

No. 93, another palace built by Pope John III is decorated with stucco relief - Farnese lilies combined with Papal Keys and umbrellas. Near the Florentine Church was a fountain once described as the ugly fountain of Mascheroni. This was once made to spout wine, but not while we were there!

Near Hotel Cardinal was the Church of St. Biagio della Pagnotta, better known to us as St. Blaise, on whose feast day we have our throats blessed. In this church, there was veneration of the Blessed Sacrament from 4.30 until 7 o'clock, followed by Mass. We were able to hear Mass in the evenings before dinner. We received Holy Communion under both kinds by intinction; the Reverend Mother held the Chalice and the priest dipped each Host into the Chalice, saying, in Italian, "Body and Blood of Jesus Christ".

### "THE SOFAS"

Projecting from the walls of the hotel are great blocks of stone. They are the remains of the unfinished Tribunal which Bramante was to have built for Pope Julius II. They are irreverently known to the Romans as "The Sofas of Via Guilia".

No. 52 was Innocent X's prisons - Carceri Nuove. Built in 1655, they were considered to be models of their kind, even as late as 1845. The buildings now house the Museo Criminale, and is used by the Ministry of Grace and Justice. Opposite is the dilapidated Church of St. Philip Neri.

The whole street contains many more palaces and churches, and ended with a picturesque arch, which is all that remains of Michael Angelo's project for linking Via Guilia with the Farnesina across the Tiber.





Recollections of some of the members of  
the Congregation of St. Mary's, Newport,  
1876

by Thomas Donovan.

An elderly parishioner tells me that Mr. Donovan, who was one of the 'Board of Guardians' worked at the Gas Works, and said the Rosary in the front bench of the church during May and October.

"The Parish and Church of St. Mary's were served by the Reverend Fathers Cavalli, Michael Bailey and McGuire. There was no church at St. Michael's at this time and people from Pill walked to Stow Hill to Mass.

In those days, the leading Catholic layman was the late Dr. Robert Woollett, J.P. (He is the doctor to whom the stained glass window is dedicated in Church) who was a most regular attendant at the 9.30 Mass on Sundays. He resided at 'The Mount', Park Place. Dr. Woollett presented a large silk flag of the papal colours and a pole to Father Cavalli, who had it fixed to the church tower.

On the morning of the funeral of the late doctor, the flag was hoisted at half mast during the Requiem Mass being celebrated by Bishop Hedley. As a result of the bottom of the flag becoming entangled with one of the pinnacles, the pinnacle broke into two parts and crashed through the roof of the church, breaking up part of the centre aisle. Two of the beadles, namely Thomas Lee and John Husey were standing very near to the spot where the stone crashed to the floor, and had miraculous escapes from injury and, although a quantity of stone and slate was strewn among the congregation, no one, thank God, was injured. The writer was one of the two, who, at the request of the late Brother George, removed the flag, and shortly afterwards, the flagstaff was removed and never replaced.

Another prominent member of St. Mary's was Mr. Thos. Woollett, who lived in Commercial Street, where now stands part of Reynolds shop (Owen, Owen!). He was always very keen on asking the men of the congregation to go as far as the bottom of Stow Hill before lighting up their pipes after the services. He was Town Clerk of Newport for many years, and was well respected by all.

Another fine gentleman and pious Catholic was Mr. Blount. He built St. Mary's Lodge, Fields Road, where to-day remains the niche and statue of Our Lady in front of the house. (This house was demolished to make way for the Civic Centre and the statue is now over the front door of our presbytery.)

#### STAINED GLASS WINDOW

A prominent Catholic family of that day too was Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins, who lived in Clarence Place, near the top of Corporation Road. Mrs. Hawkins possessed a very fine voice and for many years the choir of St. Mary's was blessed with her services. Some time after the death of her husband, Mrs. Hawkins provided a stained glass window in St. Patrick's Chapel in his memory.

