

M. Jury, 88; Dorothy Bennett, 87; Irene Taylor, 78. School examinations: Higher Division, harmony (full marks 150 pass 100, distinction 130)—Phyllis P. Hannify, 120.

On Sunday last the Rev. Father Saunderson preached an eloquent sermon on the benefit derived from membership of Catholic societies. He referred principally to the Hibernian Society and the Children of Mary Association, dwelling on their religious, social, and benefit advantages. He related some telling incidents of the good he had seen done by religious societies among Catholics in the Old Land, and made an earnest appeal to the congregation to become members of these organisations.

Hastings

(From our own correspondent.)

August 27.

A social gathering, organised by Mesdames Quinlivan and McIvor, in aid of the convent schools, was held in the Drill Hall on Thursday evening, and was a pronounced success, there being a very large attendance. The ladies of the parish supplied a first-class supper.

A surprise party, consisting of the altar boys of the Sacred Heart Church, waited on Rev. Father Quinn at the presbytery a few evenings ago, and presented him with a silver shaving mug, in honor of his feast day. Masters Carroll, Lee, and Poppelwell made short speeches, wishing Father Quinn many happy returns of the day. Father Quinn, to whom the presentation came as a genuine surprise, was exceedingly pleased with this thoughtful and graceful act, and returned thanks in a feeling speech. The boys were afterwards entertained by Father Quinn.

The members of the Catholic Club held their annual banquet on Monday evening, when there was a large attendance of members. Rev. Father Quinn presided, and Very Rev. Father Keogh (the club's patron) and several of the vice-presidents were also present. After the excellent repast had been done justice to, various toasts were duly honored. During the evening several musical items were contributed. The function was one of the most enjoyable yet given under the auspices of the club.

At the musical and elocutionary competitions, which have just concluded in Napier, Hastings' competitors carried off a considerable number of the prizes. It is pleasing to record that members of the Sacred Heart choir were among the prize-winners. Miss Tilly Vickers was placed first in the contralto test solo; Mrs. V. R. Roach, as one of a mixed quartet, was awarded first prize in the concerted music; Mr. F. L. Vickers was second in the bass test solo, third in the sacred solo, and (with three others) obtained second prize in the male quartet.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 30.

The clock in the tower of St. Joseph's Church at Temuka has just been thoroughly overhauled and put in good working order. The cost, about £20, has been subscribed by the parishioners and the residents generally, as it serves as the town clock for Temuka.

Information has been received by the Sisters of Nazareth of the death, at the Mother House, Hammersmith, London, of Mother Mary of the Holy Cross, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, fifty-nine of which were spent in the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth.—R.I.P.

The Rev. Father O'Sullivan, of the African Missions, who has several times visited the Dominion in the interests of his Order, intends at an early date (I understand) re-visiting New Zealand, giving a series of illustrated lectures incidental to the arduous and hazardous labors in which the missionaries are engaged.

An illustrated lecture on the 'Niagara Falls,' given on last Friday evening by the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., for the benefit of the funds of St. Mary's Altar Society, Christchurch North, attracted an audience which crowded St. Mary's Schoolroom, Manchester street. Preceding the lecture a well-arranged programme of vocal and instrumental music was very capably rendered.

A gentleman touring the districts north of Auckland, writing to a friend in Christchurch from Mangonui, gives an interesting account of his observations in the vicinity. 'I spent the day (he states) with the Maoris of Waimahana, a place near here, where they are all Catholics. I met Fathers Bruning and Zangere several times while at Whangaroa, and promised that if possible I would be at Waimahana on the Feast of the Assumption, which they told me was always a great day with the Maoris in the North. (The Maori Missions were at the very beginning placed under the invocation of Our Lady of the Assumption by Bishop Pompallier, hence the devotion of the succeeding generations of the Maoris to this great festival of the Church.) As there was no way by which I could get there unless by hiring a launch and going by water, I arranged with a man here, who has an oil launch, to take me there on Sunday. I was up early, and we reached

