

OBITUARY

VERY REV. J. SHEEHAN.

With much regret we record the demise of the Very Rev. John Sheehan, pastor of Riverton, who passed away on Friday last, July 14, at the parochial house, Riverton. For the past three years the deceased had been under medical treatment for a complication of ailments, the most insidious of which was Bright's disease, which during the past six months reached a more acute stage, producing a cardiac affection, accompanied at times by severe fainting fits. Despite, however, the critical nature of his ailment, Father Sheehan pluckily faced the severe physical strain of parochial work and continued in harness practically to the last. He even rose from his death-bed to celebrate Mass on the second Sunday before he passed away. The Bishop was in constant attendance on him for the three last days of his life, and he received the consolations of religion from the Rev. Father Lynch, of Invercargill, on the day preceding his death.

The Very Rev. John Sheehan was born in Garnailla, County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1851. He received his early training for the sacred ministry in the famous monastery of Mount Melleray, Ireland, during the years 1866-9. In the last-mentioned year he proceeded to St. John's College, Waterford, where for six years he pursued with much success the higher studies preparatory for the priesthood, and was ordained priest in 1875. In the same year he came to the diocese of Dunedin. For some two years he was attached to St. Joseph's Cathedral. He was then appointed to the pastoral charge of the extensive parish of Ophir, which comprised the present parishes of Ophir and Ranfurly. In that pastorate of generous distances he labored with zeal and fruitfulness for 23 years. In 1900 he was transferred to Riverton, where, as already recorded, he passed away on the 14th instant.

Father Sheehan was gifted with a ready wit, and, under a somewhat rugged exterior, he possessed a mind that was richly stored with wide and varied reading, and a goodness of heart and ready sympathy which won him many warm friends among people of every class and creed. This was especially the case in the pastorate of Ophir, in which by far the greater part of his priestly life was spent. There were few dry eyes in the congregations to whom his death was announced on last Sunday in Central Otago, and large contingents of his former parishioners there made the long and cold journey to Dunedin to pay their last tribute of respect to his memory. The remains were brought by train from Riverton to Dunedin on Monday, accompanied by the Bishop, many of the clergy from the South, and representative Catholic laymen from various parts of the Riverton parish. The body was escorted by some twenty of the clergy and a considerable body of laity from the railway station to St. Joseph's Cathedral. On Tuesday morning a solemn Dirge and Requiem Mass were celebrated for the repose of his soul. The celebrant was his Lordship the Bishop; assistant priest, Monsignor O'Leary; deacon, Very Rev. J. O'Neill (Milton); subdeacon, Very Rev. P. O'Donnell (Gore); master of ceremonies, Rev. P. Murphy, Adm. The cantors at the Office were Rev. H. W. Cleary and Rev. J. Liston. The music of the Mass was beautifully rendered by the Dominican nuns. In addition to those already mentioned, the following clergy were also present: Very Rev. Dean Burke (Invercargill), Rev. A. MacMullan (Ranfurly), Rev. P. O'Dea (Ophir), Rev. G. Hunt (Alexandra), Rev. J. Ryan (Gromwell), Rev. James Lynch (Palmerston), Rev. John Lynch (Invercargill), Revs. P. Delany, M. Ryan, and D. Buckley (Mosgiel), Rev. J. McGrath (Tapanui), Rev. P. O'Neill (Winton), Rev. P. O'Neill (Annandale), Rev. J. Coffey (South Dunedin), Rev. P. Hearn (Gore), Rev. M. Howard (Port Chalmers), Rev. J. Geary (Lawrence), Rev. W. Corcoran (South Dunedin), Rev. J. O'Reilly (Oamaru), and Rev. J. O'Malley (Cathedral). The remaining clergy of the diocese were precluded from attendance by ill-health or by the pressure of sick duty in remote parts of their missions.

The funeral cortege left St. Joseph's Cathedral at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday and proceeded to the Southern Cemetery, where the interment took place. A large concourse of people followed the remains to their last resting-place. The ceremonies at the graveside were conducted by his Lordship the Bishop, assisted by the clergy mentioned above.—R.I.P.

MR. JOHN SHANNAHAN, GREYMOUTH.

Our Greymouth correspondent reports the death of one of the West Coast pioneers in the person of Mr. John Shannahan, who passed away on June 10, at the age of 73 years. The deceased was on the West Coast in the early days, and engaged in gold mining.

