

conditions should make splendid progress. Provision has been made for a billiard table, and the literary and social side of club life will be well fostered. There is a movement on foot to secure the removal of the small club-room now in the occupation of the Hibernians. It is proposed to add this to the new building and so provide for a small billiard-room. The Hibernians at the present time have a small table which they find of immense assistance to the social side of the society's life. A meeting between representatives of the two bodies will take place very soon to consider the proposals. It would be a wise step for the two clubs to amalgamate for social and intellectual purposes. After the Ven. Archdeacon had declared the room open an entertaining programme was gone through. Items were given by Misses Barton and Segrief, Master Christie, and Messrs. Potter, Christie, Laurensen and Raymond. The officers of the new club are as follow:—Patron, Ven. Archdeacon Devoy; spiritual adviser, Rev. Father Herring; president, Mr. D. Moriarty; vice-presidents, Rev. Fathers Herring and Herbert, Messrs. Andrews, Collins, and Holdsworth; secretary, Mr. James Fitzgibbon; treasurer, Mr. James Butler; committee, Messrs. Gamble, Strickland, Williams, Collins, Moynihan, Leydon, and Peters; auditor, Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon, LL.B.; chairman of Literary Society, Rev. Father Herbert, S.M.; vice-chairman, Mr. P. J. Moran.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

September 21.

In the semi-finals for the Crystallite Cup billiard competition Mr. Brice, of the Petone Catholic Club, was defeated.

It is with much regret that I record the death of Mr. James O'Galligan, of Bolton street, last Sunday. The deceased was eighty-six years of age, and was an esteemed member of the Thorndon parish. Sincere sympathy is expressed by his many friends for his sorrowing relatives.—R.I.P.

The second annual meeting of the Wellington Catholic Seamen's Conference took place on September 17 at St. Patrick's Hall. Rev. Father Venning, S.M., presided. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Spiritual director, Rev. Father Venning, S.M.; president, Mr. D. Strickland; vice-president, Mr. J. Donoghue; hon. secretary, Mr. E. F. Reichel; hon. treasurer and librarian, Mr. E. J. Cotterill; wharf visitor, Mr. James McCusker.

Mr. P. J. O'Regan lectured before the Catholic Club on Tuesday evening in St. Patrick's Hall on 'The Real Functions of the State.' Mr. O'Regan maintained that, contrary to teaching now popular, the individual, having existed prior to the State, had rights independently of it. Theoretically speaking, the State had not the power to add to or detract from the human rights. The human race had existed for ages before the State, and the rights of men then were the same as now, and so the true principle was that human law was not law at all unless it flowed from the eternal law of justice. The real functions of the State were to protect the rights which existed independently of it. What were the rights of man? They consisted of the right to live, from which flowed the right to work, and, every man having the right to work, it followed that every man also had equal right to accumulate property, provided such property had its foundation in the natural right of the laborer to the fruits of his toil.

It was to an unusual audience that Miss Irene Ainsley sang last night (says the *Dominion* of Friday last). For the past two years she has been singing at concerts throughout England and Scotland, singing in brightly lighted halls to people more or less fashionably attired, most of whom were so accustomed to concert-going that no one evening's music would make any lasting impression on their minds. Last night she sang in a large bare room at the convent in Hill street to a score or so of nuns and novices, to whom her magnificent singing was a rare treat. It was quite a concert that was given for their benefit. Mrs. Queree played a pianoforte solo, and Miss Ainsley sang several songs, among them 'Lilies,' 'Annie Laurie,' 'Souvenance of Bemberg,' 'A happy song,' 'Absent,' and 'When he comes home.' All were sung with great charm and expressiveness. Mr. Hamilton Hodges, who had accompanied her, delighted his audience with many songs, among them the dainty 'Forget-me-Not' and 'Beloved, it is morn.' The little concert lasted more than an hour, and it was evident that the performers enjoyed it as much as the nuns, to whom they were giving such pleasure. Several others were present, Lady Ward and Miss Ward and the Misses Seddon being among them.

(From a correspondent.)

