

office, the sisterhood greatly wondering and rejoicing to see her restored to health.

Dr. Levillant, the physician who attended Sister Josephine-Marie through her long illness, and who, before she set out on the pilgrimage, gave a detailed certificate of her tubercular affection; examined her again with the utmost care on her return to the convent and finding her completely cured, wrote the following statement in proof of the miraculous occurrence:

"I, the undersigned Levillant, medical doctor of the Faculty of Paris, certify having examined Sister Josephine-Marie on the 2nd of August, 1890, and having delivered to her a certificate to the effect that she was in an advanced state of pulmonary decline, with deep lesions in the left lung. To-day, August 23, 1890, called in again to see Sister Josephine-Marie, I find, neither on auscultation nor percussion, any symptom of her former disease, nor any trace of the tubercles, etc., etc. The general state of the sick nun before going to Lourdes was extremely dangerous—persistent cough, sleeplessness, profuse night sweats, hemorrhage,—which state is so changed and improved that I can scarcely recognise my patient who was confined to bed for eighteen months. In truth of which I deliver the present attestation. Beauvais, August 29, 1890."

In forwarding this testimony, Dr. Levillant wrote that he was happy that Providence had chosen him as an instrument to confirm the authenticity of "this stupendous miracle."

SHAND'S TRACK.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

LAST Wednesday week presented a very lively aspect to the Catholic church, Shand's Track, by the beautiful yet fashionable wedding of Mr. Philip Ryan, Riccarton, to Miss Sarah Harty, Taitapu. The church was neatly decorated. The throng of invited guests took possession of a large part of the church; a great number of those who received invitations being absent on account of harvest anxieties. About half-past nine o'clock the bridegroom, accompanied by many of his friends, drove to the entrance of the church, where they received a great ovation. The bride arrived within a short time after the entrance of the bridegroom. She was accompanied by her brother-in-law, Mr. James Doyle, who gave her away—the bridesmaid being Miss Mary Doyle, and the bridegroom's best man being Mr. Philip Brown, his cousin. The bride wore a light, slate-coloured, silk-woven dress, with beautiful flowers, hat to match, and looked exceedingly nice. The little bridesmaids looked lovely in white cashmere, with blue water-silk sash trimmed with embroidery. Another intended bridesmaid was Miss Katie Cassidy, who, owing to some misunderstanding in reaching Taitapu, did not arrive until evening. The marriage ceremony commenced at 10 o'clock, when the Rev. Father Halbwachs, assisted by the Rev. Father Chervier, joined the happy pair in the holy bonds of wedlock. At the close of the ceremony the nuptial Mass was celebrated, the Rev. Father Halbwachs officiating. During the Mass the nuptial blessing was administered to the happy pair by the Rev. Father Chervier. After Church the wedding party proceeded to Mr. James Doyle's place, where they were met by many of their friends who could not attend Church, and where the wedding breakfast was held. After the *dejeuner* had concluded the Rev. Father Chervier, who occupied the head of the table, was heartily greeted on rising to toast the health of the newly-married couple. He in a short but expressive speech gave the toast to the bride and bridegroom. He wished them long life and prosperity, and the best blessings it was possible for him to wish. He would pray God to give them His choicest blessings, that He would guide them, that He would always have them in His holy keeping, and that He would cause their union to be fruitful of every good and a source of unceasing joy. Mr. McCable, the bridegroom's first teacher, and Mr. McNamara wished health, wealth, and happiness in a few well-chosen words to the bride and bridegroom, and at the same time proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Doyle, which was carried by acclamation.

TEMUKA.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

SINCE my last writing the Christmas and New Year festivities have passed away. Temuka this year was much livelier than for years. On Christmas Day St. Joseph's Church presented a charming appearance, and there was a large congregation, Father Fauvel being celebrant. The choir was very successful in its rendition of the various selections. At St. Mary's, Pleasant Point, Father Aubry officiated, the church being crowded. The choir was extremely good. Services were held at both churches on New Year's Day.

The annual sports under the auspices of the Temuka Caledonian Society were held on Boxing Day, and were a great success. The attendance was estimated at about 3000. The Cumberland style of wrestling seemed to be the chief feature of attraction, and it was expected that some of the best wrestling seen in a New Zealand ring would be witnessed. These expectations met with a sad disappointment. The contestants were Ross, (American and New Zealand champion), Urn, (who threw Dunn in Christchurch twelve months ago), Thornley, Angland, F. Hall, J. Hall, and Sullivan. It soon became evident that Ross, and the Maori (Urn) were fighting the field, as when the others met one another only "exhibition" was indulged in, the best man winning without wasting any strength. Thornley threw Ross by a "fluke," and also the Maori. For first honors F. Hall permitted Thornley to vanquish him, as he had "done so well." Result: Thornley 1, F. Hall 2, Urn 3. Urn disposed of J. Hall (the Scotchman's pride) without the least trouble, once giving him a very heavy fall. These men met in Timaru on New Year's Day, Urn winning, sustaining only one fall, from F. Hall. The Maori is undoubtedly the best athlete of his race the Colony has yet seen, and possesses an extraordinary good nature.

