

ful information concerning sound Catholic views on such important topics as we have mentioned.

The Dales of Arcady. By Una Ratcliffe (Erskine MacDonald, Ltd., London; 3s 6d.)

Mrs. Ratcliffe sings from a heart full of love of the moorland and streams of Daeshire, and there is true lyric beauty in her poems. Her little volume will be welcomed by all lovers of nature for its sympathetic interpretation of the charm of the Yorkshire Dales. She has imagination and enthusiasm and delicate fancy, as well as the gift of musical expression.

Publications received: *Mudlarks Again.* By Lieutenant Crosbie Garston. (Angus and Robertson.) From London C.T.S.—*The Conversion of St. Augustine; The Miraculous Birth of Our Lord; Liberal Christianity; The Resurrection; Devotion to Mary; Why Catholics Go to Confession.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

W. M. L.—Writing in reply.

"STELLA."—We will make inquiries. Too late this week.

E. S. A.—The parish priest of Napier is Very Rev. J. Tymons.

J. J. S.—We regret that we cannot publish your letter. We cannot take up private grievances.

J. W. O.H.—We have received from several readers a copy of the poem known as "The Irish Guards." It is by Kipling, and we will publish it. On your behalf we thank our readers.

M. G. F.—Books on politeness and good manners must have become scarce in war-time. Try a bromide now and then. It would have the same effect on you as if you kicked the backbone through the rascal's hat. But we expect what you want is the effect on him.

READER.—The Knights of Columbus gave freely to the soldiers. They could not be accused of trying to trade. As for the Y.M.C.A. it would be interesting to know if all the money collected for patriotic purposes was spent on the men. We hope it was all spent, but people are saying they gave little away for nothing.

C. L. (Wairau Valley). See issue of June 19, page 21.

M. A. L. (Hikurangi).—Our correspondent will be pleased if a reader will tell him who wrote the lines quoted by Mr. Holland at Greymouth—

"The hearts we bring for freedom are washed in surge of tears,

And we claim our right by a people's fight outliving a thousand years."

"DEMOCRAT."—No, signore! We leave anonymous letters to some of our neighbors. The paper that would publish an offensive anonymous letter is as vile as the coward who is afraid to write over his name—"Civis," for example. It is only another specimen of what some people understand by British fair play. On subjects that are in no way controversial we have no objection.

"SCRUPULOUS."—We cannot do better than quote Father Hull for you:—"Because it always remains a fact that playing at cards for moderate stakes, or laying a bet on a horse, is something absolutely innocent and harmless in its nature, and therefore cannot be condemned, the moral theologian could not advocate such abolition on the ground of abstract ethical principles. Nor can mankind justly be forbidden the right to indulge in such amusements as if they were radically wrong." The evil comes in when people risk money which they cannot afford, when their dependents suffer, when they get into the clutches of the money-lender. On the whole the really objectionable form of gambling is not racing or cards, but such excitements as "Two up," which leave many a man without his hard-earned wages at the end of

the week's toil. If you want to have a "flutter" on a race the rule ought to be "Cut your coat according to your cloth." And don't back a "stumer"—whatever that is.

THE LAY APOSTOLATE IN ENGLAND

Writing from London on March 20 to his uncle (his Grace Archbishop Redwood), Mr. Vernon C. Redwood continues his narrative concerning the activities of the Catholic Evidenfee Guild, of which he is a prominent member. I am delighted (he says) to tell you that our work is succeeding splendidly. Since we started our public speaking, and propaganda, generally, the opposition towards us has been intense. Atheists, Rationalists, Orangemen, Kensitites, and extreme Protestant sects of all kinds have urged the police authorities to stop our work. Detectives have been sent Sunday after Sunday to our open-air meetings, and have reported that we gave no cause whatever for interference, although organised attempts were made to prevent us speaking. For over a month now we have not been molested, and have experienced the satisfaction of seeing practically the whole of the objectionable element cleared out of Hyde Park. Our platform is now recognised as the first in interest and importance in the Park. Our speakers, who go on at about 3 p.m. and continue, in succession, till nearly 11 o'clock at night, command the largest crowd. The number of hearers, of course, varies, and depends upon the time and speakers: thus sometimes there are about 400, and at other times probably as many as 2000. It is very evident the people are thirsting for knowledge, and we gain converts every Sunday. We have now commenced a week-day crusade, and on Tuesdays and Fridays deliver addresses from 1 p.m. to 2.15 p.m., on Tower Hill. A large crowd of workers come there for lunch, and, what I consider was an historical event, happened there the other day, when, under the banner of our Guild (the Crucifix), a Dominican Father spoke for an hour, and answered many questions. His address was a great success, and delivered, as it was, on the historic hill bedewed with the blood of martyrs, was certainly most impressive. He was listened to with great attention by upwards of 400 persons, and photographs of the scene were taken for one of our Catholic newspapers. We are promised the assistance of one of the Dominican Fathers each week. I feel certain that with the co-operation of the parochial clergy, with the assistance of the preaching Orders, and continued activity on the part of a body of energetic laymen and women, England will be converted, and the good work will extend to other lands: the present movement being destined to spread. The lay apostles or catechists are now being talked about far and wide. His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, who has been away for some time on a mission for the British Government, is expected back soon, and, I am sure, he will be delighted at our progress and success. It is a tremendous work for Almighty God, who repeatedly shows us by converts on the spot that it is His work. Our sale of Catholic books and pamphlets goes on every Sunday. We hope to open at other places shortly, but our work is terribly handicapped for want of sufficient speakers; we want hundreds, as there is no trouble to get audiences. Now the Dominican Fathers have come out in London, others will follow, but the lay speakers must do the bulk of the work, as the priests, in sufficient numbers, are not available. One outstanding fact has been revealed to us, and that is the absolute necessity of Catholics thoroughly understanding their holy religion, so as to be prepared to properly answer simple questions asked by non-Catholics. Among my hearers the other day was a wealthy gentleman from Warwickshire, where his estates are located, but who lives in London at intervals. At the conclusion of my address he approached me and said: "I have listened to your lectures during six or seven Sundays, and noted how you tried to prove that the Catholic Church is the only Church having Divine authority, and you have firmly convinced

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