

taken out of the Dunedin Athenaeum were novels; and, worse still, that 'the quality of some books which are in very great demand is of the poorest'. 'Compared with fiction', said Mr. Whitson, 'the circulation of books in other departments of literature is productive of sorrowful reflections'. The great mass of the novel-devouring public are finical about their tea and beer and beef and tobacco. But they seem to have no standard by which to judge of the quality of the printed stuff on which they feast. For many of those more particularly referred to here, novel-reading is not so much a recreation as a passion—something akin to the taste of toppers for fiery waters, or of Anglo-Indians for red-hot condiments. As matters stand, the Carnegie libraries, as to their circulating side, are very likely to be chiefly devoted to the spread of a class of sensational, risky, or namby-pamby fiction that the world could very well go without. If this is to be the chief result of his benefactions, the money would have been better sunk in the sea a thousand fathoms deep, or in a repetition of the Laputan experiments for extracting sunbeams from cucumbers.

Notes

A Question of Creed

A Wellington inquirer writes: 'To settle a dispute, will you kindly state in the "Tablet" to what religion M. Clemenceau, the French Premier, belongs?' The answer is soon given: He belongs to none and dislikes all. Here are some particulars in point from the April number of the 'Nineteenth Century and After':—

'M. Clemenceau is the son of a Vendean doctor, who carried his hostility against religion so far that he never allowed his children to be christened. . . . When George Clemenceau arrived in Paris in 1862, to proceed with his medical studies, he was already both a Revolutionist and an atheist. . . . He hates Christianity, he hates God.'

Some Drug Exposures

The 'Otago Daily Times' of Monday summarises the evidence given by Dr. Cahill (Wellington) before the Select Committee which had the Quackery Prevention Bill under consideration. Dr. Cahill had been questioned as to the worthless class of 'medicines and drugs infernal' with which people persist in loading their over-wrought digestive machinery. And this is how our local morning contemporary sums up 'one or two striking examples' in point:—

'There was a remedy for obesity. It was retailed at 6s. The intrinsic value was 2d. An anti-fat cure was the same. A kidney cure cost 1s; the real value of a bottle was one-thirty-fifth of a penny, and the pilules consisted of ordinary white sugar. A certain make of pills were, he said, sold wholesale to chemists at £1 7s a dozen boxes, containing about two and a half gross of pills. They are made for 1s 6d a gross. They are sold readily, said Dr. Cahill, at 2s 6d a box, and the unfortunate poor girls who suffer mostly from anaemia, and are employed in shops, are deluded by the advertisements to purchase these pills at an exorbitant price. What is sold wholesale at 27s could be sold over the counter at 2s 6d a gross with a very fair profit. As to drugs which are absolutely harmful, Dr. Cahill stated that they were mostly liquids, and the sale depends largely upon the amount of alcohol they contain.'

We hope that all concerned will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest, not the nostrums, but the lesson that the Doctor's evidence conveys.

Messrs. Herbert, Haynes, and Co., Ltd., Dunedin, are now making a grand show of stylish cotton fabrics, comprising many quite new and original lines. They have also on exhibition a comprehensive display of beautiful costumes, representing all that is new in materials, colorings, and style....

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

Lieutenant D. S. Columb of the Hibernian Cadets has received intimation that he has been successful in the officers' examination.

On Thursday, the 10th inst., the anniversary Requiem of the late Rev. John Ryan took place in Queenstown. The celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Father Hunt; deacon, Rev. Father Murphy; subdeacon, Rev. Father Delany; master of ceremonies, Very Rev. P. O'Donnell. There were also present Rev. Father O'Neill (Winton) and Rev. Father O'Donnell (Queenstown).

At the recent distribution of prizes in connection with Trinity College Practical and Theoretical examinations, held in 1906, three out of the seventeen successful candidates presented by the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, secured prizes, being among the number who gained highest marks. The following are the names: Reby Roy, Emily McAnnelly, Agnes A. Brown.

The Hibernian Defence Cadets paraded on Thursday, October 3, for inspection by Colonel Davies, C.B., Inspector-General. There were present Captain Hussey, Lieutenants Callan and Columb, and 34 rank and file. The officers and non-commissioned officers were tested in various duties and exercises, and showed that they were well grounded in them. All movements were performed with precision and in a manner which reflected great credit on the officers. Colonel Davies complimented the corps on its smartness and general efficiency, and exhorted all ranks to maintain the interest in their work, and strive to attain a higher standard of excellence. He regretted that the weather did not permit of an outdoor inspection, which offered more scope than one held in the necessarily confined space of a drill-hall.

On last Monday evening a social gathering took place at the Christian Brothers' gymnasium, to celebrate in a fitting manner the successes won on the athletic field during the past year. Rev. Father Cleary presided. The ex-pupils were represented by Messrs. J. B. Callan, jun., B.A., LL.B., and T. J. Hussey. The medals won on the athletic, football, and cricket fields were on display, and were a sufficient index of the success of the boys. But the most important trophies presented were the four gold medals and beautiful shield, won at the International Exhibition, for the schools' championship of New Zealand. The shield is a fine piece of workmanship, and remains the property of the school. After the distribution of prizes, and presentations to Messrs. W. Banks and D. Corcoran for the interest taken by these gentlemen in school cricket and athletics respectively, Rev. Father Cleary complimented the boys in an appropriate speech, after which they were entertained at supper by the committee.

THE NEW MARIST PROVINCIAL

VERY REV DEAN REGNAULT, S.M.

News was received by cable last week from Belgium that the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., of Waimate, had been appointed Provincial of the Marist Fathers in New Zealand in succession to the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M.

The Very Rev. Dean Regnault was born in Brittany (France) in 1856, studied in the preparatory colleges of St. Meen and Plouguerneel, made his course of philosophy in the great seminary of St. Brieuc, and was for a time professor in the colleges of Senlis and Montlucon. Later on he went to Ireland and studied theology in the Marist Colleges at Dublin and Dundalk. Dean Regnault came to New Zealand in January, 1886, and was appointed to Waimate in 1889. The new Provincial, who is extremely popular in Canterbury, is well versed in Irish history, is a ready, fluent, and effective speaker, and as a writer expresses himself (as our columns have occasionally borne testimony) in picturesque and facile English. He is an ardent admirer of New Zealand—the country of his adoption, has become a New Zealander of the New Zealanders, and has at all times been ready to take part in any movement having for its object the welfare of the people, irrespective of class or creed.

Dean Regnault is just now engaged in making preparations for the erection of a new church in Waimate, having signed only a few days ago a contract for the building, which will cost about £4000.

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