

BLACKFRIARS

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DOMESTIC EVENTS

SINCE the war many religious orders and congregations have had an opportunity of reaffirming their own international and peaceful bonds in their General Chapters and Assemblies for the election of new officials. These domestic events have a wider significance than at first sight appears, in that many of the members of these assemblies come from recently opposing countries. They had been prevented from communicating with one another throughout the years of war; they had been in one way or another involved in their own nation's struggle. Yet they could meet again in a friendship which overrides the belligerent barriers with a fraternity based on supernatural love. The domestic happenings of the Dominican Order would not be of interest to many readers of BLACKFRIARS except that they represent a wide ideal of friendship and cooperation among nations. The Chapter General opened with the solemn translation of the relics of St Dominic at Bologna as a fitting symbol of the unity of tradition and ideal among all the members of the Order. The representatives returned to Rome to elect an eminent Spanish Canon Lawyer, Father Emmanuel Suarez, as head of the Order. As a result of the new dispositions of this Chapter the English Dominicans had to gather to elect a successor to their Provincial whose

presence was required in Rome to assist the Father General. The newly elected Father Provincial, Father Hilary Carpenter, will receive a special recognition and welcome from this review as he was for six or seven years its successful editor. Almost at the same time as this last event there died an old and revered Dominican—Father Hugh Pope—well known alike for his Scripture studies, his immense apostolic labours and his simple and profound spirituality which influenced many. Father Pope was himself a frequent and distinguished contributor to this review.

These domestic events therefore show the passing of an age and the beginning of new life, the reunion and the rebirth of an international religious Order. They point many morals and are consequently presented here with this explanation but without apology.

THE EDITOR.

ST DOMINIC IN MODERN ROME

MR G. K. CHESTERTON tells us in one of his essays of a man who went to Rome and missed seeing the Pope because he stood too long staring at the Papal Guard. We can have more sympathy with that sort of absence of mind than with the more serious kind of tourist who, Baedeker in hand, 'does' Rome dutifully and grimly and comes home exhausted and dazed with a blur of memories. Sight-seeing 'according to plan' is one of the penitential exercises of the pilgrim: much better to keep your eyes open and let the sights seek *you*, and you will stumble on surprises at every turn and be rewarded with thrills all the time.

When you go to Rome to attend a General Chapter there is not much time or opportunity for sight-seeing: in a sense you become part of the picture; for the time being you are one of the sights yourself. But even so, you can't help noticing things and there are wonders for your delight on every hand. When we came down from the sky it was a very abrupt change from the wet winds and cold rains of the North to the parched, dusty airfield at Chiampino blazing in the sun. The tropical dress of the R.A.F. men in contrast with ourselves dressed in the attire of a less torrid climate made us feel even warmer than we actually were; but we positively gasped and perspired when from the bus that took us to Rome we saw a football match being played before a cheering crowd at a terrific pace while the thermometer registered nearly a hundred degrees.

Rome itself after six years of war, seen through the memory of previous visits made at intervals during the last twenty years, presents a study in contrasts. The eternal city defies the changes of