

The Month.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, in opening his Diocesan Conference at Lambeth Palace, referred to the agitation prevailing in the Church. Whilst disbelieving that any of the clergy desired to go over to the Church of Rome, he admitted that irregularities were practised in the Church, and said the Bishops were bound to look into them. Infraction of the Rubrics could not be allowed, and he trusted the clergy would seek counsel with their Bishops, and thus settle any dispute in a peaceable way.

Canon Bartram, Vicar of St. George's, Ramsgate, has been elected one of the proctors for the clergy of the diocese of Canterbury, in the place of the late Canon Whitehead; and Prebendary Hodgson, Rector of Handsworth, is the new Archdeacon of Stafford.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has offered the vicarage of Folkestone to the Rev. Erskine William Knollys, at present Vicar of St. Mary's, South Norwood. Mr. Knollys, who has accepted the offer, is well known in the district, having been diocesan inspector.

The Ritual question is very much to the front just at present, and a great many letters are being published in the press, professing to deal with the subject. Notably, the *Times* has opened its columns for the discussion of lawlessness in the Church of England; and several letters of extreme interest and importance have made their appearance there of late. Mr. Frederick Greenwood—a writer of considerable weight—writes as follows to the *Pall Mall Gazette*: “Whom we arraign we do not blame as Catholics teaching Catholicism in Catholic homes and temples, nor as Catholics engaged in the lawful propagation of their faith. They are blamed as feigning English Churchmen, bent upon sowing Roman Catholic doctrine in Anglican homes and churches, meanwhile eating the bread of the community they betray.”

The *London Review* states its own conclusions thus: “Our own view of the situation is that the extreme views of bigoted men in either direction must give way to the common-sense of the moderate men, who are the vast majority, and that, if the present disciplinary action of the Church—the mildest form of control that ever a Christian Church was governed under—is not sufficient to check mischievous abuses, the power of the Bishops must be enlarged by Parliament.”

Among other items connected with the subject, we have to chronicle the reply to the Bishop of London, signed by seventy-three of his incumbents. The Church Association, too, has issued an appeal to the people of England, and is promoting a Bill to suppress illegal practices. The Bishop of Winchester has made a formal request to his clergy to be given an opportunity of making an inspection of all added forms and offices used in their churches. The Bishop of Worcester makes for peace with the discreet statement that he did not think the way to prevent lawlessness was to proceed against it. In Liverpool a mass meeting enthusiastically carried Canon Hobson's resolution against ritualism. In Manchester the “Protestant Thousand” have addressed a memorial to all the Bishops, urging them to preserve the Protestant character of the Church. It is increasingly evident to thoughtful people, who cannot and dare not shelve certain issues, that the ultimate hope for the Church of England will lie in the formation of a *Religious Party* therein—religious in the vital sense.

It will, says the *Rock*, be a great shame, almost a national disgrace, if the Palestine Exploration Fund is not at once placed in a position to go on with its intensely interesting and valuable work. The July *Quarterly Statement* is full of interest. A letter has been received from H.B.M. Consul of Jerusalem stating that the Irade, sanctioning the excavations which they propose to carry out, has been duly communicated through the Minister of Public Instruction. The income of the society for the last quarter was only £330 13s. 11d. It is obvious that full advantage cannot be taken of the Irade just obtained, with such an income as this.

On Saturday, July 9, in the parish church of Beaconsfield, a memorial tablet to Edmund Burke was unveiled by the Earl of Rosebery. A large congregation assembled to do honour to the memory of the great orator and man of letters. Lord Rosebery's speech was in his happiest vein on this occasion. A report of the proceedings—which had their religious side, one is glad to note—will be found in the *Guardian* for July 13.

The Lord Mayor and Mayoress gave the usual annual banquet at the Mansion House on July 6 “to meet the Archbishop and Bishops.” There was a large gathering, and the Archbishop of Canterbury took the opportunity of adverting to the recent ritual disputes in the Church. While fully recognising that the zeal of some of the “extreme” men outran their discretion, which has resulted in mischievous irregularities—“and these, mind you, must be corrected,” added the Archbishop—he pointed out that enough time and toleration ought to be granted the Bishops “to enable them to make whatever they call upon the clergy to do sweet to the clergy; and also make the clergy feel that, though there are things which we [the Bishops] cannot allow, yet that our hearts are with them in their work.”

POOR CLERGY RELIEF CORPORATION.

The annual meeting of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation was held in June at Sion College, Victoria Embankment. In consequence of the Bishop of London being obliged to attend Convocation, the chair was taken by Archdeacon Sinclair, one of the vice-presidents. Among those present were Canon Benham, Canon Hunt, the Hon. Waldegrave-Leslie, Colonel Hardy, Dr. Freshfield, and Mr. Mandeville Phillips (secretary). The report of the committee emphasized the great need of the society, having regard to the fact that, of all the educated professions, the clergy of the present day belonged to the poorest. Help was afforded to necessitous clergy without reference to party complexion or schools of thought. The financial statement showed that the income last year amounted to about £15,000, and that £5,912 was absorbed in money grants to clergymen, widows, and orphans, £551 in holiday grants, and that clothing of the estimated value of £2,994 was distributed, leaving a surplus of, roughly, £6,000 to be carried to the capital account. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that there were something like 14,000 benefices in England and Wales, and of these no fewer than 5,900 were of less value than £200 a year, the annual income of 1,341 of them being under £100. He knew of numerous cases where small parishes might be united with advantage, but the difficulties in the way of doing so were enormous. Nothing less than a Royal Commission, with statutory powers, would be required. There was, however, no idea of anything of the sort being done at present, and so they must take these poor benefices into account. Owing to the rapid growth of popula-

