

good work in the Te Aro parish. During the nine months of its existence the members have made 3000 visits. They have had thirty children baptised, have placed ten children in Mother Mary Aubert's Foundling Home, also in licensed homes, and have sent ten women to Mount Magdala. The Ladies' Sewing Guild, another association in the Te Aro parish, is also doing good work among the poor people. They have distributed 243 parcels of clothing to destitute persons, and relieved 67 families who were in want. The pamphlets of the Catholic Truth Society which are being disposed of by the various conferences of St. Vincent-de Paul Society at the parish churches are eagerly sought after by the young Catholics. In Te Aro parish alone last year 3528 books were disposed of.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

February 8.

Collections in aid of the children's ward building fund, in connection with the Christchurch General Hospital, were made after all the Masses and Vespers in the Cathedral on Sunday last.

The following is a list of successful candidates from the Sacred Heart High School (Notre Dame des Missions), Lower High street, at the recent University and Civil Service examinations:—Matriculation—Connie Mills, Katie Hamill, Lizzie Baker, Emmie Moyna. Civil Service—Katie Kerr, Ellen O'Donnell. The High School of the Sisters of the Missions re-opened last Monday with an average attendance of boarding and day scholars.

The executive committee and programme sub-committee of the St. Patrick's Day celebration met at the episcopal residence on last Monday evening. Mr. P. Burke presided. It was resolved that the first part of the Irish national entertainment should consist of a lecturette, or running commentary on the songs of Ireland, to be given by Mr. G. R. Hart, interspersed with some of Moore's melodies and other items in keeping with the character of the programme. The stage will be arranged in drawing-room style, and here the artists will be grouped, each taking their allotted vocal number in turn. This part of the programme is to occupy about one hour. The second part is to consist of cinematographic views of 'Living Ireland,' for which Messrs. John Fuller and Sons have generously offered to provide 1500ft of films, together with any additional series of views that may come to hand meanwhile, free of cost. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Messrs. Fuller and Sons for their splendid contribution to the entertainment. Miss Murray, the secretary of former ladies' committees, and Mrs. W. Dobbs attended and undertook to organise a ladies' committee, which would be responsible for much useful work in connection with the event.

Speaking on matters educational in the Cathedral on Sunday, his Lordship the Bishop, commenting on the fact that some of our people contended that the facilities for learning must be better in the State schools than in the Catholic schools, said that to his personal knowledge in one district in New Zealand no State school, not even the high school, passed candidates in an examination, where both the Brothers' and convent school pupils were successful. Again, he said, he knew of several pupils who had been educated and gained proficiency certificates in the convent schools who were then by ungrateful parents taken away and sent to State schools, which would then take all the credit for ultimate results. They did this notwithstanding the fact that the Sisters made such concessions as were equivalent to a scholarship, in order to retain the children. Such tactics were not only ungrateful, but unjust to teachers and children alike, and deserved the strongest condemnation.

On Sunday next the anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral is to be celebrated with befitting solemnity. There will be Pontifical High Mass at 11 o'clock, and in the evening Pontifical Vespers, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The occasional preacher will be the Rev. Father Ainsworth, S.M., of Hokitika. His Lordship the Bishop had hoped that his Grace Archbishop Redwood and the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin, would have been present, but unfortunately both will be prevented from attending owing to the respective annual retreats of the clergy being in progress. The celebration of the anniversary of an event so important in the religious life of the Dominion serves as a reminder to those in the diocese whose promised contributions are still unfulfilled, and affords an excellent opportunity of sending in donations to lessen the capital liability. Small though constant contributions in the past (with a few notable exceptions of larger donations) have, it is gratifying to know, not only paid the heavy interest, but also enabled the principal to be reduced. At all the Masses and at Vespers on Sunday special collections will be taken up in aid of the

Cathedral fund, and a generous response is naturally looked for by our beloved Bishop, whose strenuous, self-sacrificing labors in the interests of the diocese should appeal to everyone without exception. His Lordship says: 'We as Catholics should not rest satisfied in being (in effect) merely tenants in the house of Our Divine Lord, but should present it to Him as a free offering.'

Addressing the congregation at the early Masses in the Cathedral on Sunday, his Lordship the Bishop eloquently expressed his feelings of congratulation at the fact that the *New Zealand Tablet*, which had a few years ago received the recognition and approbation of the Sovereign Pontiff, the late Pope Leo XIII., who also bestowed upon it his special blessing, was again the recipient of further well-deserved honors from his illustrious successor, Pope Pius X., who conferred the distinction of Doctor of Divinity upon its talented editor. This was the wish not alone of the Rev. Dr. Cleary's own Bishop, but also that of his Grace the Metropolitan and the whole of the hierarchy of the province of New Zealand, who are gratified at the recognition and appreciation of his undoubted abilities. Calling attention to the masterly and timely articles now appearing in the columns of the *Tablet* on the over-present education question, his Lordship said they should be read by every Catholic and all fair-minded non-Catholics. Those who were not already subscribers should at once become such, or at least procure the numbers in which the articles are appearing. It was a distinct step in advance that contributions on the subject should be sought by such a leading secular paper as the *Otago Daily Times*, which was not alone a recognition of the author's worth as a writer, but also a proof of a broad-minded policy. The Bishop went on to forcibly deal with the State system of education. To call it 'free,' he said, was a misnomer; it was nothing of the kind, but kept up by special taxation.

Greymouth

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

In order to encourage the study of Irish history, the local Hibernian Society awards annually a valuable gold medal. This year the coveted prize was won by Terence Joseph Deere.

Very Rev. Dean Carew (Greymouth), local secretary of Trinity College, London, received intimation a few days ago that the Home authorities have awarded a national prize of £5 to Miss Helena Higgins. This young lady, the eldest daughter of Mr. John Higgins, Grey County engineer, obtained senior honors in theoretical and practical music at the early age of fourteen. In theory she obtained 90, and in pianoforte playing 91 out of a possible 100. Miss Higgins is a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, Greymouth.

The list of successful candidates in the Junior Civil Service examinations held last December includes the names of seven pupils of the local Catholic schools conducted by the Marist Brothers and Sisters of Mercy. These successful candidates are Terence J. Deere, James McGlone, John Higgins, pupils of the Marist Brothers, and Helen G. Russell, Irene Braidwood, Ellen O'Leary, Mildred H. Vealie, pupils of the Sisters of Mercy. Miss Helen Russell was also successful in passing the matriculation examination held last December. Terence Joseph Deere, James McGlone, and John Higgins secured second, third, and sixth places respectively on the local list.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

February 8.

The secondary schools re-opened to-day, and the attendances were satisfactory.

Rev. Father Keenan, who has been visiting his relatives here, left for Sydney this evening.

The Very Rev. Dean Gillan arrived back from Gisborne last Thursday, after an absence of about ten days.

His Lordship the Bishop was due to arrive in Sydney to-day, but the German liner is two days late, so it is hardly probable that he will arrive in Auckland before February 21. The reception committee meets to-night to consider arrangements connected with his Lordship's arrival.

Rev. Father Keenan, of the Cathedral, Newcastle, New South Wales, celebrated the 9 o'clock Mass yesterday at the Cathedral, and preached at the 11 o'clock Mass. The usual procession took place after Vespers, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Keenan again preached an eloquent sermon to a very large congregation. The choir, under Mr. Hiscocks, rendered the music in a very finished manner.