

Who's Who in Literature.

THE REVEREND P. A. SHEEHAN.

IT is now just about ten years ago that "My New Curate"—undoubtedly the best known novel of the Reverend P. A. Sheehan—made its appearance. Up to that time although the author's signature was familiar to the readers of "The Irish Monthly" and "The Irish Ecclesiastical Record," his literary reputation was yet to be made.

It is rather remarkable that at an age where religious prejudice and race bigotry still, hold their own, a book so frankly Catholic, so redolent of poor suffering Ireland, the land of saints and heroes should have achieved such wonderful popularity. Even the staid, autocratic English press, lavished unstinted praise upon the simple delightful tale of those two most lovable Irish priests:—Father Dan and Father Letherby.

Indeed librarians tell us that the Reverend P. A. Sheehan and Father Robert Hugh Benson are among the few Catholic writers sufficiently patronized by the reading public to admit them to the "*sanctum*" of the Public Libraries. As many as ten copies of "My New Curate" had to be purchased at a public library in Hull, England, which fact goes to prove that religious bigotry cannot long withstand the force of classic English, irresistible humor, and vivid delineation of character.

Whereas neither "Geoffrey Austin Student," nor its stronger sequel, "The Triumph of Failure," ever won the popularity of "My New Curate," in point of depth, they are both superior to their more successful forerunner. "The Triumph of Failure," is a masterpiece of its kind, equalled only by Thackeray's "Pendennis" and Thomas Nelson Page's "John Marvel, Assistant."

When "Luke Delmege"—the prime favorite of the philosophical reader—came out, it was rumored that the unsophisticated hero of the book was none other than the Reverend P. A. Sheehan himself. It is hard to believe, however, that so keen a student of human character in all its phases, as the parish priest of Cloyne, has shown himself to be, could ever have passed