The annual show in connection with the Temuka Floral and Horticultural Society was a great success. The display of floral and horticultural exhibits was surprisingly good, considering the weather we have experienced. The attendance amounted to over a thousand. The exhibition of ladies' fancy work was a great feature of the show, the principal of which was the work of the pupils of the Temuka and Kerrytown Convent schools. The prizes secured by those of the Temuka Convent were:—Poonah painting, Miss Minnie Quinn; painting in water colour, Miss Minnie Quinn; Miss Ellen Brosnan 2; drawing in pencil, Miss Minnie Quinn; special first prize, Miss Agnes Wareing highly commended; Berlin wool work, Miss Agnes Wareing; artificial flowers, Miss Ellen Brosnan. The Kerrytown honours were: Bracket in any work except macramé, Miss Debbie Hoare; cushion in any work except poonah painted, Miss Annie Hoare; painting, oil, Miss Lizzie Hoare; drawing in pencil, Miss Mary Coughlan; leather work, Miss Maggie Hoare, Miss Julia Coughlan 2, Miss K. Perry highly commended; a mantle draps by Miss Lizzie Hoare was favourable commented on by those who carefully looked it over, and certainly it should have got more consideration. It is needless to state that the exhibits were of the highest merit, and many flattering remarks were passed by others who examined them of the manner in which the pupils upheld the reputation of their respective schools. Three maps shown by the Temuka Convent school, two for exhibition, those of Masters T. Spillane and T. Brosnan being highly commended. The flower show at Geraldine was a great success, and a good many of the prizes fell to the Temuka competitors.

Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—Could you or any of the readers of your valuable paper inform me whether Catholic parents in the country districts fully avail themselves of the concessions granted by the Railway Department to send their children to the Catholic schools in the towns? As these concessions may be at any time withdrawn, it behoves Catholic parents and guardians to seize the opportunity, and make the best use of the facilities thus afforded to obtain for their children that instruction in the Christian doctrine and the rudiments of their religion necessary to equip them for the battle of life, and enable them to take their places hereafter as useful citizens and desirable colonists. During the last decade the secular system of education has had full sway in New Zealand. We see the result to-day. The youth of the Colony are growing up in religious indifference, full of evil propensities, and using what education they have acquired as a means to attain an unworthy end. That in many instances Catholics are not without blame goes without saying, but it is to be hoped that all good Catholics of the Colony will set an example, not only to their children, but to the whole world, by using their best endeavours to secure for their children the priceless bliss of a good Christian education.—I am, etc.,

January 13, 1891.

A. B.

INVERCARGILL.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

January 19th, 1891.

THE annual meeting of the Irish Athletic Society of Southland was held in the Shamrock Hotel on Friday evening, January 16. There was a fair attendance of members and Mr. J. T. Martin was voted to the chair. The balance-sheet, which showed the Society to be in a good financial position, was adopted. It was decided to hold the sports this year on Wednesday, March 18th, to be followed by a concert and ball. Sub-committees were appointed to draw up a code of rules, a programme of sports, etc. Some time ago the various athletic associations entered into an agreement with the Corporation to secure a 21 years' lease of the Park Reserve for holding their annual gatherings. The Irish Athletic Society's quota of £36 towards securing this lease was promptly paid, and everything promises to make the sports in March next one of the most successful and popular gatherings ever held in Southland. The Society has in the past earned for itself a well-merited reputation, owing not only to the attractive programmes consisting of many novel and interesting items, for which substantial prizes are offered, but to the able and efficient manner in which the games are carried out. I need not remind the Irishmen of Southland that it behoves them to give what assistance they can to maintain this reputation, and to make their national gathering of 1891 even more successful than those of former years.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. The guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth gives general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read.—[ADVT.]

Mrs. O'Shea belongs to a well-known English Protestant family, the Woods of Essex, who have already given a Lord Chancellor to England, a Lord Mayor to London, and a distinguished General to the army. So far as I (correspondent, Liverpool *Catholic Times*), am aware the only Catholic in any way connected with the family is Lady Wood, Sir Evelyn Wood's wife. It has been sometimes reported that the gallant General is himself a Catholic, but this is not so, though his sons are being educated in their mother's religion.