

the hens, pigs, and cows, are breathing more freely. With two classes removed there are about as many students as last year, but the faculty is not so formidable.

Again, however, the old farmhouse with its substantial ell and cozy chapel is, as the reporters in daily newspapers say, "taxed to the utmost." But at the Vénard hope is always on the horizon.

The boiler house—an utterly unworthy name—of the new Vénard is rising to its roof, and while no Christmas evergreen will hang in its windows it bids fair to promise an opening before the year 1919 is far advanced.

Mother Maryknoll does not expect her young offspring to pay for the new structure, although it will probably be better and bigger than anything she has for herself. But she is counting on Liberty Bonds and War Savings and Thrift Stamps to prove that in these war days Catholics can combine patriotism and faith for the extension of the kingdom of God.

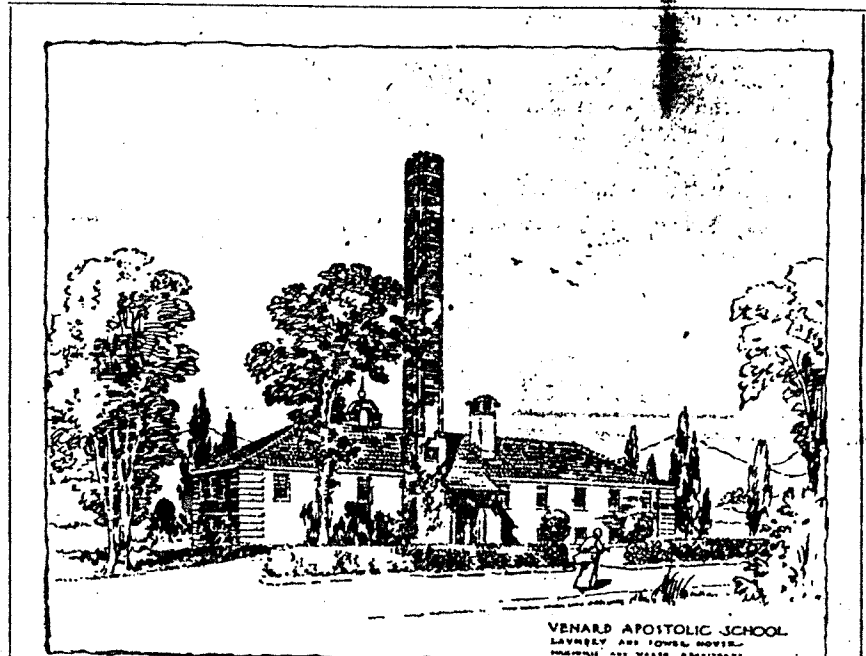
Maryknoll now has its desire partially realized, in a representation from the Golden Gate. A young San Franciscan left his home in early September and is now on the lengthening roster of American aspirant apostles.

PRIEST-FRIENDS.

TO some one we are indebted for a missal in memory of Rev. William Casey. The missal is not a recent one but is very welcome, as would others be, for our altars are multiplying.

From the Philadelphia office of the S. P. F. came these words:

The FIELD AFAR has just come. It is like a good, old friend who is always sure of a real welcome, no matter how busy the moment of his arrival. As usual, a "recess" was immediately declared and affairs of state temporarily forgotten.



THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW VÉNARD.
(The structure will soon serve as a school also at Clark's Green.)

The month's mail bags were light at times, but our priest-friends came to the rescue.

Through the will of Fr. Boucher of Massachusetts, a final payment of \$704.50 was received for the Chinese mission. Another will yielded \$161.91. A Massachusetts priest sent a \$1,500 annuity, which later will benefit and even now helps to secure Maryknoll. Priests in Missouri, New York, Indiana and Connecticut sent fifty-dollar offerings.

One of our priest-friends, who evidently reads this paper with his best glasses on, asks us to explain to the local undertaker of his town why, in a recent issue, we levelled such a shot at the high cost of funerals!

He refers to the suggestion that enough could often be spared from unnecessary funeral expenses to provide a Perpetual Membership for the deceased.

The shot seems to have made a noise, but as the undertaker's name remains on our list we are

quite satisfied. Perhaps the undertaker will think of the recommendation when preparing for his own funeral.

