

show at least one way in which the scheme might be carried out. I agree entirely with the writer in last week's issue that 'public movements cannot be planned neat, complete, and square at the outset, with rules and regulations to be carried out like a railway time-table. They follow the lines of natural growth rather than of architectural plans,' and the most I have ever hoped for is that my proposal might be found to contain the germ from which something good may be evolved. After all, though we may differ greatly as to details, what we all really desire 'is the good of the Church; and if we put our heads together it will surely be a strange thing if some practicable scheme of action cannot be devised. Meanwhile I would like to ask 'Tuba' three questions, which I hope he will be so good as to answer: (a) Is it, or is it not, desirable that our Catholic schools should receive payment from the State for the hard work that is done for the State. (b) If it is desirable, has 'Tuba' any scheme to suggest whereby this desired result can be brought about? And (c) If he has not, why throw obstacles in the way of an experiment being tried which is not in conflict with any Catholic principle, which must do some good, and which may do, a great deal.

There are two other points of general interest and importance which I would like to touch on before this discussion closes, but as they are not connected with anything in 'Tuba's' communication, or with anything that has already appeared in your columns, I would crave the editorial indulgence to deal with them in another and final letter.—I am, etc.,

January 14.

J. A. SCOTT.

DIocese of Christchurch

(From our own correspondent.)

January 21.

A large new convent for the Sisters of Mercy is approaching completion at Akaroa.

All the Catholic schools of the district re-open on Monday next.

The Rev. Father O'Hare, an addition to the diocesan clergy, arrived during the week. He was for fourteen years on the mission in England.

A Sunday-school is now established at Sumner. It is conducted by Miss Pender.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., Provincial, and Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., who is to conduct the diocesan clergy retreat, will reach Christchurch on Tuesday.

Mr. J. T. Donovan, the Irish Nationalist delegate, has written the following note in the visitors' book of the Tourist Department's Court at the Exhibition: 'New Zealand is uniquely interesting, and I, as a visitor, have been charmed.'

Among other entertainments provided by the Christchurch Catholic Club for recent visiting members of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies to this city, was a picnic to Governor's Bay, which was greatly enjoyed by a large party of associates and their lady friends.

The attendance at the Exhibition is keeping up amazingly, and visitors to the city appear as numerous as ever. A Press Association telegram from Hokitika states that in a speech the Governor referred to certain derogatory attacks that had appeared in some newspapers on the Exhibition. His Excellency remarked that having seen Exhibitions in Paris, Glasgow, Dublin, and elsewhere, he could speak with some authority on the subject, and he gave it as his opinion that the New Zealand International Exhibition was one of the very finest he had seen, and was in every way a credit to the Colony. He strongly advised everyone not to miss the chance of seeing it.

At the quarterly meeting of the St. Patrick's branch, No. 82, H.A.C.B. Society, there was a fair attendance, and the receipts for the evening amounted to £69 3s 5d. One member was initiated, making ten for the quarter. Sick pay (£7 16s 8d) was passed for payment, making a total of £53 8s 4d for the quarter and a total of £196 0s 11d for the year 1906. It was reported by the president that the drive organised in honor of Bro. Devlin, M.P., National President of the Order in Ireland, had been most successful, and that their reception at Mount Magdala had been a most fitting one. He also reported that the visiting brethren from Wellington, Greymouth, Westport, Dunedin, and Waimate had appreciated very much a twenty-five mile drive around the city and suburbs. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the secretary, Bro. F. J. Doolan, for his capable assistance at various functions during the past quarter.

The half-yearly meeting of the branch was held in

the Hibernian Hall on Monday, January 14, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, Bro. M. Dineen; vice-president, Bro. T. Pender; secretary, Bro. F. J. Doolan; treasurer, Bro. L. Haughey; warden, Bro. G. Gill; guardian, Bro. J. M. Cummings; assistant secretary, Bro. G. Née; sick visitors, Bros. Née and Cummings; auditors, Bros. M. Garty and R. P. O'Shaughnessy; delegate to triennial meeting, Bro. G. J. Sellars; delegates to management committee, Bros. J. McCormick, P.P., and P. McDonnell, P.P.; delegates to benevolent committee, Bros. Sellars, McCormick, and Doolan.

A meeting of the committee in connection with the approaching carnival in aid of the Cathedral fund was held on Sunday afternoon. The Rev. Father O'Connell presided, and the attendance was satisfactory. The secretary (Mr. E. O'Connor) outlined the work done by the executive committee since last meeting. Father O'Connell appealed to all present, the ladies especially, to do all possible to ensure the success of the venture, on the result of which the Bishop had built great hopes. He announced that His Majesty's Theatre had been secured, covering the dates from August 12 to 24, which included the Grand National week, and that the services of Signor Borzoni had been obtained for the production of entertainments—primarily a renewal of the Spanish Columbian Festival recently given in Dunedin so successfully both from the artistic and financial viewpoints. Stalls were promised (he said) from the H.A.C.B. Society, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Children of Mary, the Addington and St. Mary's (Manchester street) congregations, and several energetic private ladies. He had also hopes of others from Woolston and Sumner, and from the Catholic Club and friends.

St. Mary's, Manchester Street.

The first week of the mission by the Redemptorist Fathers, now in progress, has been very largely attended. On last Sunday afternoon the women's mission was closed, having proved (as the Rev. Father Bannon expressed it in his address) a glorious success. On Sunday evening the mission to men was commenced and will be continued throughout the week, together with a mission to the children. On next Sunday a mission will be opened at St. Michael's Church, Hornby, and on the Sunday following at St. Joseph's Church, Papanui.

The Rev. Father Marnane is due to arrive in the Colony at Auckland on the 25th inst. on his return to St. Mary's.

Mr. J. T. Donovan, Irish Parliamentary envoy, was among recent visitors at the presbytery, where he was fittingly entertained by the Rev. Father Hickson.

A fine tennis court has been laid out in the grounds of the presbytery, and has proved a source of great attraction to the younger parishioners.

The interior of St. Mary's Church, always most devotional in appearance, has recently, through the kind benefactions of members of the congregation, been materially enriched and greatly improved. Among the most costly gifts is that of a beautiful sanctuary carpet. The congregation of St. Mary's has very considerably increased of late, and on some occasions the accommodation is taxed to its utmost.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

January 21.

The Sacred Heart choir lost one of its useful members and treasurer last week in the person of Mr. D. Wilson. He is leaving for Auckland, and his loss will be much felt in local parochial life.

Some seventy ladies availed themselves this year of the opportunity to take part in a week's retreat in the Convent of the Sacred Heart. The preacher was the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, S.J. This year's attendance was a record one, and the grounds were in fine order, and were much availed of between the different exercises.

At a meeting of the Hibernian Society held in St. John's Hall on Monday evening last, Messrs. Fitzgerald and Dennehy were appointed to represent the branch at the forthcoming triennial meeting to be held in Auckland. On the motion of Bro. Fitzgerald, seconded by Bro. Doyle, the discussion on the order paper for the same meeting was held over for the next fortnightly gathering.

Mr. Denis Shea, a prominent Catholic young man, severed his connection with the Auction Department of the Canterbury Farmers a few weeks ago, to take up a good position in the Canterbury Meat Company's local offices. On leaving his old firm, he was presented with a valuable travelling case by the manager, on behalf of the Association and staff, and a successful future was predicted for him in his new sphere.