

## Notes on the Educational Question

(Continued From Last Week)

The position of the enemies of definite religious education is seen from the following scheme, which has been published by its General Committee and unanimously accepted as an embodiment of their principles. The Free Church Council is an organization of the more orthodox dissenting bodies, nominally formed for religious purposes but actually developing into a political power. The following is the authorized scheme. It will be seen how near this ideal approaches to the actual American Public School system: "1. That the system of national education shall recognize only one type of public elementary schools—viz., schools provided and controlled by a public education authority. 2. That denominational school buildings, if required and suitable for use as provided schools, may be rented or purchased on equitable terms for the purpose of elementary education, due regard being had to the existing rights of the public in such buildings. 3. That all schools maintained by public funds, whether by taxes or rates, shall be under the sole management and control of representatives appointed by the method of popular election. 4. That there shall be adequate provision for the training of all teachers of public elementary schools, free from theological and ecclesiastical tests, and under the sole management and control of the popularly elected education authorities. 5. That no ecclesiastical or theological tests shall be applied in the appointments of teachers of publicly supported schools or training colleges. 6. That no distinctively denominational teaching or formula shall be given or used in public schools in school hours, but simple Biblical instruction may be given according to a syllabus, as is general at present in provided schools. Attendance at such instruction shall be subject to a conscience clause. 7. That the foregoing provisions shall have reference also to secondary education as far as they may be applicable. 8. That women shall be eligible for election to any local education authority throughout England and Wales, and including London.

The proposition of the defenders of religious schools may be given in the words of the Protestant Bishop of London. He declares that the principle to be defended is a three-fold one: (1) that the teaching of definite religious truth is an integral part of true education; (2) that the religious truth taught the children should be the religion of their parents; and (3) that it should be taught them by those who believe it. Catholics, while giving to the second clause qualified adherence, give to the first and third whole-hearted and active support.

The attitude of English Nonconformists to the school forms one of the most remarkable examples of contradiction between principle and practice. The common characteristic and essential feature of the various dissenting sects, the point upon which one and all agree, is the contention that the church should be free from state control; whatever they differ about, on this they are united. Yet it is to the placing of religion under the control of the state—that is, for they are now the source of power in the state—that all the efforts which they are so strenuously putting forth are tending. There is to be one national school system, not without religion, but with a religion from which everything that is disputed by any body of voters, however small,—a religion that is manufactured to suit voters. This religion the state supports, over it it is supreme; from every other it withholds all help. Others it tolerates, but does not refrain from exacting money for the support of its own. This is clearly a state religion, and to support it is in fact a contradiction to the principles which made the first Nonconformist.

The fact that purely secular and undenominational schools have had the financial support of the state, with all the advantages which that gives, while voluntary and religious schools have had up to the present to maintain themselves with inadequate resources, has led many to take it for granted that the education imparted in the schools wholly supported by public money must be unexceptional. This, however, is not the judgment of those who are well qualified to judge. Sir John Gorst, the member of Parliament for the University of Cambridge and for many years vice-president of the Board of Education, in his presidential address to the Association of Technical In-

stitutions, has recently said that there were millions of children who from babyhood to the age of fourteen were drilled in reading, writing and arithmetic upon a system the results of which was that when they attained that age, and were finally dismissed from school, they could neither read, write nor cipher. There were millions of children and young persons now upon whom all the enormous sums annually spent out of the rates and taxes upon elementary education had been absolutely thrown away. The whole object of education had been mistaken; the natural propensities of the children were crushed and they were made into a quiet, orderly, stupid class without individuality, without any desire for knowledge, without any power to do any-

