

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Very Rev. Father Keating, S.J., of Melbourne, is conducting the retreat of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin.

The Rev. Father O'Brien, of Warracknabeal, Victoria, who had been paying a brief visit to New Zealand, left for Melbourne by the 'Maheno' on Sunday.

The Rev. J. Slattery, C.M., of Bathurst (N.S.W.), who had been for some days the guest of his Lordship Bishop Verdon, left last week for the cold lakes district.

At the close of the distribution of prizes at the convent school, Port Chalmers, Miss Nellie Drake was presented with a gold medal for having passed two musical examinations (theoretical and practical) with honors. Miss Lucy Osborne was presented with a silver medal for having secured honors in the musical knowledge examination.

We regret to record the death at Treesbank, Palmerston South, of Miss Dorinda Mary Horan, younger daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Horan, which occurred on December 18. The deceased, who was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends, always took a practical interest in Church matters, and was ever to the fore in works of religion and charity.—R.I.P.

A heavily-built, dark-bearded foreigner, who professes to be a 'Catholic priest' and a priest of the Nestorian denomination, has been soliciting contributions from Catholics in and about Dunedin. So far as we know, there are no Nestorians in New Zealand. The individual in question is not a priest of any rite in union with Rome, and he has no authorisation from his Lordship the Bishop to collect money from Catholics in the diocese of Dunedin. The Rev. Father Dahdah, now ministering to the Syrians in Dunedin, is the only priest at present in the diocese belonging to any Eastern rite in communion with Rome.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 1.

By the generosity of members of the family of the late Mr. A. J. White the Cathedral has been enriched by several costly gifts. Magnificent dalmatics, embroidered in gold, and used for the first time on Christmas Day, were presented by Miss Alice White together with a splendid Brussels carpet for the sanctuary. The latter was procured specially for the occasion. Some handsome candelabra were also added to numerous previous benefactions of these young ladies.

The Catholic picnic at the Riccarton racecourse on December 26 was nearly marred at the very outset by a double fatality. A little boy, aged three, by some means fell into an artificial lake containing from eight to twelve feet of water; an elder sister went to his assistance, and locked in each other's arms they sank. An alarm was raised and a brave boy named Philip Dwyer, hardly in his teens, without a moment's hesitation divested himself of coat only and dived in to the rescue, brought both children to the surface and to the bank. The younger child was apparently dead, but young Dwyer's father, Sub-Inspector Dwyer, who was speedily on the spot and skilled in 'first aid,' after ten minutes' persevering effort succeeded in restoring animation. This incident proves the advantages of a knowledge of swimming—a knowledge possessed by few if any of the boys attending our schools, owing to the absence of a swimming bath of their own, a privilege enjoyed by almost every other school in the city, and a disability, it is to be hoped which will soon be removed. Young Dwyer learnt the art while at Wanganui, and the practical use he made of it on the occasion under notice should most certainly be recognised by the Royal Humane Society. In this connection it is worthy of note that Sub-Inspector Dwyer has received awards on two occasions for saving life from drowning, one of whom was a brother of Lord Kitchener.

The second anniversary of the Ashburton branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was celebrated by a social gathering on Monday evening, December 18. The president, Bro. O'Carroll, occupied the chair; the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell was present, and a large attendance of members. The Druids and Foresters were represented, also St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, Christchurch, by P.P. Bros. F. J. Doolan and Jas. McCormick. It being quarterly night a considerable amount of general business was transacted, including nomination of officers, for which in every instance a ballot will be necessary. The membership roll now stands at 125, and four additional members were nominated. A lengthy toast list, interspersed with musical items, was gone through. The toast of the Christchurch branch was accorded musical honors. The representatives in

reply congratulated the Ashburton branch on the position attained in so short a time—numerically the sixth in the Colony. Reference was made to matters of local and colonial interest to the society, especially in regard to the scale of clearance values, which is to come before the N.Z. District Meeting at an early date. The chaplain, the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell, was greeted at various stages of the meeting with expressions of appreciation and gratitude for the sustained interest manifested by him in the affairs of the branch. His keen perception and business ability were acknowledged as being invaluable.

The hard-working and energetic committee which took in hand the promotion of the excursion, picnic, and children's treat deserve to be complimented on having achieved one of the notable successes of the year. The day's proceedings commenced with a procession of school children from the Cathedral to the railway station, after which at short intervals four trains left for the scene of the day's festivities. Rain threatened during the early hours of the morning, but when the last train arrived at the race course the sun shone out brightly, and the day proved an ideal one for an outing. It is estimated that fully three thousand persons were present, including many from surrounding districts. His Lordship the Bishop and a number of the clergy were on the ground throughout the day. The beautiful park of the C.J.C. looked at its best, and all portions, including the buildings, were generously placed at the disposal of the committee. On the lawn Derry's Band played inspiring music during the day. The little ones were amply provided with luxuries and toys, and a special committee, aided by the Marxist Brothers, arranged and carried out a sports programme for them, presenting prizes at the end of each event. In this department his Lordship the Bishop was keenly interested, spending a great part of the time in the company of the children, and evidently enjoying the proceedings.

Christchurch: Retreat of the Clergy

We are requested by his Lordship the Bishop of Christchurch to state that the annual retreat of the clergy of the diocese begins on Wednesday evening, January 17.

The Late Dean Foley

The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, and nephew of the late Very Rev. Dean Foley, has received the following letter from the secretary of the New Headford branch of the H.A.C.B. Society:—

'On behalf of the New Headford branch I beg to forward you a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting held on December 28: "That this meeting record its deep regret at the decease of their former chaplain, the late Very Rev. Dean Foley, and also the appreciation of the branch for his very valuable services during the time of his chaplaincy." The members could not, I am sure, express in words their deep and heartfelt regret on the death of such a warm-hearted, faithful, and devoted priest. During the seven years he was chaplain of our branch he made himself so endeared to all of us that he can never be forgotten. It was he, I might state, who was mainly responsible for doubling the membership of the branch, and apart from his good work in other parts, we feel sure that his efforts in our little parish have been a benefit to every one of us. Promising you that we will always remember him in our prayers, and asking you to accept our sincere sympathy on the loss of your dear relative.'

The Foodless Maoris

The Rev. Father Maillard (Jerusalem, Wanganui River) writes us acknowledging the receipt of £2 7s from Mrs. Keeney (Thistle Inn) and friends. 'The Maoris,' says Father Maillard, 'are digging the blighted potatoes and eating them. The tubers are not bigger than pheasants' eggs, and not a crop has been spared by the blight.' Further contributions are earnestly solicited.

ORDO FOR JANUARY

We publish on page 6 of this issue the 'Ordo' for January, which will be found most useful by the clergy pending the arrival of the official one.

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