

ENTERTAINMENT BY THE PUPILS OF ST. DOMINICK'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN.

THERE was a large audience in the Agricultural Hall, Dunedin, on Friday night when the pupils of the Dominican Nuns gave one of those enjoyable entertainments for which they are distinguished. The audience, bearing in mind the high reputation which the good Sisters hold for the excellence of the musical education imparted by them, naturally expected an entertainment of more than ordinary excellence, and in this they were not disappointed. It may be here mentioned that during the past four years there has not been a single failure amongst the candidates sent up from St. Dominick's College for the various musical examinations, whilst many succeeded in getting honors and distinctions. The opening item was a chorus, 'Night bells,' nicely sung by about 50 of the pupils. Misses Seelye, Liston, O'Connell, Griffen, Carey, and Meenan contributed a pianoforte duet in a finished manner, and the same might be said of a pianoforte trio by Misses Jackman, Montague, and Wood. A pianoforte solo by Miss Curtis, a duo (three pianos) by Misses Ward, Baker, Liston, Seelye, Curtis, and Paton, and a solo (three pianos) by Misses Ward, Paton, and Curtis were excellently played, and left nothing to be desired. Miss O'Connell displayed considerable elocutionary talent in her recitation, 'The Fool's Prayer,' for which she was warmly applauded. In addition to the opening item there were two other choruses—'Little flower girls,' by the junior pupils, and a 'National anthem' by all the pupils—both of which were admirably sung, the latter being especially effective. Miss Ewing got a well-deserved encore for a finished rendering of her song, 'Dear heart.' The balance of the programme was made up of 'Pas des Echarpes,' by the kindergarten, and 'Moonlight fairy revels,' by the college pupils, both items being gone through in a style which denoted careful training. Miss Moloney accompanied Miss Ewing's song and Miss Guffie the children's exercises.

During an interval his Lordship Bishop Verdon read the report of the directors of the college on the work during the past year. St. Dominick's College has been a centre for the musical examinations (practical and theoretical) for the past six years, and an analysis of the results obtained during that time will speak for itself.

A thorough musical training has always been a feature of the college.

The art studio has turned out good work during the past year, and the system of drawing from models throughout the school has proved very successful.

The study of modern languages keeps well to the fore, notably conversational French.

The much-coveted prize, the wreath for amiability, is awarded by the votes of the students, who are almost invariably unanimous in their estimate of the winner. This year it has been won by Miss Geraldine O'Connell, who received 90 per cent. of the votes of her school companions. A prize of equal distinction is that awarded by the nuns themselves, for fidelity to school discipline, and has been won by Miss Jessie Kelman.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

It was a pleasing sight on Sunday last to see a number of children from the Sacred Heart and Marist Brothers' parochial schools—about 80 in all—receiving their First Communion. The children were well prepared by their respective teachers for the solemn occasion and had to undergo examination by the Rev. Father Tubman to ensure that they had a thorough knowledge of the Christian doctrine. After Mass the communicants were entertained at breakfast in the girls' schoolroom and in the afternoon were again brought together and every effort made to make them remember the day as the happiest in their lives. In the evening the church was crowded when the renewal of baptismal vows by the children and adults and the admission of six aspirants to the Sodality of the Children of Mary took place. The Rev. Father O'Connell, of Waimate, before conducting the ceremonies, preached a practical sermon to the children on their First Communion, and also explained the different ceremonies about to take place. The renewal of baptismal vows by the first communicants was a most pleasing and edifying sight. An act of consecration to the Blessed Virgin was clearly read by a little girl (Mary McAteer) a similar act to St. Joseph being read by a little boy (E. Dennehy) after which the first communicants in a body took the pledge of total abstinence. What a debt of gratitude parents must acknowledge to those good teachers, when comparing the meagre means at their disposal for educating their children a few short years back and the priceless advantages they now possess in having their children trained by the good Nuns and Brothers, and spiritually and secularly equipped to fight the battle of life.

The Hibernian Society held its fortnightly meeting on Thursday last, the president (Mr. M. F. Dennehy) in the chair. The next meeting, on Thursday, 27th, is the quarterly one, and will be held in the branch's new rooms, near the Priory (St. John's Hall). A resolution was unanimously passed conveying the congratulations of the branch to Brothers Wybertus and Kilian in their triumph over their calumniators, and sympathising with them in the suspense and suffering they underwent previous to and during the trial. A practical testimony of the sympathy of the branch will also be forthcoming. The branch's banner (painted by Madam Ryan) has been forwarded to Christchurch, and will be unfurled in the Jubilee procession by the members of the Timaru and Christchurch branches.

