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Westminster Abbey was opened again for public service on Sunday, Sept. 10th.

The Lord Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev. W. Boyd Carpenter, has announced his impending resignation of the see in a letter addressed to his Archdeacons and Rural Deans owing to continued ill-health. Dr. Carpenter was consecrated Bishop of Ripon in 1884.

There are now twenty-eight missionaries at the recently established stations in Arabia, the most intensely Moslem country in the world. There have been baptisms at nearly all of the stations, and four thousand copies of the Scriptures were sold last year to Moslems.

Lady Florence Duncombe, of Calwich Abbey, has presented an altar frontal and covering to Ashbourne Parish Church, the embroidery of which took the donor two years to complete. As a work of ecclesiastical art, it has been exhibited in London, and has received the commendation of the Queen.

The Right Rev. Dr. Gore, Lord Bishop of Birmingham, has been appointed Bishop of Oxford in succession to the late Dr. Paget. He was consecrated Bishop of Worcester in 1902, and three years later, on the constitution of the Bishopric of Birmingham, he was elected to undertake the guidance of the new See.

The Most Rev. William Alexander, D.D., Archbishop and ex-Primate of All Ireland, died at Torquay, S. Devon, England, on Sept. 12th, in his 87th year. He retired from the Primacy in February of this year, after holding it for the space of 15 years. In 1867 Dean Alexander, as he then was, was nominated by the Crown to the Bishopric of Derry. He was the last of Pre-Disestablishment Bishops. He was for 63 years in Holy Orders.

The recent deaths of the Bishops of Oxford and Salisbury have served to draw attention to the remarkable run of ecclesiastical patronage which the Liberals have had since they came into office in 1906. During this period the following sees have been vacant: York, Winchester, Chichester, Lincoln, Norwich, Southwark, Oxford, and Salisbury. The following deaneries have also been vacant during the same period: Peterborough, Lichfield, Wells, Lincoln, Carlisle, Salisbury, Worcester, Westminster, and St. Paul's.

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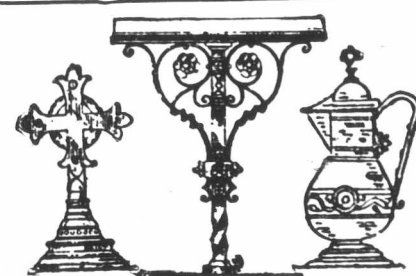
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Victorian Bishops.—The death of the Bishop of Salisbury has made another gap in the ranks of the Bishops who have held office during the reigns of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII. and King George V. Bishop Paget, of Oxford, was one of the first Bishops consecrated after the death of Queen Victoria. His predecessor, the aged Dr. Stubbs, was in very feeble health at the time of her funeral, and was unable to stand during the long time waiting in St. George's, Windsor. The Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishops of London, Winchester, Ripon, Chester, St. Asaph, Bath and Wells, Bangor, Bristol, Hereford, Worcester, Lichfield, Peterborough, Rochester, St. Alban's, St. Davids, Liverpool, Manchester, Wakefield and Newcastle—twenty out of the thirty-seven—have been Bishops during all three reigns, but translations to Canterbury, London, Winchester, Worcester, Rochester, St. Alban's, Manchester, and Newcastle have been effected since Queen Victoria's death. So that only twelve of the thirty-seven dioceses are now filled by the same Bishops as at the closing days of Queen Victoria's reign.

The Bishop of Nyasaland is probably the only Christian Bishop who possesses and uses as a pastoral staff a genuine shepherd's crook—a crook, moreover, which was, until last summer, in use on the South Downs. The story of it is this:—After his consecration, one of his commissioners asked the Bishop to be allowed to give him a parting gift; the difficulty was, what form the gift should take. Finally Dr. Fisher himself suggested a pastoral staff, which he could also use as a walking stick as he went about the diocese. The commissary appealed to a friend of the U.M.C.A. to help with suggestions, or a design. The friend appealed to, who resides

within sight of the South Downs, suggested that a Sussex shepherd's crook should be gotten and given to the Bishop. The shepherd's crooks of Sussex, which are, it should be said, specially beautiful and unique in form, are not easy to come by, but in a few weeks a Sussex shepherd was induced to sell his crook; the metal head black and soiled with use, and its staff an ordinary stick of hazel. The metal was cleaned, the stick straightened, a screw-joint fixed in the middle of it, and a ferrule on its end, like the ferrule of an alpinstock. Then came the question of a suitable inscription. There were many suggestions; finally the suggestion of another commissary of the Bishop's was accepted, and the head of the staff now bears these words from the Twenty-third Psalm (in the Vulgate version):—"Si ambulavero in medio umbræ mortis, non timebo mala; Virgata, et baculus tuus ipsa me consolata sunt." ("Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: Thy rod and Thy staff shall comfort me.") There is a special fitness, it is pointed out, not merely in the words themselves, but in the fact that a quotation from the "Good Shepherd" Psalm should be engraved on this genuine shepherd's crook. And another happy feature is, that the crook is a Sussex one, for Dr. Fisher has a special link with that country. "So away in Central Africa the Bishop of Nyasaland is linked closely to England by the memories of his South Downs shepherd's crook."—Central Africa.

Sheriff Sir Henry Buckingham has presented a handsome Renaissance ewer of hammered bronze, decorated with amethysts, to St. Paul's Cathedral, to commemorate the Baptism there of his infant daughter, Pauline, by the Bishop of London.

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