there about 10 o'clock, and landed on the beach with the aid of a group of Maori boys, who pulled our small boat up high and dry. Father Zangere took us up to a Maori habitation, where we had breakfast, after which the Father and I went to the church, where Mass was just beginning. All the people take part in the service, and sing or intone those parts which are usually sung by choirs, but do so in their own language, and the effect is very good. A large number of them received Holy Communion, and several had come down on horseback from the North Cape, a distance of about 120 miles. A beast was killed on the Friday before for a supply of beef, and on the same night the largest catch of fish they ever made, filling a trolley heaped up, was procured. As a natural consequence, there was great feasting going on. Baskets full of kumeras were cooked in what is known as a 'kapa Maori,' and these were very much better and sweeter than those I have eaten cooked in the ordinary way. I spent the whole day with them, until it was time to leave in the evening, and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Waimahana is just a flat area of country surrounded by sloping hills, excepting that part which opens on to the beach. It is very fertile, and will grow almost anything, whilst the surrounding hills, all clay land, gave profitable employment to Maori and Australian gundiggers in the old days. The climate here is very mild, and many of the peach trees in the gardens were covered with blossom. The missionary is the universal arbiter, sincerest friend, and wisest counsellor, possessing qualities recognised as being in the best possible interests—spiritual and temporal—of those among whom and for whom he is wearing out his life. Hence the priest's word is law, and well, all things considered, it is so.'

Greymouth

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

August 24.

A serious accident happened to Dr. James McBrearty, sen., last Monday evening. He was walking along the street and when at the foot of Griffen's Hill he was knocked down by a trap.

The Marist Brothers' School football team journeyed to Runanga (State Collieries) last Saturday and defeated the Runanga State School football team by 9 points to nil. The Marist Brothers boys have now scored 130 points to nil in the various matches for the schools' competition, and have every prospect of again winning the coveted shield.

The sports committee of the local branch of the Hibernian Society have decided to hold the New Zealand Championship gathering in conjunction with their annual sports meeting to be held in Greymouth on March 16 and 17. The society is recognised as being the premier athletic club of the West Coast, and under their management a record gathering of competitors and the general public is anticipated.

A euchre tournament in connection with the Card Club competition was played at the Fire Brigade Hall last Friday evening between teams from the Fire Brigade and St. Columba Club. After an exciting tournament, the St. Columba team proved victorious by the narrow margin of 12 points, the scores being 521 to 509. This is the first occasion in which the Fire Brigade has been defeated for four years. At the conclusion of play refreshments were handed around. During the evening musical items were contributed by Messrs. T. Clark, P. J. Smyth, J. Walton, E. Casey, J. Fitzsimmons, and Noel Dew. A very pleasant evening was concluded with the singing of 'Auld lang syne.'

The St. Columba Club rooms were crowded on last Monday evening, when Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue gave a lecture on 'A holiday in the Southern Alps,' illustrated with limelight views. Mr. E. Casey, V.P., occupied the chair, and briefly introduced the lecturer. Mr. O'Donoghue, who on rising to speak was greeted with applause, in the course of an interesting address gave a splendid description of the beauties of the Southern Alps, dealing more particularly with a trip from Greymouth to Timaru, via the Francis Josef Glacier, the Hermitage, and Copeland Pass. Several beautiful views were shown, the lantern being skilfully manipulated by Mr. T. M. Heffernan. At the conclusion of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. O'Donoghue for his instructive and interesting discourse. Mr. O'Donoghue, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, announced that he intended doing the trip across the Alps again next Christmas holidays, and invited as many of the parishioners who cared to make the trip to join him.

Messrs. Graham, Wilson, and Smellie, High street, Christchurch, are now opening up a comprehensive stock of new season's goods, reliable in quality and the latest in style. Special and immediate personal attention is given to mail orders....

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