

and many had been mailed in foreign countries.

"This is my morning's mail," explained the Father, his eyes twinkling.

"Since I opened my matrimonial guild the first of the year, I have received more than 7,000 of these letters from men and women in all parts of the world who are seeking helpmates. I've had to hire a stenographer to help me answer them. I'll tell you what all these heart-stories have taught me."

Father Dalton stood up. He is of medium height, with a kindly face that might mark him as a banker or physician. He speaks with a charming touch of Irish brogue. Just approaching his sixty-fourth year, he already has left behind him 40 years of service to Kansas City. Today they say he knows more people here than any other man.

Because the young people of his parish were not marrying fast enough, he started a matrimonial school the first of the year. His classes, which meet once a week to listen to him discourse on this subject, have ranged from 50 to 100.

Fifteen engagements have resulted in those classes. And the publicity given to the venture has made the Father's study the busiest matrimonial bureau in the country. Already he is able to announce altogether 108 engagements and several marriages. Among his correspondents are millionaires, judges, physicians, laborers, school teachers, etc.

"I am prouder of my own sex than of the women," he said. "Men really are looking for good wives. But women want to marry money. They ask for rich city men. Of all the letters from men only two spoke of money. One was a fakir and the other was feeble-minded."

"People may say I am bothering with something which does not concern me when I talk about family life and marriage, but I tell you it is the sublimest social problem.

"I believe in marriages on small incomes if the young man and young woman face their venture as the most serious thing in the world. A rich marriage is usually unhappy, and a speedy marriage is usually a fool marriage.

"Young men today want to be irresponsible. I tell them they are like driftwood on the sea. They do not do their duty by staying single.

"It makes me boil when I get letters from girls who say they want a man who does not chew, drink, smoke or swear. As though these were the cardinal sins! She wants to inquire what he DOES DO. A man must have a safety valve, and I always suspect the seemingly perfect man of being a rascal.

"Children today are brought up so fast they are worn-out men and women at 30. Ask an engineer how a new locomotive should be handled. He will tell you it must be tried out on slow speed. So with children. Men ought to be at their prime at 40,