

## SOUTHERN OHIO

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### Epidemic—Advent Call—A Gold Star

THE BOARD OF HEALTH of Cincinnati has closed the churches since October 6th on account of the epidemic. Theaters, moving picture houses, and all places where crowds might congregate were also closed, but the saloons were left open, with the proviso, however, that what was sold there must be drunk outside. This exception in the case of the saloons created much unfavorable comment. The city officials depended upon the clergy and others taking the notices in the daily papers as official. One Roman Catholic priest, not recognizing that method of promulgating such an order, held his early mass as usual, but was visited by an officer, and the later masses were closed. In many churches the Holy Communion has been celebrated privately. Good may come out of evil if the results are that the people will value more highly the services of which they have been deprived, and if the ventilation of church buildings is provided for more carefully than in the past. The crest of the disease seems to have been reached, October 26th, with 3,538 cases and 444 deaths; and 475 cases in the General Hospital. Election night gatherings, political meetings or parades, card parties, social gatherings, etc., are under the ban.

ARCHDEACON READE has mailed to the people of the missions in the Cincinnati convocation a card making suggestions for the period of closed churches. The first recommendation is as to prayer: Restore the family altar. The head of each house is priest in his own household. Add to the grace before at least one meal prayers for the cessation of the plague; for the sick in the country at large and the city, and your own acquaintance in particular. Second, on Sundays read a portion of Scripture, the gospel for the day, or an appropriate psalm. Have the family join in an abbreviated form of morning or evening prayer. Third, put aside the usual offering for the