

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

November 14.

Mrs. A. E. Kitchen, an esteemed member of St. Mary's congregation, has been elected a vice-president of the Wanganui Ladies' Swimming Club.

The Wanganui Spiral Pipe Company has secured the contract for the six miles of piping required for the new Christchurch water supply reticulation.

The St. Mary's Dramatic Club produced 'The Octoroon' on Saturday, November 9, in the Opera House before an appreciative audience. The piece was splendidly staged and played, and was a decided improvement on the previous productions.

Wanganui, like Palmerston, had glorious weather for the Show on Wednesday and Thursday, when there was a record attendance. The live stock and home industries sections were well represented, but there was a total absence of agricultural implements, which was regretted by the bulk of the farmers present.

On Sunday the collection in aid of the funds for the erection of the Cathedral at Wellington was taken up at all the Masses at St. Mary's (Wanganui) and St. Joseph's (Aramoho) churches. The Rev. Father Treacy made a fervent appeal on behalf of the Cathedral funds. At Vespers at St. Mary's he preached an eloquent sermon on devotion to the souls in purgatory.

On Tuesday, 12th inst., a social gathering was held in the St. Mary's Club rooms, when there was a fair number present. The ladies' prizes in the euchre tournament were secured by Mrs. Lloyd and Miss Moreney (Hastings), and the gentlemen's by Rev. Father Molloy and Mr. Chas. Spillane. The Very Rev. Dean Grogan, Rev. Father Treacy, and Rev. Father Molloy were present during the evening. The ladies' committee (Mesdames Neylon, Woods, Lloyd, Benefield, and Grogan) provided an excellent supper. Mr. F. D. Gaffaney acted as secretary in place of Rev. Father Mahony, who was at Stratford. The members of St. Mary's Club also assisted materially in making the function a success. The proceeds will form the nucleus of a fund for a children's picnic at New Year's time.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

November 16.

After a preparatory retreat by the Rev. Father Peoples, and instruction by the Sisters of the Missions, the children attending the Sacred Heart Church, Addington, made their First Communion on last Sunday morning, and were afterwards entertained at breakfast by the ladies of the congregation in the adjoining schoolroom. There was Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the afternoon at which the young first communicants and older children renewed their baptismal vows. The Rev. Father Peoples officiated at the various ceremonies of the day.

Miss Vera de la Cour, A.T.C.L., and Miss Mabel Thomas, A.T.C.L. (pianoforte), who have become Associates of Trinity College, London, by passing an examination in the 'art of teaching,' held in July last, were prepared for this examination by the Sisters of Mercy, Collegiate High School, Colombo street, Christchurch. Miss May Gabriel O'Connor, A.T.C.L. (pianoforte), and Miss Elizabeth Brick, A.T.C.L. (pianoforte), who have also become Associates of Trinity College, London, were prepared for the examination by the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions, Lower High street, Christchurch.

Important benefactions of a public character are made under the will of the late Mr. Allan McLean, who died on Tuesday. The deceased left property valued at something over half a million pounds, and about one-third of this sum is to be devoted to making provision for women who are in need. The Holly Lea property is to become the endowment of a home for indigent gentlewomen and their young children.

Holly Lea is a palatial residence on a magnificent property with extensive frontages to Manchester street and Colombo street, Christchurch, adjoining St. Mary's Church property. The will makes special provision for the selection of women whose education and upbringing will make them congenial companions in an institution intended solely for 'gentlewomen.' The home will be controlled by a Board. The balance of the money making up the one-third of the estate may be used by the Board to provide for needy women and their children under the age of ten years. The Board which is to administer the two institutions is to consist of Bi-

shop Julius, Bishop Grimes, the minister of St. Andrew's Church, the minister of the Durham street Methodist Church, the senior Stipendiary Magistrate, the Mayor of Christchurch, the chairman of the Selwyn County Council, the chairman of the North Canterbury Hospital Board, the chairman of the Canterbury College Board of Governors, two of the trustees under the will (Messrs. H. Cotterill and B. N. Molineaux), and two women to be appointed by the other members of the Board. The balance of the estate is left to relatives and friends.

There is a class of people whose chief object in life appears to be in an endeavor to create misunderstanding. Te Oranga Home, a State institution for incorrigible girls, is the object of considerable public attention at the present time, and from there to Mount Magdala is but a short cry, and of course no opportunity (in some people's minds) should be lost in bringing this institution into the conflict. Such an attempt was made on Saturday, which brought the following prompt reply to the 'Lyttelton Times':—'The authorities of Mount Magdala, referring to a letter which was published in Saturday's issue, state that Mrs. Cunningham has been entirely misinformed as to the methods of punishment practised at the Home. Flogging is not resorted to on any account, corporal punishment being opposed to the Sisters' methods of training and reformation, and hair-cutting as a penalty for misbehaviour of any kind is unheard of in the establishment. Sometimes it may be desirable, for obvious reasons, to keep the hair of young children cut short, and occasionally older inmates may ask to have their hair removed as an indication of their devotion to a better life, but the sacrifice is never made compulsory. Mount Magdala is always open to visitors at reasonable hours, and the authorities are glad for the public to make themselves acquainted with its work and methods.'

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

November 13.

There was a large attendance at the St. Columba Club rooms last Monday evening, the occasion being the oratorical competition. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. A gold medal, presented by the executive of the club, together with a handsome diploma presented by the executive of the Federated Clubs of New Zealand, were offered to the competitor who took first place, whilst a silver medal with gold centre presented by a wellwisher of the club was offered as second prize. The following were the competitors and their subjects:—Mr. J. Roche ('Christopher Columbus'), Mr. A. Fraser ('Michael Davitt'), Mr. W. Duffy ('Charles Gavan Duffy'), Mr. P. Smyth ('St. Columba'), Mr. T. Heffernan ('R. J. Seddon'), Mr. T. Barry ('President Roosevelt'). The judges awarded the last-named competitor the first prize. His manner, style, and delivery were pleasing, animated, and convincing. He promises to become the champion orator of the club. The judges awarded the second prize to Mr. T. Heffernan. All agreed that this was one of the most entertaining evenings ever spent at the club.

A smoke concert was held in the St. Columba Club rooms last Wednesday evening to wind up the session of 1907. The members and their friends attended in large numbers. The president (Mr. W. Duffy) occupied the chair. The following toast list was gone through:—'The Pope and King,' Mr. W. Duffy; 'The Dominion of New Zealand,' Mr. E. Casey; 'Sports and pastimes,' Mr. D. Butler; 'St. Columba Club,' Mr. B. J. Phillips; 'Kindred clubs,' Mr. R. C. Heffernan; 'N.Z. Parliament,' Mr. Wm. Bade; 'The ladies,' Mr. T. O'Donnell; 'The Press,' Mr. J. Meade. Several songs and recitations were given, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

The St. Columba Club held their annual picnic on the King's Birthday. The place selected was the pretty little country township of Ahaura. The members and their friends attended in large numbers, and a most enjoyable day was spent. The thanks of the club are due to Mr. John Kennedy, who gave the use of his paddock for the occasion, and did all in his power to make the picnic a success. The grounds, situated on the banks of the Ahaura River, proved an ideal spot for a picnic.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

November 18.

A sad death occurred on the 5th inst. when there passed away after a very short illness, Mrs. O. Ryan, of

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