

The Catholic Guardian

ESTABLISHED AS A FORTNIGHTLY, 1876; ISSUED AS A WEEKLY, 1878.

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN", JAFFNA.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

Telephone: NO. 100.

Vol 69, No. 22.

JAFFNA, FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1944.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

ENCYCLICAL ON THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

(Continued from our last issue.)

The vastness of Christ's love for the Church is equalled by its constant activity. With the same charity let us show our devoted, active love for Christ's Mystical Body. Now, from the moment of His Incarnation, when He laid the first foundations of the Church, down to His last mortal breath, Our Redeemer never ceased for an instant, though He was the Son of God, to labour unto weariness for the establishing and strengthening of the Church, whether in giving us the bright example of His Holiness, or preaching, or conversing, or gathering and instructing disciples. And so We desire that all, who claim the Church as their mother, should seriously consider that not only the sacred ministers and those who have consecrated themselves to God in religious life, but the other members as well of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ have the obligation of working hard and constantly for the upbuilding and increase of this Body. We wish this to be remembered especially by members of Catholic Action who assist the Bishops and Priests in their apostolic labours—and to their praise be it said that they do remember—and also by those associates of pious unions who contribute their work to the same end. Everyone is witness to the high seriousness and extraordinary importance of their energetic zeal, especially in present circumstances.

In this connection We cannot pass over in silence the fathers and mothers of families, to whom Our Saviour has entrusted the most delicate members of His Mystical Body. We plead with them for the love of Christ and the Church to give the greatest possible care to the children confided to them, and to look to protecting them from the multiplicity of snares into which they can fall so easily to-day.

Our Redeemer showed His burning love for the Church particularly by praying for her to the Heavenly Father. To recall but a few instances: everyone

knows, Venerable Brothers, that just before the Crucifixion He prayed repeatedly for Peter, for the other Apostles, for all who through the preaching of Divine Gospel would believe in Him. Imitating this example of Christ let us pray each day the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His harvest. Let our united prayer rise daily to heaven for all the members of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, first for the Bishops who are responsible in a particular way for their respective dioceses, then for the Priests and Religious men and women who have been called to the service of God, and are protecting, increasing, advancing the Kingdom of the Divine Redeemer at home and in the foreign missions. Let no member of this revered Body be forgotten in this common prayer; let there be a special memento for those who are burdened with the sorrows and afflictions of this earthly habitation and for the departed souls in Purgatory. They, too, will be included who are being instructed in Christian doctrine, so that they may be able to receive baptism without delay.

PRAY FOR NON-CATHOLICS

And, Oh, how earnestly We desire that the immense charity of these common prayers embrace those also who, not yet perceiving the light of the Gospel's truth, are still without the Church's safe fold, or through the regrettable conflict of faith and unity are separated from Us, who though unworthy bear the person of Jesus Christ on earth. Let us then re-echo that divine prayer of Our Saviour to the Heavenly Father: "That they all may be one, as thou Father in me and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

As you know, Venerable Brothers, from the very beginning of Our Pontificate We have committed to the protection and guidance of heaven those who do not belong to the visible organization of the Catholic Church solemnly declaring that after the example of

the Good Shepherd We desire nothing more ardently than that they may have life and have it more abundantly. Calling on the prayers of the whole Church We wish to repeat this solemn declaration in this Encyclical Letter in which We have re-told the praises of the "great and glorious Body of Christ." From a heart overflowing with love We ask each and every one of them to be quick and ready to follow the interior movements of grace, and to look to withdrawing from that state in which they cannot be sure of their salvation. For even though unsuspectingly they are related to the Mystical Body of the Redeemer in desire and resolution, they still remain deprived of so many precious gifts and helps from heaven, which one can only enjoy in the Catholic Church. May they then enter into Catholic unity, and united with us in the organic oneness of the Body of Jesus Christ may they hasten to the one Head in the society of glorious love. With persevering prayer to the Spirit of love and truth We wait for them with open arms to return, not to a stranger's house, but to their own, their Father's house.

CONVERSION MUST BE A FREE ACT

While We want this unceasing prayer to rise to God from the whole Mystical Body in common, that all the straying sheep may hasten to enter the one fold of Jesus Christ, yet We recognize that this step must come of their own free will; for no one believes unless he wills to believe. Hence they are most certainly not genuine Christians who against their belief are forced to go into a church, to approach the Altar and to receive the Sacraments. The "faith without which it is impossible to please God" is a wholly free "submission of intellect and will."

Therefore, whenever it happens, despite the invariable teaching of this Apostolic See, that anyone against his will is compelled to embrace the Catholic Faith, Our sense of duty demands that We condemn the act. Men must be effectively drawn to the truth by the

Father of Light through the Spirit of His beloved Son, because endowed as they are with a free will they can misuse their freedom under the impulse of mental doubts and base desires. Unfortunately many are still walking far from the Catholic truth, not willing to follow the suggestions of Divine grace; and the reason is, that not only they but the faithful too fail to intensify their prayers to God for this intention. Again and again We beg all who really love the Church, after the example of the Divine Redeemer, to have constant recourse to that prayer.