Word was received from Dunedin last week that Mr. L. K. McMurrich, son of Mr. Duncan McMurrich, local superintending engineer of the Union Steam Ship Company, passed the Board of Trade's examination for a second marine engineer's certificate of competency. Mr. McMurrich is an ex-pupil of the Marist Brothers' School. He served his apprenticeship in the Petone Railway Workshops. At the conclusion of his apprenticeship last year, he joined the engine-room staff of the Aparima, of the Union Company's fleet, which, from the time of her departure from Dunedin in May, 1907, until her arrival in Auckland at the beginning of the present month, visited the following countries:—Australia, Fiji Islands, Canada, United States, Uruguay, Cape De Verde Islands, Scotland, England, Germany, Egypt, India, and the Straits Settlements.

Palmerston North

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

September 20.

On Tuesday last the members of St. Patrick's choir tendered a musical evening to Mr. W. Tabor in the library attached to the Zealandia Hall, on the eve of his departure for Auckland to fill an important engagement. Mr. W. T. Ward, who occupied the chair, in a few words stated the regret one and all felt at Mr. Tabor's departure from their midst, and wished him every prosperity in his new sphere. A very pleasant evening was spent with recitation and song, the following choir members contributing:—Misses Ward (2), Brophy, and McGrath (2), and Messrs. Ward, Tabor, Devlin, Hanley, and Dallow. Miss Ward was accompanist, and the ladies supplied refreshments.

A very successful social was held on Wednesday, 9th inst., in the Town Hall, Ashhurst, in aid of St. Columba's parish. The hall was crowded to the doors, and everything went off most successfully. The committee are to be congratulated on the result of their efforts. The Rev. Father O'Bierne, who was present, returned thanks at the close of the concert programme, and happily commented upon the great assistance received from all denominations. The following items were contributed:—Chorus, 'Fair orb of night,' Ashhurst choir; song, 'The carnival,' Mr. Rae; song, 'London, Paris and New York,' Miss F. McAllister; song, 'Monarch of the wood,' Mr. W. Longworth; instrumental, 'Verginella,' Miss Ward, Miss M. Ward, Mr. W. T. Ward (encored); song, Mr. Tabor (encored); song, 'I love my love,' Miss McGuire (encored); duet, 'Elfin call,' Misses McGrath; song, Mr. Hanley; song, Miss Falton; song, 'Why do they sell Killarney?' Mr. Bailey (encored); comic impersonation, 'Madam Melba' and 'The charge of the Light Brigade,' Mr. Tabor; instrumental selection from 'Martha,' Mr. W. T. Ward and family; song, 'The tar's farewell,' Mr. A. Trass; song, 'The bridge,' Miss J. Paton (encored); song, 'Star of my soul,' Mr. Rae; comic song, Mr. Hanley; song, 'My black gipsy queen,' Miss McGuire; song, Mr. Tabor. At the close of the concert Professors Sylvester and Clair, acrobats and conjurers, gave a pleasing exhibition of their undoubted skill, for which they were justly applauded. The accompaniments were played by Misses Gudgeon, Ward, and Spellman.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

September 28.

The quarterly meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in the Hibernian Hall on last Monday evening. The president (Bro. R. P. O'Shaughnessey) occupied the chair, and fifty members were present. Two members were initiated, and three proposed for membership. Reference was made by the president, the Rev. Father O'Hare (chaplain), and Brothers J. Power and F. J. Doolan to an enjoyable social gathering held in the Alexandra Hall on the 17th inst., which was largely attended by members and their friends, in celebration of the anniversary of the branch.

In a report of the recent visitation of Bishop Grimes to the Cheviot Settlement, during which he was attended by the Rev. Father Richards, pastor of the North Canterbury district, when his Lordship administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Church of St. Joseph, the *Cheviot News* states:—'There were very large congregations on each occasion, and the church had been prettily decorated with evergreens by members of the congregation. The choir, conducted by Mr. D. Haughey, rendered suitable selections during the ceremonies, and Miss E. Haughey was organist. At Mass his Lordship delivered a telling address, the beauty of which was its simplicity. The smallest

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