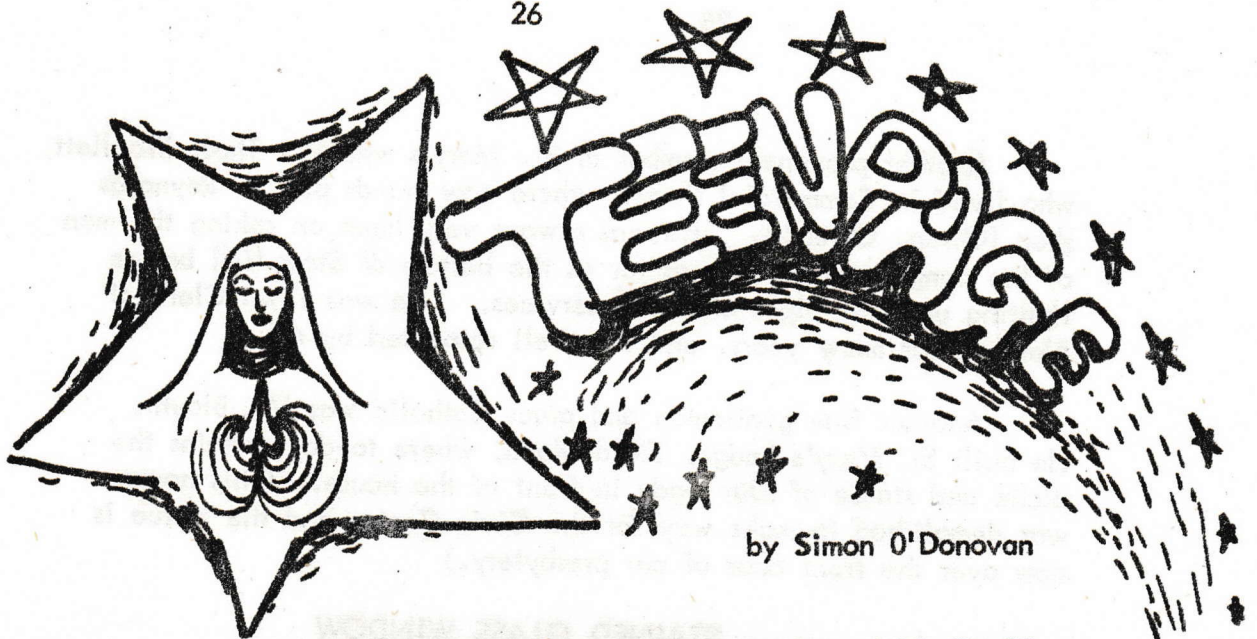
Clarence Place was also the residence of another fine family - Mr. and Mrs. Hurley - grandfather and grandmother of Abbot Hurley. Mr. Hurley was the founder of a very successful cooperage business, which after his death was carried on by his son (Father of Abbot Hurley).

Alderman D. A. Vaughan, Alderman Thos. Canning and Mr. C. Harrington were very devout Catholics, and during the troublesome times in Ireland took a deep interest in the Irish people and their cause.

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Q      What did Michael Faraday say when he discovered electricity?

A      "How shocking!"



by Simon O'Donovan

### THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TRUST AT LOURDES

For many of our children, this was the first holiday of their lives. Not only was the holiday for them a new experience, but it provided an opportunity for their parents to have a holiday also.

Being a new experience in a foreign land, with virtually unknown people looking after them, the whole journey had to rely on the basis of trust. Everyone, after a few days, had become very attached to one another and the atmosphere throughout the group became very friendly.

In our short five-days stay in Lourdes, we tried to make the children feel a certain degree of independence, having bedrooms with a friend or a helper. Outings were a regular feature; the day trip to Gavanni remains uppermost in my mind. The look of delight from the children getting on the horses warmed the heart, which was just as well, Gavanni being in the Pyrenees.

Our daily visits to the Grotto provided inspiration for most concerned, and all were pleased to feel the almost divine atmosphere that surrounds the Grotto. The candle-light procession is really a great experience, and ended a most enlightening journey to Lourdes.