

remedy in certain cases. It is perfectly innocuous, and I believe it has been used with good effect at the school.

104. *Mr. Harley.*] Did you administer the mustard for similar complaints in your private practice?—I have never administered it, but I do not disapprove of it. It is a simple and handy remedy, and acts efficiently and speedily.

105. Do you know a boy named Lane at the institution?—No.

106. Do you remember attending a boy with a cut head?—I attended several with cut heads; but I do not remember any particular boy.

107. *Mr. Bush.*] Does every headache require the same treatment?—Certainly not.

108. Supposing a boy was sickening for typhoid fever, would mustard-and-water be a proper thing to give him?—No.

109. *Mr. Wardell.*] Do you know of any harm being done by this treatment?—No.

110. You do not recommend it as a universal specific?—Certainly not.

DONALD MACDONALD (known in religion as BROTHER AUGUSTINE), examined on oath.

111. *Mr. Fell.*] How many foreigners are among the Brothers at the Orphanage?—Two; Brother Loetus and Brother Wibertus. The latter is a Belgian.

112. You are a Marist Brother, and have had a long experience in teaching?—Yes; I have been a member of the Order for thirty-two years and a half, and have been teaching in London, Glasgow, twelve years in Sydney, six years in New Caledonia, ten years and a half in New Zealand. I have been at Stoke for the last six years and seven months.

113. What are your duties at the Orphanage?—During the forenoon I have charge of the cleanliness of the house, including bed-making, sweeping, and scrubbing. There are sets of boys told off for these various duties. I have nothing to do with the food. In the afternoon I teach the Fifth and Sixth Standards.

114. Which do the boys like best, outdoor work or lessons?—They much prefer outdoor work, as a rule. There are some exceptions. Maher and McElwaine are very intelligent boys.

115. You know what is meant by the hill-work?—Yes; I have never done it, but the boys are jolly glad of it always. I have never had any complaints as to the severity of the hill-work.

116. What form of correction have you been in the habit of administering?—I have used a supplejack on the palm of the hand. The number of strokes depends upon the nature of the offence. In school there is a kind of tariff between the boys and me as to the number of strokes. I have only to ask a boy "How many are you to get?" and he will tell me. At the beginning of the year they may get one smack for each fault over ten in dictation, &c. As the year advances, they get punishment for anything over two faults. Some intelligent boys pass months without a single slap, and some get it often. At the beginning of the year a boy may get from fourteen to twenty slaps; but later in the year, as the boys make fewer mistakes, the number decreases. The strokes are not very heavy; one or two may be pretty hard, and the rest light.

117. Has any boy been incapacitated for his work at any time by these slaps?—Never by me during the whole course of my teaching.

118. Can you say whether a similar rule is observed by the other Brothers?—I cannot say; but I believe that in some standards something of the kind is adopted.

119. Do you often get Irish stew?—Often, in the evening. It is not the same stew as the boys have, as we have it in the evening. I have often known Brothers to go into the kitchen and get some of the boys' stew.

120. Do the boys play cheerfully?—Yes; they always enter into their games with the greatest zest.

121. Have you ever known a boy to complain of insufficient food?—No. I have often complained to Brother Loetus of the waste food lying about.

122. Are you in charge of a dormitory at night?—Yes; I sleep there. There are twenty-seven boys there.

123. Is there good behaviour at night?—Yes; perfectly quiet behaviour.

124. Is the bedding good—proper?—Yes; fair.

125. Do you consider that the boys, as far as warmth and comfort are concerned; are insufficiently clothed?—There may be exceptional cases in which there is not enough; but I never heard any complaints myself. When a boy wants more clothing he goes to Brother Wibertus. Each teacher is supposed to see that his boys get sufficient socks.

126. How about washing the socks?—In many cases they have been worn till they wore out; but the boys could have had them washed if they wished. Sometimes they go about barefooted in the evening.

127. Was the story given by Mr. Harley about the confinement in the cells correct?—It is substantially correct. The boys may have got bread and water once or twice at the commencement of the punishment, but after that they got the same as the other boys. I believe the upper cell was made of timber. The lower cell has been dismantled, and is now used as an office.

128. Did you ever express objection to solitary confinement of this sort?—I have never approved of it, or liked it; but I saw no other effective way of dealing with absconders. When the members of the Board came, I made the remark, "Brother Loetus and myself will be most happy to adopt some other form of punishment."

129. Did you say that you knew "they would get into a mess" about it?—I do not think I did. I am sure Brother Loetus never liked the system either.

130. *Mr. Harley.*] You say that in the early part of the year, in class, the boys get from fourteen to twenty strokes on the hand?—Yes; but the number always decreases as the pupils make progress in their studies.