) gave me *excruciating pain*, so that I was afraid to eat. I came to be exceedingly weak and had frequent attacks of dizziness. I was worn almost to a skeleton and none thought I would recover.

"In June, 1892, Mr. Smith, a friend of ours, recommended me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup, which I at once procured of Mr. George Coombs, the chemist in Hucknall. After taking it for only one week I felt greatly benefited. I could eat better and food agreed with me. Continuing with the Syrup I grew stronger and stronger, and soon felt even better than before I was attacked by the influenza. You are free to print this statement if you wish to do so. (Signed) (Mrs.) Ruth Halliday, 14 High street, Hucknall, Torkard, Nottingham, March 19, 1895."

Intense pain may or may not indicate urgent danger to life, but it is hard to bear and very exhausting just the same. In cases of rheumatic gout (Mrs. Rodgers) the pain is caused by a poisonous acid in the tissues, originally produced by the decomposition of food in the stomach—indigestion or dyspepsia. The same poison acting on the liver and kidneys creates the other symptoms mentioned. In the case of Mrs. Halliday the ailment was dyspepsia, which in the first place *invited* influenza and then remained to torment her.

It is best and easiest to *prevent* pain by using Mother Seigel's Syrup immediately when the slightest illness appears.

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