

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 1.

Among the passengers from Sydney on Wednesday were the Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., Superior of the Redemptorists, and Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., Very Rev. Fathers Clune, and Rev. Fathers MacDermott and Lowham left for the south on mission work last evening.

The following officers have been elected in connection with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, formed at a large and enthusiastic meeting last week:—President, Mr. Martin Kennedy; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. J. Devine, Sub-Inspector Donovan, M. O'Connor, and B. Doherty; secretary, Mr. J. Gamble; treasurer, Mr. O. McArdle. The principal work of the society will consist in protecting the interests of Catholic children that are left uncared for.

St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, was beautifully decorated on Tuesday morning on the occasion of the marriage of Miss May Sullivan, eldest daughter of Mrs. Sullivan, Tasman street, to Mr. Oscar Ellis, of Petone. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Father O'Shea, assisted by Rev. Father Venning. A reception, to which a large number of friends were invited, was afterwards held at the residence of the bride's mother, where Father O'Shea proposed the toast of the happy couple, which was duly honored. The honeymoon is being spent in the Hawke's Bay district.

A well-filled hall greeted the first public appearance of the music pupils of St. Joseph's Convent, South Wellington, on Thursday evening. It is no exaggeration to say that the programme submitted, and the manner in which the several items were given, more than favorably compared with more pretentious concerts. The chorus work throughout was particularly fine. The effect of 'Hark! 'tis the Indian drum' being especially marked. Miss Eilla McMahon gave a very feeling rendering of 'Hush! little one,' that earned a well-deserved encore. Mascheroni's 'Ave Maria' was nicely given by Miss Eileen Barton. In the second part she was heard to advantage in 'Angels ever bright and fair,' and in company with Miss A. Gurney had to respond to a recall for the rendering of 'Maying.' Miss Lillian Head's singing of 'Dry those tears' and 'Abide with me' was marked by a sympathy in harmony with the subjects. 'Snowflakes' by Miss Muriel Bennett was also tastefully rendered. A flute solo by Mr. A. McDonald and a violin solo by Mr. Cimino added to the pleasure of the evening. The Sisters are to be heartily congratulated. Misses Grace Nelson, N. Quirk, and M. Evans, L.A.B., played the several accompaniments.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 3.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, Bishop of Auckland, spent last week in Christchurch. He preached at Vespers in St. Mary's, Manchester street, on Sunday evening, and afterwards pontificated at solemn Benediction in the Cathedral, attended by the Rev. Fathers Galerne and Peoples.

What is regarded by many as a retrograde step is the exclusion of women this year by the local contributing bodies to the Charitable Aid Board from that body in connection with which several lady members in the past have accomplished so much undoubted good work. Hopes are expressed that they will not be discouraged by the present action of the "powers that be," who have evidently failed to share that appreciation of past services which is felt by a large section of the general public.

A mission by the Redemptorist Fathers was solemnly opened at the eleven o'clock Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday, the opening sermon being preached by the Very Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R. At three o'clock in the afternoon the Rev. Father MacDermott, C.S.S.R., opened the children's mission, and in the evening a mission sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., to an exceptionally large congregation, additional seating having of necessity to be provided in the corridors.

Temuka

(From our own correspondent.)

A conversazione in aid of the furnishing of the presbytery is to be held on December 17.

The Temuka Catholic Young Men's Club held a meeting on Tuesday evening last to consider the proposal of joining in the camp of the Catholic Young Men, to be held in Christchurch during Christmas week. Several members signified their intention of taking part.

One of the most successful entertainments yet held in the district took place in the Kerrytown school-room on Thursday evening last, in aid of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Though the weather was not very promising, yet the school was packed, and all were pleased with the programme, which included items by the school children, and performers from Timaru and Temuka.

Thames

There was a very crowded attendance at the Opera House on Thursday evening, November 22 (says the 'Thames Star'), when the annual entertainment by the pupils and ex-pupils of the Convent High School was held. The contributors to the programme, amongst whom were a large number of small children, acquitted themselves admirably, bearing ample testimony to the capable instruction of the Sisters, and the audience showed their appreciation in a marked manner. The chorus, 'The Four Sisters,' was a very effective item, the soloists being Misses V. Twohill (England), N. Gibson (Scotland), M. Gill (Wales), and McEnteer (Ireland), the dressing being appropriate to the occasion. Another striking item was a chorus and dance by a bevy of tiny maidens charmingly attired in Japanese kimono. 'The Light Castanet' was also prettily staged, Misses Gibson and V. Twohill taking the solos. A pretty fan action song was gracefully rendered, and 'The Green Shores of Erin' made a bright chorus. A special feature of these entertainments is the pianoforte playing of the pupils, and this occasion proved no exception to the rule. The solos, duets and trios were brilliantly executed, and gave evidence of much skill. The items were as follows: Duet, Misses V. Twohill, Lowe (2), and Gribble; trio, Misses M. Corbett, McLeod, Stewart, A. Gibson, Moran, and L. Lawson; duet, Misses Lowe, M. Corbett, Gribble and McLeod; solo, Miss Gribble; trio, Misses M. Clendon, Thorne and Rattray; vocal duet, Misses McEnteer and Gibson. The whole concluded with a drama, the principal part being capably taken by Miss V. Twohill, who has on previous occasions shown marked talent in the histrionic art; Miss T. Mellett was exceptionally good; Miss J. Maher gave a life-like representation of an old apple woman, Miss Gibson was amusing as Topsy, while the other characters were filled by Misses A. Mellett, Harold, McEnteer, Gill, A. Stewart, M. Mooney, N. Dunbar, Sullivan, Connolly, Jamieson, McDonnell, Stevens, and Mrs. Clark. The selections by the orchestra, under Mr. A. Williams, were worthy of special mention. The accompaniments were efficiently played by Misses Fortune and V. Twohill. The result both from an enjoyable and financial point of view must be highly gratifying to the talented Sisters and the popular pastor, Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, who takes a very practical interest in the young folk.

St. Patrick's College Sports

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Wellington, December 1.

The boys of St. Patrick's College were once again favored with beautiful weather for the annual sports, which were held on Friday last at the Basin Reserve. There was a large and representative gathering present at what was one of the most successful sports meetings yet held by the College authorities. Amongst those present, in addition to the Very Rev. the Rector and the College staff, were his Grace the Archbishop, the Mayor of Wellington (the Hon. T. W. Hislop), Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., Very Rev. Father Lewis, S.M., V.G., all the clergy of the city and suburbs, and many of our prominent citizens. A slight southerly breeze did not in any way interfere with the racing, and the close finishes and the good times showed how interesting the races were. Music by McLaughlin's Band added to the enjoyment of the visitors, and afternoon tea, thoughtfully provided by the College Fathers, was served in a large marquee.

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