

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Belmont Abbey,
Hereford.

DEAR REVEREND FATHER,

In connection with the forthcoming centenary of Belmont Abbey next year a history of the house has now been written, and the Community, feeling that many of your readers would be glad to hear about this, would greatly appreciate the hospitality of your columns that attention may be drawn to it.

Belmont has a somewhat unusual history in that for some sixty years it was the Common Noviciate and the House of Studies for the whole of the English Benedictine Congregation, while at the same time its church was the Pro-Cathedral for the Diocese of Newport and Menevia (later Newport alone), the senior monks being the Canons of the Diocese, which in this respect was unique in this country. But in 1918 this diocesan connection ceased, and at the same time the house became an independent monastery, being elevated to the rank of an Abbey in 1920.

The volume that has now been written tells for the first time the inner story of these and other changes, and is based on original documents now in the Abbey archives, together with many hitherto unpublished passages from the correspondence of prominent personages of the time. It also gives a vivid picture of the life and work of the monks, and of the various personalities who played a prominent part in the hundred years of the monastery's existence.

But the book can be published only if sufficient advance orders for it are received by the publishers, and we feel sure that many of your readers would like to secure a copy. The approximate price of the volume, which will run to about three hundred pages and will be illustrated, will be 25s., and any who have not already ordered a copy, and would like to have one, are asked to write to me, or direct to the Bloomsbury Publishing Company, 34 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

Yours faithfully,

D. M. MARTIN, O.S.B. (Abbot).