

## BLACKFRIARS

bility or else pure charlatanism—such is the state of affairs. I am not a politician that I should suggest remedies. I can only hope that under the benign influence of good food and good drink people will continue to buy the works of those who, in spite of everything, are the only responsible workmen left.

I apologise for the extremely elementary nature of my remarks. I confess I like elementary lectures much better than the advanced kind. As Mr. Belloc used to say during the war: 'two come from the left, and two come from the right—making four in all.'

ERIC GILL.

## PICTANTIAE

As a Freethinker, I am still waiting for a Freethought lecture from Boadcasting House.—Letter in *The Listener*.

In the West, as everywhere else, the people who have something to lose are anxious for the return of the Cosgrave régime. Those on the other side are immature, and it is unfortunate that the channels of emigration which afforded an outlet to Irish youth in the past are now virtually closed.—*The Times*.

With regard to Anglican relations with the Roman Catholic Church, he maintained that a re-union which omitted half of Christendom would be Hamlet without the ghost.—*Church Times* report of an E.C.U. lecture.

Even a Catholic review does not always express the mind of the Church.—*Blackfriars*.

To the general level of uninspired mediocrity in the New Year's Honours List there are a few intelligent exceptions. Sir Thomas Horder will bring his courageous views on birth control into the Upper House of Parliament.—*The Week-end Review*.

## PICTANTIAE

It has frequently been suggested that the use of incense in churches may prevent attack by *Xestobium*. Larvae were removed from wood and exposed in a concentrated atmosphere of incense fumes for periods up to a maximum of two weeks. No visible ill-effects were apparent in any of the insects. No information is available on the cumulative effect of incense, but it seems unlikely that the use of this substance would have any deleterious effect on the larvae.—*The Times*.

Can it be that the Sinister Influence, as we have called it, which makes the National Government so mysteriously subservient to a mocking Moscow, extends its long arm to Broadcasting House?—*The Tablet*.

The Roman religion is an agricultural religion whose Deity is incarnate in the twin pillars of Latin Agriculture, bread and wine.—Mr. F. A. Ridley, in *The Adelphi*.

The Movement for the Encouragement of Godlessness, which began in Moscow, is taking on an international character and becoming ambitious, I understand. The promoters have their eyes on Geneva, and want to have offices in the city associated with Calvin and Luther.—*The Star Man's Diary*.

He thought that every locality might have its 'Saint's Day' in commemoration of men who in the past had deserved well of the Republic. Why should not Plymouth have its Drake's Day, or Rochdale its Bright's Day, Birmingham its Chamberlain's Day?—*Times* report of a bishop's speech.

Mrs. W. C. Roberts, wife of the rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, in a paper, said there was nothing whatever which differentiated women from men except sex.—At the Oxford conference for the ordination of women.

If the modern notion of a world grown cold and dead, in a solar system grown cold and dead, drifting through a cold and dead universe, is to be the end, we like to picture on the bleak surface of the globe the Selfridge Building holding its hoary and impregnable place in the silence and the gloom.—Selfridge advertisement.