From Batavia, Illinois, comes this letter with \$50 for the education of a native seminarian in the diocese of Nagasaki, Japan:

The kiddies in catechism classes took to the idea of keeping a student for the priesthood as ducklings take to water. I often read to them or tell them the contents of THE FIELD AFAR and the interest they manifest is certainly flattering to you. God grant that some of the future laborers for the vineyard may be chosen from this little flock!

Under the compelling idea of "getting" another student, some of the high financiers suggested—no, clamored for, fought for!—investing \$12.50 of their own funds in a waste-paper baler. I have an idea that parents must look sharp to have waste paper to start fires this winter!

Do not for the present go to the expense of buying chalices for Maryknoll.

Several priest-friends have given us their extra ones for our new Mission and we have received others from the estates of deceased priests.

"EVERYBODY WELCOME AND EVERYTHING FREE"

Along the Line.

Maryknoll-in-Scranton.

ALTHOUGH winter has not entirely loosened its grip upon the mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania, the "yonge sonne," of which Chaucer sang long ago, is making his influence felt; and every now and then there comes a day of warmth and sunshine which makes us feel that spring is just around the corner waiting for a chance to show her smiling face.

And when spring does come here, she comes fast. Such hustle and bustle as there is from then on! Our growing season is short, and land must be made ready so the crops can be put in at the earliest moment, roads need constant attention to offset the damage done by frost and freshet, and, in general, manual labor squads are kept busily at work.

And you would be surprised to know how many tools it takes to keep all busy. Most of these we have on hand have reached the stage where "honorable retirement" should be their portion. There is a limit to the number of times a pick may be ground down, and, even with the efforts of our mechanics, hoes and rakes will get to the point where they are no longer useful. Our shovels are mostly of a "collapsible, folding" variety unknown to commerce, and while highly entertaining, since no one knows just what they are going to do next, they are of little value as real tools. We need just about a dozen of each article, and they should be purchased at once. The procurator asks, "With what?" That, dear reader, is for you to say.

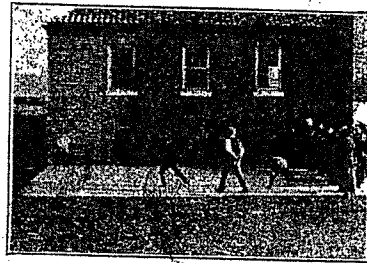
The Vénard proved a popular place during the Christmas holidays, as about a quarter of our whole student body remained over with us and enjoyed the relaxation of vacation time. The regular religious exercises and manual labor kept our youthful aspirants from getting too far out of routine, while the ice and snow afforded abundant opportunity for outdoor sports in the free time. All, both those who stayed and those who went home, were ready, however, for the resumption of school days and are now hard at work in the midst of the second term.

Thus, do the years go by, and before one knows it, one hears the words, "Maryknoll next year," and another milestone on the road to the missions is passed. Aiding us to make the most of these years, the prayers of our friends are of prime importance, and we wish to thank them thus publicly for the thousands of supplications and good works they have offered, at the same time beseeching them to continue their efforts in our behalf. We assure them that they will not be forgotten here or hereafter.



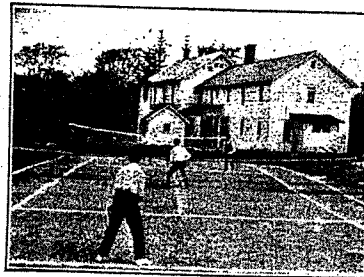
WHEN THE ROADS ARE FROZEN.

A series of debates covering a number of current and perennially interesting topics has been arranged for the remainder of the scholastic year. These are conducted entirely by the students, both debaters and judges being from among the student body. The occasions serve as a great stimulus to reading and research, and to the development of the ability to think clearly and rapidly—very essential qualities in a missionary.



BETTER THIS KIND THAN NONE AT ALL.

