

## People We Hear About

Mr. Philip Gibbs, the correspondent whose graphic descriptions of the war in France and Flanders is quoted daily in our cable messages, is one of the many Catholics eminent in English journalism. He is an active member of Catholic societies, and recently presided at and addressed the annual meeting of a society for the spread of Catholic literature. Mr. Gibbs was born in 1877, the son of Henry Gibbs, of the Board of Education. He has served on the editorial staffs and as special correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, and the *Daily Chronicle*, and other London papers, and as war correspondent of the *Graphic* and *Daily Graphic*. He now represents the *Daily Chronicle*. Mrs. Gibbs, his wife, is the daughter of the Rev. W. Rowland, rector of Middle Chinnock, and she is a convert to the Catholic Church. She was educated abroad, and she is the author of translations from the French, German, and Italian.

The Most Rev. Edmond Francis Prendergast, Archbishop of Philadelphia, who celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination last month, was born in Clonmel, County Tipperary, in May, 1843. His Grace's branch of the Carew-Prendergast family has given many sons and daughters to the Church. One of his brothers, the Rev. Peter J. Prendergast, D.D., became rector of the Church of the Epiphany, New York city. Another brother, Father Francis Prendergast, is stationed in Dungarvan, Waterford. Two of his sisters entered the religious life in Ireland: one of these is the Rev. Mother Mary Peter, of the Presentation Convent at Lismore. His father's brother, the Rev. James Prendergast, died in the ministry at the age of eighty-six, at Tallow. Two uncles, his mother's brothers, were the late Father Edmond Carew, of the archdiocese of Cashel, and the late Father Francis Carew, pastor of St. Rose of Lima's Church, Carbondale, Pa. In 1859 the future Archbishop entered the seminary at Philadelphia, and was ordained to the priesthood at the age of twenty-two and one-half years, on November 17, 1865.

That fine champion of Irish nationality the Hon. John Meagher, K.C.S.G., celebrated the eightieth anniversary of his birthday on December 6 (says the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*). Few if any public men are better known in the State than the founder of the progressive firm of John Meagher and Co., Ltd., of Bathurst, with its branches at Temora, Forbes, Wyalong, and Barmadman. A volume could be written of the veteran's activity and generosity on behalf of the Church, as well as his spirited advocacy for the freedom of his loved country. A native of Kilrush, County Clare, Mr. Meagher arrived in this State in the year 1863, and emphasises the fact that Irishmen are well able to more than hold their own in the promotion of what is best for their adopted country. In 1900 Mr. Meagher was appointed to the Upper House, and applied his energy and abilities to useful constitutional legislation. Save our leading prelates, no man is better known at Catholic functions throughout New South Wales. Each diocese in the State has reason to know and appreciate the liberality of Mr. Meagher. Time and distance are unconsidered trifles when Mr. Meagher believes that he can do good towards the advancement of Catholicity in any part. Apart from other generous gifts, he not many years ago purchased 'Logan Brae,' a splendid building standing in 25 acres, and presented it to the Sisters of Mercy for use as a Novitiate in Bathurst.

## Intercolonial

Mr. J. H. Baxter, in securing election as the 1916 Rhodes Scholar, makes the third representative of the Christian Brothers' College, Nudgee, Queensland, who has gained such high distinction, the others' being Messrs. Macrossan and Cassidy.

Two of the new priests for the archdiocese of Adelaide arrived by the last Home steamer. They are the Rev. Father Thomas Maloney, who was ordained at the Diocesan College, Thurles, on June 20 last, and the Rev. Father T. Fallon, who was ordained at Carlow College early in the same month. A third priest, Rev. Father Edward O'Connell, who was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral (Kilkenny), on June 13, is expected by an early boat.

The *Catholic Directory* for 1916 gives the total Catholic population of Australasia, extending to Tasmania, including New Zealand, as 1,043,027, figures from the census 1911. The districts total 666, churches 2054, secular priests 980, regular priests 376, religious Brothers 579, nuns 7083, ecclesiastical seminaries 4, colleges (boys) 40, boarding schools (girls) 218, superior day schools 189, primary schools 1029, charitable institutions 116, children in Catholic schools 150,439.

The largest accession of new priests for the archdiocese of Melbourne that has occurred for some years was made a few weeks ago, when no fewer than eight young priests were added to the diocese. Two of these, the Rev. Fathers Norris and Little, were ordained at Manly College recently (says the *Tribune*). Father Norris is a brother of the late Father Michael Norris, who died a few weeks ago at Oaksleigh, and a cousin of the pastor of St. Michael's, North Melbourne. Father Little is a native of Bacchus Marsh. The other priests are graduates of Irish and Roman colleges.

The will of the late Bishop Higgins has been lodged for probate. Among the bequests are the following:—£500, marble altar to Sacred Heart, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat; £300, marble altar for church, St. Joseph's Home; £600, balance of £1000 promised to the Catholic College at the University, Melbourne; £700 to Sisters of St. John of God, Ballarat; £50 to St. Vincent de Paul Society, Ballarat West; £50 to Ballarat Hospital; £50 to Benevolent Asylum; £50 each to the following convents, for their schools:—Loretto Nuns, Ballarat; Sisters of Nazareth; Convent of Mercy, Ballarat East, Creswick, Maryborough, Colac, Mildura, Inglewood, Dunolly, Ararat, Koroit, Casterton, Portland, Hamilton, Port Fairy, Terang, Warrnambool, Camperdown; Convent of Mercy, Rockhampton.

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