

medal of the "Little King" was applied to the sufferer. We are just in receipt of a letter from a Carmelite Sisterhood in the United States, a community whose zeal for souls is unbounded. Amongst other things, the venerable Religious says: "We hear of the dear Little King on all sides. It is marvelous. The greatest miracle of all is the rapid spread of the devotion and the manner of men who take to it. It embraces old and young, rich and poor, priests and laymen. It is becoming universal. May God be praised for it all! It means simplicity and humility. That means sanctity. Perhaps the Divine Infant may yet give us an American saint." On the 25th of last month, the annual solemn consecration of children took place in the Boston Carmel. It was simple but very impressive. The image of the holy Infant, robed in the best and surrounded by lights, was placed in a conspicuous part of the sanctuary. A sermon suited to the little ones (of ages from one to twelve years) was preached. The Act of Consecration was then repeated sentence by sentence by the priest and echoed by the children. It is, we are told, a chorus not soon to be forgotten. Then the children toddle up, or walk up, or are carried up to the altar rail, and the Father puts the medals, which he has blessed, around their necks. The children never forget this day, and their devout mothers look forward to it with fervent expectation. Some day THE CARMELITE REVIEW hopes to be able to chronicle the fact that this good custom has become universal.

Hygiene and Holiness.

That awful word "Lent" is again on our ears, and we enter into the temptation of using all our ingenuity to escape the odious Church law. From an enemy fasting should become a fast friend. A friend, indeed, who will wipe away a large amount of our standing indebtedness to God, besides putting the passions in their proper place as servants. Our friends are generally three-fold, namely, wealth, relatives and good-works. The first we leave behind us, the second follow us as far as the grave, and the third go with us into eternity. Let us be wise, and choose

the third class of friends and increase our works of faith, of love, of penance, particularly fasting, which, likewise benefits the body, since wise men tell us that the great sin of to-day is over-eating. It was only lately that a prominent secular journal—the *Youths' Companion* said that the "dietary rules for Lenten observance, which the Catholic Church imposes upon its members, are hygienically irreproachable, and it would be better for nearly all of us—unless the doctors be excepted—if these rules were followed, not only by Catholics during Lent, but by everybody all the year round."

Ransomed, and Ransomers.

On the Feast of the Purification, the fact is once more made known to us that our Blessed Lady ransomed her Son as required by the Law of Moses. It is in place for us to remark that to-day, under the divine Mother's patronage, there are united many earnest and pious persons whose praise-worthy object is to ransom souls—particularly those of our separated brethren and, indeed, all sincere seekers after truth. To systematize the work Guilds have been formed. Listen to the words of the English founder, which are certainly soul-inspiring: "The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom is bent upon accomplishing the more ambitious, the more important, and the more herculean work of Protestant emancipation. We would be Ransomers by prayer and by work, by charity and by sympathy, obtaining for those whom we would help the grace which alone can redeem them. Whither would we lead the captives when released? They are Christians; how, then, in captivity? There are the bonds of heresy, in which some are captives willingly, some unknowingly, some with yearnings for release. With these chains of heresy are interwoven others of position, society, family, and the like, which render the escape even of the most anxious very difficult. Whither should they escape? It is from an imperfect Christianity that the missionaries of the Vicar of Christ would release their fellow countrymen, winning them to that happy allegiance to the Holy See which brings with it true liberty, because peace of conscience, resulting