

## Father Thomas Pearce, 1880—1885

THOMAS PEARCE WAS born on June 15th, 1852. At the age of 16 he went to St. Edmund's College, Ware, and six years later moved to St. Thomas's Seminary, Hammersmith. He was ordained priest on May 27th, 1877. After one year as a



*Father Thomas Pearce*

curate at Blackheath and two at Deptford, he succeeded Father Crispin as Rector of St. Mary Magdalen's, being then only 27

years of age. He remained here only four years, for towards the close of 1885 he returned to London and was appointed to the Cathedral. Father Pearce was very popular in the parish and his departure very much regretted. He was very proud of the church and had it cleaned and renovated during his Rectorship. Only one parishioner can remember him: she has vivid and pleasant memories of the visits of this tall and well-built Rector to her classroom in the school. Father Pearce died on January 22nd, 1923.

*St. Thomas's Seminary, Hammersmith.* This college was built by Cardinal Manning and opened in 1869. With the arrival of the District Railway, the country suburb of Hammersmith was completely urbanised; and with the formation of other diocesan seminaries the number of students gradually decreased. Cardinal Vaughan sold the premises to the Sacred Heart Nuns in 1892. Father Wilderspin also studied for the priesthood at St. Thomas's.

*Tower Door*

