

CATHOLICS IN SCIENCE.

Their Prominence in this Regard in England.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science has completed its yearly meeting in Nottingham. Ever since Cardinal Wiseman awakened in British Catholics an interest in the work of showing that true and proved science cannot be opposed to revealed religion, these annual gatherings are closely watched by all anxious to use knowledge in the service of the Church. Much can be learned from them and not the least is the importance of educating our sons in, at all events, an elementary acquaintance with the chief branches of natural science. Nearly all our Catholic colleges, in these islands and in the United States, are now furnished with chemical and physical laboratories, but we think the time has come when a biological laboratory might be added for the practical and interesting study of Botany and Zoology. That these sciences can be brought down to the level of every boy has been proved by the work done under the direction of Father Girard, S.J., at Stonyhurst. The addresses delivered and papers read at the British Association this year are full of facts, but no great discovery of world-wide importance is announced. Professor Burdon-Sanderson delivered the presidential address, which chiefly dealt with physiology. He pointed out that "every link in the chain of living action, however uniform that action may be, is a response to an antecedent influence." This, of course, is the chain of influence which leads the Catholic mind to God. The professor showed how the misuse of words leads to misconception, and said: "To assert that the link between A and B is mechanical, for no better reason than that B always follows A, is an error of statement which is apt to lead the incautious reader or hearer to imagine that the relation between A and B is understood when in fact its nature may be wholly unknown." Speaking of the modern science of psychology, he went on to show how important it is to study psychology in the light of physiology, and said, "In our own universities, in those of America, and still more in those of Germany, psychological students of mature age are to be found who are willing to place themselves in the dissecting room side by side with beginners in anatomy in order to acquire that exact knowledge of the framework of the organism without which no man can understand its working." He then demonstrated that experiment had established a wonderful fact in memory, so that the labor of acquiring and reacquiring by heart can be measured, and consequently the relation between them, and that this ratio varies according to a simple numerical law. He also mentioned the beautiful proof that certain of the very smallest microscopic beings can perceive light and color, and are even armed with eyes.

We point to these portions of the Oxford Professor's address as being of current interest, but we do not necessarily agree with all his views. When he inclines towards the opinion that "the development of any individual organism is but a memory, a recapitulation by the individual of the development of the race," we are not in agreement with him. Professor Pöhl, of the Washington Catholic University, and others have years ago pointed out that this apparent recapitulation is simply the necessary framework requisite to carry the being through the various planes which must be passed over to reach his higher life. This view at once shows the so-called rudimentary organs of all animals to be the remains of the mechanism which was absolutely needed to build up their organism in the very first days of that organism's growth. So, therefore, these rudimentary organs are not useless heirlooms from a former ancestry, but the remains of the scaffolding and building plant of the individual. Captain Williams read a very interesting paper on Canada, in which he regretted that the Catholic Churches in that now notorious part of Africa had been burned. He said they were fine buildings; and admitted that some good had been done by the missionaries. Papers of great interest were read in the divisions of anthropology, geography and geology. Catholics know the great names of their creed who have labored to all the sciences; and even that very modern science of

geology owes perhaps its first debt to the celebrated Orosius, a Spanish priest and disciple of St. Augustine. He suggested the real nature of fossils. Leonardo da Vinci was the first to establish a geological museum in Rome, and Bishop Steno's treatise on geology was the earliest attempt to systematize that science. Monsignor Rendu, Bishop of Annecy, in his contribution laid before Academy of Sciences of Savoy, was one of the first to point out the plasticity of glaciers and their river-like motion, which has since been established by patient observation and measurements; and which fact has had so great an influence in modifying geology. Many Catholics are more or less unaware of what their co-religionists are doing in the field of natural science. All over the world we have modest laborers who do not cry out, but whose services will be appreciated in the generations to come. We wonder how many English-speaking Catholics are acquainted with the natural history work, especially the life-long study of ants, done by Father Weismann, S.J., and the annual return of the British Association should urge us to do our part.—*Catholic Standard.*

ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERIES.

Results of Researches at Innisfallen Abbey, Ireland.

The Antiquarian Society, who are about repairing the ruins of Innisfallen Abbey, are having researches made there. Some fifteen yards direct in from the quay, in a grassy mound with a white thorn tree close by, the remains of a tomb were found. Within the ruins of the chapel seven grave or tombstones have been discovered, the nearly obliterated outlines of a cross are to be seen on some of them, on one of which is chiselled the following: "Da Fegan Tio." On another of the grave-stones appears a very neat carving of a Celtic Cross, and on the east side of the chapel are the remains of the altar, about 10 feet long, 4 feet broad, and 2 feet high. Dressed stones which formed windows and doorways have been unearthed. A small coin or medal, about the size of a halfpenny, with traces of Irish letters on one side, and a Celtic Cross with a wreath of Shamrock on the other side, was found, as also a bronze and bone weather gauge, or cock in the shape of a salmon. A number of human bones were also turned up. It is to be hoped that the Antiquarian Society will now progress with their wonted energy in the research for the long buried mementoes of the lovely and sacred Isle, and that the grand old ruins of St. Finian will, as far as possible, be again restored. The Franciscan Fathers intend celebrating Mass the first Sunday after the chapel has been cleared of the debris.

A O. M. B. A. AT HOME.

Successful Social Reunion.