About twenty years ago he settled down in business in Greymouth, where he lived ever since. The deceased was of a most genial and charitable disposition, and always ready to lend a helping hand to those in distress. The late Mr. Shannahan left a widow, nine sons, and two daughters to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Dunedin

The following was the report presented at the annual meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Dunedin, held in St. Joseph's Hall, on Wednesday afternoon:—

The committee have pleasure in submitting the annual report and balance sheet for the year ended July 19, thus completing the twentieth year of the existence of the Dunedin branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. During the past twelve months the Society has relieved a great deal of distress, and has also been the means of sending eight women to Mount Magdala, two women and their children to Wellington, and a young girl to a Home in Auckland. This year your committee, in place of their annual concert, held a special collection at the Cathedral, North and South Dunedin churches, and desire to thank the congregation for their generous response. The small concert and euchre party held in St. Joseph's Hall, proved successful, and the Society take advantage of the present opportunity to thank all those who assisted at them. To all the generous and sympathetic friends your committee offer their heartfelt thanks, and would make special mention of his Lordship the Bishop, the clergy of the diocese, the Nuns of the Good Shepherd (Mt. Magdala), Messrs. Callan and Gallaway, U.S.S.Co., Huddart, Parker, the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, Mr. Torrance, Dr. O'Neill, Kaitangata Coal Co., and subscribing members.

The following ladies are office-bearers for the current year: President, Mrs. Jackson (re-elected); vice-president, Mrs. J. B. Callan (re-elected); treasurer, Miss Columb (re-elected); wardrobe-keeper, Mrs. Swanson (re-elected); secretary, Miss Purton (re-elected).

The following is a list of the articles sent out during the year:—Two bedsteads and bedding, 23 pairs blankets (new), 5 pairs (second-hand), 23 pinafores (new), 7 (s.h.), 5 cloaks (new), 8 (s.h.), 4 blouses (new) 59 (s.h.), 99 sets women's and children's underwear (new), 25 (s.h.), 42 overalls (new), 9 (s.h.), 4 pairs sheets (new), 2 (s.h.), 5 rugs (s.h.), 39 pairs boots and shoes (new), 23 (s.h.), 5 pairs men's boots (new), 10 (s.h.), 3 jackets (new), 19 (s.h.), 13 shirts (new), 11 (s.h.), 58 pairs stockings (new), 27 (s.h.), 13 boys' suits, 6 skirts (new), 11 (s.h.), 8 costumes, 24 under-skirts (new), 13 (s.h.), 14 dressing gowns (s.h.), 12 children's dresses, 30 men's and boys' coats, etc. (s.h.), 42 hats (s.h.), gloves, shawls, household furniture, prayer books, rosary beads, medicine, soup, etc., 289yds flannelette, 132yds dress material, 62yds lining, 142yds print, 82yds flannel, 53yds shirting, 18yds calico, 24yds holland, 36yds galatea.

Forty-three meetings were held during the year, 373 visits were made to the poor and sick, 1 boy was sent to St. Mary's (Nelson), 1 girl to St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage (South Dunedin), 8 women were sent to Mt. Magdala (Christchurch), 2 women and their children to Wellington, and a young girl was sent to a home in Auckland. The Society has had 4 children baptised. Grocery orders were given to 77 people, coal orders to 60 (which was in addition to the coal given to the Society by the Kaitangata Coal Co.). There are 207 honorary members on the roll and 8 active members.

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s d.		£	s d.
To Balance in Bank,			By Groceries	26	11 0
July, 1904	25	5 10	" Coal	27	3 9
" Fixed deposit	25	0 0	" Boots	12	14 11
" Interest on fixed			" Drapery	26	6 10
deposit	0	15 0	" U.S.S. Co. and		
" Subscriptions	41	4 6	Huddart-Parker	10	1 0
" Donations	12	16 0	" Necessaries for sick	1	13 2
" Poor box	1	18 11	" Telephone	5	1 0
" Gross receipts of			" Offerings to Mount		
concert	11	1 0	Magdala, etc.	8	0 6
" Gross receipts of			" Concert expenses	1	16 0
euchre party	5	13 0	" Euchre party ex-		
" Church collection	53	10 6	penses	1	7 10
			" Bank for keeping		
			accounts	0	10 0
			" Sundries—Cab hire,		
			cleaning room,		
			telegrams	8	8 10
			" Balance in bank	47	9 11
	£177	4 9		£177	4 9

Hancock's Imperial ALE and STOUT.

GOLD MEDAL ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.

Bottled in Auckland.