

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE RELIGION OF SELF-DENIAL.

In the days of the Reformation the opposition to several typically Roman Catholic institutions was so great that they were abolished without considering the *raison d'être* of their existence. Among them we must mention monasteries and the principle of renunciation which underlies them.

It is peculiar that in these days when Protestantism itself is in a state of transition toward new religious ideals and when reformed churches begin to be ripe for a new reformation which in its main tendency is of an intellectual character, the old idea of renunciation turns up again, although it is now no longer based on dualistic principles, presupposing the nobility of asceticism, but on the longing of the human heart to sacrifice its own ego and egotism on the altar of humanity. One contemporary instance of this tendency, so ancient in its general character and yet modernized in its application, is the institution of the Coenobium in Lugano, Switzerland, well known through its periodical of the same name ably edited by Enrico Bignami.

Mr. Har Dayal, author of the article "What the World is Waiting For" in the present number, who does not seem familiar with this interesting enterprise, preaches the ideal of self-denial, which seems worthy of consideration and even support.

Mr. Dayal hails from India. He was educated at the University of Panjab at Lahore where he took his B. A. degree in 1903 and M. A. in the following year. In 1905 he was awarded a government scholarship and left for England studying history and economics for two years at Oxford where his wife joined him. In January, 1908, he returned to India, and having taken a deep interest in religion since 1904, he decided in the following month, with the permission of his wife, to become a friar and lead the higher life. He belongs to no sect and intended to devote himself to the moral and civic education of his people, but conditions in India being quite disturbed at the time made his undertaking difficult, and so he returned to Europe in August, 1908. Having spent some time at London and Paris in work at the British Museum and the Bibliothèque Nationale, his health gave way and he retired for six months to Switzerland and Italy in 1909. After a brief visit to Algeria and a stay in the West Indies he reached the United States in February, 1911, where he spent some time in Cambridge, Mass., and in California. His article in the present number expresses the main results of his various studies and experiences.