Visitors to the Vénard will remember the rather unsightly swamp which lay alongside the main road to the college building. The land seemed almost useless, as it lay in such a position that satisfactory drainage was out of the question, and it could not be used for crops. This winter the problem has been solved. The engineering skill and work of faithful manual labor squads have caused a dam to be built across the outlet to the swamp, and the whole is now turned into a good-sized lake, on whose smooth surface skaters have



VISIONS OF SPRING.

enjoyed themselves during the winter recreations. This lake does not do away with our ice pond, which is farther down, but it enables the students to continue their ice sports while ice-harvesting is going on. Later on we may have some boats and take our friends "sight-seeing," or run a "ferry" for those who take the old short cut to Clark's Summit.

Maryknoll-in-Los Angeles.

THE diary from Los Angeles was held up last December, but no one was hurt. We have extracted the few bits that follow:

Mr. Kishi, Japanese consul, made his first visit to the school. He was impressed by what he saw, and expressed satisfaction because the children are receiving Christian education. He himself is a Christian, but we have not learned to what denomination he belongs. Mr. Shibasaki, vice consul, accompanied him.

The press announced in big headlines that the United States Supreme Court upholds the California and Washington laws which deny Japanese, Chinese, and Malays the right to own or lease lands in these States. The poor Japanese are hard hit by these laws, proposed by petty politicians who are capitalizing on the hostile legislation. Surely there is little prospect of converting these people when they see what the Christians are doing to them.

Father Superior arrived early in the morning and came to 426 for Mass. After breakfast he called on the Sisters, and we had the pleasure of hearing news of all Maryknolls.

Father Superior gave the meditation to the Sisters and Brothers over at the convent chapel. Afterwards he spoke with some of the congregation and exchanged greetings. Present at Mass was Miss Martha Anderson, born in Japan, of American and Japanese parents. She is just from Yokohama, where she experienced, on September 1, the unpleasant sensation of being buried for three hours under the ruins of the Sisters' orphanage, which was destroyed by the earthquake, causing the death of several Sisters and children.

After long waiting, the new school bus, decided on by Fr. Kress just before he went to San Francisco, arrived, and was blessed by the Superior. The bus is very attractive, with steel body, latest model of Reo chassis, done in olive enamel, nicely upholstered longitudinal seats, cross seats down the center, and, on the sides, in gold letters, are the words MARYKNOLL SCHOOL.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.



AT THE VENARD COLLEGE.
Some of the foreign mission Brothers of St. Michael who are stationed at the College.

have been raised from five thousand dollars to six thousand.

At the Preparatory College, there is a fixed charge of two hundred and fifty dollars a year, or twenty-five dollars a month. Withdrawals from a Major Seminary are rare, but a Preparatory College for the priesthood does well if it carries through to the Seminary fifty per cent. of the young aspirants who "make the try;" therefore, in justice to our benefactors, we feel that, when at all possible, our preparatory students should be made responsible for their education while with us.

The charge of twenty-five dollars a month substantially covers expenses, and the student assumes the responsibility. In some cases, where the family is in comfortable circumstances, there is no difficulty; in others, a priest interested in the boy will find his board. Often, however, the charge can be met only partially, and, sometimes, not at all.

In such cases, we try to apply a Burse—of which there are a few

Have a Mite Box!
A post card will bring one.

for the Preparatory College—or a student support gift. We also encourage the student to get credit for extra manual labor or for subscriptions to THE FIELD AFAR. It need hardly be added that, in many cases, the Maryknoll Treasurer must rob Peter to pay Paul, because we don't like to turn away fine young souls who are willing to give up all for Christ.

From The Venard.

WITH ninety-three on the roster, a record enrollment, the school term began well—thanks in no small measure to the stirring retreat preached by Fr. Ledwith, M. S. This beginning augured a banner year, and such it has been. New Year's Day finds all our hearties in high spirits, thoroughly awake to the fact of impending examinations, and moved in a manner beyond their ken by the quiet joy of Christmastide.

The first months of the year have been eventful indeed, spiritually, mentally, and physically, particularly to the thirty-odd newcomers who have fallen into line in a manner truly admirable.

And now the college building, the mounting walls of which silhouette our horizon, claims first mention. Steam shovels, stone masons, bricklayers—all have made their appearance, and the truncated look of the structure has gone forever. The entire foundations

Maryknoll-at-Home Needs.

