MARY AIKENHEAD

WHEN Archbishop Murray proposed to Mary Aikenhead that she should join him in founding a congregation of nuns, the cause of charity received a notable recruit.

Mary was the daughter of a Protestant doctor in Cork who had married a Catholic and she was brought up in her father's religion. The doctor, however, became a Catholic on his death-bed and Mary's conversion followed soon afterwards.

The first convent of the Irish Sisters of Charity was opened in North William Street, Dublin, and Mary Aikenhead was appointed Superior-General of the new foundation. Although a semi-invalid for many years before her death she lived to see the establishment of ten houses belonging to her Order.

Her most notable memorial, perhaps, is St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, which was the first hospital in Ireland to be served by nuns. She died on July 22, 1858.

M. J. MacM.

Received Doctorate in Rome — Vatican Radio states that Rev. Pius Walsh, O.F.M., of Dublin, received his Doctorate of Science, with full marks, at the Sapienza University, Rome. Father Walsh graduated at University College, Galway, where he took his M.Sc. degree and won a travelling scholarship.