PRAY FOR NATIONS' RULERS

And it is something more than commendable, in the present crisis above all it is imperative, the fervent prayers rise to God for Kings and Princes and for all those who govern the nations and are thus in a position by their protecting power to help the Church, so that, the conflict ended, wearied man may see "peace, the work of justice" emerge under the gentle breeze of Divine charity from out these dread, tempestuous seas, and Holy Mother Church "may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all piety and chastity." We must plead with God to grant that the rulers of peoples may love wisdom, so that this severe judgment of the Holy Spirit may never fall on them: "Because being ministers of his kingdom you have not judged rightly nor kept the law of justice, nor walked according to the will of God; horribly and speedily will He appear to you; for most severe judgment shall be for them that bear rule. For to him that is little, mercy is granted, but the mighty shall be mightily tormented. For God will not except any man's person, neither will He stand in awe of any man's greatness; for He made the little and the great, and He hath equally care of all. But a greater punishment is ready for the more mighty. To you, therefore, O Kings, are these my words, that you may learn wisdom and not fall from it."

(To be Continued)

COMMONS HAVE TWO-DAY DEBATE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Almost the whole of the two-day resumed debate on the Education Bill in the Commons consisted of discussions on its religious provisions, and they were still going on when the time came for other business. This meant that these provisions would also take up at least part of the next two-day debate.

Catholics, Anglicans, and Nonconformists united in the large majority which supported Mr. Butler in providing that there shall be—not merely may be—a collective act of worship at the beginning of the school day.

Non-Catholics also pressed the necessity—all along urged by Catholics—that there should be doctrinal religious instruction in State schools.

Mr. Godfrey Nicholson (Con., Farnham), a non-Catholic, objecting to the ban on doctrinal teaching in State schools, said:

"This clause has led the State to adopt a neutral attitude—it may have been changed in this Bill to benevolent neutrality—with regard to religion, and ask the Committee to consider whether

in this State, a democracy or a free State as distinct from a slave State, has made a good bargain in adopting a neutral attitude to religion in matters of education. I do not believe it has.

"I believe that it has made a very bad bargain, because the very existence of a free State depends on the general acceptance of the thesis that man is the child of God, that every individual man must be treated with dignity as a soul precious in the sight of God.

"All the rights of man, all liberties, all law, all justice depend upon the acceptance of that, and I do not believe we can get it if the State adopts a neutral attitude to religion and religious education."

DAILY ACT OF WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Harvey (Ind., Combined Universities), moved an amendment to alter the provision that the school day in every school shall begin with a collective act of worship. He wanted facilities for this in every school but

(Continued on Page 4.)

FACTORIES FOR BRIGHTLY POLISHED CITIZENS

In Tuesday's Education debate Mr. Butler gave a particularly bad revelation of what he dignified by the name of "the new philosophy" in education, but is really not in the least new and thoroughly bad, a reversion to the idea that a man is to be measured by his value to the tribe or the ruler. Saying that "It was not immoral for parents to contribute towards the cost of educating their children," he went on: "It would be immoral if a parent were to purchase a place in a school to the exclusion of somebody who would make a potentially better citizen. (Hear, hear.) If it were the case that a rich individual could buy his son, a dolt, into one of the best grammar schools, and that dolt was unable to profit by the education, he would, in the new philosophy of education, be taking the place of somebody who could profit better by it." The key phrase is "potentially better citizen," showing how in Mr. Butler's mind this great human activity, the education of the young, their formation for life here and hereafter, is unconsciously de-graded and crushed into the narrower idea of the making of useful

citizens. Schools are for more than citizenship, and they are primarily to enable parents to educate their sons. It is far better not to replace the parent by the examiner, which is what in fact education by merit means. We do not want to exclude the poor boy of merit, but we equally do not want to prevent the parent of the apparently dull child persevering with his education in the good grammar schools. There is, in fact, no sort of reliable test for measuring a boy's rate of development. Very many of the men who ultimately achieve most, mature very slowly, will seem "dolts" to Mr. Butler and his officials, will certainly be weeded out to make way for slicker boys, better examinees, less bewildering and not so irritating to their masters. The present Prime Minister is one of a great company of men who cut no sort of figure by school markings, and it is, indeed, said with a great measure of truth that people have their grand climacteric at different ages; some are at their best at school, others at the university, and others in full maturity. It is a wrong

(Continued on Inner Page.)

CEYLON SAVINGS BANK

The Annual General Meeting of the Depositors of the Ceylon Savings Bank will be held in the General Meeting Hall of the Chamber of Commerce Building on Friday the 30th June at 4-45 p.m.

H. A. HAMER,
Secretary.

Colombo, 9th June 1944.

Church Calendar

JUNE 1944

FRI.	...16 SACRED HEART.
SAT.	...17 Most Pure Heart of Mary.
SUN.	...18 2nd after Pentecost: S. Ephrem.
MON.	...19 S. Juliana.
TUES.	...20 S. Silverius.
WED.	...21 S. Aloysius.
THURS.	...22 S. Paulinus.
FRI.	...23 S. Etheldreda.

The Catholic Guardian

JUNE 16TH 1944

ON EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

The debate on the recommendations of the Executive Committee of Education for the reform of our educational system was expected to commence this week in the State Council. The motion as our readers already know was introduced by Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara with a speech which lasted six-and-a-half hours. This harangue consisted in an unseemly attack on the Christian schools that by means of them the Christians in this country have been able to wield an influence which if they should continue to exercise would be harmful to the country. The effective way of depriving them of that influence is either by wiping out these schools or impairing their efficiency. This is to be brought about by preventing them from levying fees and making them depend entirely on Government and bringing them completely under State control. Whatever name they may bear they must in reality be State schools. A Bill is already drafted to appropriate the school lands and buildings by way of devolution. But in a democratic country like Ceylon these radical changes cannot be brought about without the consent of the masses of the people. This consent is to be won by arousing religious animosity and by the bait of free education from the Kindergarten to the University. This is the *modus operandi* and the Minister has initiated it in his introductory speech. It remains to be seen how far this revengeful scheme will succeed with the majority of the members of the State Council. To dispel misunderstanding it may be useful to repeat for the tenth time that the statement that Christians or rather the Heads of Christian Colleges are opposed to free education is a downright falsehood. What they are anxious to safeguard is the high level and efficiency of their schools. The equipment grant offered by Government under the Reforms is totally inadequate and they ask that this grant be increased or that they be allowed to levy an equipment fee. If their request is conceded they will have nothing

to say against free education. But they strongly object to anything done which would lower the standard of their institutions.

