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The Month.

CURATES' AUGMENTATION FUND.

A T the annual meeting of the Curates' Augmentation Fund, the Rev. J. R. Humble presented the thirtieth report, which showed that the gross income had risen from £11,499 to £15,031, including £7,021 in legacies. The grants and trust payments amounted to £7,226, and other expenses to £1,306, leaving £6,498 to be carried to capital account. The fund, which was the only society doing this work, desired to help those curates who, after fifteen years' service, deserved assistance, having incomes below £120 a year on the average. The 158 curates who received grants last year had seen service averaging twenty-nine years apiece. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said there were 25,000 clergy and only 14,000 benefices, and it was thus impossible that every curate should attain a benefice; but it was the bounden duty of all, especially of the laity, to rid the Church of such a reproach as was to be found in the present state of curates' incomes. Canon Barker said the present state of things was almost a scandal to their wealthy Church. A large number of the laity were under the quite erroneous impression that if the endowments were well distributed no clergyman would be inadequately paid. Many incumbents were even worse off than the curates, and there was need of a great national fund to deal with both classes. The report was adopted.

ADDITIONAL CURATES' SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Additional Curates' Society, the Rev. Paul Petit, secretary, presented the report, showing an income of £69,493 (besides £2.127 in legacies), and an expenditure of £67,894. New grants had been made to 51 parishes. For the current year 988 grants had been voted to 846 parishes, exceeding the anticipated expenditure by £800; but more than 100 parishes still sorely required help. Special contributions were invited to form a quinquennial fund, the payments to be spread over five years.

CHURCH PENITENTIARY ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Church Penitentiary Association, the report showed that there were now in union ninety-one houses of mercy, and during the year 956 penitents passed through them, while 2,836 passed through the refuges. Of the former number the characters of 58 per cent. were considered to be favourable, 13 per cent. as unfavourable, and 29 per cent. as doubtful. Some in the two latter classes had shown by their subsequent lives that the care bestowed on them was not in vain. The association in forty-five years had formed a bond of union among those engaged in this work in different parts of the country, and had carefully devised rules for fresh undertakings. The growth of sisterhoods was in great measure due to this association. The income for 1895 was £1,363, against £1,756 in 1894, when £470 was received in legacies; and £587 had to be obtained by selling stock.

GORDON BOYS' HOME.

The annual meeting of the Gordon Boys' Home has been held in the Royal United Service Institution under the presidency of Field-Marshal Sir Lintorn Simmons. The annual report showed that the Home contained 240 boys; 64 boys had left, and 64 entered in the nine months

(ending with December) covered by the report. Of the 64 who had left, 24 entered the army (20 as musicians or drummers), 2 entered the navy, and 1 the mercantile marine; 10 found civil occupations, 15 were discharged on reaching the age of seventeen or eighteen, and several had since obtained good employment. Of the boys in the Home, 13 were employed as blacksmiths, 33 as carpenters, 40 as musicians, 38 as tailors, 25 as gardeners, 30 as shoemakers, and 13 as saddlers in the school established and supported by the Saddlers' Company. The nine months' expenditure had been $\pounds 4,927$. Subscriptions had brought in $\pounds 1,315$, and interest $\pounds 1,658$. The deficiency had been met by donations of $\pounds 1,130$, and $\pounds 822$ from the previous year's balance.

RITUAL.

The "Tourists' Church Guide" shows that the outward signs of extreme teaching are growing more rapidly than ever in popularity with the clergy. The eastward position has been adopted in nearly 6,000 churches; it prevailed in 5,037 only in 1894, and in 2,433 in 1886. Altar-lights are now in use in 3,568 churches; ten years ago in 1,136 only, and two years ago in 2,707. The chasuble is now worn in 1,632 churches; in 1894 the number was but 1,370, and in 1886, 509. Incense is used in 307 churches; in 1894 the number was only 250, and ten years ago 66.—Record.

THE ROMAN CAMPAIGN.