Nor is Sir John Gorst the only censor of the state system of education. Dr. Armstrong, professor of Chemistry at the City and Guilds of London Central Institute, declares the results obtained by the much belauded London School Board a grave peril to the city. He declares the elementary education as given in their schools to have been of no use; that all who have seriously considered the system condemn it as impractical; that a race of desk-ridden emaculates is being formed. The belief in the dignity of manual labor among those who are destined to perform it is fast disappearing. The absolute failure to understand what is desirable in elementary education he declares to be proved by the report for 1903, in the examination held for scholarships at the disposal of the School Board of London. A more ghastly farce could not well be imagined. The report on the School Training and Early Employment of Lancashire Children, issued by the Board of Education, is full of deplorable revelations. To quote a few words from this: "It seems plain that whatever else the schools may do they cannot yet be said to quicken the intelligence of the children generally. . . . Though the boys and girls have learnt reading, writing and arithmetic, and a crowd of other subjects, yet they do not read, still less do they write, and they are perplexed by any calculation which is not expressed in the forms to which they have grown familiar."

It would seem, therefore, that the schools, although organized by the best intelligence and supported by all the resources of the nation, have failed in securing efficiency even for the merely materialistic aims which as now constituted form their raison d'être, inasmuch as definite religious education has been excluded. When we bear in mind, too, the fact that the physicians of large masses of the people have so deteriorated as to constitute a national danger and to demand the appointment of a royal commission to investigate into its causes, it cannot be said that progress is so evident under what are supposed to be up-to-date methods as to justify the contempt of our forefathers which is so prevalent. In Russia eighty per cent. of the people are absolutely illiterate, yet its peasantry are strong and vigorous, and the nation itself, as many think, only too powerful.

In Ireland, too, the subject of education has been widely discussed. There, however, it is to the University question that attention has been called. Primary education, through the strong religious sense of the Irish people, may be looked upon as fairly well settled. After many long years, however, the higher education still remains unsettled. Captain Taylor, whose efforts for harmony between landlord and tenant were so successful, attempted to render a like service for bringing to an end this long contention. He tried to bring together Catholics and Churchmen, and Presbyterians to a conference similar to the land conference. Promises of attendance were made, but for

one reason or another not kept, and everything promised failure. Then Lord Dunraven made proposals, which were accepted by the Catholic Bishops. Then Trinity College became alarmed, and offered special privileges to Catholic students. This offer was rejected by Cardinal Logue with but little ceremony. High hopes were entertained of the Government being favorable. In fact, the proposals of Lord Dunraven were generally supposed to be the very same as the Chief Secretary for Ireland had suggested. But the hopes so far have come to nothing. A few days before Parliament opened Lord Londonderry declared that the Government had no intention of establishing a university for Catholics, and the speech from the throne made no mention of the subject. The unyielding hostility of the Irish Conservatives is still too strong, although Mr. Balfour several years ago declared the claim of the Catholics to be just. The fiscal controversy, too, precludes any attempt this session to enter upon so thorny a matter.

### A Remarkable Cure.

The sudden and remarkable cure of Neal A. McGuire, from an apparently incurable paralysis of the right arm, while he was attending Mass devoutly in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Atlanta, Ga., is related in a secular journal, the well known Atlanta Constitution. The arm had become paralyzed suddenly about eight months ago without any discernible cause, as he was a young man heretofore in perfect health, and of irreproachable habits. The best physicians of Atlanta failing to relieve him, he sought help from the most famous nerve specialists of New York. For three months he was under constant treatment and the leading figure at every large clinic attended by the medical fraternity of the city and all the medical students of the colleges. No relief resulted, and the wearing effect of the constant pain began to tell upon his strong will and vigorous constitution. The case created widespread interest, and his life, habits, antecedents, present and former occupation and diversions were closely studied in the hope of arriving at a clue that would lead to some effective cure.

Mr. McGuire returned to Atlanta about a month ago very much discouraged by the repeated failures and has been growing steadily worse since. On the Sunday in question he spite his suffering, he attended Mass at the Church already named, where the Dominican Father, the Rev. Francis A. Gaffney, of Memphis, Tenn., preached on prayer, saying that the age of miracles was never passed, and dwelling on the intercessory power of the Blessed Mother of God. It is known that the sufferer was profoundly moved; but he knew not that he was cured until, in passing out of the Church, he involuntarily extended his hand to reciprocate the greeting of a friend, and found that the malady had disappeared. Feeling the touch of the supernatural, he returned to the Church to give thanks to God.