tion, many new parishes were coming into existence from year to year without adequate endowments. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners used to provide £300 a year for all new parishes created, but they were no longer able to do so, having got to the end of their resources. Out of 13,688 incumbents in England and Wales, more than one-half were computed to be in receipt of less than £180 a year. How was it possible for the clergy to properly perform their manifold duties and educate their children on such a pittance? The distress of the clergy was very real, as members of the committee could tell from the applications made to the Corporation. It was a fact that many parsonages were without a fire during much of the cold weather; that in many parsonages meat was not eaten more than once or twice a week; and that many clerical families were almost wholly clothed from charitable resources.

BEQUESTS.

Mrs. Georgiana Willis, widow of the Rev. R. Willis, of Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, and last surviving daughter of the late Rev. William Allen, formerly of Ilfracombe, by her will practically gives the whole of her property, real and personal, estimated at £15,000, to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, to be applied by them for the augmentation of the benefice of the parish of Ilfracombe. The executors estimate the increase in value of the living to between £400 and £500.

The Bishop of London has paid over £2,000 from the Marriott Bequest to the Missions to Seamen as an endowment of its operations in the Metropolis, as defined by the terms of Mr. Marriott's will. The society has four chaplains and thirteen lay-workers employed in the port of London, who are supplied with two seamen's churches and institutes, and this is the first item of an endowment received for its London work.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The C.M.S. has just issued its 99th annual report, and a mere glance at it will suffice to show how widely extended are its operations. The Society's income last year was close upon £340,000, and no less than 1,096 European missionaries are in its employ. One of the most notable facts connected with its work is the immensely increased scope of its medical activities. Some idea of this may be gathered from the fact that no less than 590,074 out-patients were treated during the year.

The Colonial Secretary has sent the C.M.S. a pleasing recognition of the services rendered to English officers by Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Fry in Abeokuta. These ladies have not only given hospitality to the officers who were passing through to the Hinterland, but have nursed them in serious, and even dangerous, sicknesses. Their kindness has actually saved the Government considerable expense by averting the necessity of bringing invalids down to the coast. As an acknowledgment of the benefit thus conferred, Mr. Chamberlain has written to inform the society that he has permitted the local authorities to make a grant of £100 towards the erection of the church which is being built as a memorial of the late Rev. J. B. Wood, who spent forty years of his life as a missionary in Yoruba.

Mr. Cruddas, M.P., has given £1,000 to the Centenary Fund of the C.M.S.

The first meeting in connection with the C.M.S. centenary (which is to be celebrated next year) took place on Sunday, July 3; Sir John Kennaway presided. The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke at the meeting, which was attended by a large and representative audience.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

The anniversary of Dr. Barnardo's Homes was celebrated on Saturday, July 9, at the institution in Stepney Causeway. After a short thanksgiving service in the new chapel, a series of displays was carried out in the yard, including military exercises, musical drill, swimming competitions, and a parade of emigrants about to leave for Ontario and Manitoba. Lord Brassey, who presided at the meeting in the afternoon, said that in thirty-three years these institutions had rescued 34,000 boys and girls, and nearly 5,000 were always under Dr. Barnardo's care, being trained and educated with most gratifying success. Emigration, carefully organized, and carefully carried out in all its details, had been the keynote of the success of these institutions. In all 9,556 boys and girls had been sent to Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia, and it was very gratifying that over 98 per cent. had turned out well. About 700 were being sent out every year, and they had with them that day 250 who would sail for Canada the following Thursday. The general income last year had been £137,336, against £134,697 in 1896, but the special receipts for buildings had fallen from £12,343 to £6,671. Canon Fleming moved a resolution highly commending the work to the sympathy of the public. It was, he said, about the most economic work being done for England, even from the political and prudential point of view.

LITERARY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Oxford University Press has nearly finished printing the first part of the "Oxyrhynchus Papyri," which is being edited by Messrs. B. F. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt for the Egypt Exploration Fund. The volume, which will appear almost immediately, contains 158 texts, thirty-one being literary, and including the early fragments of St. Matthew's Gospel, Sappho, Aristoxenus, Sophocles, and of other lost and extant classics. The remainder is a selection of official and private documents dating from the first to the seventh century of our era, many of them of exceptional interest. The texts are accompanied by introductions, notes, and in most cases by translations. There are eight colotype plates, illustrating such of the papyri as are of principal literary and palæographical importance.

The Letters of Benjamin Jowett, edited by Professor Lewis Campbell and Mr. Abbott, are announced by Mr. John Murray as nearly ready for publication.



Obituary.

WITH the death of Sir E. Burne-Jones, we have lost a man who, for the past thirty years, has been universally recognised as one of the leaders of British art. And this, too, not least in the sphere of ecclesiastical art. Some of the finest stained-glass windows that our modern churches possess are his handiwork. No artist of this generation has more faithfully striven to incorporate the ideal into all his work, to emphasize the typical and the permanent, and to eliminate the merely transitory and individual elements. Herein lay the secret both of his mastery and his success. Imbued with the fine spirit of the early Italian painters, he was romantic in the most vital degree; and his best work is a commentary in colour, as in design, of Wordsworth's aphoristic line—a line which seems to sum up the three romantic passions in briefest possible space—"We live by Admiration, Hope, and Love."

E. H. B.