

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE "Catholic Mirror" published in Baltimore does not appear to possess either a very even or polished surface. As a reflector it is a failure. This is the image of Martin Luther as projected from its surface: it is only the calm truth, it is not defamation, to say that Luther was the most depraved sot, the most abandoned villain, the most superstitious driveller, the most utter skeptic, that ever lived. Charley makes us think that he was simply mad.

IN St. Agnes Catholic church, New York, Father H. Brann, the truthful historian, arrives at the following conclusion regarding Luther's worth. Luther is honoured because he revolted; and, supported by a set of depraved princes, pillaged, killed and robbed. For fifteen years before he died Luther was seen at the tavern every night drinking beer and abusing the Pope, surrounded by his friends. And we are told to honour this man who has done more to ruin the world than any other man who ever lived.

WHEN the Marquis of Lorne left for England several contemporaries spoke very sensibly on the propriety of abating the address nuisance. A hint was even given that under our new Governor General these purposeless tributes would be declined. Use and wont, however, proved too strong for so good a resolution, and the customary addresses begin to flow in. Had the wasted energy of the meaningless address been applied to boring the Rocky Mountains instead of humanity, the C. P. R. would have had a splendid tunnel made for it long ago.

A COURSE of lectures in connection with the Young Men's Guild of the Established Church of Scotland is to be delivered on the first Sabbath of the month in St. George's Church, Edinburgh, and on the next Sabbath in St. George's, Glasgow, on the subject "A Young Man." Prof. Charteris will speak of his faith; Dr. J. Rankine, moderator, of his aim; Dr. Archibald Scott of his work; Dr. John Allison of his leisure and recreation; Dr. A. K. H. Boyd of his home and friends; and Dr. Marshall Lang of his church. Each lecture will be published on the day following its delivery in Glasgow.

THE spirit in which the Luther celebration has been held is very gratifying. There have been very few coarse or wanton assaults on the papacy. Among intelligent Protestants the age of fierce and uncharitable invective has passed. The system has been attacked while men, living and dead, have in general been spoken of as brother men. Neither have many or prominent Roman Catholics denounced Luther as he has been often denounced by the adherents of Rome. Monsignor Capel, speaking at Cincinnati, admitted that the decrees of the Council of Trent bore too painful testimony to the corruption existing among the clergy and people, while maintaining that this was no proof against the truth and holiness of his Church. The Monsignor knows too much to peril his popularity by assailing the memory of Luther's life and work with insult and vituperation. There are, however, other defenders of Rome to whom this knowledge is denied.

AN influential deputation waited on the Premier and other members of the Ontario Government to press on their consideration the question of conferring on women the political franchise. It seems to be the belief of many that its possession by women is only a question of time. This is evidently the case, when the tendency of free institutions and responsible government are considered. Political privileges expand, they do not contract. The chief speaker was Mrs. D. McEwan, a sincere, unselfish and generous enthusiast in the cause of woman suffrage. She places a high value on the privilege of voting and pleads with passionate earnestness on behalf of her sex for its possession. The longed-for opportunity may not be in the

immediate future. The public mind is scarcely prepared for it yet. The movement may not have to encounter much active intelligent opposition, but before it can achieve a triumph it will have to efface the heavy mass of indifference with which the subject is at present regarded.

THE Rev. Father H. Brann has been studying history. It might be a matter of some doubt whether he has a just claim to be considered as an historical discoverer or inventor. In either case he achieves distinction. He says: I wish to tell you the truth. When Martin Luther began his reformation in the sixteenth century, Germany was the least civilized portion of the European Continent. A small portion of it was converted, but a larger portion held to the old Pagan superstitions. The latter portion were therefore ready to accept any religion, and when Luther's supporters, a lot of drunkards, murderers, burglars, bigamists and adulterers, moved the ignorant on they pillaged the churches and monasteries of the Papacy and stole the chalice and Luther sanctioned their acts. After this, to go back to the Catholic Church meant to give up their plunder and they clung to Luther. And yet by such corrupt agents as Philip Melancthon and the Monk of Erfurt the great German Reformation was effected!

AN erratic Scotch divine recently gained considerable notoriety by preaching in favour of the theatre. Since then he has eclipsed himself. The fast-day used to be regarded in Scotland as a day of humiliation and confession. The service in which Dr. Kay was a star actor was humiliating enough and the confession came afterwards. On the evening of the Sacramental fast-day a large assemblage—between 4,000 and 5,000—met in the drill hall, where the proceedings were unique. Dr. Kay, an actor, and Professor Blackie made a night of it. The first named gave a portion of a lecture on the "Literary Beauty of the Book of Psalms," the actor recited and the eccentric old professor stood on his head—metaphorically speaking. The meeting was announced as a "sacred concert," but it turned out to be "chaos come again." This was the humiliation; The following Sunday evening Dr. Kay confessed to his congregation that the "service" in the drill hall "was certainly a mistake" and announced the resignation of his charge and withdrawal from the ministry of the Gospel in connection with the U. P. Church.

