

the story told us is improbable on the face of it, and we have no reason to accept as anything like the truth any reports our press gives us concerning Ireland. The canards sent out here about collapsible boats and German plots, and the utter silence of our editors when such lies were refuted even in English papers have taught us that the last thing a sane man ought to do is to attach the slightest importance to the cables that appear in New Zealand daily papers. The silly headlines betray sufficiently both the ignorance of the writers and their hatred of all things Catholic and Irish. Even a forger is allowed scope when it is a question of calumniating Irishmen. The egregious French, whose incapacity had him removed from his command and whose sense of chivalry was displayed in low attacks on a dead general, now goes, we are told, to bigoted Belfast, where among a congenial crowd of Hooligans he, the head of the army of kidnapers, of molesters of women, of house-breakers, shrieks his anger against Sinn Fein like the impotent old virago he really is; and our press, while telling us all that it is told to tell about Fermoy, never has one word to say about the numerous verdicts of wilful murder brought in by Irish juries against French's bludgeoners and snipers of innocent men. The Dail Eireann may be suppressed. It does not matter. England ere now suppressed Catholics and prayed for the day when the last Irishman would be seen on the banks of the Shannon. It is all part of the old game.

BOOK NOTICES

*The Ecclesiastical Review.* (Linehan, Melbourne, 20s yearly).

The June number of the *Ecclesiastical Review* is full of useful and instructive articles, book reviews, and liturgical and theological discussions. There is no need to dwell on its utility for the clergy.

*Annual Report of the Minister of Mines in British Columbia.*

A large volume of 500 pages, illustrated and provided with numerous maps. It is certain to be of interest for all who are connected with mining.

*A Plea for Educational Reform,* by Major Gerald Dease, D.L. (Linehan, Melbourne, 1s 9d.)

Major Dease is one of the Commissioners of Irish Education, and in this little book he gives not only the public but his colleagues much occasion for thinking furiously. It is a useful criticism of the defects of the Irish system and contains much inspiration for us all. What Major Dease says about Ireland might be written of New Zealand: "There is one *sine qua non* for efficient popular education that has so far been consistently ignored, and that is the complete and studied state-

ment of popular views and needs. Elementary education has hitherto been the virtual monopoly of officials and professors—the two classes that probably understand and care less about children under 12 years of age than any others in the community. Before it becomes a living force to wake up the country we shall have to consult doctors, brain specialists, women, business men, Labor, manufacture, the Gaelic League, and Irish colleges . . . and glean from them all material for a new structure. Co-operation and advice from the clergy and teaching professions will naturally be indispensable: the former, in addition to the administrative experience they possess as managers, have, in virtue of their calling, a unique insight into human nature and spiritual authority without which education is a delusion."

*The Spiritual Life: Doctrine and Practice of Christian Perfection,* by Rev. Walter Elliott. (Linehan, Melbourne, 8s.)

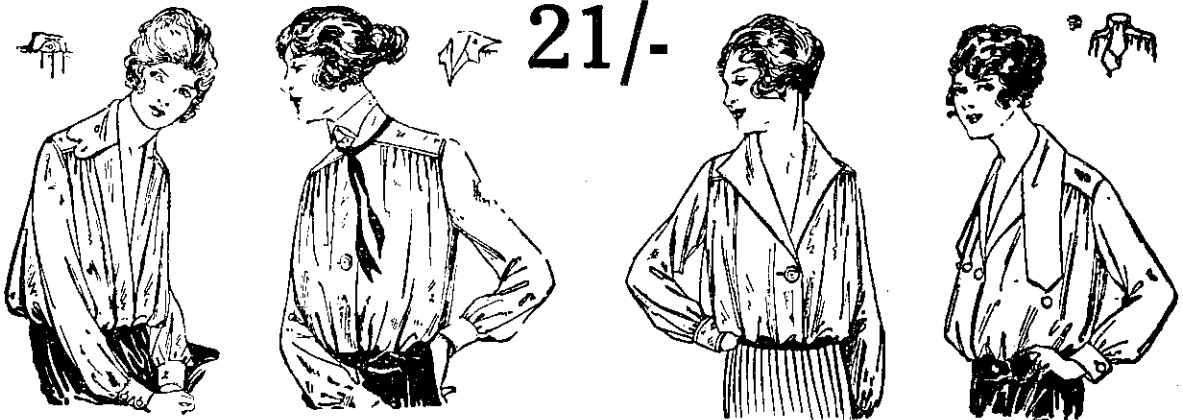
In this volume by the well-known Paulist, Father Elliott, we have an admirable manual for spiritual reading and meditation. Father Elliott's wide experience as a missionary enables him to grasp the needs of the people of our day for sound instruction on the eternal truths and on the moral laws which ought to regulate the conduct of every sincere Christian. The book contains 40 excellent chapters, which cover the groundwork of a full course of spiritual exercises. Religious, priest, or layman will read them with profit and edification, and we feel confident that this second edition of Father Elliott's work will further the ends at which he aims—the salvation of souls and the glory of God.

*The Mystic Life,* by Savinien Louismet, O.S.B. (Burns and Oates, Ltd., 28 Orchard Street, London, W.)

To all who desire a closer knowledge of, and a more intimate association with, the spiritual life, Father Louismet's book will be welcome. Catholic mysticism is the experience of the soul, as yet a wayfarer, tasting the sweetness and realising the goodness of God. It is the true mysticism—the mysticism of St. John and of St. Paul, of the Holy Mass, of the whole Catholic liturgy. It will become clear to readers that mysticism is not an almost unattainable state of sanctity, but a development of piety to which all sincere Catholics who try to follow Christ's will with humility and fidelity can aspire. This mysticism means essentially conformity to the will of God and an earnest co-operation with the work of the Holy Ghost in the soul. The simplest formula of mysticism may be taken from St. Paul's words: "I live now, now not I, but Christ truly liveth in me."

*Mysticism—True and False,* by the same author.

This volume is a complement to the foregoing book. It shows us how to distinguish in the mystical



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