

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### Modern Paganism.

Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, is sending into every Roman Catholic parish in his diocese this year missionary priests to further "an intense and concerted effort to bring spiritual resurrection to the souls of the people."

In his Lenten Pastoral Letter, which was read in all the diocesan churches, he calls for a greater practice of religion to "stem the flood of godlessness."

"Human society," he writes, "in large measure, is sinking back into the condition of the world before the Incarnation. It is beginning to resemble the pagan decadence which St. Paul describes in terms of horror."

"It consists not only in an appalling indifference to everything supernatural, and in a complete forgetfulness of God and His claims on our service, but in an organised array of hatred for God and His law."

### For all Prisoners and Captives.

The sentence pronounced by the Lord Chief Justice of England on two male prisoners recently convicted of theft with violence—which left their victim in danger of death—was no doubt justice, seven and five years' penal servitude; but the addition of 20 and 15 lashes with the "cat" horrified thousands of persons, because they do not believe that personal violence on captives is permissible or remedial. We consider it barbarous and brutalising. As a child we saw a man on the treadmill for poaching a partridge. He smiled down on us, so evidently this brutal instrument of terror was no deterrent—next time no doubt he would bag a brace of birds! Our point is the treadmill is a punishment of a less civilised age—it is no more—and it is time the "cat" was no longer handled by a human hand in the hope of preventing crime—Why? Because all that is evil is lashed in and not out by brutalisation.

### Helping Discharged Prisoners.

The Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, speaking at a public function to raise funds for the National Association of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies, said: The work of the societies was one of the most important aspects of prison reform. He confessed that when he went to the Home Office he had never been in a law court in his life, and he had the interesting experience of being brought into touch with the administration of justice and the administration of prisons. He took an early opportunity of following his invariable practice of trying to see on the spot the problems he had to face and visited some of the prisons.

Among the impressions he had formed was one that there were a lot of persons in prison who ought never to have got there at all, and should have been dealt with on the lines of probation or approved schools. The first thing that should be done was to make a new effort to keep such people out of prison. The second impression he gained was that some people became so hardened in criminal habits that the State, for its own protection, should keep them in prison much longer than at present. It seemed to him futile and foolish to treat some of them with a continuous number of short sentences. One of the men he had seen in prison had had no fewer than 106 short sentences. His third impression was that with better organised effort and greater funds there would be much more chance of re-establishing prisoners in civil life when they came out of prison than there was to-day.

Every effort that had been made to humanise prison life in this country had been successful.

### A Tragic Matter.

There is a National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, surely a tragic matter which should stir

the sympathies of fathers and mothers of legitimate children. But is it necessary to support the cause of the unfortunate by an annual dinner-dance? Somehow it seems lacking in fine feeling and real sympathy to rejoice to gay music for such a heartrending cause. We hope the Council will decide to discontinue the annual dinner-dance, and raise funds in a less incongruous manner. We have known some of these tragic mothers; jazz and champagne does not somehow seem in character with their cause.

### Helping Housewives.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* reports that the shortage of female labour in German households and farms will, it is hoped, be overcome by the application of a decree recently issued by Field-Marshal Goering, Administrator of the Four-Year Plan.

In future, girls aged 25 or less will be eligible for private or public employment only if they have completed one year's service either on a farm or in a city household. The decree does not apply to those who are already employed on March 1st, but only to girls entering the labour market after that date. Social services and the nursing profession are also, according to the decree, sorely in need of recruits, and service for two years in these fields is held to be the equivalent of one year of house or farm work.

The decree is intended to benefit especially farmers' wives who at present are forced to work long hours for lack of servants, and city families with many children where the mother stands in need of help. The decree adds that "since German youths serve the Fatherland for 2½ years with spade or with weapons, German girls will certainly not wish to stand aside, but will joyfully and willingly do their duty in the sphere in which the Fatherland needs them."

This principle of "give" instead of "take" might well be encouraged in Great Britain, where "go as you please" is having serious results in the body politic. Work is no longer the first interest in life.

### WHAT TO READ.

#### MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"Montague Rhodes James, O.M., 1862-1936." Stephen Gaselee.

"Madame Curie." By Her Daughter.

"The Wind of Circumstance." Dearden.

"The Healing Knife." George Sava.

"The Love Story of Lady Palmerston." F. E. Baily.

"Dick Sheppard." By His Friends.

#### FICTION.

"The Rains Came." Louis Bromfield.

"Sleep in Peace." Phyllis Bentley.

"That State of Life." Hilton Brown.

"The Golden Venture." Ursula Bloom.

"Faithful Stranger." Sheila Kaye-Smith.

"The Broken Sword." Arthur Mills.

#### CURRENT EVENTS.

"Inside Europe." John Gunther.

"War Can Be Averted." Eleanor Rathbone, M.P.

"The House That Hitler Built." Stephen H. Roberts.

### A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

#### Adventure into Nursing.

Not of the sunlight, not of the starlight,

Not of the moonlight, oh, young Mariner!

Down to the haven, launch your vessel,

Call your companions, and crowd your canvas,

And e'er it vanishes over the margin

After it,

Follow it,

Follow the gleam.

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