

Amongst the visitors were the Mayor of the Borough (Mr. McDonald), the local engineer (Mr. Rixtrall), also Mr. McDonald (manager of the Bank of New South Wales, Wellington) and his son (Rev. Father McDonald). Father Lane and his energetic and popular assistant, Rev. Father Walsh, have every reason to be proud of the happy results, and desire to return their best thanks to Mr. P. Casey and his indefatigable committee for their efforts in a good cause. The stallholders and their assistants deserve the greatest praise for their zeal and enthusiasm. They wish to thank the public generally for their very kind patronage.

### Nelson

In its report of a concert in aid of the Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Kentish Town, London, the "Catholic Times" mentions among the names of the performers that of Miss Marie Fraser, of Nelson, who is pursuing her musical studies in London with considerable success. Miss Fraser, who sang two very pretty songs (says the "Catholic Times"), gives bright promise of a brilliant career. It must be pleasing to this talented young lady's many friends in Nelson to hear that her abilities are appreciated in the great Metropolis.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 7.

Among visitors to Christchurch are the Rev. Father Barry and Rev. Father Lowe, C.M., of Melbourne.

On Friday morning last, at the Monastery of the Sacred Heart, eight young ladies made their profession in the Order of Notre Dame des Missions. In the afternoon three others were received. The Very Rev. Vicar-General presided at the ceremony.

A week's most successful missions by the Redemptorist Fathers at Halswell and at Woolston were concluded on Sunday last. At Woolston a beautiful statue of St. Anne was blessed. The mission at Addington was commenced on the same day.

At the Catholic Club rooms, diplomas recently awarded, were presented to Messrs. J. R. Hayward, G. Dobbs, and M. O'Reilly by Mr. A. H. Casey, vice-president of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies, on last Monday evening.

The Exhibition has been very largely attended throughout the New Year holidays, and at the rate of progress, which now seems fairly to have set in, the first million to pass through the turnstiles will be reached at an early date. Some first-class outside attractions were in evidence during the week, including the Highlanders' gathering and Pain's fireworks; with others to follow at short and regular intervals. Many thousands are sure to have seen within the enclosures this month and onwards.

Among exhibits of particular interest to our Catholic people, included in the catalogue of the Exhibition, are the following:—Hawke's Bay Court—Meancee mission station, honey and wines, including altar wines of various kinds. Timaru and South Canterbury Court—Marist Brothers', Timaru, woodwork, netting, etc. Fiji Court—Catholic mission, Rotuma, mats of native manufacture. Home Industries Section—Writing, composition, commercial correspondence, drawing and painting, drawing from models, brushwork, drawing and painting from nature, decorative design, modelling, shorthand, type-writing, painting and decoration, relief carving, incised-carving, manual training (open class), plain needlework, ribbon work, applique work, lace work, knitting and crochet, miscellaneous, all by individual exhibitors, (exceptionally beautiful and costly exhibits), Sisters of Mercy, Christchurch and Lyttelton, and Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and Mother Superior, Mount Magdala. Decorative needlework, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Mount Magdala, and Sisters of the Missions, Christchurch. Among exhibits by Natives, are writing, carving, and kit-weaving, etc.

The Marist Brothers returned last week from the annual retreat at Auckland. To the keen disappointment of many the Rev. Brother Basil (late Superior) has been transferred to Wanganui, and the vacancy filled by the appointment of Brother Walter, one of his confreres here for some years, and who is very popular with the boys. During the time the genial and scholarly Brother Basil has resided in Christchurch he has much endeared himself to the people, and greatly interested himself in his pupils' welfare, both during their schooldays and after. He is an ardent advocate of higher studies, and performed real good work in this direction, even beyond his recognised du-

ties. Realising, as he does, the injustice of the distribution of National Scholarships whereby our most talented and efficient boys are debarred from the privileges enjoyed by those attending State schools, he tried, by dint of hard personal effort, to make up for the disadvantages suffered by his pupils through no fault of their own. How far he succeeded in this direction is well known and appreciated. The Catholics of Christchurch wish Brother Basil many years of health and activity in his new sphere of duties.

### Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

January 7.

There were large congregations at all the Masses on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and very large numbers approached the Holy Table on the feast of the Nativity. The music on Christmas Day was particularly well rendered by the choir.

The local branch of the Hibernian Society held its half-yearly meeting on Friday last, there being a good attendance of members, Brother Donovan in the chair. The sum of £1.1s. was donated to the Irish Parliamentary fund as an official token of the branch's sympathy. The sum would have been larger, but that the members had all contributed privately. The following were nominated as delegates to the triennial movable meeting to be held at Auckland in April next: Bros. Dunn, Dennehy, Doyle, Fitzpatrick, O'Leary and Kane. Bros. Doyle and Kane at the close of the meeting withdrew their nominations as they could not possibly get away.

On Thursday evening Mr. Casey, vice-president of the Catholic Young Men's Societies, gave an address in St. John's Hall to about 30 members of the Timaru Catholic Young Men's Club, Father Finnerty being in the chair. He spoke for about an hour, setting forth the best means of resuscitating and invigorating a branch, if it were not too flourishing, and giving some sound advice on the best means of running such clubs, the dangers to be avoided, and the good to be aimed at. His fine address was thoroughly appreciated, and on the motion of Messrs. Dennehy and Smith, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker. In reply to a question he explained the vexed question of allowing non-Catholics to join Catholic clubs, and emphasised the strong negative view taken by the executive against such a practice.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 4.

The annual retreat of the priests of the diocese will be held towards the end of the month. Rev. Father Cleary, C.S.S.R., will conduct it.

Miss Marie Narelle has taken our people in Auckland by storm. Never before have our national songs been rendered with such whole-heartedness and spirit and pathos. Her singing of 'O'Donnell Aboe' arouses all one's latent patriotic fervor. Four times she was recalled for this item. Then to hear her sing 'Low-backed car' and 'Barney O'Hea' is worth a long journey. In these songs the true Irish humor is portrayed in such a manner as to set the whole audience in roars of laughter. She will long be remembered in Auckland.

At a meeting of the Marist Order held here it was unanimously resolved to take steps during the ensuing year to teach Irish history in the schools of the Order. Acting upon this, the local Sacred Heart College has decided to offer as prizes two gold medals for the best essays on the lives of great Irishmen. This is indeed cheering news. Hitherto our boys and girls could easily tell you who commanded at Preston Pans and resisted the ship money, but it would put them to the test to say who commanded at Benburb and Clontarf, and who, on our side, conducted the Treaty of Limerick.

The annual retreat of the Marist Brothers of the Colony terminated last Sunday. Rev. Brother Basil has been transferred from Christchurch to Wanganui; Brother Justin goes from the Sacred Heart College, Auckland, to Wellington; Brother Paul from Wellington fills the former's position; Brother Joachim, of Auckland, changes place with Brother Martin, Timaru. Brother John and Brother Stratonique, Assistants-General, and Brother George left for Australia last Monday. Brothers John and Stratonique go to Europe; the last-named goes on a visit to Victoria to see his parents, returning to Auckland to take up his former position as head of the school in Pitt street.