

FROM THE ARCHIVE

50 years ago

THE TABLET • 16 SEPTEMBER 1967

The element Antimony was the discovery of a fifteenth-century German monk, the Prior at Erfurt, called Basil Valentine, which he first tried on the monastery's pigs, and it did not do them any harm. He then tried it upon his monastic brethren and it made them so ill that he christened it anti-moine, meaning hostile to monks. In a treatise which appeared many years afterwards ... called *Curus Triumphalis Antimonii*, he says, "Antimony is an excellent

medecine for alchemists, but a most powerful poison in the hands of the ignorant" ... It was not Valentine's argument that the ignorant would take too much, but that antimony itself was only good for a certain intellectual type, though this did not really square with his first experiments, unless he could say that while it had done no harm to the monastery pigs, it had also failed to do them any good, since they were not educated alchemists.

100 years ago

THE TABLET • 15 SEPTEMBER 1917

We regret to record the death of Dom John Placid Pritchard OSB, of Erdington Abbey, who was killed on 4 September. Shortly after the war broke out, he obtained his Abbot's permission to offer his services to the St John Ambulance Corps ... In August 1916, he was sent to Petrograd, to help the Russian Red Cross. In a letter to his parents he gave an interesting account of their Christmas midnight Mass: "... We had

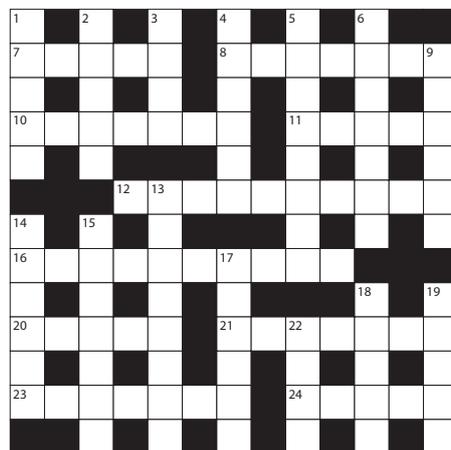
midnight Mass said by a Polish priest on an altar of ammunition boxes scantily sheltered beneath a small tarpaulin ... It was bitterly cold and everybody and everything, save the tiny altar, was covered with a thick layer of snow, which fell continuously throughout the service, forming the only source of light except two small candles on the altar. I think everybody was praying chiefly for the same thing—that next Christmas may find us all at home and at peace."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 575 | Enigma

Across

- 7 William -----, screenwriter. Films include *Made in Dagenham* (2010) (5)
- 8 Liquid hydrocarbon, present in coaltar and petroleum (7)
- 10 Occurs when sun crosses celestial equator (7)
- 11 Vertical pipe for upward flow of liquid or gas (5)
- 12 -----, or positive, approach to theology (10)
- 16 America's oldest Catholic university (10)
- 20 Our Lord was often addressed thus (5)
- 21 Adjective for ideas found in *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788) (7)
- 23 (Heraldry) broad, inverted "V" shape (7)
- 24 The International Astronomical ----- defined Pluto as a "dwarf planet" in 2006 (5)



Down

- 1 Creature in title of Hermione Eyre's novel set in seventeenth-century England (5)
- 2 Single dose of a medicinal drug (5)
- 3 Bridgettines expelled from this abbey in Isleworth by Henry VIII (4)
- 4 Loss of ability to control movements (6)
- 5 Edmund ----- Bentley devised a type of short comic verse called by his middle name (8)
- 6 Mass per unit volume (7)
- 9 Sister ----- Rosanna; first woman to be under-secretary to a Vatican delegation (6)

- 13 Peter Martyr d'-----; canonised 1253, feast 27 April, killed by heretical Cathari (8)
- 14 A mushroom is this (6)
- 15 One of those whose patron saints are Crispin and Crispian (7)
- 17 "Words are the ----- current and accepted" (*The Advancement of Learning* – book 2, chap 16, sect 3; Bacon) (6)
- 18 Toxic substance from seeds of castor oil plant (5)
- 19 "... along the illimitable -----", (*Lucretius*, line 38, Tennyson) (5)
- 22 First Bishop of Embu, John -----, became a cardinal in 2007 (4)

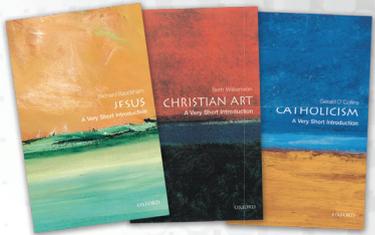
Please send your answers to:

Crossword Competition 16 September
The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY.
 Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on Jesus, Christian art and Catholicism – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 29 September.
 ● The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 7 October issue.

SUDOKU | Tough

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 Jesus, Christian Art
 and Catholicism



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