To-day we would invite our readers to two long extracts in this issue taken over from the *Tablet*. Relating to educational reforms which form the much discussed topic of the hour these extracts will make very instructive reading. One of the clauses objected to in the Special Committee's Report is its proposed trifurcation at the end of the fifth standard. This must have been borrowed from the White Paper on educational Reforms in England and the writer of one of the extracts has this to say on it: there is no sort of reliable test for measuring a boy's state of development. Very many of the men, who ultimately achieve most, mature very slowly and he points to the present Prime Minister as an instance. But the whole passage is well-worth reading. The other and longer extract is still more interesting. It is a review by Christopher Hollis, a well-known thinker and an able writer, of a book with the telling title "The Abolition of Man," by an Oxford Professor. The surprising theme of the author is that the extension of compulsory education leads to the growth of ignorance. Our Minister of Education, no doubt, will be shocked at this view as he goes on the assumption that all schooling, save Christian is good and any money spent on Education is well spent.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Increased War Allowance.

It is stated that Government intends to increase the rate of war allowance to Government servants owing to the further increase in the cost of living. This is a confession of failure of control of foodstuffs and clothing. And yet a vast amount of public money is being spent by way of salaries for an army of Superintendents and Asst. Superintendents, Inspectors and sub-Inspectors whose business it is to control the price of these articles. Our Government is said to be clever at imitation and is always anxious to reproduce here what is done in England. Here is something that may be imitated with great benefit to all. In England they have succeeded in keeping down the cost of living although that country has actively been under war conditions for the last five years. In spite of this fact, the index of the cost of living is much lower in England than in this country. This they have succeeded in doing by granting generous subsidies. The Ceylon Government fights shy of subsidising the production of food and clothing but is ready to increase periodically the war allowance to Government servants, the tendency of which is to further increase the cost of living. There need not be so many frantic appeals for food production if the producers are encouraged by means of subsidies.

BOOK NOTICE

St. Sebastian's College Magazine

We have received from the Editor a copy of St. Sebastian's College Magazine for 1943 a couple of weeks ago. In reference to it we must say that owing to the restriction imposed by the Paper Controller its thickness has somewhat been reduced, so also the number of illustrations but in other respects it keeps to the high standard it has set for itself in its previous numbers. The Magazine opens with a full-page portrait of Mr. R. A. de Mel, Mayor of Colombo who is a great benefactor of the College having donated the sum of Rs. 25,000 for a Chapel. The Magazine pays a splendid tribute to his munificence and to his other personal merits. Naturally enough, one finds here the annual Report for 1942 and a long list of Prize Winners, short and well written articles from the students, an account of the doings of the Literary Union and of the Old Boys' Association. "Speak Better," says Mr. S. J. K. Crowther in a contribution of his, while Mgr. Edmund Peiris writes on Sinhalese Christian Literature. The above by no means exhausts the contents. Both in prose and verse in Sinhalese and Tamil, too, there is interesting reading matter to please everybody. We must single out the article "Catholic Literature in Schools" for special mention, as Catholic literature should play an important part in Catholic education. If students are given a taste for real Catholic literature before they leave school they may be relied upon to continue as good practising Catholics. The Magazine is a proof of the rapid strides St. Sebastian's College is making under the Christian Brothers. It is such success achieved by self-sacrificing work which has become a thorn in the side of our Minister of Education.

The Growth of Ignorance

The Abolition of Man or Reflections on Education

By C. S. Lewis, Oxford
University Press

There has been a certain ingenuousness about the very great majority of the speeches recently delivered upon education. The speakers have allowed themselves to state as an axiom that the more the money that is spent on education and the higher the school age is raised, the better informed everybody will be. Even Catholics have allowed themselves to accept this supposed axiom and have contented themselves with insisting that the instruction should take place in a Catholic atmosphere. Those who have opposed the extension of education have done so on the ground that it would be an evil if people knew too much.

I wonder if this assumption, whether it be made in support or in opposition to the spread of education, is at all true. If we compare the world of the middle of the last century, before compulsory education was generally introduced, with the world of today, certainly there seems little evidence that the result of it has been to make people generally better informed. On the contrary, the level of general reading is clearly lower today than it was eighty years ago. Eighty years ago a knowledge of the central books of the world's literature could be taken for granted among educated men. Today a man who knows the story of the *Iliad* or the *Divine Comedy* or the plots of Shakespeare's plays is looked on as a phenomenon or, more probably, has to conceal his knowledge for very shame, for fear of being thought to be showing off. Although the complaint is made against our grandparents that they learnt at school nothing except Latin and Greek, yet they seem at the end of it to have had a far firmer grasp of the history that they were never taught than is the modern pupil after his six years' studying of the text-books of it. Among our ancestors it was common to find men—particularly among those whom we would call uneducated—who knew the Bible almost by heart. Today people claiming the privileges of the educated are not ashamed to be found ignorant of

the most central passages in it. In Disraeli's *Sybil* the ignorance of one person concerning the details of the Gospel story is held up as a supreme example of the degradation of life under the factory system. The *Times* at the beginning of the war found that this ignorance, so exceptional before the days of universal education, was under it quite general. The most read pages in our modern newspapers are those which contain the prophecies of buffoon astrologers. The traditional astrology—the sort of astrology of which one reads in *John Inglesant* and with which such a man as Dryden dabbled, fallacious and perhaps harmful as it was, yet at any rate required some culture for its discipline. The astrology of the Sunday papers does not even bother to learn the tricks of its own trade. Any muck, it is found, will do for a public that is compulsorily educated.

