

afterwards administered Extreme Unction. He was quite conscious, and assured me that he felt no pain. He bore his affliction with great fortitude and bravery, and was quite happy and reconciled. When darkness set in I had him taken down to the base hospital, and though there was no hope for his recovery, he was given all the medical comfort possible to soothe him in his last moments. The following morning I was wounded and did not have an opportunity of seeing your son again. There were two priests attending the base hospitals, so you can be assured that your brave boy had every spiritual comfort before death.

'You have my sincere sympathy in your bereavement, but be consoled that your son, while I knew him, was one who lived up to the best instincts of holy faith, and privileged with all the comforts of the Church before his death.'

### FATHER VAUGHAN AND HIS CRITICS

The Rev. F. B. Meyer and the Rev. J. H. Newsham-Taylor (Rector of St. Peter's, Hatton Garden), have been criticising Father Bernard Vaughan's Mansion House speech, in which he gave the now famous advice to 'keep on killing Germans.' In a letter which appeared in the *Daily Graphic*, Father Vaughan replied to the two reverend gentlemen. The letter is as follows:—

'A clipping from your enterprising and clear-sighted paper has this moment been put into my hands by a Manchester friend.

'The clipping contains letters from the Rev. F. B. Meyer and the Rev. J. H. Newsham-Taylor; blaming me for advising our troops to kill the enemy instead of being killed by him. Truth to tell, till I read Dr. Meyer's letter I had no notion that we considered it a "misfortune" to kill Germans. In my stupidity I had always felt it was a misfortune to miss them: I had no idea that soldiers in war were to be regarded as police on their beat; in my simplicity I was under the impression that our troops had gone to the front, not to take up and handcuff the aggressor, but on the contrary, to wipe him out and do for him. Indeed, in my reading of the situation, I had never regarded the enemy in the light of a burglar bent on "swag" only, but rather as an assassin under orders to murder, massacre, and mangle widows and children, leaving them nothing but their eyes to weep with.

'Of course, if Dr. Meyer's contention is right, I must confess to being quite wrong. In other words, if our artillery is not out primarily to find the range for killing our foe, but only to shoot or frighten black-beetles, rabbits, and mosquitos, my advice to kill Germans is altogether out of place.

'As for our friend the Rector of St. Peter's, Hatton Garden, the Rev. Newsham-Taylor, and his rooted conviction that it ill beseems ecclesiastical lips to advise killing Germans, I must make bold to say to him in reply that the only reason that I can discover for the unseemliness of such advice is that it is unbecoming a minister of religion to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

'In a day when the nation is economising in the truth more than in anything else, the eloquent rector will probably charge me with belonging to an old-fashioned Church which refuses to compromise where principle is involved. But I cannot help it. I am built and trained on those lines; and, to be candid, as an Englishman and a patriot, I much prefer to be set down as a publican and sinner than as a Pharisee and hypocrite.

'Sir, with Joffre and Kitchener, French and Haig, I beg once more to raise my voice reminding my countrymen that victory can be ours in one way only: by artillery-attrition. And I find that the chief reason why our war-lords to-day are so sanguine about peace rooted in triumph over the foe is that our artillery is now better than his. As a plain, blunt Englishman, I understand this to mean we can kill off the enemy quicker than he us.

'If our Nonconformist ministers had only exhorted their followers to join the colors in the language of Joffre and Roberts instead of in the hesitating terms of Meyer and Newsham-Taylor, I venture to think we should now still be under the voluntary system instead of saddled with a Compulsion Bill.

'Sir, unless our troops are out at the front to kill Germans, let them come home and get killed with us. They won't have to wait long.'

### PUBLICATION

*Orbis Catholicus: A Year Book of the Catholic World.*  
Edited by Canon Glancy. Sydney: Louis Gille and Co. Pp. 685; price, 6/- net.

This is an ambitious undertaking, being nothing less than a survey of the widespread activities of the Catholic Church throughout the world. A glance at the contents will convince the reader that Canon Glancy has succeeded in producing a work which cannot fail to be of incalculable value as a book of reference. It has been prepared, at a cost of great labor, to supply in a readily accessible form a most interesting fund of information. The editor in a prefatory note states that in a work of this character, involving an immense mass of detail, it is, perhaps, inevitable that mistakes should occur, especially when disturbances of postal communication have rendered the checking of statistical and other information difficult. Should the reader come across any such mistakes he will, no doubt, be ready to make reasonable allowance, considering the varied nature of the contents. The book is divided into three parts. The first deals with Rome and the Popes. A mere chronological list of the Popes is no new feature in a book of reference. But here we have in addition an alphabetical list of the occupants of the Chair of St. Peter, in which is set out some striking event in the reign of each one. Then we have chapters devoted to the Papal Chapel and Household, Papal Orders of Knighthood, the Sacred College, the Roman Curia, Diplomatic Representatives, and Apostolic Delegations. The second part is devoted mainly to the Church outside Rome—the Dioceses (with historical sketches), the Hierarchy, Residential and Titular Sees, Abbeys, and Prelatures, Vicariates, etc. The third part gives a list of Patriarchs, Archbishops, and Bishops, with date and place of birth, date of ordination, nomination, and consecration, and other information. These are only some of the most prominent features of the book, which in range, scope, method, and fulness may be styled unique. As a well-known reviewer remarks, the book is a gratification to the eye as well as to the mind; the black type is judiciously employed, and the essential features of each page leap to the eye. They have not to be sought amidst a mass of small print. Without undue flattery it may be said that compiler and printer have combined with complete success to produce a book of reference which should be found in every Catholic household. One can only express the hope that the immense amount of labor involved in its production will be properly appreciated.

At one time the King's messengers wore uniforms, but now their only badge of office is a silver greyhound carried round the neck, but not always displayed. They are generally retired Army officers, and receive a salary of four hundred a year, with an allowance of one pound a day when on duty.

### PILES

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