

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The annual retreat of the clergy of the diocese of Dunedin will begin on January 21, and will be conducted by the Very Rev. A. Boyle, C.M., of St. Vincent's, Ashfield, New South Wales.

The rev. editor of the N.Z. TABLET returned to Dunedin towards the close of last week after an extended stay in the Australian colonies.

The Rev. Father O'Reilly, who is a native of County Kildare, Ireland, and was educated at Maynooth College, is now on his way to the diocese of Dunedin and is expected in New Zealand about the first week in December.

At the examinations in practical music conducted by Mr. Stewart Macpherson on behalf of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music nine pupils were presented from St. Dominic's Priory, all of whom passed, four with distinction. The following is the list:—Local Centre Examination—Senior (singing)—Margaret Ewing. Local Schools Examination—Higher grade (pianoforte)—Winifred Baker (distinction), Mildred Carey (distinction), Josephine Griffin, Ethel Kirkcaldy, Geraldine O'Connor; lower grade (pianoforte) Mary Jackman (distinction), Mildred Shain (distinction), Ethel Wood.

The production of 'The Shaughraun,' which is to be given in aid of the funds of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin, has now been definitely fixed for Wednesday, December 5, at the Princess Theatre. It is unnecessary to remind our readers of the admirable object for which the entertainment is to be given, as the work which is being done by the Sisters of Mercy is well known and needs no commendation. Tickets already issued for the previous date will of course hold good, and friends of the institution are earnestly requested by the Sisters of Mercy to push on the sale of those yet remaining on hand.

On last Saturday week His Lordship Bishop Verdon left Dunedin for the purpose of holding a visitation of the Naseby and Ophir missions. On Sunday week he celebrated Mass at Naseby and preached in the evening. He also preached at Ranfurly during the afternoon. Large congregations were present on each occasion. On the following Wednesday he was driven to Wedderburn by the Rev. Father M'Mullen en route for St. Bathans, the Rev. Father O'Dea driving him the remainder of the way. He officiated at St. Bathans, also at Ophir on Sunday, and returned to Dunedin on Monday evening.

A very fine life-size portrait in oils of Bishop Verdon is now on view in the Gaynor Studio, Moray Place, and has been visited and greatly admired by a number of competent critics. The Bishop is represented in his episcopal robes, and both as a picture and a portrait the work is a distinct success. The pose, lighting, and expression are all that could be desired, and the artist has put into the canvas an amount of capable, conscientious, and effective work that is in refreshing contrast with the slap-dash methods so often pursued by portrait painters nowadays. The canvas is 7 ft by 1 ft, and a massive frame raises the dimensions of the picture to 8 ft 6 in x 6 ft.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

DR. MASON, of Otaki, has definitely accepted the position of director of the Public Health Department of this Colony.

At a meeting of the Christchurch City Council on Monday night a committee was appointed with a view to taking steps towards the erection of abattoirs.

A PRESS Association message from Wellington states. In the Trinity College musical examinations seven pupils of St. Mary's Convent obtained honors and five passes. For the Associated Board and Royal Academy of Music's gold medal for Australasia, Miss Given Flanagan, a convent pupil, is at present in the leading position, with 140 out of 150 marks.

THE Premier announced at the banquet to the Hon. C. H. Mills at Wellington on Monday night that he intended to endeavor to get the Duke of York to open the next session of the New Zealand Parliament. There would be no difficulty, he said, in getting Parliament opened a month earlier than usual if this were desirable.

THE Hon. C. H. Mills was entertained at a banquet on Monday night by the citizens of Wellington in celebration of his elevation to the Ministry. Mr. H. Beauchamp, chairman of the Harbor Board, presided, and there was a numerous attendance, including the Premier and other members of the Cabinet. The speeches made during the evening were eulogistic of the guest of the evening.

ABOUT 28,000 persons were present at the Canterbury A. and P. Association's Show on Friday. The sum of £1240 was taken at the gates—a record for the Association. The railway traffic in Canterbury during the week was very heavy, nearly 30,000 persons having been booked from Christchurch. This total included passengers to the races and show grounds.

At the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society a report was received from the judge on the essay competition. First honors (says the *Mail*) fell to Mr. B. Moriarty for his paper on 'The execution of Mary Queen of Scots,' while the second place was awarded to Mr. J. Quinlan for an essay entitled 'The future of Ashburton.' These members were, therefore, the winners of two handsome prizes offered by the Society. The remainder of the evening was then taken up by the competitors reading their essays, and as a whole they reflected the highest credit on the writers themselves, and more especially on the Society for the good work it is doing among its members. The successful competitors, Messrs. Moriarty and Quinlan, were then presented with their prizes, and after duly thanking the Society the meeting terminated.