There are some who argue that, although a little education has been a failure, yet the remedy is to give more education. Raise the school age, they say. But there again the remedy cannot be so naively accepted, for the compulsory school age is higher in the United States than it is here, and ignorance is even more widespread. I do not think that anyone who has had experience of the American public school system will deny that its pupils are even more ignorant than the school children of this country. There has, in sum, hardly been a period of history during which the decline of everything that is meant by civilization has been as rapid and as steady as it has been during the period of compulsory education.

I am not begging the question by assuming that *post hoc* necessarily means *propter hoc*. There have been many causes for that decline. Many of them have not been educational—at any rate in any restricted sense of the word—at all. Among the causes that can be called educational, not all are due to compulsory education. It may indeed be said that compulsory education has a certain share in the responsibility for the decline of reading. The vast, vaguely literate population provides the market for the popular press, the cinema, the best-seller, and the B.B.C., and then people who would otherwise have done better accept this pabulum through the line of least resistance, and thus serious literature is the sufferer. Yet the surrender clearly would not have been so easy had it not been for the previous treason of the clerks of education—for the weakening of the classical tradition in the schools and universities.

Yet that "education" can as easily be for bad as for good is amply proved by the example of the totalitarian countries. The old reactionary regimes used to be opposed to general education and to suppress it when they got the chance. The new totalitarian regimes have done nothing of the sort. They have found that it is easier to get people to obey them if they first educate them—educate them, of course, in their particular sort of way. Therefore it is not sufficient to say that we will have education, but we must rather ask with some exactitude, what is the education that we are going to have? This is the great importance of Mr. C. S. Lewis' Riddell Memorial Lecture on *The Abolition of Man*.—CHRISTOPHER HOLLIS in the *Tablet*.

Factories for Brightly Polished Citizens

(Continued from Page 1.)

Idea that a parent who is prepared and anxious to extend to his son that special consideration which strangers would not so patiently extend should be frowned upon for doing so, on the ground that there are other people waiting for the place on the class-room bench. There should be a balance between paid and free places. One of the mainsprings of human life is that men should be encouraged to do the best they can for their children, and one of the great ways is by standing by their children in that momentary dark hour when teachers and officials are taking a poor view of them. What is alarming in all this for the future of the nation is how far, in how few years, Conservatives like Mr. Butler have slipped and slithered into what is but the National-Socialist philosophy of life.—*The Tablet*.

LOCAL & GENERAL

War Allowance to Pensioners.

Government says the "Times of Ceylon" has decided to pay war allowance to its pensioners. The allowance, it is anticipated, will be at the same rate as paid on salaries, provided that the total pension in each case, if uncommuted, will not exceed Rs. 300 a month, subject to the limitation that no allowance should be paid where the pensioner resides in a country in which the cost of living has not risen by more than 50 per cent. above pre-war level. War allowance to Government servants will also be increased.

Strikes Settled.—Drivers and conductors of buses, on the Jaffna-Keerimalai route have returned to work after a two-day strike for higher wages. The dispute was settled by the omnibus workers' union and the bus company.

The dispute between cigar workers and certain employers over wages has also been settled at a conference in the presence of the Deputy Controller of Labour. A provisional decision was arrived at to fix the rate of pay at Rs. 4 per thousand cigars rolled.

State Council.—On Tuesday the State Council resumed its sittings and spent most of its time on discussing the question of the "rice purchases in India" on which a Committee of Inquiry was appointed which issued a report of its investigations. This discussion was raised on a supplementary vote of Rs. 22,000 to meet the expenses connected with the Committee of Inquiry. The members wanted not a Committee but a Commission of Inquiry on which they still insisted. To show their dissatisfaction with the procedure adopted by Government and of the results a token cut of Rs. 10 in the supplementary vote was adopted by the Council.

To make Sinhalese as Official Language.—Some of the steps that are considered essential to be taken to facilitate the adoption of Sinhalese as one of the official languages of the country were considered at two conferences held last week-end.

The conference agreed to ask the Board of Ministers to expedite the appointment of a Commission to report on the steps that need be taken to effect the transition from English into Sinhalese and also to inform it of any difficulties that lay in the way of allowing Sinhalese to be used in all Courts of the Island except the Supreme Court and the District Courts and in permitting a person to make an entry at a Police Station in Sinhalese.

The conference also decided by way of simplifying the language to revise the Sinhalese alphabet by omitting unnecessary letters and also reduce the number of characters required for printing.

Ceylon's Representative in India.

—The notice of the following motion has been given in the State Council by Mr. J. Tyagaraja, Member for Mannar-Mullaitivu:—

"That this House is of opinion that the post of Ceylon's representative in India should not be filled before this House decides whether the necessity any longer exists for making this appointment.

"I give notice that I shall move the suspension of all relevant Standing Orders in order to enable me to move this motion on the 28th inst.

