

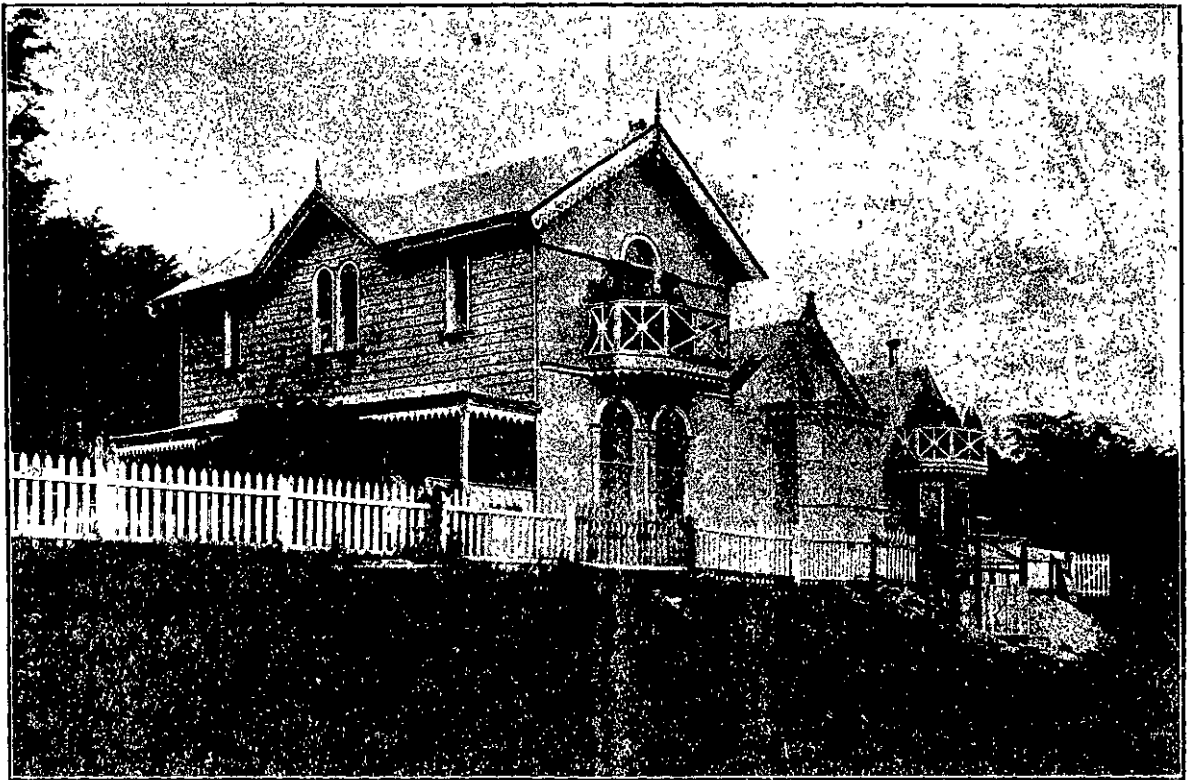
THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

OPENING OF THE HOME FOR THE AGED POOR.

Thursday of last week—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—saw the realisation of a hope that had for a long time engaged the attention of his Lordship the Bishop, the clergy, and Catholic laity of Dunedin—the opening of a home for the aged poor under the control of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Considerable difficulty had been experienced in selecting a site for such an institution, as many factors had to be considered. The cost of a suitable area within the city limits was prohibitive, whilst many of the suburbs were unsuitable owing to want of facilities of access. About two months ago his Lordship was extremely fortunate in securing for the purpose at a reasonable price a section of three and a half acres of land, with a large private residence, at Anderson's Bay. The property is situated about half a mile above the township on the upper road to Portobello, and can be reached from the city, as soon as the tram line is completed, in about twenty minutes. The land has an extensive frontage to the main road, but the privacy of the grounds is completely maintained by a belt of native bush and a plantation of European trees. In fact the section is sheltered all

During the past three or four weeks the building has undergone a thorough overhaul, so that now it is in a very complete state of repair, and presents a very comfortable appearance both inside and outside. Added to this it has been completely furnished with every requisite, thanks to the zeal and energy of Miss Mulholland, assisted by numerous generous benefactors—Catholics and non-Catholics—who have donated all kinds of household necessities, from beds and bedding to kitchen utensils. Detached from the main building is a compact wash-house with copper and tubs complete, and water laid on from the house tanks. At some distance from the Home is a commodious building, formerly used as a stable, coach-house, and fowl pen, which will be found very useful now for similar purposes. The grounds, after leaving sufficient area for the pasturage of a couple of cows and a horse, will be very suitable for the purposes of a kitchen garden and, knowing the aptitude which the Sisters are noted for in turning everything to account, it is safe to say that within a short time they will turn this to very good advantage in the raising of vegetables for the institution.

The Mother Superior—Mother Mary—accompanied the community from the parent house at Randwick, Sydney, and will remain here for a few days until all arrangements are completed. The community is to consist of seven, of whom the Superior is Sister Appoline, who had been for some years in Auckland, prior to which she spent about ten years in Calcutta.



THE NEW HOME OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR, ANDERSON'S BAY, DUNEDIN.

round by trees, principally native bush, and as it slopes from the Home towards the north it gets the full benefit of the sun all day long. The view from the grounds is very fine, commanding as it does the inner harbor, the city and the hills to the north and west of it, and the ocean out towards St Clair. It was the general consensus of opinion among those who were present at the ceremony that it was an ideal place for such an institution, and that it would be a very difficult matter, even at great cost, to get a better one in the whole of the city or suburbs. The house had been built as a private residence many years ago, but like all buildings that were put up in the early days its timbers are now in a better condition than those of much more modern structures. It is a two-storey building, somewhat irregular in shape, but having considerable accommodation, and all the necessary requisites for the purposes for which it is now intended. In the main portion of the building there are on the ground floor a large room, which if used as a dormitory, will accommodate fully a dozen beds; a chapel, which has been erected within the past few weeks; and another large apartment suitable for a dining room. In a one-storey wing are a large kitchen, with a fine range, scullery, and an apartment which could be used as a sleeping room for some of the inmates. The upper storey is reached by two flights of stairs, and here are a spacious dormitory, in which can be placed about a dozen beds, and three other rooms capable of accommodating three or four persons each.

The ceremony of blessing and formally opening the Home took place shortly after three o'clock in the presence of a large assemblage of the clergy and laity. His Lordship the Bishop officiated, and among the clergy present were the Rev. Fathers Murphy, Adm., Coffey, Cleary, Howard, O'Malley, Corcoran, Ryan, Liston, and Buckley, the laity present comprising many prominent Catholic and non-Catholic citizens.

At the conclusion of the ceremony of blessing the Home the visitors assembled at the main entrance, when several addresses were delivered. The Rev. Father Murphy, Adm. St. Joseph's Cathedral, read an apology from the Mayor of Dunedin, who was unable to attend owing to absence in Wellington. He had also received apologies from several of the clergy, who had given donations towards this very laudable object. Father O'Donnell, of Queenstown, had also sent an invitation to the Sisters to canvass his parish whenever they found it convenient to do so, and expressed his willingness to give them all the assistance in his power. Several other priests were willing to do the same. It was not expected that large subscriptions would be given on the present occasion, as those attending the opening of the Home had already contributed towards the good object, but should there be any kindly disposed towards the movement their donations would, of course, be gladly received. He himself would give a further donation of £10 towards the Home.

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