THERE was recently purchased in Dunedin a pair of handsome carriage horses—bright bays with black points—the destination of which it was desired at the time to keep secret. The *Southland Times* announces that the horses have arrived at Invercargill, and are to be presented to Mrs. Ward by friends of the Hon. J. G. and Mrs. Ward, in the Awarua constituency, to horse the landau which was presented to her in England. The pair stand 16 1/2 hands high, are perfectly matched, and severe tests prove them most docile as well as staunch. The price, it is understood, was 150 guineas.

In the course of an address at a meeting of the Christchurch Philosophical Society, Dr. Symes said he considered the practice of exposing meat for sale in butchers' shops which were open to the dust of the street a very objectionable one, and thought that it was even dangerous to the public health. On dusty days, especially when a nor-wester was blowing, multitudes of bacilli were deposited every few minutes upon meat thus exposed. If the public realised the danger there would be a general and indignant outcry against the supply of meat thus exposed to the city for human consumption. He thought that butchers' shops should be arranged so that meat would at least be protected from the dust of the streets, and probably in time meat for sale would be so safeguarded that there would be no possibility of infection by contact with the germ-laden atmosphere of the streets.

THE bacon-curing industry is reported to be assuming large proportions in Taranaki. The season just opened is said to have a bright outlook for the settlers of that district. A New Plymouth paper states that the markets for Taranaki bacon are extending day by day, and there is every prospect of a considerable trade being done with England. With a view to experimenting in this direction, Mr. Drake, of Fitzroy, recently submitted a parcel of hams to the test of freezing, leaving them in one of the chambers at the Waitara works for two months, after which a party of gentlemen were invited to taste one of the hams cooked for the purpose, and pronounced it not only more tender than the unfrozen meat, but of superior flavor. As there is no difficulty in keeping hams after they have been frozen and thawed, the prospects of placing Taranaki hams and bacon on the Home market seems to be as promising in results as in the case of butter and cheese.

A SAD accident occurred at the Skippers Sluicing Company's claim, near Arrowtown, last week, resulting in the death of three men. It appears that the men—James Scott (manager), Martin Tobin, and William Low—were busy removing an obstruction in the tunnel, when the whole mass of tailings and the dead water standing in the paddock—the race water having been turned off—broke away, overwhelming them. Scott was carried down the tunnel and shot into the Shotover. The other two men were buried in the mass of water and tailings and smothered. Martin Tobin was about 33 years. He was married and leaves a widow and three children and a widowed mother. Mr. Scott was the manager of the claim. He was a competent miner and was very popular with all who knew him. W. Low was an elderly man, well known in the district, and, with Tobin, had been for some time in the employ of the company.

THE Premier, speaking at the A. and P. Society's dinner at Christchurch, referred at some length to the rapidly extending functions of the State, and mentioned the establishment of a Government stud farm as the latest development. In connection with the market which existed in South Africa for New Zealand produce, Mr. Seddon pointed out that there were three lines of steamers carrying the produce of Australia to the Cape, and in view of the fact that, under existing conditions, shipments from New Zealand had resulted in loss he said that the time had now arrived that this Colony should have its direct line of steamers to the Cape. They had heard from reliable sources that our beef was wanted, and also mutton—not too big, they could do with 50's, and even as low as 40's, the rejects for the London markets would do. Referring to the colonies wishing to have 'a finger in the pie,' he referred to the fact that if British statesmen had taken the advice of colonial politicians, all the islands of the Pacific would now be British possessions.

SPEAKING to a Press representative in Dunedin last week Mr. Stewart Macpherson, examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music (London), said that during his tour in these colonies he had come across a considerably higher average of merit than he expected to find. There had not been very many candidates of exceptional talent, except in Wellington, where at the Convent he had some remarkable results, especially amongst the vocal candidates. Three girls there particularly pleased him, being the possessors of unusually fine voices, which had been admirably trained. Mr. Macpherson said that throughout the colonial examinations he had adopted as high a standard as he would have done in England. He thought that in the majority of the towns he had visited there seemed to be a desire on the part of the cultured people to really wish for a more advanced and thorough-going musical training and a desire to cultivate art in a serious way. In many places he had found the teaching to be really good.

A HASTINGS correspondent writes:—On Sunday, October 21, the beautiful devotions of the Forty Hours' Adoration began in the Sacred Heart Church, Hastings. At 8 o'clock Mass was said by the Very Rev. Father Smyth, about 250 communicants approaching the Holy Table. At 11 o'clock Solemn High Mass was sung by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna, of Masterton, Father Smyth and Father Lezer acting as deacon and subdeacon respectively. At the end of the Mass there was a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Farmer's Mass in B flat was ably rendered by the choir. In the evening Solemn Vespers were sung by Rev. Father Lezer, and a very eloquent sermon on the 'Church' was preached by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna. On Monday morning Masses were celebrated at 6.30 and 7 o'clock, and at 9 o'clock Mass was sung by the Rev.