

only caused by shallow and rapid respiration. When Dr. Battistini visited his holiness early Saturday morning the patient rallied somewhat and was able to exchange a few words with those in attendance.

When Battistini said to the pope: "I am going now" the holy father smilingly replied: "But why don't you go, my dear old man?"

Oxygen Administered

Oxygen was administered at various times, and appeared to give slight relief. Shortly after 1 o'clock Cardinal Migone celebrated mass in the chapel adjoining the pope's bed chamber.

During all the hours of his suffering the pope never relinquished his affability toward those who attended him, smiling, even bantering the doctors, and up to the last recognizing and appreciating every attention from his visitors. On his bed of pain the pontiff seemed a figure of imposing moral grandeur.

"What a man! What a pope!" have been common expressions of admiration. To his aged doctor, who refused to take rest, the pope said:

"Go and lie down; you are an old man now."

When the pope's nephew Marquis della Chiesa, despite his own illness, came to the bedside early in the morning, the pontiff reproached him for his imprudence and begged him to return immediately to bed.

When Cardinal Gasparri was unable to put his mind on the pontifical will in a drawer of the desk, the pope called to him:

"Your eyes are bad. Bring me the drawer, I will look myself."

Through hours of agony, there fell from his mouth for each who approached him a word and a smile, a "thank you" or some word of encouragement.

More than once during the past few days it has been remarked that Benedict preserved on his sickness the same zeal, the same lucidity, the same spirit which he showed in his daily audiences. It might even be said to a greater degree.

Popes Seven Years.

Pope Benedict XV rose to the supreme head of the Catholic church, Sept. 6, 1914. This was less than six months after he was elevated to the cardinalship. He was born of noble parents Ah Pegli, near Genoa, Italy, Nov. 21, 1854. His father was Marquis della Chiesa.

Educated at Capriolico college and the academy of ecclesiastica, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1878. He was taken to Madrid, Spain by Cardinal Rampolla, and for four years was secretary to the nunciature in Spain. In 1901 he was appointed secretary of the Cypher and in 1907 Pope Pius gave him the appointment of archbishop of the See of Belga. He was made a cardinal in May 1914.

Pontifical Active.

Benedict XV from the very beginning of his pontificate showed that he would above all be a political pope, following the policy of his early friend and counselor, Cardinal Rampolla, and of Leo XIII. Pius X died of grief for not having been able to prevent the World War, and Benedict expended much energy in trying to stop or mitigate the conflict that many people, including several American archbishops and bishops who approached him afterwards, think that the efforts made in this endeavor seriously affected his constitution.

Like Leo XIII he was most anxious to establish diplomatic relations with all the countries, whether Catholic or not, and he succeeded in having in Rome representatives of the entire world, with the exchange of the Scandinavian states in Europe and the United States in the American continent.

While negotiations were proceeding for the establishment of a papal nuncio at Tokio, Benedict XV failed to have an entire nuncio appointed at Peking through opposition of the French government, who, it is said, feared that a papal representative in China might affect their right of protecting the catholics in the far east. France was helped on that occasion, it is said here, by the United States, which objected to the appointment of Monsignor Zepellini as inter-nuncio in China on account of his alleged anti-American feelings as shown while apostolic delegate to the Philippines.

Friendly to America.

Benedict XV always showed a great desire for the closest relations with America and left nothing unattempted to win the sympathy of the United States. This is shown on the occasion of the sinking of the Lusitania, when the pope, notwithstanding his strict neutrality in the war, preferred to call it "impartiality"—telegraphed to the Kaiser his opinion of the action which had shocked the civilized world.

The pope always regarded the United States as a country which would play an important part in bringing about the pacification of Europe and through Monsignor Banzano, the apostolic delegate at Washington, he sent on several occasions during the recent war messages to Pres' Wilson expressing the feeling that America might assist in conciliating the belligerent countries.

His most important effort in favor of the conclusion of peace was the note he sent on Aug. 1, 1917, to all the powers, which was forwarded to Pres' Wilson through England, as there are no diplomatic relations between the holy see and the United States. Benedict XV always maintained that his note was the first step toward the present Washington conference on limitation of armaments. Indeed, he went much farther by suggesting the suppression of conscription as the only means to induce the European countries to disarm.

Notwithstanding his ardent hope of establishing diplomatic relations with all the countries, Benedict XV never received any such course with regard to America, as even the Catholic Episcopacy in the United States did not favor any such plan for fear it might injure the situation of Catholics which, it is felt, is very strong in America.

Gaspari Likely Successor.

In the speculation as to who will be the successor of Benedict, the most prominently mentioned is the Secretary of State, Cardinal Gaspari, whose election would represent an endorsement of the policy by him and by Benedict in the last years during the grave period of the world war. Cardinal Gaspari, who has also the position of Chamberlain of the Church is entrusted with the direction of the Holy See, during the interregnum from the death of the pope to the election of his successor.

Another member of the Sacred College who is considered as a probable choice is Cardinal Delai,

secretary of the conciliar congregation. The election of Cardinal Delai would gratify the desire of the Sacred College to have again, as under Pius X, a pope above all religious, that is who would not play such a prominent part in world politics as Benedict XV and Leo XIII.

Among the cardinals living in Rome is another who has a considerable following and whose election would be a new thing, since for several centuries there has not been a foreign pope on the chair of St. Peter's, namely, Cardinal Merry Del Val. Cardinal Merry Del Val's parents were Spanish and his brother is Spanish Ambassador to the court of St. James, but he has resided almost his entire life in Italy.

Meanwhile the preparation for the conclave is carried on by all the personnel of the apostolic palace. Apartments must be arranged inside Vatican, where all the cardinals, who will assemble in Rome, with their secretaries. This will form a secluded precinct in which the members of the Sacred College will be walled in and the safety of their voluntary imprisonment will be guarded by the marshal of the conclave, who is responsible for the freedom and independence of the prince of the church.

Communications Secret.

Their seclusion will be so strict that communication with the outside will be possible only through a small window equipped with what might be described as a revolving door. Use of this will be restricted to the sending out of laundry and the receiving of food and medicine.

Once the cardinals are in conclave, established many prayers and functions established by the constitution of the papal curia, they must go through two ballots a day until one candidate receives more than two-thirds of the votes. After each ballot when no election takes place, the ballots are burned and the smoke they produce is seen from the square below coming out from a chimney above the dome of the Sistine Chapel. Large crowds gather twice a day in the square of St. Peter to watch for the smoke.

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