- \$25,000 for the Library of new Seminary.
- \$12,000 for the Kitchen of new Seminary.
- \$10,000 for the Refectory of new Seminary.
- \$ 6,000 for a Student Burse including personal needs.
- \$ 6,000 for a Classroom in the new Seminary.
- \$ 5,000 for a Student Burse.
- \$ 1,000 for the Infirmary in new Seminary.
- \$ 1,000 for a Private Chapel in new Seminary.
- \$ 800 for a Faculty Room in new Seminary.
- \$ 500 for a Student's Room in new Seminary.
- \$ 50 will secure for you Perpetual Membership in C. F. M. S., and THE FIELD AFAR for life.
- \$ 5 will lay a stone in the new Seminary.
- \$ 5 will bring you THE FIELD AFAR for 6 years.
- \$ 1 will secure for you a yearly membership in C. F. M. S. with THE FIELD AFAR; it will buy 100 feet of Maryknoll land, or a Maryknoll Chi Rho pin, or a Maryknoll dollar book.
- \$.50 will obtain for you the spiritual advantages of a yearly membership in C. F. M. S., or THE MARYKNOLL JUNIOR for one year.

have been laid, and a single story of the two ells raised. Thus, much desirable space for refectory and recreation purposes has been secured.

The chapel remains a hole in the ground, but we are confident that God's providence will take care of its erection in due time.

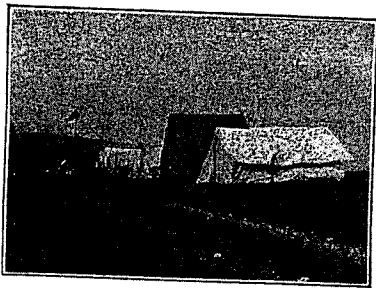
While the building is yet in the rough, manual labor hour finds groups of willing student laborers clearing away the debris. And with their work goes a prayer that some individual, advanced perhaps in years but young in the recollection of his schooldays, will be moved to supply them with basketball equipment.

Last winter, you may recall, we discoursed at length on Lake Vénard. Alas, alack! the lake "flew the coop;" took French leave; went A. W. O. L. Our figures are mixed, but the story in brief amounts to this: Early spring rains so swelled the head of the lake that it burst its bounds and coursed

Maryknoll missionaries desire more Catechists.

PLOTS OF LAND YET COVERED WITH DEBT.

The Vénard Camp.



"WILL you have it again this year?" writes a youth inquiring about the Vénard Camp.

This inquiry was written a little early—last January, in fact—but then you know that boys dream of summer before the snows begin to melt and while blackboards are yet running wild with chalk lines. And, after all, why should we grudge day-dreams to our youngsters, especially if, like this one who writes, they have made a good record all along the line. This is the kind of boy that can work while he works, and play his games in like earnest.

When he grows up, the two summer months that now in anticipation seem endless, will simmer down to sixty short days full of work or worries—or both. So let the boy spend some happy hours in anticipation, even if he can never experience, in its fullness, the reality. BUT—if he should go to the Vénard, his dreams will come true, at least enough to make him content; and what more should he, or you, his parent, desire?

The Vénard—perhaps you know it—is another name for the tract of one hundred and fifty acres on which Maryknoll has built its first preparatory College. It lies outside of Scranton, the great anthracite coal center of Pennsylvania, and is perched on hills beyond the notch, in a beautiful dairy country, that opens to a pastoral prospect, as restful as it is healthful—and healthful it should be, twelve hundred feet above sea level.

The Vénard Camp was organized last summer, and a limited number of boys were accepted for the months of July and August. Two students from the Maryknoll Seminary, one an ex-army officer, and both trained in camp work, gave time and thought to this fortunate group. Some Maryknoll Sisters prepared their food. They slept in tents, but could get under cover on rainy nights or if temporarily in need of special care.

There were games, and hikes, farm delights, fireside bedtime stories, and other forms of recreation. There was some drilling, too, and, best of all, an appreciation of the Presence of God—an atmosphere that left its lifelong impression on these young, plastic minds.

