

## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

An urgent appeal to young men in England to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society was made at the quarterly meeting of the Superior Council of the society recently at the Cathedral Hall, Westminster. It was pointed out that the famous organisation needs new recruits, and that the work is one of the best antidotes to the pagan spirit now rampant in society.

The meeting was the most notable gathering of its kind in recent years, with his Eminence Cardinal Bourne and three bishops present, and with pleas for increased activity in the work of the society.

Sir John Knill pointed out the great tendency at the present time to shirk work and to do as little as possible for the country and for God. He pleaded that young men should be urgently appealed to with a view to joining the society.

Lack of men to do the great work of the organisation leaves the conference in the position of a skeleton army. It was stated, many conferences being in abeyance, and others being "one-man" bodies. It was suggested that "aspirant" conferences might well be organised at schools and colleges, as in France.

The international character of the organisation was dwelt upon at the meeting, there being not a continent, and hardly a country in the world, in which there was not a conference. To-day, with a hostile international organisation at work to destroy the Church, it was pointed out that the St. Vincent de Paul Society is a great antidote. In view of the great battle which is to take place between paganism and Catholicism, the youth of England must choose sides, it was declared, and the hope was expressed that they would come under the banner of St. Vincent and help to "restore all things in Christ."

It is part of the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to propagate Christian principles, first by its members being thoroughly imbued with them themselves, and then by showing them forth to others. The organisation is one of the most potent forces that could be put into action to prevent the pagan permeation of society.

Young men were urged to overcome the impression that they were "intruding" when they visited the homes of the poor. Learning how to do the work carefully, they should conquer the shyness which might seem to prevent them from embarking on such a great work. The meeting showed that the St. Vincent de Paul Society in England is facing the problem of greatly augmenting its forces to meet the conditions of the present time.

"The Papacy stands before the world to-day, a vigorous survivor amidst almost universal ruin. The spirit of social disorder and of hostility to all lawfully constituted authority threatens nations and society. The Papacy remains as a principle of order, the immovable rock of freedom and right and justice. Let the statesmen of the world and the nations acknowledge its power and seek its guidance as the Heaven-sent teacher and custodian of the moral law, and the material and social problems which confront the world will solve themselves."—Mgr. Grosch.

## OBITUARY

## MR. JOHN L. KEOGH, MILTON.

The death occurred on January 30, at Wellington Hospital, of Mr. John Laurence Keogh. The deceased, who spent a considerable time on active service in Egypt and on the Western Front, as a member of the Rifle Brigade, attached to the N.Z. Expeditionary Force, was the eldest son of Mrs. J. A. Keogh, Queen Street, Milton. He was born at Narrowdales, received his early education from the Dominican Nuns, and later at the Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin. He enlisted when under age, and fought in the Boer War as a member of the Eighth Contingent. During the late war he participated in the Somme engagement in 1916. Here he did meritorious work, being recommended for the V.C. for conspicuous bravery. He was unfortunate, however, in not receiving this honor. His next opportunity occurred at Passchendaele, when acting as a stretcher-bearer. Here he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. His record shows that he repeatedly went into "No-Man's Land" under heavy machine-gun fire, with utter disregard to personal safety, and carried wounded men in. His gallantry and devotion to duty were the means of saving many lives. Rifleman Keogh was wounded shortly after, and was invalided home. He was attended during his last illness by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M. The interment took place, with military honors, at the Wellington Cemetery, Rev. Father O'Connor, S.M., officiating at the graveside.—R.I.P.

## METHODIST ORGAN LAUDS ST. IGNATIUS.

The following eulogy of St. Ignatius Loyola and of his Order has appeared in the Pittsburgh Methodist *Christian Advocate*:—

"It is true that Protestant Britain gave us a Macaulay and a David Livingstone, that our own country has sent forth a Thorburn, a Bashford, and a Headland to work mightily for the Gospel, yet it was Catholic Spain that gave birth to the first real modern missionary. This was Ignatius Loyola, a man with a world vision. It was the Jesuit priest who first broke down the barrier of seclusion in China and Japan, and gave to a wonderful posterity its first authentic news of those distant lands; it was the Jesuit priest, in the days of French dominion in the valleys of the St. Lawrence and Mississippi, who bore with him the story of the Cross to the Indians, and who nurtured the soul-life of the hardy French settlers in Lower Canada; it was the Jesuit missionary who first planted education among his fellow-men wherever the armies of Europe planted the flag of conquest and dominion. We owe debts to Ignatius Loyola—the splendid ideal of universal missionary enterprise, and the union of a doctrinal loyalty and an efficient educational scheme."

An announcement regarding Easter holiday excursion tickets on the New Zealand Railways is made in this week's issue of the *Tablet*.

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