Crime Wave at Kaithady.

Crimes of various nature and forms are on the increase at Kaithady, a village about 6 miles from Jaffna, lying to the North of the Jaffna-Kandy main road and surrounded by lagoon on all three sides, and most of them escape detection says a correspondent.

Besides serious crimes such as assaults, cattle-lifting, damaging crops, petty thefts of various articles, such as Coconuts, Plantain bunches, Poultry, Mangoes, Garden produce are not few in number; damage by stray cattle to farms is ever on the increase.

Infant Mortality Rate.—The infant mortality rate of the Island has increased by ten per cent. last year.

A deterioration in the health of the children has also been noticed and it is feared that they might bear the marks

of these defects in later years.

The present day living conditions with the difficulties of obtaining adequate food for the children and for the mothers who breast-feed them are considered to have contributed in no small measure to the state of affairs.

Value of the Franc.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Anderson, announced in the House of Commons on Tuesday that it had been agreed that the exchange rate for the franc should be fixed at two hundred francs to the pound.

Public Debt of India.—The sterling public debt of India was approximately 350 million pounds at the end of March 1939, and approximately 26 millions at the end of May, 1944.

Dean of Sacred College.—Cardinal Gennaro Pigatelli di Belmonte, Dean of the Sacred College, attained his 93rd birthday on April 2. Vatican Radio's news bulletin show that he continues to work as actively as 20 or 30 years ago. He went to London as envoy of Pope Pius X for the coronation of King George V. One of the members of his suite was Mgr. Pacelli, now Pope Pius XII.

De Valera's Victory in Eire Elections.—Mr. de Valera has secured an over all majority of 14 in the Eire election.

The final figures were: Fianna Fail, 76; Fine Gael, 30; Labour 8; National Labour, 4; Farmers, 9; and Independent, 11.

In the last Dail, Fianna Fail held 67 seats and other parties 71.

A Catholic Vice-Chancellor.—According to a reliable report in the "Indian Express," Madras, Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Mysore University. Mr. Ruthnaswamy is a devoted Catholic and one of the leading men of South India.

Coming Canonizations.—There are five cases in which the Sacred Congregation of Rites has concluded all the processes and in which everything is in readiness for the canonization. They are those of:—Blessed Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, a citizen of the United States who died in 1917; Blessed Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort, founder of the Sisters of Wisdom and the Company of Mary, a native of Lower Brittany who died in 1716; Blessed Joan-Elizabeth Bichier des Agnes, co-founder of the Daughters of the Cross, a native of France who died in 1838; Blessed Bernardino Realini, noted Jesuit orator who died in 1616, and Blessed John Peter De Britto, distinguished Jesuit Missionary who suffered martyrdom at Ranna (Goa) in 1693.

Amendment to Baptismal Rite.

—In the rite of Baptism, the priest moistens his thumb with his tongue and touches the lobes of the child's ears and the nostrils, saying *Ephpheta*, etc. This recalls the miracle by which Our Lord cured the man who was deaf and dumb. In response to requests from many Bishops and missionaries, says Vatican Radio, the Holy See has declared that, when cleanliness and the avoidance of transmitting disease made it advisable, spittle need not be applied to the child's features. *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* gives a new Latin formula which priests will say when they use the amended rite.

Under S.C. of Propaganda.

Vatican Fides Agency has stated that on June 30th, 1939, in the territories under the jurisdiction of the Roman Congregation of Propaganda, there were:—

21,915 priests, of whom 5,696 were natives, divided as follows:—10,659 in Asia, 5,330 in Africa, 1,333 in America, 3,652 in Australasia and 941 in Europe.

8,835 Brothers, of whom 2,307 were natives, divided as follows:—3,118 in Asia, 2,698 in Africa, 579 in America, 2,177 in Australasia, 263 in Europe.

53,025 Sisters, of whom 17,347 were natives, divided as follows:—21,544 in Asia, 10,672 in Africa, 2,869 in America, 15,161 in Australasia 3,779 in Europe.

New Nunciature.—It has been officially announced in Helsinki—although not yet from the Vatican—that the Holy See has decided to establish an Apostolic Nunciature to Finland "as

soon as circumstances permit." Finland will then be the first Scandinavian country with a permanent Nunciature.

National Food Campaign

The Colombo A.R.P. Controller and Assistant Civil Defence Commissioner has drawn my attention to proposals made to a meeting of Head and Deputy Head Wardens of the Colombo Municipal Area by means of which Wardens' Post Organisation might assist in the National Food Campaign by securing the maximum production of vegetables and fruit in Colombo gardens.

2. These proposals have my full commendation. The food situation has never been graver than it is now, and it is the duty of every man and woman in the Island to do everything possible to reduce our reliance on imported food-stuffs, whose supply may at any moment be substantially reduced. Our gardens can make a most valuable contribution to food production. In Great Britain, not only are all private gardens being cultivated by their owners, but also two million "allotments" have been taken for cultivation by persons of all classes. In the United States, 43 per cent of the vegetable grown in the country come from home gardens. We are as dependent on imported food as Great Britain, and far more so than the United States. We cannot ask other countries to ration themselves in order to provide us with food unless we show that we are making all possible efforts to feed ourselves. It is particularly necessary that every available plot of land in Colombo should be cultivated, for, not only have we the largest population there, but also many of our visitors judge us by what they see in Colombo. I hope, however, that Colombo will set an example for the rest of the Island.