And now to answer the question—

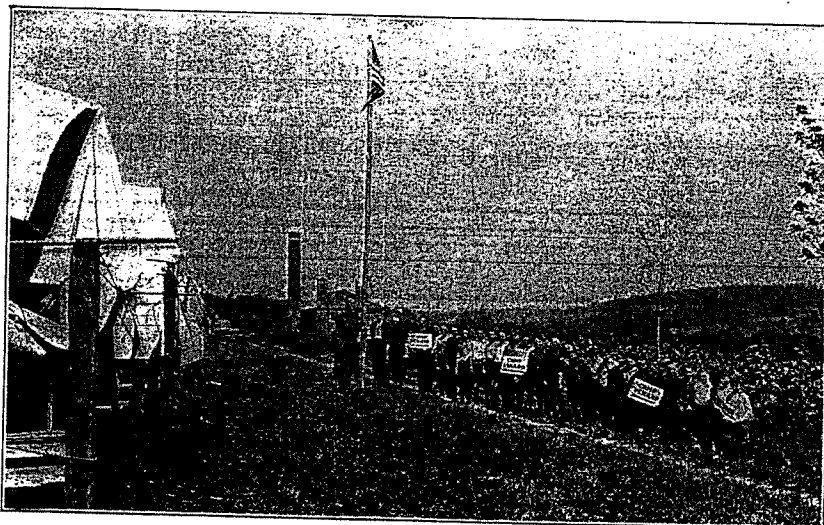
Why, yes! The Vénard reports that it is looking forward to a second season, and, although the number must, for many reasons, be limited, it will be prepared to accept at least twenty-five boys. If you, dear reader, are interested, address your inquiry to

The Vénard Camp Director,
Maryknoll Preparatory College,
Clarks Summit, Pa.

NOTES FROM OUR COLLEGE.

IT is April. Every hill and dale is sprouting myriads of living things. Hepaticas, trilliums, jonquils—well, just multitudes of beautiful bright flowers are answering their Creator's call. Willows and maples, lindens and poplars, even oaks and hickories are swelling almost to bursting with the life of springtime. The very sky is a playground for legions of fleet-footed cloudlets that frolic and cavort as the lambs of Solomon's poetry; a field where the sun and the rains and the winds do battle, joyous rivals in the task of making life more lively. Birds—bluebirds, redbirds, yellowbirds, blackbirds, scores of throbbing songsters of as many hues and patterns—are gladdening a glad world with the melodies learned in climes which know not the awakening from winter's spell. Homes are building, brooks are babbling; cows lowing, pigs grunting, hens clucking, cocks crowing—all life is teeming.

Nor is our Vénard lagging. Corduroy and khaki are relegated to inner darkness, till riotous nature welcomes again the quieter season of rest. Handball reluctantly cedes a place to the wider scope of baseball and tennis. The beaten paths are abandoned for long rambles in woods and fields; for longer hikes to lakes and mountains. Old haunts are again tenanted, and new ones are sought and discovered. Fresh earth is turned up, marvelous odors, strange yet familiar, are wafted to us on the wireless of nature's luxurious breezes. New plans for fresh exploits and conquests are born, sired by the evidence of all creatures' striving.



A LINE-UP AT CAMP VENARD.

Some of the boys who were at the Vénard Camp last year, during its first season.

PLOTS OF LAND YET COVERED WITH DEBT.

instances, we have been asked about accommodations for men and boys.

At present there will be none at Bethany, although the grounds are extensive enough to establish a small village of private cottages some day.

When the Sisters can have a Mother-House and leave the several dormitories which they are now occupying, we plan to open for men and boys guest houses which will also serve, at times, for retreats.

In the meanwhile, we are reserving, in a retired wing of the new Seminary, a few rooms for laymen guests, preferably for such as wish to spend a quiet week-end.

Pentecost Novena is always a spiritual event at Maryknoll, but this year its close marks also an ordination. On that day, to our rough floored and unplastered chapel, the Holy Ghost will descend upon an expectant group of young apostles, communicating to them a share in the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ.

