

The Bishop of Peterborough's Church History lectures at the Church House have attracted large audiences, which included many belonging to the fashionable world.

The Proctorship in Convocation, vacant by the advancement of Canon Ainslie to the Archdeaconry of Taunton, is to be filled by the unopposed return of Prebendary Michell.

Lord Wimborne has, since the Synod, made the handsome donation of £1,000 to the Diocesan Clergy Sustentation Fund, and has also contributed £100 to the Tower and Spire Fund.

The Rev. R. L. Ottley, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Magdalene College, and Head of Pusey House, was recently elected by the heads of colleges to be Bampton Lecturer for the year 1897.

An anonymous donor having generously offered for work in the Hereford Diocese a fully equipped Church Army Van, the bishop has accepted the offer, and will dedicate the van and deliver an address.

A bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, forbidding the clergy to officiate at the so-called re marriage of those who have been divorced, as long as their former partners are living.

Considerable curiosity is being felt at Oxford as to who will be the successor of the Rev. C. G. Lang, as vicar of St. Mary's. The living is only worth £20, and the parish is very small, but the position is a very influential one.

St. Philip and St. James' Day was observed in the parish of Christ Church, Lancaster-gate, as one of intercession and prayer for the Diocese of Algoma. There was a celebration of Holy Communion, a meeting, and a sermon at Evensong.

The Rev. Prebendary Henry Phipps Denison, the new vicar of St. Michael and all Angels, Notting Hill, was for twenty-five years curate to his uncle, Archdeacon Denison, at East Brent. Mr. Denison will come into residence next month.

In connection with the Bishop of St. Andrews' Diocesan Home Mission Fund, an assistant priest will shortly be appointed at Dunfermline, who will work with the rector there, and look after the mining districts of Cowdenbeath and Lochgelly.

The new Bishop of Chichester has given considerable offence to many clergy and laity by forbidding the use of a veil by female candidates for confirmation. Caps are to be the authorized head gear. Ancient custom and beauty alike are in favour of the veils.

The Right Rev. Bishop Hornby has accepted the Vice Chairmanship of the Council of the North Sea Church Mission, and the Bishop of Thetford, Canon Venables, the Mayor of Yarmouth, the vicar of Tynemouth and others, have been added to the Council.

The foundation stone of the new Church of St. John the Evangelist, Hill's Road, Cambridge, was laid by Lady Almyne Compton. There was a special service on the site, conducted by the bishop of the diocese. The Archdeacon of Ely, the Rev. the Master of Corpus Christi College, and other clergy, were present.

The Bishop of Stepney last week visited St. Augustine's, Stepney, with the various religious, educational and recreation agencies of which he expressed his approval, and at St. Mary's, Spital-square, his Lordship formally admitted the members of the choir (who wore surplices for the first time) to their office.

The annual meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was held recently in St. James' Hall. The Archbishop of Canterbury took the chair, and after his address, the Bishops of Mashonaland and Albany (U.S.A.) spoke, as well as Admiral the Hon. Sir E. Fremantle and Rev. H. Whitehead.

The vicar of Petersham, Richmond, near London, in a letter to a daily paper, says that he has a nice garden and a pleasant house, and that if any clergyman labouring in London would like a little change, he would gladly place a bed and sitting room at his disposal on receiving timely notice, on any Monday in May.

At a sitting of the Consistory Court of London, held on the 21st ult. in St. Paul's, an application was granted for a faculty to authorize a number of alterations in the Church of St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, including the removal of the north and south gal-

leries, and the erection of a gallery across the west end of the nave.

The Bishop of Peterborough gave a second lecture at the Church House recently, his subject being that of Church and State. That the Church first of all made England a nation, and that she educated the State until it became able to take over certain of her own prerogatives were two out of many propositions laid down by the bishop.

There is no class in the country more heavily rated than the country clergy, and they therefore earnestly hope that some relief may be extended to them in the taxation of their incomes, either under the Agricultural Rating Bill now before Parliament, or in some other way which may better recommend itself to her Majesty's Government.

The Sons of the Clergy Corporation last year paid in grants £27,116 15s., of which £7,052 was bestowed in relieving the needs of clergymen, £15,041 on their widows and single daughters, and £5,023 15s. on the education of their children, and providing them with outfits and paying their apprentice fees. The total number of grants was 1,877.

The income of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society for the year ending March 31st, 1896, was £32,105, and the expenditure £33,683. The Society has fifty-three stations in India, eight in China and one in Ceylon; and its staff numbers 276 missionaries and assistant missionaries, and 637 native Bible-women, teachers and other workers.

An effort is being made by the Church party in the House of Commons to secure the sitting of the House on Derby Day, so as to bring on the third reading of the Benefices Bill. It is a good opportunity to break the custom which is no great credit to Parliament, especially now that the epidemic of gambling has become such a terrible evil in the land.

On Wednesday week the foundation-stone of the new Convent and Hospital of the Sisters of St. Mary and St. John was laid in Burlington Lane, Chiswick, by the Bishop of Malborough. The community was founded in 1865, in Pentonville, and for the last twenty-three years the Sisters have been carrying on their work for the incurable sick and dying in Kensington Square.

