

St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage

On Sunday afternoon a number of prominent citizens attended by invitation at the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin, for the purpose of seeing how the work of the institution is carried out, and judging for themselves regarding the care and attention bestowed upon the children by the Sisters of Mercy. The visitors were shown over the spotlessly clean and well-kept institution by the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. and the Mother Superior. Those of our readers who are in any way acquainted with institutions conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, need not be told that dormitories, lavatories, etc., were the pink of perfection.

Among those present were his Lordship the Bishop, Rev. Father Coffey, Rev. Father Howard, Rev. Father Liston, Rev. Father Corcoran, Right Hon. the Premier, Mr. Braithwaite (Mayor of Dunedin), Mr. C. C. Graham, S.M., Mr. Widdowson, S.M., Dr. O'Neill, Messrs. Gallaway, M. Cohen, etc.

After the visitors had made a thorough inspection of the institution they assembled in the refectory, which had been tastefully decorated, and here they were entertained with an address of welcome, admirably delivered by one of the girls; several nicely rendered choruses; and an exhibition of club-swinging.

At the conclusion of the programme the Rev. Father Coffey said they had all seen some of the work carried out in the institution, and although the Government gave a certain amount of assistance they did not do all, and it was necessary to have recourse to private charity, and that meeting was for the purpose of giving those ladies and gentlemen who had taken part in the entertainment in aid of the funds an opportunity of seeing the good work that was being done. The success of that entertainment had exceeded the most sanguine expectations. That result was due to the generous patronage of the friends of the institution, and he was pleased to say that these included persons of all denominations in Dunedin (applause). The building where they were assembled was used only for the housing accommodation of the children, as they received their education at the parish school, and mixed freely with the other children in the playground. This practice of allowing the inmates to mix with the outside children was productive of the best results, and helped to do away with the feeling that they were in any sense a body apart. On behalf of the Rev. Mother and the orphans he heartily thanked the ladies and gentlemen, and especially Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, for their great kindness in getting up the entertainment, and also Mr. Marlow, the hon. secretary, who spared neither time nor trouble in connection therewith; their thanks were also due to the Right Hon. the Premier for honoring them with his presence, to his Worship the Mayor of Dunedin, the other ladies and gentlemen present, and to the many kind benefactors and supporters of the institution (applause).

The Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, in the course of a brief address, expressed his appreciation of the very creditable entertainment which the little ones had provided, and the address of welcome delivered by one of them. The work carried out by the orphanage was a good and necessary one. He was pleased to hear that the entertainment was a success, and that pleasure was enhanced by the knowledge that in Dunedin Christian charity and good work knew no religious differences. It was a great pleasure to him to hear that the little ones were allowed to mix freely with the children of the parish school, and he would like to see this practice more generally followed. Addressing the inmates, he trusted they would prove themselves good children, and implicitly obey the Mother Superior and the good Sisters. In conclusion, on behalf of the visitors, he thanked the Rev. Mother Superior and the Sisters for the excellent work they were doing (applause).

The Mayor of Dunedin said that the work carried on at the orphanage was one which appealed to every right-minded man and woman. Should his services be required at any time he would gladly place them at the disposal of the institution.

Mr. John Fuller, jun., thanked Father Coffey for his kind remarks regarding those who had taken part in the play, and promised that next year's entertainment would be a still greater success (applause).

At the conclusion of the proceedings afternoon tea was dispensed to the visitors.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies states in his annual report that the new registration of societies during 1904 numbered 19, 6 of these being branches of the H.A.C.B. Society.

PUBLICATIONS

The latest publications by the Australian Catholic Truth Society are the Encyclical Letter of the late Pope Leo XIII. on the 'Condition of Labor' and the 'Life of St. Patrick' by his Eminence Cardinal Moran. There never was a period, perhaps, in the history of the world when the conflict between capital and labor was more acute and when the working classes are more likely to be led away by the shallow theories of extreme socialists than at the present time. The condition of labor in European countries lends itself to the propagandism of anarchy. In these colonies labor is more conservative, and is moving to ameliorate its condition by constitutional means. But even here some of the self-elected leaders show by their writings and speeches that they have not an elementary knowledge of the principles of sound social economy. The Encyclical on Labor goes to the root of the problem, and should be carefully studied by all who desire to see labor and capital working amicably together for the betterment of humanity.

Many volumes have been written on the life of the National Apostle of Ireland, but we doubt if any of them contain more information of interest to the general reader than that of the eminent Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney, who has brought his great learning and research to bear upon a subject dear to the heart of every Irishman. His Eminence has had unequalled opportunities of consulting the best and most reliable authorities on the missionary labors of St. Patrick, and the publication of the A.C.T. Society bears the impress of the Cardinal-Archbishop's research and deep learning.

In the October issue of our local and popular monthly, 'The Red Funnel,' the editor has not only redeemed the promises made in the first number, but has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of his readers by the varied and excellent bill of fare provided. In the present number nearly all reasonable tastes are catered for. The pride of place is given to the Hon. C. H. Mills, who deals with matters commercial. Those of a literary bent will find much to interest them in the illustrated article on the Sir George Grey collection in the Auckland Library by Miss Myers; the serpents of Australia and their habits are treated in a brief and popular manner by Mr. J. O. Byrne; Miss Fenwick gives us an account of travel in Russia, her observations on the Muscovite Empire being particularly interesting at the present time, politicians will find something worth their attention in the rise and fall of Federal Ministries, whilst educationists will be interested in the comparison between the educational systems of New Zealand and Scotland. Light literature is well represented, and poetry is by no means neglected. The illustrations, as usual, are numerous and well executed. From whatever standpoint we look at it the current issue of 'The Red Funnel' is highly creditable to all concerned in its production.

Owing to next Wednesday being Labor Day, we will have to go to press on Tuesday afternoon, consequently all lengthy communications intended for insertion should reach this office not later than Monday, as only brief notices can be dealt with on the morning of publication.

We notice from a Home paper that among the successful New Zealanders studying medicine at the Edinburgh University is Mr. Richard Dorset, an ex-student of St. Patrick's College, and son of Mrs. W. L. Dorset, Mauriceville, Wairarapa, who passed in the July examinations.

The meeting on September 17 of the Hokitika Catholic Debating Society was well attended, Mr. M. Moloney being in the chair. The subject for debate was, 'Does the stage elevate the minds of the people?' Mr. H. Bock supported the affirmative, whilst Mr. Jas. Toomey championed the negative side. Several members took part in the discussion, amongst them being many of the juniors. At the conclusion the usual vote was taken, and the affirmative side won. The meeting was the most successful held this session.

The following is a list of successful candidates from the convent school, conducted by the Sisters of the Missions, who passed at the musical examinations in June last (writes a Nelson correspondent):—Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music—Local Centre—Rudiments, Edith Frank, 99 (honors); Nellie Vaughan, 99 (honors); Ivy M. Crisp, 86 (honors). Trinity College—Junior honors, Eileen Arnold, 89; Anne McCarthy, 86; Eulalie McArtney, 84. Junior pass, Ethel Saunders, 74. Preparatory grade, Mary Fitzsimmons, 89 (honors); Mary Stephens, 78; Mary Lodge, 77; Florrie Saunders, 74.