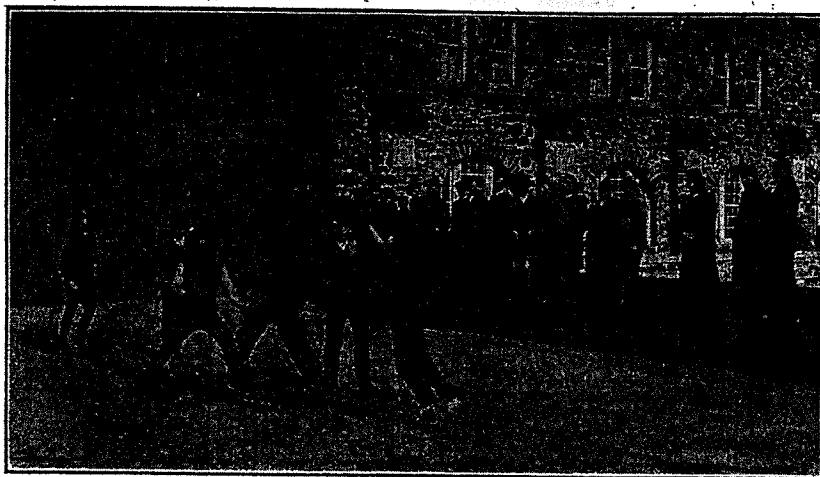
These happy young men are the following: John C. Heemskerk, Hille-gorn, Nederlands; Joseph L. Farnen, Paltimore, Md.; Leo Peloquin, Brockton, Mass.; Frederick Killoran, Detroit, Mich.; George Bauer, Pensburg, Bavaria; Hugh C. Craig, Minneapolis, Minn.; John B. O'Mara, New York City; Charles C. Eckstein, Milwaukee, Wis.; Hubert M. Pospichal, Elma, Iowa; Patrick F. Malone, Brooklyn, N. Y.; William Booth, Brooklyn, N. Y.; James G. Keller, Oakland, Calif.; Robert E. Sheridan, Chicago, Ill.; and Roy Petipren, Detroit, Mich.

Maryknoll-in-Scranton

"TIS the month of Our Mother, of blessed and beautiful days."

May, the month of heaven's Queen, is a delightful one at the Vénard. Winter has retreated into the icy fastnesses of the north, and the trees, the grass, in fact all Nature is attired in refreshing green. May welcomes in the good weather and the season of outdoor sports.

We have once again launched our boat on "Lake Vénard," this time gaily attired in a coat of fresh paint. The lake affords great relaxation and amusement, especially when someone is so unfortunate as to fall out of the boat, and have to wade ashore amid



A PRETTY FAIR OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT.

the merry laughter of his fellow-students.

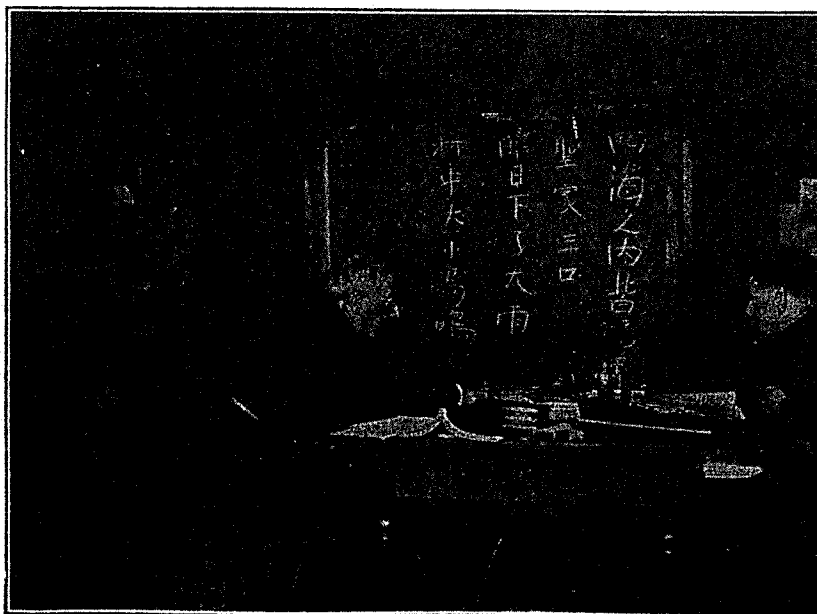
A few manual labor periods, some free time, and a squad of huskies have resulted in a pretty fair outdoor basket ball court. Here the "Vénard Midgets" and their elders, the "Vénard Seniors," practice for the victories, and, alas! we must add, for an occasional defeat.

