

NEW BOOKS

From the Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana, we have received *The House of Mourning*, by the Very Rev. R. O'Kennedy. This is a pathetic little story—a literally true narrative of what passed before the author's eyes in the parish of Patrickswell, near the city of Limerick. Ave Maria Press; paper, pp. 28; price, 10 cents.

The Fruits of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart is the title of a volume of sermons for the first Fridays of the year by the Rev. William Graham, forwarded by Joseph F. Wagner, New York. A study of the twelve admirable discourses contained in this volume cannot fail to increase devotion to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, and inspire the highest and holiest thoughts. The author says in his introductory remarks: 'Devotion to the Sacred Heart . . . has come upon the world like a sunburst. The unerring instinct of the faithful has seized upon it as one of the greatest helps in getting near to God in and through Our Lord. It has swept away and outlived the fiercest opposition, and is still spreading.' Joseph F. Wagner, New York; cloth, pp. 119; price, 3s.

The latest publications by the Australian Catholic Truth Society are *The Admissions of an Anglican*, by the Rev. M. H. MacInerny, O.P., and *A Simple, Popular, and Conclusive Proof of the Divinity of Christ*, by his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington. In the first-mentioned pamphlet Father MacInerny quotes extensively from Canon Knox Little's latest work, *The Conflict of Ideals in the Church of England*—a work which fairly bristles with admissions in favor of Catholicism. In the second publication his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington says that the cardinal dogma on which the whole body of Christian evidences stands is the divinity of Jesus Christ. This is the axis round which the other Christian doctrines revolve, or, to use another simile, the keystone of the whole Christian arch. Instead of proving the divinity of Christ by setting forth a vast array of arguments derived from prophecies, miracles, and testimonies, his Grace appeals to two main lines of argument, equally simple, popular, and conclusive—the existence and affirmation of the Christian world.

From Joseph F. Wagner, New York, we have received the third volume of *A Pulpit Commentary on Catholic Teaching*, being a complete exposition of Catholic doctrine, discipline, and cult in original discourses by pulpit preachers of our own day. This volume treats principally of the Means of Grace, such as the sacraments, prayer, works of charity, pilgrimages, etc., and contains upwards of fifty sermons. It has the imprimatur of the Archbishop of New York, and among the preachers whose discourses go to make up the volume are the Right Rev. Dr. Bellord, Right Rev. J. S. Vaughan, Right Rev. Dr. McDonald, Rev. T. J. Gerard, Rev. F. Girardy, etc. These sermons cover a wide range of Catholic doctrine, are lucid, and highly instructive. The book contains a great deal of solid reading matter, the perusal of which cannot fail to produce the highest spiritual results. New York: Joseph F. Wagner; cloth, pp. 406; price, 8s.

We have also received from Joseph F. Wagner, New York, *A Year's Sermons*, being a complete course of original discourses, chiefly on the Gospels, for all Sundays and the principal feast days of the year, by well-known preachers of our own times. As may be easily understood, the sermons deal with a variety of subjects, all of vital importance. This volume has also the imprimatur of the Archbishop of New York, and among the contributors are the Right Rev. Dr. Bellord, Right Rev. J. S. Vaughan, Rev. Fathers Gerard, Doyle, etc. The first discourse is on the Feast of All Saints, and the last for the eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The discourses are appropriate to the occasion, such as 'The Light of Men' for Christmas Day, 'The Lenten Observance' for the first Sunday in Lent, 'Thoughts on the Passion' for Passion Sunday, 'The Inspiration of Christ' for Easter Sunday, 'The Nature of God' for Trinity Sunday. New York: Joseph F. Wagner; cloth, pp. 382; price, 6s.

The Rev. Dr. Rentoul, speaking at the annual meeting of the local branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society in the Brighton Town Hall, Victoria, is reported to have said:—'He heard all about him to-day empty talk about Protestantism that was in danger from some political influences. It was in danger, but from no political influences. They could not touch it. It was in danger in the churches from the sons and daughters of Protestants. It was in danger—if they would pardon him for saying it in their teeth—from themselves. They talked about sending the Bible to un-Christian lands, but they did not read it themselves; they did not study it; they did not make it their vade mecum, as they did some medical book, from day to day. That was the danger Protestantism was in now and all the time.'

