

ting strap-hangers in the tram cars, was confirmed. It was resolved that the Council shall again meet specially on Thursday, October 17, after which the law comes into operation. The validity of the foregoing will, it is said, be tested in the Supreme Court by the Tramway Employees Union.

The main porch at the Cathedral, though requiring the finishing touches, was opened during the last two Sundays. Over the main door a beautiful circular window of stained glass is placed. In the sacristy a niche has been placed for the holy oils. A very handsome door opens to it which is in keeping with the dado. The new chairs for the northern and southern wings for the use of the congregation are now in position. Altogether our Cathedral now takes rank with the best of the churches in our Dominion.

THE CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA

'SURPASSES ALL EXPECTATIONS'

(First Notice).

'The Catholic Encyclopedia. An International Work of Reference on the Constitution, Doctrine, Discipline, and History of the Catholic Church.' In Fifteen Volumes. Vol. I Aachen—Assize. 826 pages. Robert Appleton Company, New York. Australasian Agent, E. J. Forbes, 8 Spring st., Sydney.

The poverty of English literature in regard to works of ready reference on matters connected with the Catholic Church has long been a matter of much concern to those who realise the pressing need of such information in our day. This need is emphasised by the too often untrustworthy and misleading views regarding the Church that appear in many of our popular encyclopedias. In Italy, France, and Germany the Catholic public are furnished with a ready means of meeting and correcting misstatements and misconceptions regarding our faith in the several valuable works of reference that have appeared, or are now appearing, in those countries. But in the English tongue we possess no such extensive, convenient, and reliable works of reference dealing with the doctrines and practices of our faith. America has contributed a small one-volume dictionary of little value; England a compendious and very excellent 'Catholic Dictionary'; there are, besides, a few other lesser publications of the kind. But none of these publications meets the

Great and Growing Need

for a work commensurate with the spread of the faith in English-speaking countries and the need for a ready, authoritative, and up-to-date statement of the Catholic position on the thousand and one subjects of doubt, difficulty, or discussion that are constantly cropping up in our lands of mixed religion.

Some years ago a very excellent 'Jewish Encyclopedia' was brought out by an American firm. This plucky and successful enterprise of our Jewish friends probably tended to give shape and direction to the feeling of many eminent American Catholic writers that the time had come to meet the 'long-felt want' of a proper Catholic work of reference. At any rate, under the favoring auspices of the Archbishop of New York and numerous other prominent ecclesiastics and laymen, a definite scheme was set afoot some eighteen months ago. The result is seen in the first volume of 'The Catholic Encyclopedia,' which is now before us.

'The Catholic Encyclopedia' owes its existence to American zeal, enthusiasm, and enterprise. But

The Work Itself is International,

as such a work should be. In the long list of writers—many of them of world-wide note—that have contributed to the first volume, no fewer than twenty-seven different countries are represented. At the same time, special prominence and attention are very properly given to subjects that have a special relation to the English-speaking world—a number of articles appearing, for instance, in the first volume on matters of Australasian interest. The scope of the work is sufficiently indicated in the preface to the first volume, from which we take the following extracts:—

'What the Church teaches and has taught; what she has done and is still doing for the highest welfare of mankind; her methods, past and present; her struggles, her triumphs, and the achievements of her members, not alone for her own immediate benefit, but for the broadening and deepening of all true science, literature, and art—all come within the scope of "The Catholic Encyclopedia." It differs from the general encyclopedia in omitting facts and information which have no relation to the Church. On the other hand, it is

Not Exclusively a Church Encyclopedia,

nor is it limited to the ecclesiastical sciences and the doings of Churchmen. It records all that Catholics have done, not only in behalf of charity and morals, but also for the intellectual and artistic development of mankind. It chronicles what Catholic artists, educators, poets, scientists, and men of action have achieved in their several provinces. In this respect it differs from most other Catholic encyclopedias.'

And again:—

'Designed to present its readers with the full body of Catholic teaching, the "Encyclopedia" contains not only precise statements of what the Church has defined, but also an impartial record of different views of acknowledged authority on all disputed questions. In all things the object of the "Encyclopedia" is to give the whole truth without prejudice—national, racial, or factional. In the determination of the truth, the most recent and acknowledged scientific methods are employed, and the results of the latest research in theology, philosophy, history, apologetics, archaeology, and other sciences are given careful consideration.'

These are large claims. But a glance through the first volume shows they are amply justified. Both the contents and the make-up of the volume will meet the approval of the most critical taste. One of the foremost American Seminary presidents says of the work in the 'Catholic World' magazine for July: 'I think that it is the grandest thing done by English-speaking Catholics since the Reformation. . . . The first volume surpasses all expectation; and if (as no doubt it will) the same standard is kept up till the close, we shall all have good reason to be proud of the "Encyclopedia" and grateful to the men to whom we owe it.'

With this decided opinion we are in accord.

FEILDING

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The Very Rev. Dean Binsfeld, S.M., who is acting as locum tenens in charge of the parish, on a recent Sunday appealed to the young men of the congregation to interest themselves in beautifying the church and convent grounds. The surroundings of the latter are in the process of improvement, but much remains to be done by willing hands in the direction indicated.

A Catholic Club or similar association would prove of immense benefit to our district, which is undoubtedly the most fertile and prosperous on the West Coast, and little effort should be needed to induce our young men to band themselves together for the purpose of furthering the interests of our holy Faith in this locality. Donations (even liberal ones) for charitable purposes are certainly good in their way, but it is certain we should not stop at that, and consider such as being all required of us. To conserve and strengthen the interests of religion and Catholic education is of unceasing importance, and demands our closest attention and expenditure of our resources.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the local convent are worthily upholding the reputation of their Order in matters educational. At the recent musical examinations in connection with Trinity College, London, all the pupils presented from St. Joseph's Convent in theory (preparatory division) passed successfully as follows:—May Ryan, 99; Nellie Fisher, 99; Thelma Fisher, 94; Gladys Wells, 94; Madge Boddy, 89; (piano) Gladys Wells, 77; (singing) Ivy Mexted, 68. As it is only about eighteen months since the convent was opened, the results achieved prove the painstaking efforts of the Sisters in preparing their pupils, and must also be very gratifying to the parents. I am pleased to note that the number of day scholars are also increasing rapidly. This is eminently satisfactory in one way, but exceedingly worrying to the teachers in another, their embarrassment being chiefly in the direction of absolutely inadequate accommodation. This will probably be urged as a first consideration on the return from Europe of the Rev. Father O'Meara.

The following pupils of Miss K. Cartwright, A.T.C.L., Oamaru, were successful at the theory examination of Trinity College, held in June last:—Intermediate division—Hannah Cartwright, 91 (honors); Junior division—Eileen Cartwright, 82 (honors). Preparatory—Millicent Whillans, 99 (honors); Maude Cartwright, 98 (honors).