THE enthusiasm with which the Luther commemoration has been held is remarkable. In Germany it reached a sublime height. It is significant that Luther demonstrations were held in Madrid and in Rome. Throughout Canada on the 11th inst., most of the ministers either preached on the subject of Luther and the Reformation or made pointed allusion to the work of the Reformer. Toronto had a celebration worthy of her Christian enterprise. On Saturday afternoon at a large meeting held in St. James' school house, presided over by Bishop Sweatman, Canon DuMoulin read a paper on "The Conversion of Luther," the Rev. J. C. Antliff spoke on the "Precursors of the Reformation," Principal Caven on "Luther and the Biblical Scholars of the Reformation." A paper of marked ability on the "Necessity of the Reformation," was read by Dr. Thomas, and the Rev. John Burton gave an excellent address on "Luther at Home." The Rev. Dr. Scadding read a paper on the "Luther Medals." An address in German was given by the Rev. E. M. Genzer of the Lutheran Church. The meeting was large and appreciative.

THE Pavilion in the Horticultural Gardens, Toronto, was filled on the evening of the 12th inst. by an assemblage that met to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther. The chair was occupied by the Hon. G. W. Allan, President of the Upper Canada Bible Society. The speakers on the occasion were the Rev. G. M. Milligan, who gave an address on "Luther's Career as Illustrating the Relation between Creed and Life"; Professor Roth,

of Thiel University, on "Luther's Monument in Life and Works"; Professor Clark, of Trinity College, on the "Greatness of Luther's Character"; and the Rev. Hugh Johnston on "Luther's Influence on the Religious History of the World." The Rev. E. M. Genzer recited "Ein Feste Burg Ist unser Gott." The proceedings were enlivened by choral and orchestral renderings of "Nun danket alle Gott," an English version of "Ein feste Burg," the finale of "Luther at Worms," and the Hallelujah Chorus from the "Messiah." The members of the Lutheran Church in Toronto, by whom the movement was initiated, are to be heartily congratulated on the success with which the four-hundredth anniversary of Luther's birth was celebrated in this city.

OF the inaugural address at the opening of the Moral Philosophy class in Edinburgh University, delivered by Prof. Henry Calderwood, the "Christian Leader" says: It merits a special word of praise as a lucid exposition of those recent failures of the materialists of which they themselves are well aware, though they take care not to say much about them. The idea of spontaneous generation has been abandoned. The parallelism of organic evolution and progressive intelligence has not been established. The close analogy between the internal structure of the dog's brain and of the brain of man, and the still closer resemblance of the ape's brain to the human, has not favoured a materialistic theory, as at first expected by the materialists. The resemblance in brain structure has proved to be much too close to harmonise with the theory that brain is the organ of intelligence, just as it is of sensorimotor activity. The consciousness of all this is spreading in scientific circles; and one of the clearest proofs of the impression made by the latest researches is to be found in the altered style of thought now prevailing in those circles as compared with that of fifteen years ago. Prof. Calderwood was extremely felicitous in his contrast of passages written recently by the leading agnostic scientist of our day with passages which the same pen, in a much more confident mood, traced a dozen years ago.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—Last week has been characterized by a more than average warm temperature, much cloud, and with much unsteadiness in barometric pressure. We see in these conditions the existence of weather which has generally proved most favourable to health. The large amount of clouded sky has prevented great daily extremes; and the more than average warmth of temperature has, with a humidity below the average, been favourable to the repression of any great tendency to increase in diseases of the respiratory organs. Under such circumstances we expect to find that diseases in general have been comparatively few in number, and that relative positions of diseases remain much the same as during the previous week. It will be seen that Bronchitis has but slightly advanced, and that other diseases of the respiratory organs hold situations nearly similar to those of last week. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent experienced a slight decrease, but Enteric (Typhoid) has fallen quite markedly, for whereas last week it stood as high as 2.1 per cent. of all diseases, it represents this week only 1.4 of the total diseases. Amongst the contagious zymotics, we notice that, while all are present throughout the Province in small numbers, yet in several districts some one of them is present to a considerable extent. Thus District III., Muskoka and Parry Sound, shows Mumps to be largely present; District VIII., north shore of Lake Erie, has both Measles and Whooping Cough prevalent; and Districts IX. and X., east shore of Lake Huron and south-western peninsula, show that Diphtheria has retained a large degree of that prevalence noted several weeks ago. It is to be hoped that the fact of these diseases, being each prevalent in one or more localities of the Province may warn the community generally that should atmospheric conditions favouring their recurrence follow, isolation and careful disinfection can only prevent one or all of them from becoming widespread epidemics. Diarrhoeal diseases are, as remarked last week, steadily decreasing.