

OUR SCHOOLS.

PROVINCIAL ECCLESIASTICAL SEMINARY

The annual distribution of prizes took place at the Provincial Ecclesiastical Seminary, Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, on December 14. The following is the list:—

Sacred Scripture: First prize, C. Collins, M. Scanlan (Dunedin); second, T. Conolly (Wellington) and E. Lynch (Dunedin).

Dogmatic Theology: First prize, C. Collins (Dunedin); second, T. Conolly (Wellington) and E. Lynch (Dunedin).

Moral Theology: First prize, C. Collins, E. Lynch, M. Scanlan; second, T. Conolly, J. Hanrahan (Christchurch).

Church History: First prize, C. Collins and J. Hanrahan; second, T. Conolly.

Metaphysics and Ethics: First prize, D. O'Connell and R. Burke (Dunedin).

Greek—1st Class: First prize, R. Burke, T. Hanrahan (Christchurch); next in merit, J. Falconer (Dunedin).

Greek—2nd Class: First prize, W. Monighan, F. Delargy.

First Latin: First prize, D. O'Connell, R. Burke; next in merit, J. Falconer.

Second Latin—1st division: D. McLaughlin. Second division: W. Monighan; next in merit, T. Hanrahan, F. Delargy, C. Ardagh, P. Minogue.

Bible History: First prize, Frank Delargy, C. Ardagh; next in merit, J. Falconer, P. Minogue.

Senior English: First prize, J. Falconer, F. Delargy, T. Hanrahan.

Second English: First prize, M. Spillane.

Third English and Third Mathematics: First prize, R. Hungerford, H. O'Connell, J. Farrell.

Third Latin: First prize, F. Cullen, second, M. Spillane; next in merit, G. Gregg, H. O'Connell.

First French: First prize, J. Falconer, C. Ardagh; next in merit, D. Daily, B. Kaveney. Second Class: First prize, M. Spillane; next in merit, W. Monighan, F. Delargy.

First and Second Mathematics: Frank Delargy, C. Ardagh; next in merit, F. Cullen.

English History and Geography: F. Delargy, T. Hanrahan, G. Gregg; next in merit, J. Falconer, B. Kaveney, F. Cullen.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL, DUNEDIN

The annual entertainment by, and distribution of prizes to, the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin, took place in the Garrison Hall on Monday evening. These entertainments are always remarkably well patronised by our Catholic people, but the attendance on this occasion easily established a record. At 8 o'clock there was scarcely standing room in the large hall. Owing to pressure on our space, we must content ourselves with saying the programme was an excellent one, and that the pupils acquitted themselves in a manner which elicited the enthusiastic applause of the audience, and reflected the highest credit on themselves and on their painstaking and popular teachers. The first part was opened by an overture by an orchestra under Mr. Vallis, and was followed by the 'Trial of Sir Thomas More,' in which the cast of characters was as follows:—Henry VIII., Master H. D. Moynihan; Duke of Norfolk, P. J. Collins; Sir Thomas More, T. P. Laffey; William, Sylvester Geerin; other sons, Eric Turner and James Lennon; Cromwell, J. Moroney; Sir Alfred Allerton, P. Spiers; First Judge, H. Drury; Second Judge, J. Stapleton; First Guard, J. McKeefry; Second Guard, P. Keligher; Usher, E. Stanaway; Gentleman-in-waiting, T. Layburn. The second part consisted of orchestral selection; song, 'The winking stars,' infant class; military display by Hibernian Cadets; song, (a) 'Midshipmite' (solo and chorus), (b) Sailors' Hornpipe (Master McKenzie), (c) 'Young sailors we' (selected voices and chorus), juniors; gymnastic display, juniors; song, 'No one like mother to me,' Master A. Tarleton; recitation, 'Rory the Rapparee,' T. P. Laffey; selection, (a) 'Laudate Pueri,' (b) 'Reapers' chorus,' school choir; gymnastics, senior class; orchestral selection. Mr. Vallis was musical direc-

tor, Mr. L. Stokes was accompanist, and Mr. T. P. Laffey gymnastic instructor.

At the interval Rev. Brother Brady said it was not necessary to read the annual report, as it had been circulated with the programme. His Lordship the Bishop, who had always taken a deep interest in the school, had given three scholarships, which were supplemented by one given by Rev. Father Coffey. He then asked Father Coffey to distribute the prizes to the University class.

At the conclusion of the distribution of prizes, Rev. Father Coffey thanked the audience for their presence in such large numbers, showing that the Catholics of Dunedin appreciated the work of the Christian Brothers. Their presence there that evening in such large numbers also showed that they thoroughly appreciated the character of the Christian, moral education imparted at the school. The Catholic people, in providing their own schools, realise that unless education is thorough, unless it is calculated to advance the moral instincts of the creature, it is lopsided, and it fails in its object. Man was created for a high and noble purpose, and the divine instinct in the boy must be cultivated and the faculties extended so as to fit him for his destiny, and this can only be done in a Christian atmosphere. It was alleged that the people were forced against their will to keep up their schools, but the people did not require any persuasion to support their schools, for they thoroughly appreciated the great work which the Brothers were doing and had done here for the past thirty-two years, and never at any time were their schools more successful or better attended than at the present time. The Catholic body have maintained their schools so that their children might be brought up with a knowledge of the moral law, of loyalty to their King and country, and to the King of Kings. Experience teaches us that Christian moral education must be imparted in a Christian atmosphere. It was not so much a question of the catechism, or of questions or answers, which formed the mind of the pupil; it was the atmosphere and the example which he had placed before him, such as was set before him in the lives of the Brothers. Here Father Coffey gave, in support of this contention, a quotation from the non-Catholic author of *European Civilization*. Continuing, he said that the boys had this Christian atmosphere, this example before them day after day in the Brothers' School. There were men in the world who contended that we should leave religion out of the schools, but history conclusively proved that these men were entirely wrong. Moral teaching must be founded on the laws of God, and if we left that out we would have a nation of pagans, and the people would not have a knowledge of right and wrong. Catholics would continue to fight against that spirit; they were determined, as far as they were able, to give a Christian education to their children. The speaker then gave a sketch of the history of the Christian Brothers, of the great success of their work in this Dominion, and of the high repute in which boys trained by them are held here. In the junior civil service examination during the year one of the boys from the Christian Brothers' School headed the list of 900 boys from Otago. This showed the excellent secular teaching imparted by the Brothers, and that successful secular teaching marched side by side with moral teaching. Here Father Coffey quoted from the report of a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into primary education in Ireland, in which the president, Earl Powis, paid a meed of praise to the excellence of the schools conducted by religious communities. It was a remarkable fact that, whilst the attendance at the public schools had been declining, that at the Christian Brothers' was better than ever. In conclusion, he publicly protested against the injustice that was being inflicted on the Catholic schools by the Government of the country. It makes use of our boys, and yet pays not one penny towards the upkeep of the schools, towards the education of those boys who give their time and their lives to the service of the country.

The following is the annual report:—

The Christian Brothers have much pleasure in presenting the report for the scholastic year 1908. In every department of school life success has been achieved. This happy result is in a great measure due to the parents themselves, who so willingly co-operated with the Brothers