PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 10.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, of the Thames, was the guest of Father Costello during the week. He preached to a crowded congregation at Vespers on Sunday.

The energetic president (Bro. McLean) and the officers of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society went out to Rongotea after the 8 o'clock Mass this morning with the intention of giving all due particulars and necessary information to residents who intend to start a branch of the Society in Rev. Father O'Meara's parish. I understand some thirty or forty are desirous of joining.

The St. Patrick's Day sports and picnic promise to be a great success, and, judging by the enthusiasm and the rush for entries, it will constitute a record for any sports gathering hitherto held here. For six events alone 147 entries have been received to date. The various prizes for the children's sports have all been chosen and are exceptionally nice, and will be on view in the Zealandia Hall on next Sunday. Owing to the kindness and generosity of Mr. Westmoreland, by whom they were supplied, the number of prizes far exceeds the amount of money voted for that object.

Birthplaces of the People

Of the population exclusive of Maoris (888,578 persons), all but 472 were described as to birth-place on the census schedules. The number of the New Zealand-born was 606,247, and of those born in Australia, Tasmania, and Fiji, 47,536—making 653,783 born in Australasia. The New Zealand-born increase in proportion to the whole with every successive census. In 1886 51.89 per cent. of the population were born in this Colony. In 1891 the percentage was 58.61, in 1896 it had reached 62.85, in 1901 the proportion was 66.83, and in 1906 68.26, adding to which 5.35 per cent. born in Australia, etc., makes 73.61 out of every 100 persons living in New Zealand who were born in Australasia.

There were 208,931 persons born in the United Kingdom, or 23.33 per cent. of the population, which was divided as under :—

		Per cent. of Population.
England ...	116,560 ...	13.13
Wales ...	2,144 ...	0.24
Scotland ...	47,767 ...	5.33
Ireland ...	42,460 ...	4.73
	208,931 ...	23.53

Besides these there were 4280 persons born in other British possessions. Summarising these results, it is found that 866,994 of the population, or 97.62 per cent. were born in the British possessions, made up as follows :—

		Per cent. of Population.
Australasia ...	653,783 ...	73.61
United Kingdom	208,931 ...	23.53
Other British possessions ...	4,280 ...	0 48
	866,994 ...	97.62

There remained 19,867 persons born in foreign countries, or 2.24 per cent. of the population, 1245 born at sea, and 472 whose birth-places were not specified.

Of those born in British possessions outside of Australasia (4280), 1349 were born in India or Ceylon, but of European blood, 1547 were born in British North America, 697 in British South Africa, Mauritius, or St. Helena, and 299 in British West Indies.

Out of 19,867 persons born abroad, 14,559 were born in Europe; 4174 of these were born in Germany, 2277 in Denmark and possessions, 2212 in Austria-Hungary, 1618 in Sweden, 1396 in Norway, 624 in France, 574 in Italy, 484 in Russia, 464 in Switzerland.

Outside of Europe, 2010 were found to have been born in the United States and North America (not more specifically defined), also 148 in South America. Those born in foreign parts of Asia numbered 8009, in which are included 3602 born in China (53 of European blood), and 361 in Syria (all Asiatics).

New Books

The A.C.T.S.—The latest publications of the Australian Catholic Truth Society (Nos. 40, 41, 42, and 43) are to hand. In 'Religion and Society,' a reprint of a lecture delivered last July in the Cathedral Hall, Melbourne, Mr. Benjamin Hoare, the well-known Catholic journalist, asks, 'How does religion modify man's view of his social state?' and then proceeds to show that no system of economics, and no social environments, which fail to take account of his higher as well as of his lower nature, can fit man's needs. In 'Religion and Amusements' Mr. Ronald Stewart deals with the various forms of recreation, and shows how far these may be indulged in without transgressing the moral law. In summing up the writer points out that the Church condemns excess in amusements, as she condemns excess in all things. But she recognises their true place in the schemes of life, and encourages them, within proper limits, as making for physical, mental, and spiritual health. In No. 42 we are presented with another of those learned lectures by the Rev. Father O'Dwyer, S.J., the subject being, 'St. Francis of Assisi and Medieval Catholicism.' The writer shows how St. Francis of Assisi was called by God to drive back the tide of heresy and paganism, that seemed so likely to submerge the Church in the early part of the thirteenth century. Of quite a different character is 'Old Times in the Barony' by the Very Rev. J. S. Conmee, S.J., wherein the writer gives us a glimpse of the religious, hospitable, and warm-hearted people of a valley in the very heart of Ireland. Father Conmee writes with much sympathy, and the pathos and humor of the people are delineated by him with rare fidelity. (Pp. 32, 1d each. A.C.T.S., St. Francis' Lodge, Melbourne, and of all Catholic booksellers).

From Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., Liverpool street, Sydney, we have received a copy of 'Jesus of Nazareth: The Story of His Life told to Children,' by Mother Mary Loyola, of the Bar Convent, York. The gifted author, in a prefatory note, points out that the aim of the work is to strengthen faith in our Lord's divinity, and to draw the hearts of children to Him by personal love. The work is divided into four parts. In the first we have an introduction, then ten chapters devoted to the childhood and hidden life of Our Lord, twenty-six chapters to His public life, and finally His risen life. Like all of Mother Loyola's works, 'Jesus of Nazareth' is written in a style eminently suited for the purpose for which it is intended, namely, to give an account of the leading facts of the life of Our Lord, so that by impressing the imagination they may leave a vivid picture on the mind of the child. Cardinal Gibbons says of the work: 'The book is eminently practical, simple, unctuous, and interesting. It will make a powerful impression on the minds of children. In fact, no one can read it without loving God more, and therefore becoming better. Parents, teachers, and instructors will find Mother Loyola's work very useful in the difficult task of forming the minds of children to a life of virtue. We would be glad to see a copy of "Jesus of Nazareth" in every household in the land.' We, on our own part, would supplement the wish of the eminent American prelate by the hope that the work should also find a place among the prizes at every annual distribution in connection with our Catholic schools and colleges. The work, which is edited by the Rev. Father Thurston, S.J., is well printed, and has twenty-four full-page illustrations. (Cloth, gilt; pp. 315; 6s 6d).

'A Troublesome Townland' is the latest of Seumas McManus's series of sevenpenny plays published by Mr. D. O'Molloy, Mount Charles, County Donegal. In this humorous little comedy the wise man sets himself the more than difficult task of interpreting the will of the owner of the townland of Tamney. Finding this impossible he decides to make his award on a series of questions propounded to the three sons of the deceased—Donal, Conal, and Teague—and it is on the humor of these answers that the value of the play lies.

Mr. P. Hally, of Dunedin, has been appointed to the position of inspector of factories for the Otago Industrial District, filling the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr. Lomas to the head office at Wellington.

At Halswell, near Christchurch, a meeting called by the local Road Board accepted an offer of £1500 by Mr. A. Carnegie for a public library. The Road Board will provide the site and £100 annually for upkeep, and will also take a poll of the ratepayers as to the adoption of the Public Libraries Act.