The "forward" policy inaugurated on his appointment to the Roman Catholic Archbishopric of Westminster by Cardínal Vaughan has presented a fresh development in the employment of laymen as lecturers in the public parks and open spaces. The new movement, which is under the direction of Monsignor John Vaughan, the Cardinal's brother, follows very much the lines of the Oxford House and other settlements in the East End of London, the members of which lecture in the open air. The lecturers are men of education and culture, and are, for the most part, drawn from the ranks of the legal and other professions. Great interest has been aroused by this novel departure on the part of the Roman Catholic body, and the course of lectures being delivered this month on Sunday afternoons in Hyde Park by a well-known member of the Bar has been attended by large and attentive crowds.

APPOINTMENTS.

NEW BISHOP OF LIKOMA.

Reuter's Agency learns that the Bishopric of Likoma, rendered vacant last September by the drowning of Bishop Maples in Lake Nyasa, has been accepted by the Rev. J. E. Hine, B.A. (Oxon), M.D. (London). Dr. Hine joined the mission in 1888, and, after working at Zanzibar, went to Likoma, on Lake Nyasa. After being stationed on this island for a time, he was sent to occupy the new station of Unangu, in Yaoland (Portuguese territory), about fifty miles to the east of the lake. Dr. Hine returned to England from this place in May, after an absence of five years. The consecration will probably take place in Westminster Abbey on June 29 (St. Peter's Day). Prior to joining the mission Dr. Hine was senior resident medical officer at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and afterwards curate of Richmond, in Surrey.

RECTOR OF BISHOPSGATE.

The Bishop of London has presented the rectory of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, vacant by the death of the Rev. William Rogers, to the

Right Rev. D. Earle, Bishop of Marlborough and rector of St. Michael, Cornhill. The value of the living, which was considerably augmented in the last few weeks of Mr. Rogers's incumbency, is nearly £3,000 a year.

MISSIONARIES.

At the meeting of the correspondence committee of the Church Missionary Society the following ladies were accepted as missionaries of the Society: Miss Gillmor, Miss Jackson, Miss Bazeley, Miss Acheson, and Miss Spreat. Offers of service were also accepted from the Rev. W. S. Walsh, curate of Derriaghy, Ireland, and Dr. A. C. Hall, superintendent of the Islington Medical Mission.

GIFTS.

Among recent subscribers to the fund for decorating St. Paul's Cathedral, which now reaches the sum of £26,000, is Mr. F. W. D. Smith, M.P., who

gives £,1,000.

A member of the House of Laymen of the Province of York has promised to give a sum of £500, provided that £4,500 is raised within a year, towards the erection of the west front of the Church House in Great Smith Street, Westminster, which will include the permanent hall for the House of Laymen to be erected as a memorial of the late Henry Hoare, and towards the total cost of which (£18,000) £3,000 has already been given or promised.

A donation of £500 has been given by Mr. T. A. Davies, of Neuadd, Crickhowell, towards the restoration (now in progress) of the parish church of Llanbedr Ystradwy, Breconshire, towards which a total of

£882 has been subscribed.

Obitnary.

THE Rev. Henry Frederick Barnes-Lawrence, Canon of York Minster, has died at the advanced age of seventy-eight. He had been associated with Yorkshire since 1849, when he became rector of Bridlington. He retained that living until 1874, when he accepted from the Simeon Trustees the rectory of Birkin, Ferrybridge, which he held until 1893. He then relinquished clerical work altogether. As Canon and Prebend of Ampleforth in York Minster he was appointed in July, 1886. He had identified himself closely with the Evangelical party. During his twenty-five years' residence at Bridlington the magnificent Priory Church was restored, mainly through his instrumentality, under the direction of the late Sir Gilbert Scott.—Record.

Great sympathy is felt on the death of Mrs. Percival, wife of the Bishop of Hereford, after a brief illness, at a house in the country, where she had gone for a change of air. Mrs. Percival, who was the daughter of Mr. James Holland, of Upper Norwood, had been announced to lay the foundation-stone of a new parochial school, but her illness prevented her from attending.