

son received medical treatment during the year. The girls' school has frequently had 100 on its register. The boys' school is a new venture. At Cairo this fund maintains St. Mary's Mission. Here the boys' school, with a roll of 170 scholars, has maintained its high standard. To this, during the year was added, by the help of magnificent gifts, a girls' school; £200 is sorely needed to complete its furniture and equipment. These schools will be very largely self-supporting.

#### The South Pole.

News is at hand that Captain Scott and his good ship, the *Discovery*, as well as the relief vessels, *Terra Nova* and *Morning*, have all reached New Zealand safely after an absence of nearly three years in quest of the South Pole. There was no loss of life by sickness, and only one death by accident, and Captain Scott's record is, therefore, one of heroic adventure and remarkable immunity from harm, though the South Pole still defies discovery. There is talk now of fitting another enterprise, and using motor cars instead of dog sleighs. If modern inventions of this sort are pressed into the service of explorers, we do not suppose that the South Pole can escape detection much longer.

#### The C.M.S.

According to the reports presented at the meeting of the committee of this society, which was held on Tuesday, April 12th, at Salisbury Square, the financial status of the society was shown to be satisfactory in a very high degree. The income received from all sources during the past year amounted to the sum of £407,434, which is the highest total on record, beating even the income of the centenary year. The Million Shilling Fund brought in £28,828. Towards wiping off the deficit of £35,000 nearly £25,000 has been raised. The whole of the increased expenditure of the year has been fully met. The ordinary income of the past year amounts to £353,756. Last year this amounted to the sum of £341,000. The income of the centenary year was £404,000. All at the C.M.S. House are most thankful for the present state of affairs, as also will be their well-wishers the whole world over when they hear the good news.

#### A Precious Legacy.

The Liturgy of the Episcopal Church has become very precious to me. The depth of its meaning, it seems to me, nobody can fathom who has not experienced some great sorrow. We have lost much in parting with the prayers of Old Mother Church, and what have we gained in their place? I do not feel in extemporaneous prayer the deep undertone of devotion which rings out from the old collects of the Church like the sounds of ancient bells. I longed for and prayed for, and, worst of all, waited for some sublime and revolutionary change of heart; and when that was, as a fact of a child's experience, I have not the remotest idea! If I had been trained in the Episcopal Church I should at the time have been confirmed and entered upon a consciously religious life, and grown up into Christian living of the Episcopal type.—Prof. Austin Phelps (Congregationalist).

#### THE CHURCH OF IRELAND.

Much interest is taken by Churchmen in Canada in the Church of Ireland, not only because of the many difficulties that the Church in Ireland has to contend with in the presence of a powerful and aggressive rival, the Church of Rome, but also because not a few of our clergy and laity were former members of that branch of our Church. When the Irish Church was disestablished it was generally believed that excellent terms had been made with the State, and that she had

secured, with the liberal aid of her lay members, an ample provision for the support of the clergy in the work of the Church in Ireland. The time, however, has not tended to improve the Church's position financially, or to lessen the difficulties under which she prosecutes her work. The fact that capital has been lost through inflation which could not have been foreseen, and the decline in the rate of interest, and also a diminution of the income from voluntary sources, have brought about a crisis little less acute than the period of Disestablishment. The representative body appeal to all classes of Churchmen, landed proprietors, farmers and others to combine in a strong effort to make adequate provision for the permanent ministrations of the Church of their fathers. The Irish correspondent of the *Guardian* says: "We cannot tell for some time what the response to this appeal will be. We hope the response will be generous and universal. It is hard for clergy—married clergy—to do their spiritual work effectively when their means are not only straitened, but threatened, as they now are, with diminution. A large decrease in population, and in material resources at the same time, would be a blow hard for any Church to bear. We have need of faith and patience and courage in seeking to do our duty, and we trust that English Churchmen will not fail to remember us in their prayers as we pass through this period of change and anxiety."

#### THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

A Royal Commission has been appointed in England to enquire into the alleged prevalence of breaches, or neglect, of the law relating to the conduct of divine service in the Church of England, and to consider the existing powers and procedure applicable to such irregularities, and to make such recommendations as may be deemed requisite for dealing with the aforesaid matters. For many years past a good deal of alarm and anxiety has existed among many members of the Church because of the systematic charges made against the clergy, that a large number of them were disloyal, and using their official position to alter the character of her services, and generally to use their influence in assimilating her and leading her members to the Church of Rome. So persistently have these charges been reiterated, and so mischievous are they in their effect upon many, who have no opportunity of investigating the facts for themselves, that the Government has decided to make a full enquiry by means of a Royal Commission, and ascertain just what measure of truth there is in allegations so loudly and persistently made. Churchmen generally welcome the appointment of the Commission, because they feel that the Church has nothing to conceal, and because they are convinced that investigation will reveal the fact that the evil complained of is, if not wholly imaginary, at least confined to a very small number. As the Bishop of London said in his presidential address at a recent conference of his diocese: "His next word must be about the Royal Commission on ecclesiastical disorders. He had already said in public that they welcomed it in the diocese of London; they had nothing to be ashamed of and nothing to conceal. He hoped all would readily give evidence, whether clergymen or laymen, who were asked to do so. His own belief was that the Commission would prick one of the greatest bubbles which had been blown in modern times. If it was true that 10,000 out of the 22,000 clergy were leading the Church over to Rome, headed by more than half of the Bishops, then was the Church in a parlous state indeed; in such a hopeless state, in fact, that no Royal Commission or any other means was likely to save the situation. But if the Royal Commission discovered that instead of 10,000 they should read ten or even twenty whose teaching and practices needed careful watching, and that these ten or twenty were being firmly although quietly dealt with by

their own Bishops throughout the country; that the rest of the 10,000 were the historical High Church party with whom they had been ignorantly compassed, and who had as much right in the Church of England as any other party; if, moreover, it could suggest a cheaper and more effective way of enforcing discipline, not only in that, but in other ways; if it could enable them to deal with members of parishes, of whatever school of thought, where nothing was being done and the rules of the Church were ignored, then the Royal Commission would, indeed, have done good service to the Church and the country." The Commissioners, of whom Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, M.P., is chairman, are men who will inspire confidence in the public mind, and the result of the investigation will be, no doubt, to reveal the real state of things existing in the Church, and to make valuable suggestions as to the best mode of enforcing discipline.

#### THE DIOCESAN SYNODS.

In the course of a few weeks the Synods of the Province of Ontario, and also of some of the other Provinces of Canada will assemble for the transaction of business. Reports of the work of the past year will be presented, and there will be a consideration of the Church's activities, and also plans for their better prosecution in the future. These Synods are most important factors in the life of the Church in this country. Upon the ability and character of their members much depends, and from them are elected those who are to represent them in the higher deliberative bodies of the Church. To our Diocesan Synods largely pertain the management and control of our finances, and in them much originates that finds its full discussion and development in the Provincial or General Synods. On this account, therefore, we hope all our Synods this year will be well attended by both the clergy and the laity. Interest is added by numbers, and the more thoroughly subjects are debated and the more general the participation therein by all capable of doing so, the better generally will be the result. It is not desirable that a few, however well qualified by experience, should monopolize the time and attention of the Synod, and a patient hearing should be extended to all who desire to express their views upon questions under consideration. If this is not done, and members come to feel that they are not wanted, or are not necessary to the carrying on of the business, they will lose interest and stay away. The committees of Synod should not be limited in their membership to a privileged, or even prominent, few, but should include as many as possible of the members generally. Complaints are heard of the non-attendance of laymen, and even of the clergy not a few absent themselves, and it is to some extent traceable to the fact that modest and retiring men find themselves merely listeners and voters, and become weary of playing so unimportant a part. Business men, whose time is precious, hesitate to incur loss of valuable time and expenditure of money simply to be spectators, and to see business they came up to discharge, monopolized by a few. Then, patience with new and perhaps tiresome men is required if our laymen are not to become fewer at our Synods than they are at present. The days when a chairman can say to members of Synod the often quoted words of Bishop Strachan: "Sit down, man; you're talking nonsense," are passed, and it would be much better to stand considerable nonsense than to have the liberty of debate limited, or a Synod held at the beck and call even of its presiding officer. We feel sure that opportunity for full and free discussion of all questions, the better distribution of the Synod's work among the members generally would do much to increase both the attendance at and interest in our annual Synods. There is much to arouse us to greater activity and to the making of wise plans for the future. The fact that in