3. I am glad that the Head Wardens and Deputy Head Wardens have shown an interest in this matter. Food production needs to be taken up by the leaders of the people. We must combat the impression, if it has ever prevailed—it is quite inconsistent with our own traditions—that growing food is not an intrinsically dignified task. The mammoth is today a symbol of national duty; and those who are seen in their gardens with mammoths in their hands are bearing witness to their sense of national and civic obligations.

4. I am making the necessary arrangements so that those who have real difficulties in cultivating their gardens may secure the necessary advice and assistance through the Wardens' Posts. The resources of the Civil Defence Department will then be made available to them.

5. I should deeply appreciate your personal co-operation and example in meeting what is the most pressing need of the day.

O. E. GOONETILLEKE,
Civil Defence Commissioner.

Free Milk Distribution

At the monthly meeting of the Jaffna Urban Council held on Friday last the Chairman Mr. C. Ponnambalam made the following statement regarding the milk distribution:

I convened a meeting of the leading residents of Jaffna in order to get public support to start distribution of milk to pre-school children within the town. The meeting was held on the 25th March, 1944, and it was decided to inaugurate the scheme of distribution of milk.

Thereupon I corresponded with the Civil Defence Commissioner and he supplied us with the necessary equipment and milk.

A meeting of the volunteer workers was held on 12th April, 1944. On 22nd April five centres were opened and on 23rd April three more centres were opened. Since then nine more centres have been opened. To-day there are 17 centres.

The average daily attendance during the month of May at all the centres is 1,309.

I think Jaffna has more milk centres than any other town in the Island, except Colombo.

I am glad to state that milk distribution has proved a great success in Jaffna.

At the Catholic centres, the Parish Priests are evincing great interest. At most centres lady volunteers are helping in the distribution at great personal inconvenience.

Response to our appeal for volunteer workers has been satisfactory; but we require more volunteers. I feel confident that in course of time we will get more volunteers.

The distribution of milk is in charge of the Medical Officer of Health. The Sanitary Assistants are directly in charge of the centres in their respective divisions.

The A.R.P. Controller has been kind enough to send A.R.P. Personnel to help at the various centres. He is also lending the use of one of his vans for distributing milk powder and sugar to the various centres.

I understand that there is dissatisfaction among the children that the sugar mixed up with milk powder is not sufficient. I have brought this to the notice of the Civil Defence Commissioner and requested him to grant me permission to use more sugar. I have not received a reply yet.

I expect to open three more centres shortly. We have equipment for three more centres.

I take this opportunity to thank the volunteer workers—both ladies and gentlemen—for helping us to make milk distribution a success in Jaffna. I thank also the A.R.P. Controller for the valuable help and assistance he is giving us.

Cathedral Building Fund

I acknowledge with thanks the following contributions:

	No. of	Inst.	Rs	Cts.
Mr. Joachim Fernandez	14		1	00
" A. S. Vanigasuriar	7		10	00
" B. J. David	12		5	00
" M. E. Rasiah	7		1	00
" R. J. Paul			1	00
" M. Sri Bandara			1	00
By sale of Bamboos			42	80
Mrs. M. B. Francis	54		4	00
Mr. W. C. Martinez	2		5	82
" Joachim Fernandez	15		8	50
Miss Mary Gertrude Machado	30		6	00
Mrs. Caroline Johnpillai	8		6	39
Mr. Lawrence Keil	10		6	00
" Claude Keil	9		8	69
" V. N. Rasiah	6		5	00
" C. Joseph	44		10	00
" James Christian	17		2	00
" D. James	28		2	00
" A. S. Francis of Mary	19		1	00
" C.W.D. Alwines	13		2	50
" S. Francis	11		5	00
" S. C. Lawrence	10		1	00
" M. Jacob	11		2	50
" A. S. Arulanatham	10		1	00
Miss Margaret Gregory	58		5	00
Mr. G. W. Pakianayagam	10		1	00
" A. Gnanapragasam	18		2	50
" Damian Raymond	6		1	00
" R. P. Pereira	3		2	00
Mudlr. S.M.P. Vanderkoon	13		10	00
Mr. P. Ignatius	4		2	50
Mrs. Susan Johnpillai	45		10	00
" G. A. Amirthanayagam	3		1	00
Chev. S. Arulanatham	29		5	00
Muh. A. C. Nalliah	6		5	00
Mr. Lawrence Keil	11		1	00
" Claude Keil	10		1	00
" N. A. Saverimuttu	3		1	00
" Norbert Cherubim	5		5	00
" A. S. Vanigasuriar	8		10	00
" Joachim Fernandez	16		1	50
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Joseph	44		1	00

S. G. HILARY, O.M.I.,
Parish Priest,
St. Mary's Cathedral.

(To be Continued)

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute the currysuffs mentioned below at the rates specified against each commodity to each consumer not attached to a Co-operative retail store from Monday, the 19th June to 26th June 1944 (both days inclusive).

1. Mysore Dhall 1 oz. per head.
2. Oorid Whole 1 oz. per head.
2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above articles along with their ration of other commodities.

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
for G. A., N. P.

Commons Have Two-day Debate on Religious Education

(Continued from Page 1)

said that "we should be making a mistake from the point of the State and of religion if we attempted to enforce upon school authorities as a statutory duty something which in its essence no Parliament and no external authority can enforce."

"You cannot say by Act of Parliament: 'You shall worship.' You can say, and I believe you ought to say, by Act of Parliament: 'There shall be the fullest facilities for worship.'"