My 'pipes' are all choked, said the plumber,
And I seem to do nothing but sneeze,
May the Fates change the winter to summer,
And the grocer joined in with 'Hard Cheese!'
While there's life there is 'soap,' I am sure, sir,
And of all the good goods that I sell,
There's Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, sir,
Sure as eggs! it will soon put you well.

Domestic

By MAUREEN

Earthenware.

Put new earthenware into cold water, to heat and boil gradually; then let it grow cold again. While the water is boiling throw into it a handful of rye-bran. This preserves the glazing, so that it will not be affected by salt or acid. Boiling earthenware toughens it.

For a Strain.

Camphor, the size of a pigeon's egg, dissolved with a few drops of spirits of wine, the white of one egg, a small teacup of vinegar, well mixed and beat up together, when it forms a sort of lather. This rubbed in two or three times a day after inflammation has subsided has been known to effect remarkable cures.

A Furniture Hint.

To remove the bluish cast that comes on highly-polished furniture in damp weather wipe the furniture with lukewarm water in which there is a tablespoonful of ammonia to a gallon of water. Rub thoroughly dry with a soft cloth and heat the room if possible, for the dampness of the room is what causes the discoloration. A fire in the room once a week in damp weather would probably be sufficient.

Cement for Mending Broken Vessels.

To half a pint of milk put a sufficient quantity of vinegar in order to curdle it; separate the curd from the whey and mix the whey with the whites of four eggs, beating the whole well together; when mixed add a little quicklime through a sieve until it acquires the consistency of a paste. With this cement broken vessels or cracks can be repaired; it dries quickly, and resists the action of fire and water.

How to Clean an Oil Painting.

I have an old family portrait—an oil painting—which had become so grimy and discolored by the accumulated dirt and smoke of years that the face was almost indistinguishable. Taking a valuable painting to a professional cleaner is a hazardous proceeding, and I thought I would first try my own hand at cleaning it. I took a common raw potato and cut the end off square. Then I proceeded to rub the painting with it—not too hard. As soon as the potato became soiled I cut off a thin slice and went on rubbing. After I had gone over the entire painting I wiped it off carefully with a soft cloth, and then repeated the potato treatment. The effect was magical. The colors came out nearly as fresh and clear as when they were first laid on, and the painting was not injured in any way, as is often the case when chemicals are used.

How to Clean Wax Floors.

A hardwood floor, which has been finished with wax only, is easily cleaned and refinished if polished with a brush every morning. But if it is neglected for weeks at a time the surface of the wax grows dim and sticky, and dust clings to it, accumulating until it forms blackish streaks or spots, especially under rugs or near windows or in other places exposed to dust. Washing with water or ammonia will not remove these spots, and will injure the floor, raising and roughening the grain. Instead of this, the floor should be rubbed with fine sandpaper, No. 1 or No. 0, dipped in turpentine. The turpentine will soften the wax without injuring the floor, and the sandpaper will remove the dust. If the floor is too thickly coated with wax, the sandpaper clogs quickly, so that steel wool, dipped in turpentine, is more convenient. When the floor has been sufficiently cleaned, a fresh dressing of wax may be put on and rubbed in the usual manner.

Food for Infants.

Slice a stale loaf very thin, put it in a saucepan with as much water as will cover the bread, let it simmer, but not boil, then strain off the water immediately, care being taken not to break the bread, then add more water as before; boil up for five minutes, and beat it very fine with a fork, pour it into a clean basin for use. A sufficient quantity should be made for two days in summer, and three in winter, beyond which time it will not be fit for use. It becomes a jelly when cold, but readily dissolves in the pap saucepan when put on the fire. This food, when prepared as above, never produces acidity or flatulence; a few caraway seeds may be added if the child can be persuaded to take the pap with them in it.

Gruel.—If it be required thick, mix well together by degrees in a pint basin two tablespoonfuls of oatmeal with three of cold water; if thin, only one spoonful of oatmeal. Put in a saucepan a pint of boiling water, add this by degrees to the oatmeal, mixed as above directed, return it to the saucepan, let it boil five minutes, stirring it all the time to prevent from burning, skim and strain it through a hair sieve. A little sugar or salt may be added, according to the patient's wish.

