

the religious Orders (says an exchange), is their 'abnormal development.' The alleged excessive increase in the membership of the religious communities is pure fiction, as statistics prove. So far from the number of religious in Catholic Spain being excessive, it is proportionately lower than in other countries, being no more than 26 religious for every 10,000 of the population. In Germany the proportional number is 48, and even in Protestant England it is 30.

UNITED STATES—Risks his Life

While more than a thousand people looked on, some cheering and others devoutly kneeling in prayer, Rev. Charles P. Raffo, of St. Charles Borromeo's Church, Louisville, Ky., was lifted 80ft through the air to the fifth floor of an uncompleted elevator to administer the last consolation of religion to Martin Wiggenton, who lay dying. Wiggenton, a young structural iron worker, fell from the eighth floor of the elevator to the fifth, sustaining fatal injuries. Wiggenton, realising that he was dying, called piteously for a priest. Father Raffo, when it was seen that Wiggenton could not be brought down alive, asked that he be raised to him. He took the Blessed Sacrament with him, and as soon as rope ladders could be stretched was swung to his parishioner.

IRISH MUSIC

As to the antiquity of the art of music in Ireland, we have overwhelming evidence to prove that it was honored and revered and extensively cultivated by our remote ancestors; the various ancient vellum books that have been preserved to us refer to the high position music occupied in the life of ancient Ireland, and McFibis's *Book of Genealogies* relates that the Milesians, on the occasion of their invasion of Ireland, many centuries before the birth of Our Lord, brought with them, as one of their expedition, a harper. Again, in the Court of the High King, as well as among the retinue of the subsidiary or provincial kings, there were certain officers of State corresponding in a sense to our modern Cabinet Ministers in their relation to the King. There were, for example, the bards or poets, the Brehons or judges, the Druids or priests, the Ollavs or professors of learning, and the Ollav receoil or musicians.

The harp is referred to in the very oldest of our annals, and has become the national emblem on the Irish flag, Ireland being the only nation on earth that has chosen a musical instrument as the symbol of its nationality.

But in ancient times there were several other kinds of instruments on which our forefathers played. Amongst these may be mentioned:

1. The cruit, or small harp, which was generally played resting on the knee, or on a table in front of the performer. It had only the notes of one octave, and, of course, its capabilities were limited. It is worthy of note that the family name, McCurtin, or Curtin, is derived from this word, signifying that a remote ancestor of this clan was a performer on the cruit.
2. The clairséach—the large heroic harp—many very old samples of which are preserved to the present day. It had about thirty strings, and, of course, had larger capabilities than the smaller harp.
3. The timpan—a small stringed instrument somewhat like a zither. It had about eight strings, and was played with a bow or plectrum. The family name Tumpanny is derived from this word—meaning a player on the timpan.
4. The buinne, a wind instrument, and the corn-piopa, from which the name of the famous dance, the hornpipe, was derived.
5. The piobai, or pipes. Numerous illustrations of it appear in old Irish books from the fourteenth century downwards, and from these it may be seen that the present day instruments are an exact reproduction of the old Irish piobai.
6. The teadan, which was a kind of fife or flute.

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Domestic

By MAUREEN

Ink Stains.

Cover ink stains with a solution of starch; when dry, rub off the hardened starch, and repeat the process until the ink entirely disappears.

Mint Sauce.

If when making mint sauce, instead of doing so in the usual way, you melt the sugar in a few teaspoonfuls of hot water, and then add the vinegar, and lastly the mint, chopped very finely, you will be surprised how much nicer it tastes, the water taking away the sharp acid taste.

Sewing on Buttons.

When sewing on buttons, if a narrow piece of tape is threaded through the button, a small hole pierced through the article, the tape drawn through, and the ends of the tape stitched flat and firmly down on the wrong side, the button will be found to last almost as long as the article.

Worms in Pot Plants

may be removed by leaving the plant without water for a day or two, and then turning it out of its pot, when the worm will be found at the bottom, and may be picked out. Another way of capturing the worm is to water the plant with lime water, which will cause the grub to come to the surface.

To Remove Oil from Carpet.

If oil is spilt on a carpet immediately scatter cornmeal over it, and the oil will be absorbed. Oil that has soaked into a carpet may be taken out by laying a thick piece of blotting-paper over it, and pressing with a hot flat-iron; repeat the operation, using a fresh piece of paper each time.

An Ironing Hint.

If when ironing you have a small board sprinkled with salt water you will find it very convenient. Immediately the iron becomes rough, rub it two or three times over the salt, and it should be perfectly smooth. As irons are apt to get rough in the course of a heavy ironing, the value of this wrinkle will be readily perceived.

To Clean Cane-bottom Chairs.

Turn the chair bottom upwards, and with hot water and sponge wash the cane-work well, so that it may become completely soaked. Should it be very dirty you must add soap. Let it dry in the open air, or in a place where there is a thorough draught, and it will become as tight and firm as when new, provided none of the strips are broken.

To Stain Boards.

Boards may be stained very effectively with the following mixture, which is excellent for the purpose:—Take a quarter of a pint of black japan, three-quarters of a pint of turpentine, and if a lump of burnt sienna ground in turpentine is added it will make the stain a nice rich oak color. Mix it thoroughly, and then brush it over the floor that has to be stained. Leave it for two hours to dry. It can be varnished, and will last quite a long time.

To Wash a White Skin Rug.

First remove the canvas backing, and then lightly tack the rug round an empty barrel. Have ready a good lather made with soap, hot water, and a tablespoonful of ammonia to each pail of water. Wash the rug thoroughly with this, rinsing after with two lots of cold water. As the skin dries, the fur should be rubbed up the wrong way, and would be all the better for being combed up with a coarse comb. Be sure the skin and fur are perfectly dry before replacing the backing.

Chronic Colds.

To suffer chronically from colds denotes that the general health and diet require attention. People who are below par, or who are eating food that they do not properly digest, nearly always suffer from colds more than those who are in good health; and no garments, however warm, can keep out the cold that comes from a bad circulation. The best thing is to see what a change of diet will do. Regular daily exercise should be taken, and the rooms, especially bedrooms, kept well ventilated. People who live in stuffy rooms are likely to take cold easily. A course of cod-liver oil during the winter is very beneficial. If cod-liver oil cannot be taken, olive oil is an excellent substitute if persevered in.

Maureen

Mary had a little ham
(A pound or so—with eggs),
And off she ran to catch the tram,
For she had nimble legs!
She wore a Merry Widow hat,
And staggering coiffure,
And had a cold, but soon fixed that
With Woods' Great Peppermint Cure!