

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

July 3.

The Very Rev. Vicar-General was confined to his room over Sunday suffering from an attack of influenza. The Rev. Father S. Mahony is assisting at the Forty-Hours' Adoration at Temuka.

At the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration now taking place at Lyttelton the Rev. Fathers Richards (Lincoln) and O'Connell (Cathedral) are assisting.

The Very Rev. Dean Binsfeld, S.M., who has been at Hawarden since the departure of the Rev. Father Price, is at present assisting at the Cathedral. The Rev. Father Graham from St. Patrick's College is in temporary charge of the northern parish.

A sale of work is announced to be opened in St. Mary's schoolroom, Manchester street, on July 13, with the object of reducing the parish debt. The ladies of the congregation are energetically engaged in preparation. Among the varied attractions there will be numerous competitions.

A casual visitor to the Catholic Club rooms on last Tuesday evening would be thoroughly mystified at the strange company in possession, and enjoying itself to the full of its bent. After a somewhat careful scrutiny of the motley assembly, however, nothing worse was revealed than that the usual staid and highly respectable members of the club were at 'play.' The event in progress was what had been designated a 'Costume Social,' and here one met 'dead beats' and foreigners from various climes and of many callings, 'sundowners,' Chinamen, usurers, and costers, impersonated to life, and spending the time in song, speech, etc. The make-up of most was so effective that their identity was difficult and in some instances impossible to discover.

In the genial pastor of Lyttelton the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and its proteges, primarily the seamen visiting the port, have a sincere and warm friend. Speaking at the concert on last Thursday evening, the Rev. Father Cooney referred to the splendid results already achieved by the Conference's mission to seamen. The residents of Lyttelton had a duty to perform in regard to poor Jack. If it were not for seamen there would be no ships, and without ships there would be no Lyttelton. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul rightly conceived it to be part of its duty to help seamen and to remove some of their hardships. A faithful record of all Catholic seamen is kept, with their addresses and other particulars. Sick seamen are taken to the hospital, and numerous services are rendered them. Poor Jack is not ungrateful, and many of them write from time to time in appreciation of their kind treatment. These letters amply compensate the members of the Society for their work of love in a good cause. The social hall about to be erected would aid very materially the conference in its mission, and with the help so generously given that evening their hopes were brought much nearer realisation.

A grand evening's entertainment, promoted by the St. Joseph's Conference, of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Lyttelton, was given in the local Oddfellows' Hall on last Thursday to a crowded audience. The programme was provided by the choir of St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, and friends, and they carried out their self-imposed task admirably. The first part consisted of Mendelssohn's sacred cantata, 'Lauda Sion,' in which the choir achieved a distinct success. The names of the principal vocalists in their allotted parts appeared in last week's 'Tablet,' so that a repetition is needless. Quite the hardest task devolved upon Miss McLaughlin, who, as soprano soloist, sang the music artistically and with charming effect. An efficient orchestra led by Miss Matthews aided very materially in the success of the performance. Mr. W. H. Corrigan conducted, and he is certainly deserving of genuine congratulation for the high state of perfection attained in matters musical under his control. The second part consisted of concert items, and proved not the least enjoyable of the evening's bill of fare. Miss K. Robinson quite captivated the audience with sacred programme songs and recall numbers. Misses O'Brien and F. Gardner were well received. Mr. W. H. Corrigan contributed a clarinet solo, 'Aria,' and maintained his reputation as probably the best performer on that instrument we have heard here. Messrs. C. Goggan and A. Read sang with their accustomed success. Mr. R. Petersen, in his character songs, pleased the audience immensely, his two items mounting up to six before he was permitted to quit the stage. Mr. W. Densum, an entertainer of whom it is impossible to tire, delighted the audience in his musical monologues, being recalled again and again. 'The accompaniments' were

provided by Misses O'Brien, Cameron, and Casey, and Mr. R. A. Horne. Specially reserved carriages were provided on the train for the performers and others who went down from the city. Among those of the large party were several of the Particular Council of the Society, under the auspices of which the entertainment was given. Every preparation was made by the president and members of the Lyttelton Conference for the comfort and enjoyment of visitors. The hon. secretary, Mr. C. Delany, who worked with the utmost enthusiasm and energy to make the event the success it undoubtedly was, is deserving of the warmest commendation. At the conclusion of the entertainment the Rev. Father Cooney thanked most cordially the choir and the contributors to the programme, the audience, committee of management, and all who had assisted. He also spoke at some length on the object of their efforts, and the great boon to the residents of Lyttelton, as well as to the seamen, the projected social hall and club rooms would prove.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

June 29.

An entertainment in aid of the Sacred Heart parish fund will take place next Monday evening.

A committee meeting in connection with the approaching bazaar was held last Sunday evening in St. Benedict's Schoolroom, Rev. Father McMillan being in the chair. A large number of ladies and gentlemen was present, and much interest was shown in the proceedings.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration commenced at St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday at the 11 o'clock Mass. His Lordship the Bishop was present in the sanctuary. High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Edge, Rev. Fathers Cahill and Mulvihill being deacon and subdeacon respectively, and Rev. Father Holbrook master of ceremonies. The Bishop explained the meaning, objects, and origin of the Forty Hours' Adoration. After Mass a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place. 'The various parish confraternities took part in the procession. In the evening at Vespers Rev. Father Holbrook preached a fine sermon. The devotion continued through Monday until Tuesday morning.

Warner's 'History' book is just now the talk of the city and province. Last Thursday the 'Auckland Star' in a leader called for its removal from the schools. On Sunday afternoon an open air meeting of the Protestant Defence Association was held, at which Warner's book was extolled, and the Government and Auckland Education Board were urged to turn a deaf ear to the 'entreaties of Rome.' The Premier has replied to the Association saying that he has sent on the book to the Inspector-General of Schools for his report. Meanwhile letters gallop appear in the local press for and against the book. If anything were needed to convince the Government of the necessity for withdrawing Warner's history, its champions are supplying it in abundance.

The committee of the Sacred Heart parish have issued a circular dealing with the financial position. After thanking the coupon-holders for their generous help during the year, and expressing the hope that all who have not taken up coupons will do so immediately, the committee state that there is owing to the bank at the present time £169 15s 1d, after paying away £100 off the church debt; £375 for school play-ground; £183 10s 8d to his Lordship the Bishop for improvements to church and school; and the large sum of £55 18s for interest. The debt on the church is now reduced to £650, and the debt owing to the bank is £169 15s 1d, making a total still owing of £819 15s 1d. The receipts from all sources during the year were £571 0s 10d (including £258 5s 10d by sale of land in O'Neill street, and £278 9s 1d coupon subscriptions); whilst the expenditure amounted to £740 15s 11d (inclusive of £375 paid for land, £183 improvements to church, school and presbytery, and £100 paid off church).

The event of the season in Dunedin—Messrs. A. and T. Inglis' annual sale—will commence on Tuesday, August 1, and continue until Saturday, September 9, during which time the whole of their magnificent stock, amounting to upwards of £60,000, will be disposed of at very large reductions. This is the firm's sixteenth annual colossal sale, and, considering the great success of previous ones, it is safe to say that this will prove to be equally, if not more, popular...