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and the public that he has taken the above
hotel. The building has undergone a
thorough renovating from floor to ceiling,
and now offers unrivalled accommodation to
visitors and travellers. The bedrooms are
well and comfortably furnished, and the fit-
tings are all that could be desired.

Travellers called in time for early
trains. The wines and spirits are of the
Best Procurable Brands.

One of Alcock's prize medal Billiard
Tables

Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths.

WANGANUI.**THE ST. COLUMBA LITERARY AND DEBATING CLUB.**

(From an occasional correspondent.)

For some years past the want of a Catholic young men's literary
and debating Club in Wanganui has been keenly felt. To satisfy
this want, the Very Rev. Father Kirk, about four months ago, from
the pulpit of St. Mary's invited all the young men of the parish to
attend a meeting for the purpose of co-operating with him in
establishing a debating society on a firm and satisfactory basis. At
the first meeting which was held on June 12, and at which there
were present about forty young men, it was resolved to establish a
club. At a subsequent meeting rules were adopted and the society,
with a membership of about fifty, was launched into existence
under the name of "St. Columba's Literary and Debating Club."
The following strong staff of officers was elected:—

Patron, the Very Rev. Father Kirk; president, Rev. Father
Tymons; vice-president, Mr. T. Lloyd, B.A.; librarian, Brother
Alfred; secretary, Mr. R. J. K. Simpson; assistant secretary, Mr. E.
Lofas; treasurer, Mr. A. McLachlan; council, Messrs. L. J. Duffow,
J. T. Hogan, F. Oliver, George Tuffin, J. Byrne and the officers *et
officio*.

The members meet in the Marist Brothers' schoolroom every
Thursday evening. Debates, mock trials by jury, recitations, read-
ings, songs, games and gymnastic exercises make up the programme.
In connection with the club is a well-selected library. Thus it will
be seen that the intellectual, moral, social and physical improvement
of the members—the avowed object of the club—is brought about
in a thoroughly efficient way.

To show the Catholic community the good work that was being
done at the club a concert was given, at which were present, by
invitation, the friends of the club. The concert was held in St.
Mary's Hall on October 20, and proved a great success. There were
present about 250 people, whose appreciation of the efforts of the
members was plainly shown by the enthusiastic applause with
which each item was received.

The Rev. Father Tymons opened the proceedings. He briefly
sketched the history of the club, detailed the work done by the
members during the short session, and drew attention to the fact
that all the items on the programme with the exception of the
accompaniments were to be contributed by none but *bona fide*
members of the club. The accompaniments were kindly played by
Mrs. W. Butler in her well-known effective style. The singers of
the club then took part in a song and chorus, "The vacant chair,"

Mr. H. E. Aves taking the solo part. The next item was a recita-
tion, "Jud Browning on Rubenstein's playing," given by Mr. J. T.
Hogan. This most difficult piece was very well done, and elicited a
round of vociferous applause. Mr. Hogan had to repeat the last
paragraph before the audience was satisfied. Mr. R. J. K.
Simpson followed with a song, "The little hero." It was well
rendered and greatly pleased those present. Mr. Murphy then
danced a step dance in a finished manner. The next item, a comic
song, "Arrah go on," by Mr. Mick Scally, proved to be one of the
best on the programme. He was got up as a "neat little colleen."
His excellent "make-up" and his comic rendering of the song fairly
brought down the house. He had to reappear again and again. Be-
fore the audience would calm down. "The schoolmaster's guest"
was then recited by Mr. M. M. Culloch, who made the most of the
humour of the piece, and well earned the hearty applause he
received for his effort. Mr. H. E. Aves followed with the song
"Remember me no more," which was sung with great taste. The
first portion of the programme was closed with an address on "The
cultivation of a taste for reading," by Mr. T. Lloyd. He spoke
particularly to the young men, and showed them that there were
three means of acquiring knowledge, viz., observation, intercourse
with our fellow-men, and reading. This last means he thought was
the best, and he urged every young man present to begin a
course of judicious reading. He had not time to go into the
merits or demerits of different books, but concluded his address
with a quotation from an eminent writer, "Give a man a taste for
reading, and unless he makes a most perverse selection of books
you cannot fail to make him happy."

The remaining portion of the evening's entertainment was
devoted to a laughable farce, entitled "Furnished apartments."
The staging of it was entrusted to Brother Alfred, to whose ability
and attention its success was mainly due. The following is the
cast of characters:—Dr. Planus, Mr. W. J. Mahoney; Mr. Romeo
Theodore Fungles, Mr. E. Lofas; Mr. Magnus Smith, Mr. R. J. K.
Simpson; Mr. Telemachus Thompson, Mr. A. McLachlan; Master
Cephalus Squill, Master J. Purcell. The players had practised
assiduously for some weeks, and this helped, in a great measure,
to bring about the excellent interpretation which each player gave of
his special part.

At the conclusion of the farce, the Very Rev. Father Kirk
addressed a few words to the audience. He congratulated the
members on their manifest improvement since the foundation of
the club, and on the quality of the amusement provided. He
thanked the people for their large attendance and asked them to
express their appreciation of the concert by a hearty vote of thanks
to the young men. This was carried by acclamation, after which
the concert terminated with the National Anthem.