

### German Philosophy

We have often thought that Kant's position is one of the most pathetic in history. Like Descartes he set out to make a way clear out of the maze of doubt and scepticism, and the result was the epoch-making *Kritik der Reinen Vernunft*, which laid, broad and deep, the foundations of idealism. In *Die Kritik der Praktischen Vernunft* he tried to erect a bulwark around old beliefs which he knew the world could not go without. His disciples were not so concerned about religion as he was, and they pushed his principles forward. Schopenhauer resolved all things into the Will; Hegel made Intellect absolute; Fichte, Schelling, Hartmann, Nietzsche, and a score of others of less repute, built on the bad foundations which were due to Kant; and German philosophy became so ridiculous that the criterion of common sense is its best refutation.

### English Philosophy

Common sense saved English thinkers from going universally to the ridiculous extremes to which a cold logic, working on unsound premises, led Germany. But English philosophers are by no means above reproach. In England the abominable doctrine of Utilitarianism was made a State institution, and during this war it is a matter of no small shame to Britain that her principles, logically carried out, lead to Louvain, as indeed they led to Limerick. And if we regard the latter school, called Pragmatism, it is only exteriorly more respectable. Arthur Balfour and his friends are as far from a certitude about Truth as the Germans. And the plea that institutions must be supported because they work well is at root another form of Utilitarianism and a confession of the bankruptcy of thought in England. Sometimes in the works of Spencer, of Hamilton, and of Drummond one feels that we are coming nearer to the old, sane principles which taught men that normal, healthy, sense-perceptions, duly controlled and checked, were the surest roads to Truth, inasmuch as they supplied the intellect with solid data upon which to work. No later sculptor has taken the palm from Phidias; Sophocles is still the master in his own sphere; and only when men come back again to the sound doctrines of the greatest of Greek sages, Aristotle,—

*il maestro di color chi sanno—*

will we have a world-philosophy in which experience and common-sense and intelligence will walk hand-in-hand for ever. Thomas of Aquin built his reasoning on Aristotle, and his teaching continues fresh and reliable to-day. If you would find out for yourself how fresh and how reliable Aristotle and St. Thomas are read Cardinal Mercier's *Psychologie*, where you will find how the old truths are made still more luminous in the light thrown upon them by the researches carried out in a modern, well-equipped University.

### THE WAR LOAN

Readers will note that the time for investing in the War Loan has been extended to April 15. It should not be necessary to remind patriotic people that the money is indispensable and that by subscribing everyone can "do his bit." Read our advertisement and invest promptly.

### CATHOLIC FEDERATION

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the notice in our advertising columns which invites applications for the post of Secretary to the Federation, made vacant recently by the resignation of Mr. G. Girling-Butcher, who filled the post so capably during several years.

All things being equal, why not patronize our advertisers.

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The following are the results of the practical examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, conducted by the board's examiner, Dr. A. P. Alderson, at St. Catherine's College, Invercargill:—Higher division—One. Elementary division distinction—One. Pass—One. Primary division distinction—One. Pass—Five. Bluff Convent.—Distinction—One. Pass—One.

In the practical examination, of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music, London, which were conducted by Dr. A. P. Alderson at St. Dominic's Priory on March 19, all the candidates were successful as follow:—Licentiate examinations, Performer's diploma—2 successful candidates. School examinations.—Higher division distinction—One. Lower division distinction—One. Pass—Two. Elementary division distinction—One. Pass—Two. Primary division distinction—Three. Pass—Four.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the eleven o'clock Mass on last Sunday. His Lordship the Bishop presided at Compline in the evening, and after bearing the Sacred Host in the procession, gave Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rev. Father Collins and Rev. Dr. Kelly being deacon and subdeacon respectively, and Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., master of ceremonies. An instructive discourse on "What constitutes Religion" was given by the Very Rev. Administrator in the presence of a large congregation.

The winning numbers in connection with the art union in aid of the funds of the Roxburgh parish are published in this week's issue of the *Tablet*. The Rev. Father D. O'Neill (pastor of the district) desires to sincerely thank the many friends outside the parish for the generous assistance they gave to the enterprise, and assures them that his parishioners generally will, by every means at their disposal, help to provide for local requirements. Roxburgh being a new parish, and one that has to be built up from practically the very foundation, needs assistance in view of its limited resources.

Few social events in Queenstown can lay claim to the popularity which the social promoted annually by the members of St. Joseph's Church has won for itself (states the *Hakatip Mail*). Year after year this fixture is looked forward to by old and young in the community, no less than by our Easter visitors, whose presence, be it said, is a factor which contributes largely to the success of the evening. And this year's function was no exception to the rule. There was a very large attendance. The town and district were well represented, and of visitors there were scores. Music was supplied principally by Mrs. Burns and Miss McCarthy (piano), and Mr. J. Fraser (violin). The hall looked especially well, beflagged and decorated with other hangings and an attractive disposition of pot plants. As is usual on these occasions, a first-class supper was provided. During this adjournment the Rev. Father Corcoran on behalf of the committee, returned hearty thanks to the assemblage for their attendance; also to the musicians for their gratuitous services. He also expressed the hope that every one would spend an enjoyable time. Certainly the committee deserve to be congratulated on the very great success which attended their efforts.

### ST. DOMINIC'S GARDEN FETE.

On next, Saturday week, April 20, the annual garden fete will be held at St. Dominic's Priory, and it is anticipated that it will be this year a greater success than ever. The pupils, past and present, all welcome the opportunity of spending a few pleasant hours amid their devoted teachers, and are certain to attend in large numbers. They are encouraged to bring their friends to share in the joy of the fete and to meet the good Sisters who are doing such grand work for the cause of Catholic education in Otago.

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**Dom McCarthy**

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