

DOCTRINE OF IMMORTALITY.

New York Sun.

The Easter discussions of immortality by Dr. Felix Adler and the Rev. Dr. Savage made pertinent at this time a reference to the Roman Catholic doctrine on the subject, as defined and expounded by three Jesuit priests in the April number of the Catholic Homiletic Monthly.

The first, treating of "particular judgment," explains the Catholic doctrine to be that "as soon as the soul leaves the human body it is irrevocably assigned to an abiding place; that at the very moment when the soul is separated from the body—all its thoughts, words and actions during life will be judged in accordance with the way they presented themselves to God at the moment when they happened." At a conclusive illustration he refers to the parable of Dives and Lazarus. "The rich Dives was thrown into hell immediately after death and the poor Lazarus was taken to heaven." Nor would it be consistent with the justice of God, says the Jesuit preacher, to postpone the judgment to the last day or the day of general judgment, for "the just souls would be left in unceasing anxiety," and "the goddess would still be left in the hope of being saved."

Moreover, he tells us that this "particular judgment" will not be rendered on souls carried up to heaven and before the throne of God, for "a stained soul will never, in all eternity, have the happiness of feeling even for one moment the delights of heavenly joys." "Each soul will receive its judgment at the same place where the body happened to be at the time of death," and do "at this judgment Jesus Christ shall appear as judge, the soul as the accused, the angel who was its guardian as advocate and the devil as accuser." The judge "will render without delay the irrevocable sentence, which will be life or death for all eternity," and at the general judgment on the last day we "shall receive the same sentence."

Judgment, explains the second Jesuit writer, is reserved until death of the sinner may be converted and do penance, but if he fails to do this vengeance will surely come." "Now," he proceeds, "the sword of divine justice is hidden by the sheath of mercy, but there comes a time when this sheath will fall away and the naked sword of justice be drawn against all transgressors."

The third priest treats of purgatory or the "place of purification" for those who have committed venial sins, in order that they may be made fit for heavenly society. But purgatory, as described by him and by the Fathers from whom he quotes, is of the nature of a hell for the same time placed by fire. According to St. Anselm, in this transitory fire "the best suffering of a poor soul is greater than the most intense agony we can think of here," or, as St. Gregory expresses it, "more important than all the afflictions of this earth."

"The greatest of all pains," comments the Jesuit writer, "is that caused by fire; what, then, must it be to endure this agony for a whole day, a year, a hundred years?" Such suffering upon entering into the future state is inevitable for all of us, according to St. Bernard, for "who so perfect, who so holy, that when he departs from this life he will not owe something to that fire?"

It will seem, therefore, that the Roman Catholic Church not only teaches immortality, but also describes specifically the methods of entrance on it, and in a way which Dr. Adler would justify the dread that led him on mortality was a gift which we could take or leave." Nor is the Rev. Dr. Savage's view of immortality, as we understand it of the soul, the spiritual identity, only, treated more kindly by the Catholic doctrine, as explained by this Jesuit writer, who says: "What torture must be when the soul, which is the direct seat of sensation in us, is tormented by flames of fire!"

Saved Already.

A mission for non-Catholics was given at Our Lady of Lourdes, Bohemian Church last week. The weather was unfavorable to the last degree. Fierce wind storms, rain, snow and cold was the combination evolved by the weather-man to check a too-enthusiastic attendance. In spite of all, many non-Catholics were present. The nature of the question proved that there was a considerable number of fallen-away Catholics in the audience. A striking feature of the mission was the predominance of youthful faces in the pews.

Speaking on purgatory, the missionary asked if there was anyone in the church who felt that he was perfect enough to enter at once into God's presence. There was no response then and there; but as soon as Benedictine over an elderly lady made her way to the Communion railing and said in emphatic tones: "I was washed in the blood of Christ and I am saved now!" Before the missionary could find his breath she had grabbed a copy of the "Seven Lectures" and disappeared. She is probably one of the "sanctified" contingents of the Methodist Church who believe they are incapable of further sin. It might have surprised her to be told that we believe no one is saved except through the blood of Christ, just as much as to learn that the real saints have all worked out their salvation in fear and trembling, fearing with St. Paul that, after all their graces and good deeds, they should still become castaways.—Catholic Universe.

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does considerable mischief. It is well enough to accept all its "endless chain" prayers and other alleged religious schemes with several grains of salt.

THE DANGER.

Subtle Modern Influences Undermining Faith.

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THE HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE PAIR. The fair in aid of the House of Providence held in the oratory, Hamilton, from the 4th to the 15th inst., proved a very successful one. Notwithstanding the weather conditions, the attendance each evening was very large. Addresses were delivered on Tuesday evening by Mr. J. J. E. Ryan, Toronto. Thursday evening Mr. J. J. E. Ryan, Toronto. Thursday evening Mr. J. J. E. Ryan, Toronto. Thursday evening Mr. J. J. E. Ryan, Toronto.

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THE CATHOLIC BAZAAR, WALLACEBURG, ONT.

Drawn in connection with the Catholic Bazaar held in the oratory, Wallaceburg, Ont., last Saturday evening, April 12th.

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FROM REGINA.

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Advertisement for 'THE CATHOLIC RECORD' featuring 'WANTED R. C. MALE TEACHER' and 'WANTED BY A WIDOWER A WOMAN'.

Advertisement for 'SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE' with text 'Death is natural to man, but always unnatural; and the moment you strip a man of all his liberty you strip him of all his virtues, you convert his heart into a dark hole, in which all the vice conspire against you.'