The amendment was supported by Mr. Richards (Lab., Wrexham), Mr. Lindsay (Nat. Lib., Kilmarnock), Lieut. Commr. Gurney Braithwaite (Con., Huddersfield), and Prof. Gruffydd (Lib., Welsh Universities).

Mr. Butler replied that Mr. Harvey's drafting "leaves the matter rather too vague to satisfy the vast number of interests who have been in communication with me in this matter."

The Minister contended that it could not be called a compulsory act of worship since a parent who does not wish his children to join, in it is not obliged to cause the children to attend.

Mr. Butler remarked incidentally that the great part of the responsibility for religious worship or instruction "must fall on the denomination or on the parents themselves in the family circle," and adds: "There is a vast body of persons who desire to see a clause like this in an Act of Parliament."

Mr. Cove (Lab., Aberavon), a Non-conformist official of the T.U.C., urged that facilities should be given but that religion in the schools should be free from State compulsion.

The Communist M.P., Mr. Gallacher, made a speech in which he professed to be setting out the Catholic attitude, but was corrected by a Catholic M.P., Mr. Edwards (Lab., Whitechapel).

Mr. Butler rose again to say that "the speeches made about this being compulsory and totalitarian are grossly out of place," and insisted that in favour of the Bill's provision are a great many people, including representatives of the Free Church, the Church of England and other denominations.

MOST POPULAR CLAUSE IN BILL

Mr. Clement Davies, K.C., (Lib., Montgomery), a Nonconformist, spoke in favour of the amendment.

Mr. Colegate (Con., The Wrekin) said: "I have met a great many people of a great many different sects, and if there is one feature in this Bill which is more popular than any other it is the actual clause we are discussing to-day."

"I venture to say that if you could have a plebiscite of parents to-day 95 per cent. would vote for that clause as it stands, with the word 'shall' and not the word 'may'....."

"It is quite wrong to talk about this matter as though this were a totalitarian State forcing wretched little children to go to some form of worship to which their parents objected."

"This question of 'shall' or 'may' is one of the most vital things in the whole of this Bill. It represents not something that has been brought up at a late date but a feeling which has been steadily growing in this country for the last 10 or 15 years, and which was brought to a head almost immediately on the outbreak of war by the widespread feeling that the teaching in the schools in this country—only on this aspect I am referring to—was not all that it should be....."

FIRMER SPIRITUAL BASIS NEEDED

"I am not referring to what has been said about 'Godless' schools, but to a general feeling that a more spiritual view must be taken of education if it is to achieve the objects we all want it to achieve....."

"Read the literature, go to parents' meetings; it is an absolutely universal belief that the education of this country must be built on a firmer spiritual basis."

Mr. Driberg (Ind., Maldon), speaking as an Anglican church-warden and man-

ager of a Church school, said he did not think the compulsory act would be conducive to the interests of true religion.

"I think it is far more likely to be one step in the process which has been going on in recent years of developing a kind of national religion in this country comparable to the German Christianity which has been developed in Nazi Germany."

Mr. Magnay (Lab., Gateshead), taking a line different from that of other Non-conformists, returned to the defence of the clause.

"I think it would be to the utmost advantage of the education of this country if the Minister would adhere to the terms of the Bill," he said.

NO POWER IN SECULAR EDUCATION

"We are all agreed in this country now that there is no salvation in secular education. There is no power in it..... There are some indifferent persons who think otherwise, but I am talking about the common sense, ordinary people. I speak, as I have said here before, as a Methodist of four generations."

The amendment, carried to a division, was defeated by 121 votes to 20. The seven Catholic M.P.'s who took part all voted in favour of the clause as it stood.

On another amendment to the same clause Mr. Brooke (Con., S. Lewisham), an Anglican, asked that the word "Christian" should be included to designate the kind of religion that shall be given in the schools.

"This insertion," he said, "is the right way of safeguarding our plans against the kind of danger to which attention was called by Mr. Lindsay (Lib., Kilmarnock), who supposed that some new kind of State religion would emerge from this legislation."—*Universe*.

Telegraphic Summary of War News

IMPORTANT ALLIED ADVANCE

Allied troops are now regaining the initiative in the bridgehead and, have made an important advance in the centre of the front. Thrusting inland in the sector between Isigny and Trevieres, American forces have captured Lison, ten miles inland.

This gain was described on Monday at S.H.A.E.F. as "excellent news." Another significant gain has been made at the northern extremity of the bridgehead where the Allies are now fighting in the outskirts of Montebourg.

ABOUT 24,000 PARATROOPS FLOWN TO FRANCE

Approximately 24,000 paratroops—about two airborne divisions—were flown to the French invasion front from the British Isles, states the United States War Department.

The 82nd and the 101st United States airborne divisions are now in France, it was disclosed at S.H.A.E.F. on Monday morning.

It was stated at S.H.A.E.F. on Monday: "The Allied beach-head is now 51 miles long and runs ten-and-a-quarter miles inland at the deepest point." The line is described as "still very fluid."

CLAIM CAEN RE-CAPTURED

The German news agency, D.N.B., reported on Sunday: "West of Bayeux and east of the Orne, German troops continued their counter-attacks on Saturday. The result of Saturday's fighting was the mopping up of single British parachute nests of resistance in southern outskirts of Caen. The entire town of Caen is thus again in German hands."

THREE BIG ALLIED SUCCESSES

Three great successes of the Allied armies now battering against 250,000 Germans in the Normandy bridgeheads were announced on Monday midnight by Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force. They are:

- (1) Ten thousand prisoners have been captured.
- (2) The Germans are unable to extricate their armour to re-form for a full

attack because they have not enough infantry to hold the ground while the attack is being prepared.

