

spoke of a man with the prison brand who had to go straight to his home, and said how good it was that these private conversations were now allowed in prisons, and that men like Captain Hanson could go and tell the prisoners what they must do. There were, too, the housing problem, and many others linked to it, and there were many agencies to deal with them; but the thing about the Church Army was that it put Christianity at the base, and sought to raise the lost in the Master's way. She had spent many years amidst the darkness of heathenism, but she thought it still more horrible to find at home darkness amidst light, because men had chosen crime and drink; it was only such workers as these that could go down to the depths.

An Efficient Remedy.

It is well known that one of the hardest burdens of the English country clergy is the fact that they are expected to keep an open purse for the poor. They naturally object to keeping an open house. A novel clerical grievance came up at a recent meeting of the High Wycomb Board of Guardians by the Rev. H. Sandall, rector of Bradenham, who complained that his rectory, situated about half a mile from the workhouse, was often mistaken by tramps for the workhouse. The guardians are evidently possessed of a keen sense of humour, for the remedy they provided was to furnish Mr. Sandall with a printed vaccination notice to affix to the rectory gates so as to scare away these unwelcome callers.

The Spectroscope

In the course of a very readable and instructive review of a new work, "The Stars," a study of the universe by Simon Newcomb, in the Spectator, the reviewer condenses a good deal of little known information, from which we take the following, showing the unfathomable abysses of space. Think of it—we see many of the stars as they were at the Norman Conquest, or the birth of Christ, or the foundation of Rome—not in a figure of speech, but literally. If they were to be suddenly extinguished at this moment, we should still watch them shining placidly for many centuries, and only know of the catastrophe ages after it happened. It has been suggested, with apparently good reason, that the "new star" in Perseus, which Dr. Anderson discovered a year ago, really blazed up about the period of the Spanish Armada; only it is so far away that the news has taken three centuries to reach us, travelling without rest on the wings of light, at a hundred and eighty-six thousand miles a second. And yet we are able to tell a good deal about the motions and the chemical composition of bodies which swim in the void at this inconceivable distance. That is the most surprising thing, to our mind, among all the achievements of modern science. It is, of course, to the measurements made by means of the spectroscope that we owe this extraordinary extension of our intelligence: "No achievement of the intellect of man would

have seemed farther without the range of possibility to the thinker of half a century ago than the discoveries of invisible bodies which are now being made by such measurements. The revelations of the telescope take us by surprise. But if we consider what the thinker alluded to might regard as attainable, they are far surpassed by those of the spectroscope. The dark bodies, planets we may call them, which are revolving round the stars, must be forever invisible in any telescope that it would be possible to construct. They would remain invisible if the power of the instrument were increased ten thousand times. And yet if there are inhabitants on these planets our astronomers could tell them more of the motions of the world on which they live than the human race knew of the motions of the earth before the time of Copernicus." The method of this astonishing discovery is easy to make clear. Everyone knows that the function of the spectroscope is to sort light-rays according to their respective wave-lengths. Each element sends out a particular set of waves when it is incandescent, by which we can recognize it with equal certainty in a laboratory gas-flame or in a distant star. The first advance with the spectroscope made in our knowledge was to tell us the chemical constitution of the sun and the other stars. Its later application to the stellar motions is less generally understood. This depends on a simple principle, combined with an extraordinary delicacy of manipulation. Everyone knows that the pitch of an engine-whistle rises or falls according as the engine is in rapid motion to or from the listener. If one is standing in a station, as an express goes screaming through, the sudden change in the pitch of its whistle is extremely apparent as it passes one. Exactly the same thing happens with light. If a luminous object is moving bodily towards the observer, it is clear that a greater number of waves will reach us from it in a second than would be the case if it were at rest; if it is moving away from us the reverse will be the case. The consequence is that the lines of its spectrum will be slightly displaced from their normal position—in the latter case towards the red, in the former towards the blue, end of the spectrum.

A Mission in New Ontario.

During the past two years, several new places have sprung into existence in the diocese of Algoma, on the Soo branch of the C.P.R., between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. Others, which only consisted of a few houses, have trebled and quadrupled their population, and become thriving towns. One of these is Blind River, which formerly had a population of 350, and now has close on to 1,600. For some years the different places from Walford Station West to and including Thessalon, a distance of over 100 miles, were all in one mission; but about two years ago, the Bishop decided to separate Thessalon from the rest, formed a new mission, and appointed the Rev. T. J. Hay incumbent. The chief stations

of the new mission were to be Spragge, Algoma Mills, and Blind River, which at that time had not begun to boom. The Eddy Bros., a large lumbering firm of Bay City, Michigan, having purchased a site at Blind River, removed their large mill from Bay City and re-erected it, built shops, comfortable houses for their employees, etc., and a large boarding-house, which surpasses many a New Ontario hotel, and is well kept; the rooms are comfortably furnished. The Methodists have had a church for nearly eighteen months; the Roman Catholics have had a church for some years, and now have a large congregation. The Presbyterians have just completed a large church at a cost of something like \$2,000. We are going to build this summer a small church. As is usual in these new places, the Roman Catholics form a large majority of the population. Occasional Church services are held at Dean Lake, but the place is hard to get at. It is a farming settlement, and the people will not attend week-day services. North of Dean Lake there is a large farming district, which extends over thirty miles from the railway, and there are a number of people scattered about who either once were Church people, or who still claim allegiance to her. A man who has lived many years in this neighbourhood, a churchman, says that if Church services could be held in the different settlements, he believes the people would rally round the old Church once more and be won back. The farms are good and the people well-to-do; at any rate they never seem to want for money. The roads are good in summer, but the distances are great. Dean Lake is only eleven miles by rail, but one would have to spend three days there and could not go anywhere else. Between Blind River and Dean Lake is the Missisagua river; the distance by road is seventeen miles, and the river has to be crossed by a scow. There are no roads east of Blind river; one can only travel by train, the express trains stop at every few stations now. The local trains run inconveniently, and one has to walk. Regular services are held at Spragge, Algoma Mills and Blind River. There are several places, lumber mills, where Sunday services could be held, if one could reach them, but the men work hard, and will not attend week-day services, in fact. There are a number of Church families at Blind River, and the services are fairly well attended, though in warm weather the people prefer to walk about. On Easter Sunday, the old school-house, which has been used for services, was decorated with flowers, and the congregation was large, the service bright and hearty, and the offertory amounted to \$140. The Sunday school, which has been in existence more than twelve months, is in a flourishing condition. The stone foundation of the church is completed, and the congregation is looking anxiously forward to the time when they will occupy the church. The W.A. raised over \$700 in about eighteen months, and have over \$500 towards the new church. The mission covers some 450 or 500 square