

The Rockwood Review.

THE ONTARIO BIRTH RATE.

At the recent meeting of the Anglican Synod in Montreal, a good deal was said about the small birth rate in Ontario, and various causes were said to have operated to produce this. Very severe reflections upon the morality of a certain part of the population were indulged in by some, and imputations against the good name of our women, have since been brought to the front in various quarters. That evils exist, and always will exist in society, no one attempts to deny; that when they are obscure they are apt to be exaggerated out of all proportion is also true. The writer is a believer in the virtues of women in general, and Canadian women in particular, and that they are not half as bad as they are painted is undoubtedly true. There is nothing like the practical method of dealing with glowing general statements, and a few facts in connection with this matter may be of interest. The employees of Rockwood are a fairly representative class of the population of Ontario, and are generally taken into service at the age known as marriageable. The nurses entering the training school are single, and as a general rule single men are appointed to the vacancies occurring on the staff. A brief analysis of the facts at our disposal reveals the great factor at work in reducing the birth rate of Ontario. Defective registration may play a part, but the chief influence at work is that of emigration. Ontario produces hardy and energetic, young people, whose good qualities are

recognized by the Americans, and who find ready employment in the U. S. It is always a source of regret to true Canadians, that our own people are not content to develop our own resources, but are willing to be enticed by the glamor of Americanism. It is startling to find that of 240 employees engaged here, 33½ per cent. have left the Province of Ontario, and nearly all have gone to the U. S. These were all of the marriageable age, and have in the majority of instances, married and become American citizens. At the very outset we are faced by this reduction of our total of marriageable people by one-third, and although on the face it appears that these people added nothing to our population, they have increased that of Uncle Sam's republic very materially. As a matter of fact we can account for the marriage of 143 of those who were on our staff, 33 at present on the staff are still unmarried, and of the sixty odd remaining, of whom we are not able to speak, no doubt the greater proportion are believed to have married, thus very effectually disposing of the contention that marriage is avoided. In regard to the size of families it may be said that the families of those who have married, and who were married, are of such a healthy average size, that special sermons are not needed for the heads of families half so much as larger salaries to enable them to provide the food and clothing for the numerous juveniles. The best thing that could happen Ontario would be the rigid enforcement of the American alien law.