Mr. McGuire can use and write with his right arm as well as before his affliction, and is in every way well and strong again. Neal McGuire is just 20 years of age. He graduated from the Boys' High School of Atlanta in the class of 1901, having gone through the grammar schools of the city. He was quite a bright and popular student and was president of his class the year of his graduation. He is a son of Mrs. Margaret McGuire, and lives with his mother at 214 South Pryor street. He is a nephew of John A. Corrigan, Assistant Solicitor of the City Criminal Court, and of Thomas F. Corrigan, the well known lawyer of this city. His brother is J. Edward McGuire, who is connected with the Atlanta

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office of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company. His father has been dead a number of years. Mr. McGuire is a devoted Catholic.

### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A new Catholic Club has recently opened in Johannesburg, Transvaal Colony. The club building was erected at a cost of £11,500 (about \$57,000) and is one of the handsome buildings in Johannesburg. The membership of the club is at present 500, of which about one-third are honorary members, that is, non-Catholics.

### Patent Report.

Below will be found a list of patents recently granted by the Canadian Government through the agency of Messrs. Marion & Marion, Patent Attorneys, Montreal, Canada, and Washington, D.C.

- No. 86,064—Wm. Albt. Baldwin, Smiths Falls, Ont., sulky plow.  
86,072—Willie A. R. Langford, Montmorency Falls, Que., means for facilitating the shifting of pillow slips.  
86,078—Wm. A. Borden, Campbellton, N.B., clothes dryer.  
86,086—Murdoch E. Sutherland, Westville, N.S., rifle sight.  
86,089—Jacob Walther, Winnipeg, Man., automatic railway gate.  
86,116—Chas. L. Gurney, Lone Tree, Man., neck yoke fastener.  
86,163—Arnold M. Squire, Montreal, Que., flushing tank.  
86,164—John McIntosh, Joggin Mines, N.S., clothes pin.  
86,165—Isaie Belair, Montreal, Que., Emergency doors.  
86,204—Joseph Trepanier, Montreal, Que., boat.

**Business Cards.**  
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**ST. PATRICK'S T. A. AND B. SOCIETY.**—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, at 8.30 p.m. Committee of Management meets in same hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. Director, Rev. Jas. Kilbride; President, W. P. Doyle; Recording Secy., Jno. P. Gunning, 716 St. Antoine street, St. Henri.

**ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.**—established 1863.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father McPhail; President, D. Aillery, M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, 625 St. Dominique street; M. J. Ryan, treasurer, 18 St. Augustin street. Meets on the second Sunday of every month, in St. Ann's Hall, corner Young and Ottawa streets, at 8.30 p.m.

**ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY** organized 1885.—Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Flynn, C.S.S.R.; President, P. Kenahan; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connell; Rec.-Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

**C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.**—(Organized, 18th November, 1878.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. M. Callaghan; Chancellor, F. J. Sears; President, P. J. Darcey; Rec.-Sec., P. J. McDonagh; Fin.-Secretary, Jas. J. Costigan; Treasurer, J. H. Feeley, Jr.; Medical Advisers, Drs. H. J. Harrison, E. J. O'Connell and G. H. Merrill.

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## NOTES

POPE GREGORY THE  
In this issue we give  
some extracts from the  
cyclical letter of Pius X  
tenary of Gregory the  
sentence in that document  
thy of the great Pontiff  
whom it was written a  
Pontiff who has written  
praises almost the entire  
Gregory the First. "The  
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deep, so lasting, that h  
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men of his own generat  
we look back over t  
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tribute to the gr  
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reviewing their works a  
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paid the most delicate t  
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ary celebrations of Grego  
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Church. In eternal, that  
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preserved. It matters no  
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the ages have since pro  
men, wonderful rulers, gl  
nor that the present is  
is centred in itself and v  
of the past; all this mat  
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nor does she allow her  
to sink into oblivion; she  
mits the golden chain of  
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fering, and both to the  
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