

Our Catholic school boys again figured prominently in the annual primary schools' demonstration at Lancaster Park on Saturday, wins in several contests falling to their lot, whilst the Marist Brothers' school team came second for the shield. This latter achievement is noteworthy, considering they are a mere unit compared with the hundreds competing from the city and country schools of the district.

The parents and musical friends of Miss Lottie Barker are greatly elated at the conspicuous success just attained by her at the examination in connection with the Dominican Convent, Dunedin.

The Marist Brothers' seven-a-side football team, for their win in last year's primary schools contests have just received handsome medals. These are in the shape of a Maltese cross, in chaste design, and of considerable value.

Owing to the removal of the family to Gore, Southland, where Mr. Boswell has been appointed Railway station-master, the Marist Brothers are losing two of their most promising pupils in Masters Robert and Kenneth Boswell. As a memento of their connection with the school the Brother Director, Brother Walter, his conferees, and on behalf of their late school-fellows, presented the former with a handsome binocular and useful volume, and the latter with a timepiece and volume. Each was accompanied with a letter of appreciation. Master Robert was captain of the school football team and cricket club, and both for their exceedingly amiable qualities were much thought of by teachers and schoolmates.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

November 29.

The annual examination of the boys at Takapuna Orphanage took place yesterday.

Auckland city will in a few weeks rejoice in the possession of municipal electric light.

It is the opinion of his Lordship Bishop Neligan (Anglican) that internally St. Patrick's Cathedral is now the finest church in Auckland city.

The annual concert in connection with the Marist Brothers' school takes place in St. James' Hall on Thursday, December 9, that in connection with the Sisters of St. Joseph to-night in St. Benedict's Hall, and of the Sisters of Mercy, Hobson street, next Thursday evening in the Federal Hall.

At Avondale last Sunday Mass was celebrated in the Public School, the use of which was obtained through the kindness of Mr. John Bollard, M.H.R., chairman of the local school committee. There was a very good congregation present. After Mass a meeting of the congregation was held, the Very Rev. Father Gillan, V.G., presiding. He briefly stated that the object of the meeting was to take steps for the erection of a church at Avondale. That it was needed was amply demonstrated by the large congregation which was present, and also by the difficulty experienced in obtaining a building in which to celebrate Mass. His idea was that a brick building would be more economical, and certainly more lasting. He then invited suggestions. Mr. O'Grady moved and Mr. Denis Ryan seconded, 'That a church be erected in Avondale, and that Messrs. E. Mahoney and Sons be asked to prepare plans, etc., and give an approximate cost of the building.' The motion was agreed to. Father Gillan announced that he intended to celebrate Mass at Avondale on Sunday, December 29, whereupon it was decided to hold another meeting on that day, at which Mr. Mahoney's plans would be presented. The following committee was then appointed in connection with the undertaking:—Mr. O'Grady (chairman), Very Rev. Father Gillan (treasurer), Mr. Hardiman (hon. secretary), and Messrs. O'Ryan, Ormond, Neville, Quinlivan, and Keogh. The committee subsequently met and arranged preliminary details. A hearty vote of thanks to the Very Rev. Father Gillan brought the meeting to a close. It is to be earnestly hoped that now that the erection of the church has been decided upon the project will be carried out without unnecessary delay.

Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, chairman of Kynochs, Limited, was on a visit to Ireland in September in connection with the formation of a new Irish company. The object will be the development of Irish industries on a comprehensive scale.

Golden Jubilee of a Sister of Mercy

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

The celebration of the golden jubilee of Sister M. Camillus Heffernan took place at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, on Friday, the feast of St. Cecilia. High Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly in presence of his Lordship Bishop Lenihan. Rev. Father Duffy was deacon, Rev. Father Farthing subdeacon, and Rev. Father Holbrook master of ceremonies. There were also present Rev. Fathers Buckley, Patterson, Tormey, Murphy, Williams, and Furlong. The Sacred Heart choir, conducted by Mr. T. Adams, rendered the Mass of St. Louis in an admirable manner. During the singing of the Offertory piece the venerable jubilarian was led to the altar by the Mother Superior, where she was crowned with a wreath of white roses, and a medal was also presented to her. A number of little maidens, clad in white, wearing white wreaths, and carrying flowers, were in attendance. The celebrant, Monsignor O'Reilly, preached an eloquent panegyric on the virtues of the jubilarian, and on the work achieved by her and the Sisters in the early days of the Dominion. After Mass the solo and chorus, 'In aeternum jubilantes,' were sung by Miss Kelly and the choir. At the conclusion of the Mass his Lordship the Bishop, the clergy, and others were hospitably entertained at the convent.

In the afternoon a concert was held in the school-room. His Lordship the Bishop was present, and the school was crowded with the friends of the Sisters, who came to honor the jubilee of one who had been formerly their teacher. The programme was short but brilliant, and consisted of the following items:—'Wedding march,' concerted duo by Mendelssohn, and executed by the Misses Amodeo, Kelly, Amodeo, and Montague. An address followed, which was read by Miss Kelly, after which a jubilee ode was sung by the pupils. Miss Sara sang 'Ave Maria' and 'When the birds go north again' and was warmly applauded. Deservedly applauded were also the two songs rendered by Miss Kelly. Miss Wood recited in a charming manner 'The inventor's wife' and 'The old stage queen.' 'Valse brillante' was played by the Misses Amodeo, White, Kelly, and Montague. The concert ended with the concerted duo, 'Marche triomphale,' Misses Amodeo and Kelly being the executants. Miss Jones played the accompaniments.

His Lordship the Bishop, in a few well chosen words, referred to the excellence of the concert given by the pupils, and congratulated again Sister M. Camillus on her golden jubilee as a Sister of Mercy, and wished her every happiness. Afternoon tea was then served, after which the ex-pupils and friends presented a purse of sovereigns. Rev. Father Bradley responded on behalf of Sister M. Camillus.

At 5.30 o'clock the company returned to the church, where his Lordship the Bishop presided at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A short concert was given at 7.30 o'clock by the inmates of St. Mary's Orphanage. Several songs and action songs were sung by the children in an admirable manner. Mrs. Ralph and the Misses Ralph also contributed some choice items.

Sister M. Camillus Heffernan was born in Dublin, and came to Auckland from St. Leo's Convent, Carlow, in 1857. Since then she has labored in the various schools of the Order in the diocese, and she was one of the pioneer Sisters of Wellington Convent. Returning some years afterwards to the scene of her early labors, Sister M. Camillus devoted herself to the care of the poor and sick, and to the instruction of adults and children for the Sacraments.

One of the sisters of the jubilarian, Sister M. Stanislaus Heffernan, and her cousin, Mother M. Aloysius Doyle, left Ireland under the care of Mother Francis Bridgman to serve the sick and wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. The former predeceased the latter, who received from her late Majesty Queen Victoria the Victorian Cross of Honor. Another member of the Auckland community, now deceased, Mother M. Bernard Dixon, was also present with the former Sisters at the war.

Rightly considered a spider's web is a most curious as well as a most beautiful thing. The majority of children suppose that the spider's web is pulled out of his mouth and that the little insect has a large reel of the stuff in his stomach, and that he could almost instantly add feet, yards, or rods to the roll. The facts are that the spiders have a regular spinning machine, a set of tiny tubes, at the far end of the body, and that the threads are nothing more nor less than a white sticky fluid, which hardens as soon as it comes in contact with the air.

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