

month; but it also assembles sometimes extraordinarily in the presence of the Pope. It gives its attention to the election of bishops and vicars apostolic for missionary countries, to providing missionaries for these countries, and to all ecclesiastical questions that may arise regarding them." Some years ago, as will be remembered, certain countries such as Ireland, which had come under Propaganda owing to the cruel misfortunes of the times, and other countries such as those of North America, which had grown up under the fostering care of Propaganda, were removed from the jurisdiction of that body and placed under the common law of the Church. The dismemberment is now almost completed by the erection of the new congregation for Catholics of Oriental rites, to wit, the Greek, Armenian, Coptic, Rumanian, Ruthenian, Bulgarian, Syrian, Chaldean, and Maronite, in parts of Austria, Hungary, Russia, Bosnia, Rumania, Turkey, as well as in Abyssinia, Egypt, the East Indies, and certain English and United States colonies in South America. The total number of Catholics in communion with Rome in these countries is well over eight millions, and these are governed by six patriarchs, 20 archbishops, 53 bishops, and six vicars-apostolic. The old Congregation of Propaganda will continue to provide for all the rest of Africa and of Asia, as well as for Australia, though it is by no means improbable that the flourishing Church in the latter country will soon take its place under the common law.

Under the wings of the new congregation there is to be established a missionary college, similar to that of Propaganda, in which intending missionaries will be fitted for their work by a two years' course of special training in Oriental history, geography, ethnography, archaeology, orthodox theology, canon law, rites, and liturgy.

Mgr. Keating, senior chaplain to the British forces at Salonika, has been summoned to Rome, where he will be created bishop and placed over all the chaplains to the British forces as chaplain-in-chief, with the rank

and title of army-bishop or *Episcopus castrensis*. The *Episcopus castrensis* is an institution of old standing in the German army. A similar institution was provided for the Italian army on the declaration of the war against Austria two and a-half years ago. The breakdown of the existing machinery controlling chaplaincies to the British army about the same time led the Irish bishops to the conclusion that something similar was advisable to meet the needs of the case, and there is reason for believing that a suggestion to this effect was put forward in their name. Had this been acted on at once the public would have been spared much of the ill-informed or malevolent trash recently appearing in the columns of Irish papers on the subject of alleged shortage of chaplains. It is only fair, however, to say that the delay owes its origin to no one in Rome. Where non-Catholic governments and vested interests of various sorts are concerned the Holy See has not always a free hand and has often to waste precious time in surmounting opposition or difficulty even in quarters where neither should be expected.

Up to the present, as will be remembered, the task of providing chaplains to the British forces rested exclusively on the shoulders of the Archbishop of Westminster in virtue of an instruction issued to that effect by the Holy See some dozen years ago. Henceforth this task, with the authority and responsibility accompanying it, will devolve on the new army-bishop.

In the course of a few days, and before these lines see the light, silver currency will go out of circulation in this country, and is to be replaced by bank notes for one and two francs. Meanwhile the exchange value of the franc, which in normal times was tenpence, is now down to sixpence.

A JOINT OF MEAT MAY BE TOUGH

but the delicious MILITARY PICKLE is always tasty. If your grocer is out of this appetiser, send your order to any other Storekeeper. DO IT NOW.

"TABLET" SUBSCRIPTIONS

We request subscribers, whose subscriptions are falling due this month (notices have been sent), to send the amount before the end of March, which is our half-yearly period. We do not continue the paper more than six months at booked rates without the authority of the subscriber, unless we personally know him to be a sound mark.

We beg to acknowledge Subscriptions from the following, and recommend Subscribers to cut this out for reference:—

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