In connection with the celebration of the foundation of the Order of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship Bishop Grimes on Wednesday morning,

Rev. Father Cleary (Dunedin) being assistant priest, Very Rev. Dean Foley (Christchurch) deacon of the Mass, Rev. Father Tubman subdeacon, and Rev. Fathers Regnault and Aubry deacons at the throne. The Gregorian Mass was sung by the convent boarders in a finished and devotional manner. In the evening solemn Benediction was given by the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, preceded by an admirable and touching discourse on the origin, aims, and characteristics of the Institute of the Sacred Heart, and the lessons to be derived from the life and virtues of Mother Barat, the foundress. On Wednesday evening an entertainment of a semi-private character, consisting of musical items and 'The Salve Regina,' a play in five acts, was given by the pupils. The following was the musical programme—'Entrée, 'Festal March' (piano); action song, 'The cat in the school' (encored); spinnies (piano), Miss Eileen Dennehy; impromptu, Miss Eileen Toomey; song, 'The singing lesson,' the second division. In the play the characters of Edith D'Astrog (a Polish young lady), and Count D'Astrog (her uncle) were admirably impersonated respectively by Misses Mechtilde and Cecily Kennedy. The part of Lady Beatrice (a friend of the late Countess D'Astrog) was well played by Miss Madeline Kinnerney, and Miss Clare Smith was very bright and most amusing as Fritz the valet. Miss Pearl Grace was highly successful as the Tartar Chief, Abdul Bey, and Miss Mary Twomey's presentation of the character of Hassan was very natural. Misses Stella Murray, Gladys Kennaway, Mary McShane and Lizzie Brosnahan put plenty of animation into their parts as Tartars. The piece was very nicely staged and well played, the production being very creditable to both teachers and pupils. The proceedings closed with the singing of a chorus 'Laudate,' after which his Lordship the Bishop delivered a brief address. At the conclusion of Dr. Grimes's remarks Miss Edwards, on behalf of the pupils, presented his Lordship with a floral bouquet studded with sovereigns. The play was repeated in the parish school on Thursday afternoon in the presence of the children and a number of their parents and friends. The boarders left for their holidays on the same day.

OBITUARY.

SISTER MARY URSULA MINTERN.

On Sunday, December 16, there passed away at the Dominican Convent, Queenstown, Sister Mary Ursula Mintern of the Order of St. Dominic. The deceased was the daughter of Mr. Mintern, a wealthy merchant of Cork, in which city she was born in 1875. She was educated first at the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary's of the Isle, and completed her course of studies at the Convent of Sittard, Limburg, Holland. Immediately on leaving Sittard she returned to Ireland, but only to bid farewell to her relatives and her native land in order to carry out her cherished wish to enter the Dominican Novitiate, Dunedin. Here, after the customary period of probation, she made her vows to God. Sister Ursula now began to show increasing signs of delicate health, and it was thought prudent to send her to the Dominican Convent in Queenstown in the hope that the salubrious air of the mountain and lake district would strengthen her. She improved so rapidly that she was chosen to be one of the foundresses of the Convent of the Order at Cromwell, her many gifts and talents, developed by refined culture, made her a host in herself among a small staff of workers. Unfortunately an attack of influenza, during an unusually severe winter season in Cromwell, reduced Sister Mary Ursula to such weak health that she was at once ordered back to Queenstown. The devoted attention and skilful care of the physicians failed to restore her and after a period of lingering weakness the patient succumbed. Sister Mary Ursula passed peacefully away on the morning of Sunday, December 16. The Sisters returning to Dunedin for the holidays, formed the mournful cortege that accompanied the remains to Dunedin for interment. On Tuesday morning a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph's Cathedral by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, the Rev. Father Cleary being assistant priest, Very Rev. J. O'Neill deacon, Rev. Father Lynch subdeacon, Rev. Father Murphy master of ceremonies. The solemn music of the Mass was exquisitely rendered by the Dominican Nuns. In the choir also were the Rev. Father O'Donnell (Queenstown), the Rev. Fathers Ryan and Headen (Holy Cross College), and many of the local clergy were present in the sanctuary. The interment took place in the Southern cemetery when his Lordship the Bishop officiated assisted by the clergy present at the Requiem Mass.—R.I.P.

Particulars of the train services on the Government railways on December 22, 24, and 25 will be found in our advertising columns.—*.

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