

ing to the needs of this vast body are 1078 priests, an average of one priest for 6365 Catholics. In the United States, with a Catholic population estimated at 13,000,000 in round numbers, there are 15,093 priests, one priest for 867 Catholics.

GENERAL

The Religious Orders

It is interesting to note (says the New York 'Freeman's Journal') that most of the great religious Orders are now governed by non-Italians. Only a few weeks ago the Augustinians re-elected as their General the Spanish Father Rodriguez; at their last general Chapter the Dominicans chose as their Master General the French Father Cormier; the Friars Minor chose as their General the German Father Schuler, who worked for a great many years in the United States; the Minor Conventuals are governed by the American Father Dominick Reuter; the Carmelites of ancient observance by the American Father Pius Mayer; the Redemptorists by the Swiss Father Raus; the Jesuits by the German Father Wernz; and so on.

Singers and Flowers

Among the hundreds of amateur singers scattered up and down the country (says 'Woman's Life'), how many have the slightest notion that the scent of flowers affects the voice one way or another? Yet flowers—certain flowers, at least—are admittedly detrimental to good voice production, and all the leading artists recognise the fact. Sims Reeves, the great tenor, was once down to sing in Aberdeen. The night before the concert he was with his wife in one of the hotels, when a lady came in carrying a huge bouquet of flowers, which she presented to Mrs. Reeves. The bouquet was handed to a gentleman friend that he might admire it, and he was (thoughtlessly) in the act of passing it on to the eminent vocalist, when Mrs. Reeves excitedly exclaimed: 'Don't, Jack, don't.' The gentleman naturally raised his eyebrows in questioning surprise, and, observing this, Mrs. Reeves explained that if the perfume of these flowers reached her husband's throat he would be off his singing form for nights. 'Sims' himself quietly supported the statement; and, in fact, in a posthumous manual for singers, he has expressly warned the vocalist against the incautious sniffing of flowers.

The consensus of opinion among opera-singers seems to be that tuberose and mimosa are particularly harmful. Madame Christine Nilsson mentions the case of a celebrated lady singer who, after 'burying her nose' for a moment in a wreath of tuberose, went on the stage to find that she could not raise a note. The vocal chords had been temporarily paralysed. A doctor was called, the flowers were thrown out of the window, and the vocalist, after her throat had been treated, was able to sing later in the evening. Calve agrees with Nilsson. The only flowers she ever admits into her rooms are roses and violets. The tuberose is her 'particular abhorrence,' not only because it suggests death, but because of its injurious effect on the voice. If she enters a room where lilies are, Calve always wants to throw the windows open. Personally she exempts the violet from a charge of vocal injury, though other singers have told her that it has been detrimental in their case. Jenny Lind could never be in a room with strong-smelling flowers, and used to say that the scent of violets was especially bad for her voice. Madame Patti would never dream of sniffing a bouquet before singing. Some celebrated teachers even caution their pupils against having flowers in their dressing-rooms. It is said that a jealous prima donna was, on one occasion, known to present her rival with a bouquet, with the special object of rendering her singing less effective. An eminent French surgeon relates a number of cases which have come under his own observation, in which thickness, huskiness, and even complete loss of voice are caused by penetrating odors. In some persons it is only the perfume of particular flowers that produces the effect; in others, the odor of incense or musk, or the smells of the kitchen, tanyard, or smithy act in the same way.

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Domestic

By 'Maureen'

Housewives' Helps.

The best way to keep celery crisp is to place it in a bowl of warm water and leave it there until required. If you put a little salt in with the mustard before mixing it will keep its color and will not turn sour.

A Simple Way to Clean a Clock.

Take a bit of cotton wool the size of a hen's egg, dip it in kerosene, and place it along the floor of the clock; shut the door of the clock and wait three or four days. The clock will be like a new one, and if you look inside you will find the cotton wool black with dust. The fumes of the oil loosen the particles of dust, and they fall, thus cleaning the clock.

Depends on Early Training.

The table training of a child should begin as soon as he has a place at the table. He should be taught how to hold and to use, first his spoon, then his knife and fork; to drink noiselessly; to eat slowly and to take small bites; to keep his mouth closed while chewing, etc. If he is allowed to begin wrong it will be very hard to teach him correct deportment, and he may never completely overcome the bad habits he has formed. As people are judged by their table manners more than by any other one thing, parents should see to it that their children are properly trained from the beginning.

How to Remove Stains.

Removing spots from coats and waistcoats is best done with clear ammonia and water. Soap is too apt to remain in the cloth, becoming a gathering point for dust and future spots. The ammonia solution should be rather strong and put on with a brush preferably to using a cloth. Afterward a cloth may be wet in clear water and the place well rubbed, then pressed. Stains, such as come from fruit, oil, or paint, will yield to a home cleansing fluid that all housekeepers would do well to have. It is made of a wineglassful of rectified spirits of turpentine and a teaspoonful each of oils of lemon, peppermint, olives, and cinnamon. Shake well and rub over the stain vigorously, using an old silk handkerchief or other soft bit of silk.

Ways of Mending Men's Clothing.

Mending men's garments is quite different from sewing women's clothes, for a flatiron plays almost as important a part in renovating as a needle, because every rip or tear looks fifty per cent. better if pressed after darning, patching, etc. The most inconspicuous way to repair three-cornered tears in woollen suits is to darn with ravellings of the material instead of thread. The darning should be done most carefully, and the place afterward dampened slightly and pressed with a heavy hot iron. If for any reason it is not possible to get ravellings for this kind of work, horse hair cloth ravellings should be used. The hair is less visible than thread and is strong. It is sometimes possible to back a tear with a court plaster, drawing the two edges together and pasting them with plaster. This is placed on the wrong side. When it adheres to the cloth put under a heavy weight until quite dry, otherwise it will curl.

Proper Way to Sew on Buttons.

As to sewing on buttons, there are two ways, one the easiest method for those with shanks, another for buttons with eyes. In putting on shank buttons, sew only with strong linen thread, for silk and twist are quite useless, as they snap and pull out after the buttons have been fastened two or three times. In putting on buttons which have eyes, hold between the button and the cloth a thick round bodkin or a match. Place this so that it rests on top of the cloth and under the button, the stitches coming at either side. The sewing should be rather loose, so that when the needle has been put through for the last time the match or bodkin can easily be withdrawn. Do not break the thread yet, but hold the button out as far as the stitches will permit and then wrap the thread around until a solid shank has been made. Fasten the thread on the wrong side and cut it. Cloth or tailor buttons having a cloth shank should be put on with few stitches, and stout linen thread should be used.

Maureen