

ASHBURTON

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Mr. H. P. Madden represented the local branch of the Hibernian Society at the District Meeting.

Messrs. S. Madden and D. McDonnell have been chosen to represent the Ashburton Society at the annual conference of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies, to be held at Christchurch during Easter week.

The St. Patrick's Day Sports Association held its annual gathering on March 21 in the Domain. The weather was fine, and there was a fair attendance. There were some very close finishes, and, on the whole, the proceedings passed off most satisfactorily.

A very enjoyable euchre tournament, given by the Literary Society, was held in the club rooms on Thursday, March 7. There was a large attendance of members and lady friends. Miss Brophy was the winner of the ladies' and Mr. T. O'Carroll of the gentlemen's prize.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent.)

The first annual gathering promoted by the St. Patrick's Day sports and picnic association, which was held on the Show Grounds, was attended by about a thousand persons. Taken on the whole, the sports passed off successfully. Dr. O'Brien's handsome cup, allocated as a points prize for the three distances in the St. Patrick's Handicap, was won by A. E. Bell, with nine points. He was first in the 100 yards, third in the 220 yards, and second in the 440 yards.

The judging in the various events was capably carried out by Dr. O'Brien, Major Dunk, and Messrs. H. McLean, D. Pringle, and H. Gillies. Mr. I. J. Fake was quite au fait as starter. The handicapping of Mr. F. Bell gave general satisfaction, and a number of the finishes were very close. The members of the committee, headed by Messrs. W. Ellis and C. McGrath, the secretary and assistant secretary respectively, worked well together to keep things going smoothly.

In the evening a concert was held in the Zealandia Hall, which was crowded. An attractive programme had been prepared, and encores were the order of the evening. Miss Cameron sang in excellent style 'Oh steer my barque' and 'Come back to Erin,' a double encore before the result. Miss Essex made her first appearance before the public, and was most successful with her number, 'Avourneen.' She was also accorded the honor of a recall. Miss O'Connor was the accompanist during the evening, and she contributed a pianoforte solo, 'Savourneen Deelish,' and she also had to submit to the inevitable encore. Remaining items were contributed by the children as follows:—Pianoforte duet 'Come back to Erin,' Misses Fairbrother and Ryan; chorus (girls), 'Meeting of the waters'; recitation, 'Legend of the lake,' Miss A. Minogue; chorus (boys) 'Let Erin remember'; chorus (girls), 'Killarney'; recitation, 'Bunch of shamrocks,' Miss W. Ryan; chorus (boys), 'The minstrel boy'; chorus, 'Oh, where's the slave'; chorus (girls), 'Oh, the shamrock'; chorus, 'God save Ireland.' The items by the children were exceptionally enjoyable and quite in accordance with that high order of merit which the Sisters of the convent have led one to naturally expect at the public performances of their pupils.

At an interval in the concert in the Zealandia Hall Mr. I. J. Fake, in the unavoidable absence of the president of the St. Patrick's sports association (Dr. O'Brien), presented to the fortunate winners the handsome cups won during the day. The first, presented by Dr. O'Brien, was won by Mr. A. E. Bell, who scored most points in the St. Patrick's Handicap; the second given by Mr. W. Devine, Empire Hotel) was awarded Mr. L. McKelvie, winner of the hunters' competition. Each cup is a handsome trophy, and the successful competitors were loudly applauded. Mr. D. Burke was the only competitor who guessed the right weight of the sheep at the guessing competition in connection with the St. Patrick's Day sports.

THAMES

The bond of affection that exists between the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly and the younger members of his flock was borne testimony to on the evening of March 21, when the schoolroom was packed to the doors on the occasion of celebrating the anniversary of the Monsignor's ordination, and also wel-

coming him home after a holiday in the south. The stage (says the local 'Star') was artistically decorated, and the proceedings were characterised with enthusiasm throughout. An excellent musical programme was provided by the pupils, testifying to the efficient instruction received, and consisted of effective action songs by the girls and boys; pianoforte duet, Misses Lowe and Misses Gribble and H. Lowe; pianoforte solo, Miss Gribble; solo, Miss Reardon; and duets by Misses McEnteer and Gibson and Misses McPike, concluding with a dainty little cantata, 'The Fairy Queen's Court.' The accompaniments were capably played by Misses V. Twohill and Fortune.

Master McPike read an address to Monsignor O'Reilly, thanking him for the interest he had always taken in their educational and spiritual welfare and assuring him of their warm affection. On behalf of the children a handsome rug and other tokens were presented as a small tribute of congratulation for another year's service.

Monsignor O'Reilly, in a few simple words thanked the children for their kindly action, and said it was extremely gratifying to be accorded such a hearty welcome on his return. He had spent an enjoyable holiday, and in Dunedin and Christchurch, and towns en route he had received much kindness, but there was no place like home. He eulogised the efforts of the good Sisters and testified to the many advantages afforded by their care and tuition. He urged the children to apply themselves diligently to their work and thus profit in the future by the instruction so cheerfully given them.

Some of the local candidates at the Trinity College examinations (says the 'Thames Star' of March 20) did exceptionally well. In the senior division Miss Rosina F. Lowe (daughter of Mr. H. Lowe), who receives her musical education at the Convent High School, Thames, passed with honors, securing 82 marks. Miss Teresa E. Foy (Convent High School) secured a pass in the senior division. Miss Lowe headed the list for senior honors in Auckland, a distinction which reflects the highest credit on Miss Lowe and the tuition of the Sisters of Mercy.

Interprovincial

Owing to pressure on our space we have been obliged to hold over a description of the additions and improvements, which are being carried out at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland.

Rev. J. O'Meara, of Feilding, recently wrote, asking the local Borough Council to forego the rates on certain sections on which were erected Church and scholastic buildings. It was decided to let the application stand over, pending the settlement of a similar application in Dunedin.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Alexander McRae, of Reelton, who passed away on February 6. The deceased, who was a very old resident of Black's Point, died fortified by all the rites of Holy Church. Three of his daughters entered the Order of Notre Dame des Missions, one of whom died in Akyab, India, about six years ago. The deceased is survived by his widow, who has the sincere sympathy of many friends in her bereavement.—R.I.P.

The quarterly meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society (writes our Palmerston North correspondent) was held on Tuesday last, 19th inst., Bro. McLean (president) in the chair. There was a large attendance of members, and a large amount of routine business was put through. Bro. McLean, who was delegate to the triennial meeting at Auckland, gave a graphic description of his trip, and an account of his stewardship generally, which was unanimously endorsed.

Messrs. Brown, Ewing, and Co., of Dunedin, invite our readers to pay a visit of inspection to the establishment, where all departments are crowded with the newest goods in the latest styles, especially the ladies' shops—a walk through being most enjoyable....

Mr. F. J. Williams, late chief hydraulic engineer at the Waipori Falls Hydro. Electric System, has commenced the practice of his profession as civil and hydraulic engineer, and licensed surveyor, at 42 Crawford street, Dunedin. Mr. Williams makes waterworks a speciality....

J. C. CALDER, CARGILL ROAD & CUTTEN STREET, will open Dental Rooms at Cargill's Corner, South Dunedin, on October 8th. All dental work undertaken. Teeth extracted One Shilling.