

brought up at the half-yearly meeting of the District, and it was decided to instruct the branch's delegate to vote against the motion to increase the district secretary's salary. It was also decided to vote against the motion for striking a voluntary levy for the Irish Parliamentary Fund. The balance sheet for the quarter was read, and showed the branch to be in a flourishing condition. The election of officers for the next half-year resulted as follows:—President, Bro. P. O'Leary; vice-president, Bro. B. Chapman; warden, Bro. O'Sullivan; guardian, Bro. F. Treador; treasurer, Bro. A. Stempar, jun.; secretary, Bro. S. O'Regan; sick visitors, Bros. P. O'Leary, O'Sullivan, and B. Chapman; auditors, Bro. P. O'Leary and B. Chapman; trustee, Bro. H. Richards. The various officers were duly installed by the past president, Bro. Redmond.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

July 17.

On the feast of SS. Peter and Paul nine young ladies were received into the Order of Our Lady of Missions at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Barbadoes street. The impressive ceremony was conducted, in the unavoidable absence of the Very Rev. Vicar-General owing to illness, by the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M., in the presence of a number of local and visiting clergy.

At Rangiora last week the members of the legal profession met to make a presentation to Mr. M. Lynskey, who has retired from the position of clerk to the Bench on pension. Mr. M. S. Brown said that it was felt that something should be done to show the high regard and appreciation which the Bar had for Mr. Lynskey, who was always ready to assist them. On their behalf he presented him with a highly polished case, containing pipes, with the inscription: 'Presented to M. Lynskey, Esq., by the legal profession practising in the Kaipoi district.' Mr. Lynskey, in replying, referred to the history of the Court, which he had been connected with for nearly forty years, and thanked them all cordially for their kindness.

The following is a summary of the report on the Marist Brothers' School, furnished by Mr. T. S. Foster, M.A., Inspector to the North Canterbury Board of Education:—Reading, good, fluent, and expressive; composition, carefully taught, with generally good results; spelling, good; writing, very good, paper work neatly and orderly arranged; recitation, satisfactory; arithmetic, taught on sound lines; drawing, fair to very fair; singing, satisfactory; physical instruction, dumb-bell exercises well done; elementary science, a good course of lessons imparted, and illustrated by suitable apparatus; in Class P., reading, writing, and spelling, good; arithmetic, very fair; order, discipline, and tone of school, good. The Inspector concluded thus:—The results of the examination point to careful training of the pupils, and effective treatment of the leading subjects of the syllabus, exemplified more particularly in the commendable quality of the reading and the writing. The percentage passed was 93.

At the Catholic Club rooms on last Tuesday evening an interesting and instructive lecture was given by Mr. L. Birks, electrical engineer of the municipal tramways, on the application of electricity to the system now in use in the city. Mr. J. R. Hayward (vice-president) presided, and read apologies for the unavoidable absence of his Lordship the Bishop and of the president, Mr. R. O. Duncan. The subject was treated in a most comprehensive manner by the lecturer, and by the aid of the limelight a number of excellent views were shown illustrative of the lecture. These included a wide range of subjects, some of which he had been intimately connected with, such as the Sydney power-house and the electric system of that city, where, at the time mentioned, there were 700 cars either running, ready for traffic, or under construction. The great electric works at Niagara were illustrated and explained, and also those of Switzerland, embracing the railways electrified, the electrical technical school at Zurich, operations at Geneva, and the huge lifts in connection with London's underground railways. The projected harnessing of the Waimakariri was touched upon, the feasibility of which the lecturer conceded to be quite possible and even probable. The power, he said, had only a distance of 27 miles to be transmitted, whereas electric power was brought to San Francisco from a distance of 140 miles. At the conclusion of the lecture, which was listened to most attentively by a large audience, a vote of thanks was proposed by the Very Rev. Vicar-General, seconded by the Rev. Father O'Connell, and enthusiastically accorded. The limelight was manipulated by Mr. Beardsley.

At the conclusion of his lecture at the Catholic Club rooms on Tuesday evening Mr. Birks exhibited and explained a number of the fittings seen in daily use in the electric tramways. The turbine installed at the Christchurch power-house, which was of 1000 horse power, made 1800 revolutions every minute and a half. Most people, he said, labor under the impression that electricians themselves do not really know what electricity is. The lecturer referred to this popular fallacy at the outset, and told his audience that the expert knew quite as much about the subtle fluid as the layman did about an apple or a potato. He explained that electricity was identical with ether, the all-pervading fluid, and likened it to water, except that one flowed through pipes and the other through wires. Referring to the popular fear of fatal consequences by contact with the electric wires, such a danger exists only in the imagination of timid persons, explained Mr. Birks during his lecture. Since the inception of the new tramway system, many unlightened people are firmly convinced that should they by any mischance come into contact with the electric current from the trolley wire or any other part of the system, the result would be instantly fatal. But Mr. Birks made it clear that such persons were agitating themselves quite needlessly. The pressure of the tramway current was 600 volts, he stated. Now a pressure of 50 volts could just be felt when transmitted to the human body, whilst 100 volts gave a pleasing, comfortable feeling. Two hundred volts became painful, but not dangerous, and 1000 volts would almost always prove fatal. But 600 volts—the tramway pressure—was not dangerous, though the shock was usually painful. The maximum allowable for tramway systems had been specifically laid down by the British Board of Trade, so as to come well under the fatal limit, and that maximum had not been exceeded in Christchurch. 'I have often received a dozen or more shocks a day at the power-house,' remarked Mr. Birks, 'and have received no injury. I have taken my hand away and squealed, but have gone on working again.' Still it is not advisable for people to go about experimenting with live wires; as Mr. Birks pointed out, the shock was apt to give a painful sensation, although there was nothing dreadful about it.

Temuka

(From our own correspondent.)

July 17.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes arrived here on Friday afternoon, and the same evening commenced his episcopal visitation of the parish. At the conclusion of the ceremonies Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by his Lordship.

A telegram, received by his Lordship the Bishop from Very Rev. Dean Foley, on Saturday last, states that there is no sign of improvement in his health as yet, and further it stated that he was to go into an hospital in Auckland this week.

Speaking at the Confirmation ceremony on Sunday, his Lordship the Bishop said he took the opportunity of denying the statement recently made that the youth of New Zealand were addicted to strong drink.

Arrangements are in preparation for holding a concert and art union in Kerrytown on August 24. The proceeds are to be devoted to the erection of a two-roomed cottage for the convenience of the clergy when they have to stay there overnight.

Speaking in eulogistic terms of the good work done in the parish of Temuka by the late Father Fauvel, his Lordship the Bishop suggested to the people the desirability of erecting some memorial to perpetuate his memory, a good one he thought would be the completion of the church by the erection of a sanctuary in his honor.

On Sunday morning after the second Mass his Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about 80 children. In the afternoon his Lordship, accompanied by Rev. Fathers Kerley and Peoples, drove to Pleasant Point, and there confirmed 39 boys and 19 girls, whom the Rev. Father Peoples had been preparing for some time past for the worthy reception of the sacrament. At both places his Lordship administered to the children a pledge to abstain from intoxicating liquor till they had reached 21 years of age.

The usual weekly meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Club was held on Tuesday evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. O'Halloran, and there was a large attendance of members present. The programme for the evening took the form of a debate, 'Should the disabilities of women be removed?' Mr. Z. Beri opened the question in the affirmative with an excellent speech adducing strong arguments in favor of placing