

ants. They wear the habit, but not the hood of the Order. After serving a probation they are permitted to take the white veil, and they take their vows for one year, at the end of which time they may renew them if they wish. At the end of two years they take another vow, and receive the dark veil of the Order, and for the next six years their vows are renewed annually. After that, that is to say more than eight years after they have first entered the home, they may take the vows for the rest of their lives. During those eight years, especially during the first two years, circumstances may arise which make it necessary for the Sister to return to the world. The claims of her family might enforce her return, or she might prove unfitted for the work, which demands skilled workers, but it is felt that the novices who take the veil look forward to a life spent in the Order. Sometimes from this Order they drift into others with a different rule. Mother Mary's work has been to a great extent among the Maoris, and the vow taken pledges the Sisters to tend the sick and afflicted 'of both races'. During the service a Maori hymn, 'How good is the Lord, how sweet is His name,' was sung by the choir. This hymn was first heard by Mother Mary fifty years ago, and she herself transposed the music for use at Thursday morning's service. His Grace Archbishop Redwood conducted the service, and delivered the address to the novices. The Sisters who professed were: Miss McManaway (Sister Mary Francis) and Miss Cregan (Sister Mary Francis Xavier). The four novices who took the veil were: Miss Kerrigan (Sister Mary Aloysius), Miss Forbes (Sister Mary Stanislaus), Miss Eller (Sister Mary Augustine), and Miss Vernon (Sister Mary Paula).

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Among recent arrivals in Wellington is Miss Ruby McDonald, a young Sydney violinist of distinct ability. Miss McDonald has come to settle in New Zealand for health reasons, and has already appeared in public on a few occasions, when her playing created a decidedly favorable impression. She made a concert tour on the West Coast a few weeks ago with very considerable success. Her public performances in Wellington were on the occasion of the concert in the Town Hall in connection with the jubilee of the Very Rev. Father Keogh, the concert in aid of the Home of Compassion, and at a recital given by herself, in all of which her contributions were received with much appreciation by the audience and highly praised by the press. Regarding Miss McDonald's performance at her own recital, the *Dominion* said:—Miss McDonald . . . proved herself to be an executant of exceptional ability. Her selections—Godard's difficult "Romantique" Concerto, Schubert's "Ave Maria" and "Am Meer," Wieniawski's "Kuyawiak," "Romance" (concerto in D Minor), and "Legende," and a "Morris Dance" of German's—were ambitious efforts, but they were capably played. Miss McDonald . . . plays without affectation of any sort. Her bowing is clean and full of verve; she produces a full rich tone from the instrument; her fingering, harmonies, and octaves are admirable, and her playing is animated with passionate feeling.

Wanganui

The following (says the *Wanganui Herald*) are the results of the practical examinations held at the Sacred Heart Convent by Mr. Henry St. George on September 5:—Senior honors—Maggie King (singing) 81, Maggie King (piano) 81. Senior pass—Mamie Mullins (piano) 74, Vida Cooper (piano) 68. Intermediate pass—Hilda Wood (piano) 73, Agnita Hilles (piano) 71, Mary O'Sullivan (piano) 68. Junior honors—Vida Cooper (singing) 85, Kathleen Neylon (piano) 88, Ruby Curran (piano) 85, Jean McCartney (piano) 81. Junior pass—Mamie Mullins (singing) 71, Ivy Knuckey (piano) 66. Preparatory—Mary Mahoney (violin) 75, Norah Atkinson (piano) 79, Uira Mahoney (piano) 76, Maude Fitzwalter (piano) 74, Thomas Keane (piano) 74. All presented passed, the examiner expressing himself as very pleased with the high standard of the work at the convent centre.

New Plymouth

September 15.

The Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions, Taranaki, are to be congratulated on the high standard attained by their pupils at the practical music examinations conducted by the representative of Trinity College, London, this month. Out of twenty-four candidates who passed, six gained honors. Miss Mabel O. Clarke and Miss A. H. Smith, the successful candidates for the title of A.T.C.L., are the two first in the district to obtain this

distinction. The title of Associate is the highest that Trinity College can award for practical work, and it speaks well for the proficiency of these two young pianists that they have obtained such a success. Both young ladies have received their entire musical education at the New Plymouth Convent. The following is the list:—Higher examinations—Mabel O. Clarke, A.T.C.L. (New Plymouth Convent), 88; Amelia H. Smith, A.T.C.L. (New Plymouth Convent), 85; Gwendoline Evans, certificated pianist (Stratford Convent), 76; Helen Middleton, certificated pianist (Opunake Convent), 66. Senior Division—Clare O'Brien (New Plymouth Convent), 78. Intermediate—Florence Cuthbert (Stratford Convent), 84 (honors); Kathleen Sexton (Stratford Convent), 68; Katie O'Rourke (Opunake Convent), 64; Ida Cameron (Stratford Convent), 63; Frances Harris (New Plymouth Convent), 60. Junior Division—Norah Sexton (Stratford Convent), 83 (honors); Winnie Fitzgerald (Stratford Convent), 82 (honors); Vera Cummins (Stratford Convent), 78; Nellie Moynihan (Stratford Convent), 76; Doreen Healy (New Plymouth Convent), 73; Ngaire Bayly (Stratford Convent), 75; Mary Keppel (Stratford Convent), 71; Annie O'Sullivan (Opunake Convent), 66; Maisie Grant (New Plymouth Convent), 63. Preparatory Division—Barbara Riera (Stratford Convent), 82; Arthur Hunter (Stratford Convent), 82; May O'Sullivan, violin (Opunake Convent), 80; Clarice Street, violin (New Plymouth Convent), 78; Nellie Fischer (Stratford Convent), 74.

At the theory examinations held in connection with Trinity College, London, in June last the following pupils of the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions, Taranaki, were successful:—Intermediate Division—Ida Cameron (Stratford Convent), 92 (honors); Mary Keppel (Stratford Convent), 87 (honors); Ila Henderson (New Plymouth Convent), 82 (honors); Rita Sole (New Plymouth Convent), 76; Katie Towler (Stratford Convent), 71. Junior Division—Mabel Meehan (New Plymouth Convent), 86 (honors); Mary Ann Jones (New Plymouth Convent), 82 (honors); Frances Harris (New Plymouth Convent), 76. Preparatory Division—Florence Revell (Stratford Convent), 94; Vera Cummins (Stratford Convent), 93; Ivy Hornblow (Stratford Convent), 90; Anastasia Fitzgerald (Stratford Convent), 87; Mary Hackett (Stratford Convent), 76; Arthur Hunter (Stratford Convent), 70.

Nelson

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

On Wednesday, September 9, the Very Rev. Father Regnault, S.M., Provincial, paid a visit to St. Mary's Orphanage, Stoke. He was accompanied by the Rev. Father Clancy, manager of the orphanage, Father Quinn, of Hastings, and several friends of the institution. The visitors were received by the superintendent (Mr. Barry) and his staff, and shown over the magnificent buildings and grounds. They afterwards visited the school, where a select musical programme was gone through by the boys, under the conductorship of the headmaster, Mr. M. Flaherty. All expressed themselves delighted with the singing of the boys, whose rendering of solos, duets, and four-part choruses was very creditable, and elicited hearty applause and well-merited praise. Advantage was taken of the occasion by Father Clancy to read the headmaster's report of the quarterly examination, and distribute prizes to the most successful pupils. The results of the examination were most gratifying, the children having, during the quarter, made very satisfactory progress in the ornamental as well as the useful branches of education. Thanks to the ever active zeal of Father Clancy, the school is now equipped with a good gymnasium, which is under the efficient charge of the headmaster.

The Very Rev. Father Regnault, addressing the boys, said he was agreeably surprised and highly pleased with all he had seen and heard on his first visit to the Stoke Orphanage. He complimented the children on the good report he had heard of their studies and conduct, and on their excellent singing; and highly eulogised the teachers, Messrs. Flaherty, Rogan, and Lavery, on the good work they were so zealously doing among the orphans. He generously promised a handsome prize for Christian doctrine to the best pupil in each class, and delighted the young audience by granting them a holiday from school duties.

In the afternoon Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given, when the boys' choir was again heard with pleasure, a special feature of the service being the singing of a consecration hymn, the solo of which was sung by Miss M. Grosky.

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