Handball, however, still proves a popular sport. At every recreation there is a modified exhibition of the famous Marathon, for "it's the early bird that"—gets run over by the milk wagon. Those first on the court are the first to play. We are looking forward, now, to our indoor gymnasium

and recreation hall which will find a place in the yet incomplected wing of the College building. There we can have sports regardless of wind or rain.

As soon as the weather permitted, the baseball team appeared on the field for practice. We anticipate glorious victories if it lives up to present indications.

Modern systems of indexing are familiar to business houses, penal institutions and the like, but—were you ever appendixed? This year there have been an unusual number of operations for appendicitis. For a time we hit quite



WHEN THE SECRET STRING WAS PULLED.
And the history professor was caught examining in Chinese.

UNLESS CHRIST CRUCIFIED BE PREACHED TO THEM?



THE FIELD AFAR

APRIL, 1929



The Venard Maryknoll's First Preparatory College

AMONG the many boys who are now beginning to count the days until school will be over, there are many, no doubt, who cherish the hope that some day they may be priests. Some of these would be foreign missionaries. They have read of American missionaries in heathen lands, and would like to follow in their footsteps. For such boys Maryknoll has founded two Preparatory Colleges: one in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania; the other in Los Altos, California. A third in the mid-west is a prospect.

The college in Pennsylvania had its beginning in a private house on Clay Avenue, Scranton. It was then known as the Vénard Apostolic School or simply as "the Vénard", in honor of the young martyr of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, Théophane Vénard, who died for the Faith in Tongking on February 2, 1861. The choice of this modern martyr as the patron of our young students has proved a happy one; for his simple yet saintly life gives them an ideal they can imitate as well as admire.

His cheerful good humor and love for his family are two characteristics that appeal to American boys; and, though they may never be called upon to imitate him in his heroic death, they know that the martyr spirit is needed to stand the trials of missionary life. Their aim, then, is summed up in the closing words of their college song, "We'll be other Théophanes."

That Vénard spirit is a gift of the pioneers. The first students learned to put up cheerfully with many privations; they counted hardship as a good preparation for the missions. Raymond Lane, the first to enroll, is now Fr. Lane, the Superior of Maryknoll in Manchuria; Joseph Hunt is now a missionary in Korea; and John Murrett is in charge of the Maryknoll Procure in Seattle.

When the lease on the Clay Avenue house expired in the spring of 1915, the school was moved back temporarily to

Maryknoll, New York; and there the Vénarders lived in a hayloft of the barn until early in December when the FIELD AFAR building was completed.

In the fall of 1916 the present fine site was found in Clarks Summit, eight miles from Scranton. Perched high in the mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania, it is a pleasant, healthful spot for our college. There was a farmhouse on the property, which, with an additional wing, accommodated the twenty-five students.

That little farmhouse was the home of the college until March, 1919. Though they had come from many corners of the United States and from other lands, too, all the Vénarders looked on that farmhouse in the Pennsylvania hills as their home, and they regarded one another as brothers in one large family. Such a spirit is essential to a society whose members will share the joys and trials of a missionary's life.

The present power house was the first brick building erected at the new Vénard. It served as a dormitory and study hall until 1921 when we built one-half of the college. For eight years this section was sufficient for our needs, but we were forced last fall to erect the remaining portion in order to accommodate the growing number of students. Work was begun in the late summer, and we expect to occupy the new wing this coming September.

Should you be inclined to ask, "Where will you get the money to pay for this?" we would answer: "Frankly, we do not know." However, our confidence in the generosity of American Catholics has never been shaken. We know that when God inspires young American boys with the desire to be His apostles to foreign lands, He also awakens in the hearts of our Catholic people sufficient interest in the mission cause to help us to nurture and provide for these vocations.

THE LABORERS ARE FEW

"I, a foreign missionary? Impossible!" Why? Others facing greater obstacles, both physical and moral, than those which obstruct your path have entered the service of Christ.



"Go you also into My Vineyard"

The laborers in Our Lord's Vineyard are so few in comparison to the magnitude of the task that the majority of the missionaries are obliged to devote themselves to the care of the native Christians, and only a small number are able to engage in the actual apostolate to the heathen.

There are mistakes in life which can be repaired, but experience has shown that nothing ever wholly compensates for the mistake of a lost vocation.

READ "A MODERN MARTYR"