

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS.

CONCERT IN DUNEDIN.

As we anticipated, the concert given in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, on Friday night in connection with the anniversary of Ireland's patron saint was a great success from an artistic point of view, whilst the attendance was very good and much in excess of former years. The programme opened with a pianoforte duet faultlessly played by Mrs. J. Woods and Mr. A. Vallis. 'The minstrel boy' was sung in a finished manner by Mr. James Jago, who had to respond to a recall, the encore item being 'Connemara.' Miss Constance Pearson gave a very pleasing rendering of 'Avourneen,' for which she was warmly applauded. Mr. Edgar Bush displayed more than ordinary dramatic power in his recitation 'Shamus O'Brien,' the delivery of which was punctuated by frequent applause. Mr. T. J. Hussey was in splendid voice, and his singing of 'Believe me if all' earned for him a well-merited encore, to which he responded with 'Off to Philadelphia.' It is needless to observe that Miss Rose Blaney's singing of 'Rory darling' was an artistic performance, and the audience insisted on an encore, to which she responded with 'The dear little shamrock.' Herr Zimmermann contributed an exquisite violin solo, 'Yankee Doodle,' which found much favor with the audience, and was redemanded. Mr. P. Carolin sang with taste and feeling, 'Oh! Erin, the tear and the smile.' The first part of the programme was brought to a close with a popular item, an Irish jig, which was given with grace and precision by Miss Winnie McCormack, a young lady of six or seven summers, that elicited long continued applause, and had to be repeated. The second part was opened with a selection from 'The Geisha' by St. Joseph's orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Vallis. Mr. W. Shephard sang with feeling 'Eily mavourneen,' and a cornet solo by Mr. R. Philips found much favor with the audience. For his finished singing of 'Oh! Erin, my country,' Mr. E. Eagar was recalled, his encore item being 'The rose of Tralee.' Balfe's 'Killarney' was interpreted in a sympathetic manner by Miss Rose Blaney, who had to respond to the inevitable encore. Mr. J. A. O'Brien contributed an euphonium solo, 'Come back to Erin,' in his best style, for which he received the warm plaudits of the audience. The concluding items were the 'Irish emigrant' by Mr. J. Jago, and a humorous song by Mr. T. Anthony, which so pleased the audience that he had to contribute a second item. The accompaniments during the evening were played by Mrs. J. Woods and Mr. A. Vallis, the main portion of the work falling on the former, who discharged the task with her accustomed ability.

During the interval the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., took the opportunity of thanking the audience for their attendance, the performers for their services, and the committee for their labors in connection with the concert. He desired also to thank the Rev. Father Ganly, of Melbourne, for honoring them with his presence. He had to thank the Mayor (Mr. R. Chisholm) for his presence on that occasion and also for past favors. During the Mayor's term of office he (Father Murphy) had had on various occasions to call on him, and he had always found him most courteous, and he took the opportunity that evening of thanking his Worship for the many favors he had conferred on the Catholic body during his term of office.

It may be mentioned that prior to the commencement of the concert the Kaikorai Band marched from the Octagon and played in front of the hall.

SPORTS AND CONCERT AT ASHBURTON.

The annual athletic meeting of the Ashburton St. Patrick's Day Sports Association was held in the Domain grounds on Thursday afternoon, when the attendance was good. The arrangements were excellent, and reflected credit on the committee. Each event (says the *Mail*) was got off punctually to time, and at no portion of the afternoon did the sport in any way drag. The bicycle races, although very interesting, call for no particular mention. In the amateur cycle event D. Rodger proved his superiority over the rest of the field by winning easily, after catching his opponents in the second lap. In the cash cycling events, the St. Patrick's Wheel Race (the principal race of the meeting) was won by J. E. Marriott, a Christchurch rider. W. C. Clarkson, of Palmerston North, was, after Marriott, the most successful of the cash men. A word of praise is due to the sports' officials for the manner in which they carried out their duties.

The Oddfellows' Hall was packed in the evening, when a concert in connection with the celebration of the anniversary of Ireland's patron saint was given. The audience was very appreciative, and encores were numerous. An instrumental overture by an orchestra of nine members, with Mr. A. Claridge leading, and Mrs. Claridge at the piano, opened the proceedings, and in this and other portions of the programme the band provided some excellent music. Mr. Kersel sang 'The gallant fusiliers' in a pleasing manner, and Miss Pender's distinct articulation in 'Killarney' formed a feature of her excellent rendering of this favorite song, and in response to a loud recall she gave 'Come back to Erin.' Mr. Schwartz was in capital voice, and did full justice to 'Father O'Flynn,' fairly bringing down the house. A violin solo by Miss Simmonds, 'The wearing of the green,' was very carefully and nicely played, as also her encore piece 'The last rose of summer.' Mrs. Denshire's song, 'The swallows,' showed the result of careful study, and met with such favor that she was compelled to re-appear. An Irish dance by Misses T. Devane, Lagan, Cullan, Fitzgerald, Messrs. A. J. D. and W. Fitzgerald gave evidence of considerable practice, and the item proved very enjoyable. Mr. Snodgrass followed with 'The jovial friar,' but his fine voice was not heard to best advantage, apparently owing to nervousness. Mrs. Johnstone made herself a strong favorite in her rendition of the ever welcome song 'Kate O'Shane,' and was encored loudly. Miss Collins has a very sweet voice and met with the approval of the audience in her original and encore items. The appearance of Mr. D. Thomas was the signal for

