

## Here and There

**A Convert Writer.**—The issue of *America* for May 5, contains a lengthy article in appreciation of "The Books of Enid Dinnis." After a study of the longer stories and a comparison of *Mr. Coleman Gent* with Monsignor Benson's *Oddsfish*, the writer proceeds: *God's Fairy Tales, Mystics All, and Once Upon Eternity*, makes a little trilogy of literary gems whose spiritual values are untold. This convert daughter of an Anglican clergyman is a natural Catholic, with the simple mystical apprehensions that belong to an age strangely different from our century. "The Church," she writes in a letter, "was the gateway of wonderland. I was twenty-four and but a child, but I came to believe in religion as a wonderful romance of the supernatural instead of a school of morality. I found that the fairy tale of the Historic Church was true." The writer concludes: "Miss Dinnis has an apostolate of her own to a world, a life, a time, of high pressure, of false values, of complicated aims. She has already given much from her happy vision and inspiration, but her mission is not yet completed: we wait for more."

**Last Sacrament Given Under Unusual Conditions.**—Father Robert Woods, of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, administered the last rites of the Church to a dying man under not only, most unusual but thrilling circumstances. Bernard Connell, an engineer in the Harvard Club of that city, heard groans coming from an elevator shaft, and upon investigating found the elevator stopped between floors, and Tom Kelly, who for ten years had operated an elevator in the club, pinned between the car and the wall. A hurried call was sent in for an ambulance, a priest, a fire truck, and the rescue squad. Upon the arrival of the rescue squad they immediately went to work cutting a hole in the wall between the fourth and fifth floors. When it was large enough to permit of a man squeezing through, Dr. Meade, the ambulance surgeon, went through. Firemen held him dangling by his legs while he gave Kelly a hyperdermic injection to keep him alive. Father Robert Woods was the next to crawl through the hole, and while firemen strongly gripped him by the ankles, his head down, he administered the last rites of the Church.

**An Unusual Meal.**—Luncheon eaten in silence save for the reading of a monk from the rostrum was the unique experience of a party of journalists visiting Torquay recently. They were driven to Buckfast Abbey, and at the arched gateway the guests were received by the Abbot, Dom Ansear Vonier, O.S.B. Luncheon followed, and in deference to the rules of the Order, there was no conversation in the refectory. In silence the party, including Commander Hughes, M.P., the Mayor of Torquay, and Sir John Foster Fraser, partook of the fare which the monks served in obedience to the Abbot's rap on the bare table. The meal consisted of meat and vegetables raised on the abbey farm, and cider pressed from apples grown by the monks. The visitors were astounded at the wonderful poem in stone which the monks have erected at the abbey, on the 12th century ruins, during the past 17 years. The Abbot laughingly remarked later that he had never seen politicians or journalists silent so long. Coffee was taken in the cloisters in greater freedom. The visit to Buckfast was unanimously pronounced by the journalists to be the best during their tour. Its unique character and the great trouble taken by the Abbot and monks were highly appreciated. Speaking to the visitors afterwards, the Abbot paid high tribute to the power of the press.

**New Superior of the Birmingham Oratory.**—The Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory, and the congregation of the beautiful church which has risen for a memorial to their first "Father," Cardinal Newman, are congratulating themselves that the election of Father Denis Sheil to the office of Superior secures, in their midst, for many years it may be hoped, the presence of one whom duty has called away from them, and from England for far too frequent periods in the past. Father Sheil, as is well known, has in recent years spent much of his time in Rome. During the pontificate of Pius X. he obeyed an annual summons to Italy at the bidding of the Pontiff in order that he might associate himself with his near kinsman, Cardinal Merry del Val, in his duties as Secretary

of State; and later he took up what threatened to become perhaps permanent residence in the Eternal City, in connection with the reorganisation of the Italian Oratory. Father Sheil, son of the late Sir Justin Sheil, one-time British Minister at Teheran, and great-nephew of the famous Irish orator and parliamentarian, Richard Lalor Sheil, friend and co-worker of O'Connell in the fight for Catholic Emancipation, has inherited the oratorical gifts of his great ancestor, and is fifth in succession to Cardinal Newman as Superior of the Birmingham Oratory. The famous Edgbaston School, however, has been moved from its Birmingham suburb to Caversham, between Oxford and London, so that only the Oratory of Newman's day is now left at Birmingham.

**Convert as Editor of London Tablet.**—Mr. Ernest Oldmeadow has been appointed editor of the *London Tablet*. The new editor was formerly minister to the Protestant Church of St. John's, Halifax. While there he edited a religious periodical for some years. He has also acted as musical critic for the *Outlook*. Since coming to reside in England, apart from his journalistic activities, Mr. Oldmeadow has written some novels. He was received into the Catholic Church some time ago.

**"Patsy" Cadogan.**—Elderly folk who can recall events of the 'eighties will probably remember the reason why "Patsy" Cadogan was given his shortened Christian name. When the Earl of Cadogan came to Ireland as Lord Lieutenant the well-known bookmaker's telegraphic address was "Cadogan, Dublin." Much confusion was the result. Important messages for the Viceregal Lodge went to the metalician, whilst wires "putting on" sums, small and large, were delivered to the Lord Lieutenant. Representations having been made, Mr. Cadogan changed his telegraphic address to "Patsy," by which name he was known till his death.

**Promising Young Irish Vocalist.**—On the occasion of the distribution of medals and certificates to the students of the Royal Irish Academy of Music by Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., Governor-General, one of the most interesting items on the programme was the singing of Miss Mary Dingle (Vandaleur Academy Scholar) of Rossini's famous "Una Voce Poco Fa," a difficult and exacting number, which the gifted young vocalist gave with remarkable fluency and expression, and, but for the fact that encores were very properly discouraged, she would have been obliged to repeat it, so vehement was the applause. Miss Dingle was presented by the Governor-General with the gold medal of the "Vandaleur Academy" Scholarship.

**Reminiscences of John Dillon's Father.**—The ordination the other day of the Rev. John Dillon, eldest son of Mr. John Dillon, ex-M.P., recalls the fact that his famous grandfather, John Blake Dillon, when escaping to America after the failure of the '48 rising, did so disguised as a priest. When all hope of success for the rising had passed, Mr. Dillon made his way to the West, and in Tuam was given a suit of clerical clothes by one of the professors of St. Jarlath's College, Rev. P. J. O'Brien, afterwards Canon O'Brien, P.P., Athenry. So disguised, he was driven to Galway by his friend, Mr. Richard Kelly, of Tuam, grandfather of Mr. R. J. Kelly, K.C., and there the distinguished fugitive was placed on board a vessel, in which he escaped to the United States. By a coincidence a fugitive on the same ship and for the same reason was P. J. Smyth, afterwards M.P. for Tipperary, and the organiser of the rescue of John Mitchel from Van Dieman's Land. Dillon was but slightly acquainted with Smyth, and when the latter approached him on the vessel and claimed his acquaintance the supposed priest was much taken aback, until Smyth was able to reassure him of his identity. Another curious incident of the voyage arose from the anxiety of a young emigrant couple, who were on their way to make their fortune in the Far West, to get married before landing. Seeing what they believed to be a young priest on board, they pressed him to perform the ceremony. The latter had great difficulty in relieving himself from their importunities, and finally had to plead that his faculties were suspended while at sea.

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