(3) German Panzer divisions are using pre-1940 French tanks—interpreted as a definite sign of very great weakness.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, visited the Normandy beach-head on Monday. General Smuts accompanied Mr. Churchill.

LAST TO LEAVE FRANCE: FIRST TO INVADE

The last British division to leave France in June, 1940, was the first British division to invade France on June 6th, 1944. This is the 3rd infantry division which is fighting in France again under its old Commander—General Montgomery.

CARENTAN FALLS

Carentan, the key transport and communication hub at the base of the Cherbourg peninsula, fell on Monday before the overwhelmed, double-barrelled assault by artillery fire and crack airborne troops of the 101st American division. They advanced into the French village at dawn on Monday morning house by house. All day on Sunday, American artillery blasted away at the heavy fortifications surrounding this French Cassino. By nightfall, the city was in flames.

ENTIRE FOREST OF CERISY IN ALLIED HANDS

The general situation in France was described by S.H.A.E.F. on Monday night as "a little better than satisfactory." The whole of the Forest of Cerisy is in Allied hands. Command of the Bayeux-Saint Lo road has been gained. A "real dog-fight" is going on in the Caen-Tilly area where no advance is to be expected at present.

WEST WALL SECRETS PHOTOGRAPHED

For two-and-a-half years, pilots of the Photographic Reconnaissance Section of the Second Tactical Air Force have photographed secrets of the West Wall. Hundreds of thousands of pictures had been taken, including those of the beaches from Pas-de-Calais to the Cherbourg peninsula. Each beach had to be photographed at every state of tide—and regularly so as to make sure no extra defences had been put in.

FUSION OF BEACH-HEADS

Monday night's communique from G.H.Q. says that the fusion of the Allied beach head is now complete and that a coastal strip some 60 miles long is firmly in Allied hands. Its depth is being increased steadily.

ALLIES ADVANCE IN ALL SECTORS

The news from Normandy received in London on Tuesday night is regarded as gratifying. The Allied troops have advanced generally in all sectors, particularly south of Bayeux, between the Forest of Cerisy and Tilly-sur-Seuilles. Two more towns have been liberated—Troarn and Le Ham. More than 10,000 prisoners have now been taken.

Marshal Rommel's men were on Wednesday reported to be massing behind a strong defence line ahead of the Allied advance unit as the American troops beat them back along most of the front on Wednesday. There are increasing indications that the Germans are falling back on prepared positions.

GEN. EISENHOWER'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT

President Roosevelt, at his Press conference on Tuesday night, said he had received a message from General Eisenhower saying: "The first great obstacle has been surmounted—that is the breaching of the defences that the enemy, by lavish employment of enslaved labour, had installed in forest-like density along the littoral of Northwest Europe. Satisfactory as is the progress of this battle to date, in magnitude, it is but a mere beginning of the tremendous struggles that must follow before final victory is achieved. Our operations, vast and important as they are,

are only part of the far larger pattern of the combined assault against the Fortress of Germany by the great Russian armies from the east and our forces from the Mediterranean. Although the cross-Channel landing operations was attended by hazards and difficulties greater, I believe, than before faced an invading army, this initial success has given us a foothold upon Northwest France. Through the opening thus made and through others yet to come, the flood of our fighting strength must be poured. The Nazis will be forced to fight throughout the perimeter of their stronghold, daily expending their dwindling resources until they are overwhelmed by the hopelessness of their position. To this end, we need every man, every weapon and all the courage and fortitude of our respective peoples."

REMOVED IN CAPTIVITY

Official confirmation of the news that King Leopold was sent to Germany on June 7 was given by the Belgian Government on Tuesday. The Belgian Prime Minister, M. Pierlot, broadcasting from the Belgian national station in London on Tuesday said: "It is the Government's duty to announce to the country that the King has been removed in captivity to Germany. This event took place on the day after the landing of the Allies on the Continent."

THANKSGIVING MASS HELD

Nearly 10,000 Allied troops, British, American and French, attended the Fifth Army's Thanksgiving Mass in the Church of Santa Maria Degli Angeli, in Rome on Sunday. General Mark Clark and American, British and French Staff officers were present as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps attached to the Vatican.

FEARFUL RED OFFENSIVE

General Govorov's Crack Guards, supported by massed artillery and wave upon wave of first-line aircraft, are driving deeper and deeper into Karelian Isthmus defences of the Finns on the road to Viborg and Helsinki.

Fierce fighting is taking place around isolated Finnish strong-points on the flanks of a 25-mile wide breach which, already by Sunday night, had reached a depth of 15 miles.

PRACTICAL ADMISSION OF MAJOR DEFEAT

The week ending June 9 has produced the first practical admission on the part of the Japanese of a defeat in the major sector of the Manipur front following fierce resistance to our attacks. The much-battered Japanese 31st division has started a hurried withdrawal from the south and the east of the Kohima area, abandoning strong points. Elsewhere, there has been no marked change in the situation.

The Japanese have withdrawn from their positions commanding the Naga village of Kohima and our troops have occupied the Aradura feature and north-easterly prolongation. These two developments bring to a successful conclusion the battle for domination of the ridges—a battle which has been fought with increasing ferocity throughout the past two months.

The battles around Kohima have been no easy victories, our casualties have not been light and the enemy has once again shown himself to be a tough and skilful fighter. Great issues have been at stake, and it would not be too much to say that the fighting here of April and May 1944 has been of vital importance to operations throughout the whole eastern theatre of war.