Branch 26 of the O. M. B. A. celebrated the tenth anniversary of its formation by an At Home in Glenora hall Monday evening. It was also the regular meeting night of the branch. The members assembled at 7.30 for the transaction of business. Mr. John H. Feeley, president of the branch, occupied the chair. The various reports were submitted and read, and several new members were admitted. Considerable routine business was promptly transacted and the meeting adjourned at 8.30. By this time the ladies and friends of the branch had arrived in large numbers and were admitted to the hall. President Feeley again took the chair and made a few happy remarks of welcome, during which he gave a brief but lucid resume of the aims and objects of the association. The president's address was followed by a choice selection of vocal and instrumental music, in which the following took part:—Miss Mary McCaffrey, Miss Tansey, Miss Reynolds, Mr. W. J. McCaffrey, Mr. T. C. O'Brien, Mr. J. Palmer, Master Palmer, Miss May Milloy, Jas. Milloy, G. Parks and others.

Dancing was next indulged in, and was well kept up by the lovers of the light fantastic. Refreshment were served about 10.30. The officers and members of the branch were most assiduous in their efforts to make all present enjoy themselves and feel at home, in which they evidently succeeded, judging from the remarks which were made by many who had the good fortune to be present.

The invited guests were Mr. Q. K. Fraser, grand president, and Mrs. Fraser;

Mr. F. N. Fournier, president of advisory council, and Mrs. Fournier; Mr. P. O. Shannon, vice-president advisory council, and Mrs. Shannon; Mr. Joseph Beland, ex M.L.A., 2nd V.P. advisory council, and Mrs. Beland. Amongst those present were Hon. J. J. Curran, Q. C. M.P.; Mr. J. H. Feeley, Miss Feeley, Mr. T. J. Finn and the Misses Finn, Mr. and Mrs. P. Reynolds, Miss Reynolds, Misses Reynolds, Mr. A. Brogan, N.P.; Mr. M. Sharkey, Mr. Joseph Archambault, Mr. Edward Smith and Miss Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. Coughlin, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Coughlin, Master Coughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Palmer, Master Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. McGillis, Miss McCullough, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. McGillis, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Tansey and Miss Tansey, Mr. and Mrs. A. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. B. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. O'Callaghan, Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy, Mr. Thos. Foy, Mr. and Mrs. D. Coughlin, Mr. and Mrs. C. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. L. Quinlan, Mr. Thos. T. Flynn and Miss Flynn, Mr. H. J. Ward, Mr. E. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Keating, Mr. E. J. Duggan, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Jas. Milloy, Miss Milloy, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Corcoran, Mr. J. P. Connaughton, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. O'Brien, Mr. James Manning, Mr. Robert Warren, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McCaffrey, Mr. L. McDonald, Mr. W. J. Delaney, Mr. John McCaffrey, Mr. L. E. Simonsen, Mr. and Mrs. Cogan, Mr. T. J. Kavanagh, Mr. and Mrs. King, Miss Smalshire, Mr. T. P. Tansey, Mr. Thos. Tansey, Miss Smith, Mrs. Joseph McCaffrey, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Griffin, Miss Mary McCaffrey, Mr. L. O'Brien, Miss O'Brien, Mr. Albert Read, Mr. M. Britt and Miss O'Brien and a large number of others.

WARNING TO CATHOLIC EDITORS.

They Must Not Attack or Find Fault With Ecclesiastics, Especially Bishops.

At the meeting of the Archbishops of the Roman Catholic Church which was held in Chicago in September, the question of the hostile attitude of some of the Catholic journals toward the hierarchy came up for discussion. The result of the deliberations on this question has just been made known, through a communication which has been sent to the editors of Catholic journals throughout the country.

The Archbishops decided that, in accordance with decree 230, Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, they ought to take some measure for abating the injury done to religion by scandalous publications in Catholic papers. After the subject had been fully discussed, it was unanimously resolved to have decrees 230 and 231 of the Third Plenary Council, of which the following is a copy, published and circulated for the direction of Catholic editors:

"It is a source of sadness and humiliation to us that our position forces us again and again to caution editors of Catholic newspapers, that neither they themselves nor those who assist them should attack ecclesiastics, and above all Bishops; nor should they constitute themselves the judges of Episcopal decisions, decrees, and other such matters pertaining to the administration of a diocese, or find fault with them, and thus expose them to the ridicule of the faithful and non-Catholic. Rather let them heed the word of the Apostle and learn to be obedient and submissive to superiors. Let them by their words and by their example teach that authorities be properly respected. They may well recall the wisdom-fraught counsels of the great Father and Teacher of the faithful.

"Above all, let the name of Bishops be sacred among Catholic writers, for to them reverence is due because of their high office and dignity. Nor let them think themselves privileged to examine critically what divinely appointed pastors, in exercise of their power, have established, for such conduct disturbs good order and creates intolerable confusion. This reverence, which no one may omit, should shine as an example in Catholic journalists.

"And lest the present evil, a daily growing source of scandal to Catholics and others, should continue to flourish, we judge well to meet it, not by caution and advice merely, but also by ecclesiastical penalties. Wherefore, for the future, laymen or clerics who themselves, or through others associated with or encouraged by them, in public print assail

by wanton words, ill-natured utterance, raileries, those in authority—much more if they presume to carp at or condemn a Bishop's methods of administration—all these, principals, partners, and abettors, disturbers, contemnors, and enemies of ecclesiastical discipline, as they are, we declare, guilty of gravest scandal, and thereby, their fault being proved, deserving of censure."

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections; also, a positive and radical cure of Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 331 Powers Block, Rochester, N.Y.

"SOCIABLE," said Mudge to a friend. "Why, that fellow wouldn't be in a deaf-and-dumb asylum twenty minutes without getting on speaking terms with all the inmates."

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