The annual public meeting and demonstration of the Boys' Brigade was held in Queen's Hall, Langham Place recently, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Dublin. The Boys' Brigade, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is Vice Patron, has spread rapidly since it was instituted twelve years ago, and now numbers 790 companies, with 2,800 officers, and 35,000 boys.

The revenue of the London City Mission for the past financial year has been £55,255, showing an increase of £6,501, legacies alone have risen from £8,882 to £14,373. The expenditure, £60,301, shows an increase of £140. The mission employs 481 missionaries, who have held during the year 46,442 indoor meetings and Bible classes, besides 24,713 in factories, workhouses and prisons, and 11,585 outdoor services.

The Board of Missions for the Province of Canterbury and the Board of Missions for the Province of York will hold a united meeting on June 19th, under the presidency of the two Archbishops, for the transaction of important business. Bishop Selwyn has been appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to be one of the honorary secretaries of the Southern Board in succession to the Bishop of Newcastle (Dr. Edgar Jacob).

An entertainment was given at Lord Brassey's house on the 28th ult. for the Fund for Lady Visitors in Parishes, a fund which is deserving of great support. It was started by Miss Jackson, under the late Bishop of London, to meet the need for district visitors in parishes where none, or few, but poor reside. The choice of the lady visitor is left to the parish priest, and at present grants are made to thirteen parishes.

The well-known Whitelands Training College for Schoolmistresses at Chelsea celebrated the usual May Day festival on Friday week, the principal feature of which was the crowning of the May Queen. The gold cross presented by Mr. Ruskin was fastened on her neck after her election by her fellow-students. The queen appointed a number of maids of honour, and distributed some handsome volumes of Mr. Ruskin's works. A large number of past and present students were present.

The usual May morning service on Magdalen Tower, Oxford, was held recently. The morning

was beautifully fine, but cold, and a large number gathered round the choir, who at five o'clock sang the old Latin hymn to the Trinity. The hymn is taken from the college Grace, and the custom is said to have been substituted for a Mass formerly performed for the soul of Henry VII.; but others, with quite as much probability, connect it with a Pagan origin, and with the worship of the sun.

The National Gallery was opened to the public for the first time on a Sunday, recently, and, in spite of the fact that the announcement of the opening was not made until two or three days beforehand, over 3,000 persons passed the turnstiles in the hours between three and six. This opening of the National Gallery makes three national exhibitions now regularly opened every Sunday in London, the others being South Kensington and Bethnal Green Museums, where the attendance shows no signs of increase.

At the recent annual meeting of the Association in aid of the Bishop of Cape Town, at Grosvenor House, Lord Loch emphasized the fact that the Diocese of Cape Town is in size about equal to Great Britain; yet he believed it could only number sixty-seven clergy, whose emoluments, in spite of the long distances they had to traverse, were not equal to the smallest living in England. Nearly the whole of the £600 received by the bishop went towards supporting the Church in the diocese. Was it fair, he asked, that England should send emigrants to distant lands, and not feel responsibility for their spiritual needs?

The commission which, by order of the Pope, is examining the question of Anglican orders, excites considerable interest. P. de Augustinis, an eminent Jesuit professor, has definitely declared for the absolute validity of the English orders, whether considered historically or theologically. Two at least of the commissioners are for the absolute validity; a third retains only some doubts, and a fourth, while personally not believing in the validity, is steadily opposed to a definite pronouncement against it. While the Commission has to report to the Holy Office, the Pope has reserved entirely to himself the final decision.

At the monthly general meeting of the S.P.C.K., £2,500 was voted for the continuance of the Society's work in providing for the spiritual and moral welfare of emigrants. Other money grants amounting to £674 were made for the building of churches and schools in Canada, the West Indies, Central America, Ceylon, West Australia and Tasmania, and for other purposes. Block grants for a large variety of purposes were also made, of the value of £480, including £70 worth of mission publications for a general mission at Derby. Several sums allocated from block grants for medical mission work were reported, including one of £80 for the enlargement of the hospital at Peking.

Correspondence.

All Letters containing personal allusions will appear over the signature of the writer.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

N. B.—If any one has a good thought, or a Christian sentiment, or has facts, or deductions from facts, useful to the Church, and to Churchmen, we would solicit their statement in brief and concise letters in this department.

Conversion.

SIR,—Your correspondent, "A Layman," cannot have read the letter or letters he criticizes: at any rate he is in error as to my views on conversion. His letter, evidently meant to be a *coup de grace* and crushing rebuke, is simply a misrepresentation, and therefore pointless. I am sure the injustice was unintentional; yet it is hardly excusable, unless my meaning was less clear than I thought it was, and strove to make it. He pronounces me "astray wofully" on the question of conversion; and I must be pardoned if I pronounce him the same as to what I have said about it. Where have I advocated conversion after the Wesleyan fashion, or by the methods of the "perambulating revivalist"? My plea has been, all along, for conversion on strictly Church lines as laid down in the Prayer-Book, which, he confesses, is loud in its calls for the great change. Why, the burden of my complaint was that the front place given to conversion in the services is denied it in the sermon. "A Layman" says for me what I had failed to say so well, that these services "are dominated with the idea of conversion," "permeated with appeals to the people to be converted." He never uttered a truer word. It is just what I have less eloquently urged in this debate; and he will please accept my thanks. But