

I CANNOT REPENT.

I WAS urged one day to go at once to see a young man who was seriously ill ; when I asked, in what state of soul he was, I was told that : " He is morose, difficult of approach, and opposed to all religious conversation."

I went to the sick man, and after having asked about his health I spoke to him of Christ and of salvation. He rudely interrupted me, saying :

" Don't torment me before the time."

Seeing my astonishment he added :

" It is not through enmity I am speaking thus ; but through despair—I have tried religion, and it led to nothing, and now I ask you to let me rest."

As I begged him to explain himself more clearly, he continued :

" At the commencement of my illness a friend came to see me and exhorted me to repent—I asked him what it was to repent, and he replied : ' Repentance is regret for having sinned ; love for God, and a sincere desire to serve Him.' And when I begged him to tell me how I could have this repentance, he told me that it was the gift of God, and that I should ask Him for it. I followed his advice diligently, but not being in the habit of praying I did not know how to set about doing it—I got a book of prayers, and several times a day I read, and repeated, what I found therein—when I became exhausted, my friend continued praying, and often I fell asleep with fatigue while listening to him."