

their altitudes, etc. You know his heart is ever with his own beloved Alps. I presented to his Holiness a little party of priests who came with me. This party included my two dear old friends, Father Dunne and Father Walsh; also my own diocesan, Father O'Neill, who is just about to finish his post-graduate studies here. And there were present, too, a couple of Dublin priests who happened to be in Rome on holiday at the time."

"Your Lordship intends staying here for some time?"

"No. My programme allows me just a couple of weeks. The time seems all too short, for Rome is so very attractive to a priest. Then I have found several new friends as well as some old ones. Father Matthew Smith, who was well known in New South Wales some years ago as an energetic missionary, is here now in the responsible position of Assistant-General of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He has been uniformly kind to me during my visit to Rome. My usual cicerone is Father O'Neill, whose knowledge of Rome and things Roman is delightfully extensive. I have met the Irish Franciscans here in their beautiful cloisters at St. Isidore's; they have an Australian student there, a young cleric from Richmond outside Melbourne. I was entertained also at the headquarters of the Carmelites, where I met Fathers Magennis and Ronayne. The former is the Father-General and the latter is the Assistant-General. Each of those gentlemen has Australian experiences, as they both have worked as priests for some years in South Australia and Victoria. Speaking of the Carmelites reminds me of a very pleasing function at which I was present, namely the taking possession of his titular church of Santa Maria in Traspontina by his Eminence Cardinal Nasalli-Rocca. You know that a new Cardinal is appointed by the Holy Father to what is called the title of a Roman church. When the Archbishop of Bologna was made Cardinal he asked the Pope for the title of this particular church of the Carmelites. At the ceremony of induction as titular of the church, the new Cardinal was warmly welcomed by the Father-General in an impressive address, and his response was strikingly eloquent. The Italian language seems to lend itself easily to eloquence, for it is evidently very musical. Speaking of languages, do you know that I have been agreeably surprised at the progress of the Irish language here, especially among the students? In the Irish College and in several other Irish establishments in the Eternal City, the dear old tongue seems to be the ordinary mode of communication among the rising generation."

"May I ask your Lordship to tell me what you think of the present state of affairs in Ireland?"

"Well, I scarcely feel myself to be in a position to give any sort of adequate reply to that question. You see, it seems to me to be primarily a domestic question for Irishmen actually living in Ireland. I have lived so much out of Ireland that, although I love it with all my heart and desire to see it happy and prosperous, I hesitate to pronounce a verdict or to give a definite opinion as to the rights or wrongs of the present dispute. I believe that we Irishmen who live abroad may possibly serve Ireland best by our prayers before the throne of God."

With this the interview closed. His Lordship left Rome on Monday, 28th May, for Lourdes *en route* to Ireland.

—STANNOUS.

### Five Cures at Lourdes

The first great national pilgrimage of the year to Lourdes has gone and returned (says *Catholic News Service*, London), and of the 106 sick cases, eight of them so severe that stretchers had to be used for the whole journey, five authentic cases of cures are reported. These cures have not been accepted and certified by the Bureau des Contestations at Lourdes, that deficiency, however, is merely technical; since the persons concerned bear all the outward marks of relief from their infirmities. The most remarkable, and authentic, of these cures is that of an Irish lady living in London. For seven years and a half she had not walked, her affliction being spinal trouble and neurasthenia. After bathing in the piscinas she was able to walk, and even if the cure is not certified the fact remains that this lady walks after having been bed-ridden for seven and a half years. Another Irish pilgrim, from Clacton-on-Sea, left behind her at Lourdes practical signs that her infirmity had departed from her. A leg iron and crutches, which enabled this pilgrim to walk, were shed at Lourdes, the

leg iron at the Grotto and the crutches after the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Again, the Bureau des Contestations has not certified this cure; but the pilgrim went a cripple to Lourdes, and returned to London able to walk without any surgical aids. A man from Dover who had suffered ten years from deafness, declares his hearing returned after bathing in the waters at Lourdes.

## Answers to Correspondents

ORIENT.—Short story hit the first fence badly.

GRUFLER.—Thanks for sending us your verses. We cannot improve on the sound advice given by Dr. Johnson to a young poetess, who, while he was reading her effort, remarked hopefully "I have other irons in the fire too, sir." "Put this with them, my dear!"

ANXIOUS.—We do not run a medical department, so that we really regret that we cannot recommend a gargle likely to help your singing. Personally we should be glad to get a prescription that would keep other people from trying to sing within ten miles of us.

SACERDOS.—We have more than once said that we know no better works on early Irish history than Dr. Eoin MacNeill's two volumes on early Irish history. But they are not easy reading. However, do not pretend that you know anything about the subject unless you have read them. As for the best book of the later revival, we hold it is Pearse's volume of plays and stories.

H.M.—There is certainly no disgrace attached to receiving the old age pension. We only regret that our own baptismal certificate is an obstacle to securing it for the present, as the Government does not take into account that an editor travels towards old age at the rate of a year per week. In the Dunedin climate the speed is even more terrific.

## BOOK NOTICES

*Tutankhamen*, by G. Elliot Smith, F.R.S. Per Angus and Robertson, Sydney. 4/6 net.

This volume contains a collection of articles contributed to the *Daily Telegraph* by the author, who has been persuaded to collect them in view of the great interest in the recent researches displayed by the public. The book is excellently produced, and the illustrations are numerous and interesting. It will be read eagerly by all who appreciate the value of those discoveries of an ancient and wonderful culture in the Orient.

*Medical Proof of the Miraculous*, by E. Le Bec. Translated from the French by H. E. Izard, with an introduction by Ernest E. Ware, M.D., M.R.C.S. Per Angus and Robertson. Price 6/6.

In an age when materialism scoffs at the supernatural and at the same time exhibits a wonderful credulity where charlatans are concerned a documented study of the miraculous cures at Lourdes is particularly interesting. This volume by Dr. Le Bec has been already translated into many European languages, and is now presented in English by a highly qualified translator. It deals with a number of typical cases of miraculous cures, and the author claims that whoever examines them with scientific care will be forced to admit the positive intervention of the supernatural. Keen inquiry by qualified judges is welcomed, and the contention is that the result will be evidence of the intervention of a force superior to nature to explain the rapidity or the instantaneousness of the cure. Among the pathological cases chosen for inquiry are varicose veins, suppurative fracture of the leg, lupus, club feet, intestinal perforations, recurring cancer, etc. Each case is described, its authenticity established, the absence of the time factor and the material impossibility of a natural cell production to produce the anatomical repair of the lesions, explained. Ordinary medical and scientific criticism is applied to the study of the cures, which are of such varied type. The mysterious force, which must be supernatural, is sometimes seen to use existing living tissues, while in other cases there appear elements not existing in the body immediately before the cure, or, again, the disappearance of morbid existing matter, as in the case of cancer, is completely effected by a phenomenon which seems to be the inverse of creation.