a loud burst of applause, and before giving his comic song he expressed his sympathy with the promoters of the concert in their efforts to further the education of Catholic children. His song was redemanded, and this closed the first portion of the entertainment. The various accompaniments were efficiently played by Mesdames Claridge, Denshire, Misses Richardson and Bournique and Mr. F. Curtis. After an interval the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell announced that in the farce to follow by the Catholic Literary Society's dramatic class, he had to express regret that Miss M. Madden, who was taking a part, had been suddenly taken seriously ill, and was thus prevented from appearing, and he asked for the indulgence of the audience towards Miss A. McDonnell, who, besides taking her own portion of the play, had taken up also the dual part. He further took the opportunity to thank the audience for their attendance in helping the object of the Sisters and expressed thanks to the various performers. The farce 'Declined with thanks,' was then performed by the class, Misses McDonnell and Niven, and Messrs. Hanrahan, Healy, and Nolan having the bulk of the work on their shoulders. This gave a very pleasurable half hour for the audience, which left highly satisfied with the evening's enjoyment. Mr. Bowden had a busy time as stage manager, and Mr. H. M'Sherry acted as conductor of proceedings.

CONCERT IN CHRISTCHURCH.

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent).

March 19.

There was a crowded and most enthusiastic audience at the Exhibition Hall on Monday evening for the concert in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. His Lordship the Bishop and a great number of the clergy extended their patronage, and most of the items on the programme were encored. All the arrangements were perfect, and the event was marked with conspicuous success. During the day the green flag of Ireland floated gaily over the Government Building. On the whole, the festival was observed with greater éclat than on any previous occasion. Green was very conspicuous on Saturday and Sunday, and every other person one met wore a favor of the Irish national color. The following was the concert programme:—Part I.: Overture, 'Echoes from Erin,' Mr. H. Rossiter's orchestra; song, 'Father O'Flynn,' Mr. E. McNamara; song, 'Come back to Erin,' Miss J. Muir; recitation, 'Shamus O'Brien,' Mr. D. Ryan; instrumental quartette, Misses K. and M. Picken, K. Bourke, and S. Mullin; song, 'O, Erin, my country,' Miss Rose Blaney; song, 'Ashore,' Mr. C. Read; song, Mr. R. Petersen; Irish reel by Misses Gundersen (2), East, Myers, Winstone, Hammond, and McDougall. Part II.: Instrumental selection, 'Irish fantasia,' Misses H. and K. Flynn, Peggy and Lillie Bain; ballad, 'Colleen Oge, Ashore,' Mr. C. Read; song, 'Killarney,' Miss Rose Blaney; recitation, 'Hamlet's soliloquy,' Mr. D. Ryan; song, 'Off to Philadelphia,' Mr. E. McNamara; song, 'Kathleen Mavourneen,' Miss J. Muir; descriptive song, 'Boys of the Emerald Isle,' Mr. R. Petersen; Irish jig, Mr. E. O'Connor; *finale*, 'God save the King.'

SPORTS IN WELLINGTON.

A Wellington message says: 'The members of the Hibernian Society assembled in Hill street on Saturday morning, and, headed by the Garrison Band, marched with banners flying to the Basin Reserve, where the annual St. Patrick's Day sports were held. The principal handicap, three distances, was won by Somers from scratch, he being first in the 220yds and 440yds and third in the 100yds. Payne was second and Furrie third. P. McColl won the half-mile, and L. Ward defeated his brother, H. Ward, in the mile run, after a good race, by a few inches. The two-mile bicycle race was won by Randrup, with Burton Second. In the three-mile event the positions were reversed, Burton being first and Randrup second.'

Wanted, about 50 clerks to help read testimonials *re* Tussicura. Sole manufacturer, S. J. Evans, 2s 6d.—*.*

The gigantic expansion of output is not due merely to the everlasting raising of the McCormick standard of excellence higher, higher, and still higher, but to the quick intelligence of the host of farmer buyers who discern that the only profitable machine, the only reliable-at-harvest-time machine is the McCormick.—*.*

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—*.*

A celebrated American writer explains that one cause of McKinley's late triumph in the grain growing Western States was 'that the Southern clergy, German and Scandinavian, went amongst their people from house to house and represented to them that Providence had blessed them during the McKinley rule with abundant harvests, and the republican party had found them markets. A critic dealing with this observed that those markets were effected by two factors—first, the succession of bad crops in Russia and India; second, the gradual use of a better and better type of harvesting machine such as the McCormick.—*.*

Now that the autumn season has arrived and winter is approaching, Messrs. Duthie Bros., drapers, George street, Dunedin, are making an extensive display of seasonable goods and up-to-date novelties. These consist of dress goods, mantles, millinery, silks, ribbons, and costumes. The public are cordially invited to inspect the stock. Our readers in the country districts who cannot spare time to come into town can have their orders attended to with punctuality by writing to the firm.—*.*