

Benedict's and those of Parnell. At half-past one the sports programme was commenced, by which time the attendance had begun to increase, and before the nineteen events were run off there were fully 2000 persons present, in addition to the children.

There was a very large attendance at the concert, the hall being packed in every part. Among those present was his Lordship the Bishop and nearly all the local clergy. The programme was thoroughly national in character.

Obituary.

MRS. BUCKLEY, WAIMATE.

The many friends of Mr. B. A. Buckley (formerly Inspector of Police) will regret to hear (writes a correspondent) of the death of his wife, which took place at the Hook, Waimate, on March 7. The deceased lady, who was a daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Walsh, of County Galway, Ireland, came to this Colony some thirty-seven years ago, and at her death was in her 59th year. For several months she had not been in very good health. For a fortnight previous to her demise she was constantly attended by her sister, Mrs. Morris, of Rangiora, and by her daughter, Nurse Buckley, of the Waimate Hospital. The local clergy attended her frequently during her illness and administered the last sacraments. Rev. Father O'Connell was present at her death and read the beautiful prayers for the dying. The funeral took place on March 10. A Requiem Mass was celebrated at 10.30, after which the cortege proceeded to the Waimate cemetery. There was a very large gathering of mourners, many of whom came from a great distance to pay their last tribute of respect. After the burial service the Rev. Father O'Connell said a few words, in which he referred to the many good qualities of the late Mrs. Buckley. She was, he said, an affectionate and devoted wife, a fond mother, who trained up her children according to God's ways, a woman who gave to all around her an example in every way worthy of imitation. He urged all to pray for her soul that it might soon be admitted to enjoy God's presence for all eternity.—R.I.P.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, DUNEDIN.

ON Sunday last the members of the Dunedin Branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, to the number of about 80, attended the nine o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral in regalia and approached the Holy Table in a body. After Mass they marched to St. Joseph's Hall where they partook of breakfast. This breakfast, which was instituted only last year, is to be an annual affair, and promises to become a very popular one. A very liberal spread was provided, and the members were waited on by Misses A. and J. Heley, M. Williams, and Curran. His Lordship Bishop Verdon presided, the officers present being Bros. T. Hoare (president), J. Ford (vice-president), J. O'Connor (secretary), D. O'Mahoney (treasurer), and J. J. Marlow (past president). The Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M., and the Rev. Fathers Murphy and Coffey were also present.

At the conclusion of the breakfast Bro. Hoare expressed his pleasure and that of the members of the Society at the presence of his Lordship the Bishop and the clergy. In accordance with a decision come to last year he had much pleasure in presenting prizes to two Brothers who had introduced most members during the past year. The branch had had a very successful year, the membership having been increased by about 40. The president then handed Bro. Miller a pretty barometer, and Bro. O'Connor (secretary) a set of carvers.

Rev. Father Coffey congratulated the members on the progress which the Society was making. This was, he said, an age of combination and co-operation, and it was right and almost necessary that young men should join some society which would assist them in times of stress so that they would not be thrown on the charity of their neighbors or on the State. If they were members of a society when illness overtook them they would have the satisfaction of knowing that they were only receiving back the money they had paid into it. Catholic young men should join the Hibernian Society, for while it offered the same benefits as other friendly societies, it also afforded the advantages of Catholic association. It reminded them of the country from which many, or at least their fathers, had come, and there was nothing to be ashamed of in that, in fact there was a great deal to be proud of. Every man, be he English, Irish, or Scottish, should love the land of his birth. He was very pleased to hear that there had been such a large increase in the membership during the past 12 months, and this spoke well for the energy of the members who had won the prizes. He hoped they would maintain the same rate of progress during the coming year. He usually noticed that when a young man joined the Hibernian Society he generally changed for the better, in a word he became an altered man in every way. It was a very gratifying sight to see such a large number of men on that inclement morning attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion.

Bro. J. Hally said that the majority of members were Irishmen, or sons of Irishmen, and hoped they would be true to the traditions of their country, which had a noble record, and not forget what their forefathers had done for faith and fatherland.

Bro. Marlow said that if it was borne in mind that the Society was not only a benefit but a religious organisation it would get more support in many districts than it did at present. He instanced the successful branch which had been established in Waimate through the exertions of Rev. Fathers Regnault and O'Connell.

Bro. Carr spoke on the question of social intercourse, which he strongly recommended as a means of bringing Catholics together so that they might come to know one another.

Rev. Father Murphy expressed his pleasure at seeing such a fine body of Catholics in the hall. The priests were always ready to do all in their power to forward the interests of the Hibernian Society.

Bro. O'Connor (secretary) gave some statistics to show what the Society had been doing during the five years ending 1901. Leaving out shillings and pence, the branch had distributed in sick pay in that period £567. In the same time the funeral allowances amounted to £100, medical attendance £449, and medicines £194, making a grand total of over £1310. In 1897 their sick fund amounted to £924 7s 10d, in 1901 to £1133 14s 5d. In 1897 their membership was 95, whilst on last December it stood at 163, being an increase for five years of 68. In the whole of Australasia they had now a total membership of 18634, and their total district funds amounted to £114,230.

His Lordship Bishop Verdon expressed his pleased at seeing such a large number of members of the Society approach the altar rails that morning. He had listened with interest to the useful information given by the speakers regarding the working of the Society. He was glad to hear that the branch had had a very successful year, in fact, the most successful during its existence. The enrolment of 40 new members during 12 months spoke well for their energy. The funds, he understood, were in a flourishing condition. It was with much pleasure he heard that their young men were joining the Society, as it was most desirable that they should become members, as it was, as far as he knew, the only Catholic benefit society they had in New Zealand. Combination was one of the powers of the present day, as was seen in trades unions and benefit societies. They should have combination also, and by joining Catholic societies their young men would be encouraged and kept in the right path. It was one of the necessities of the age that a man should belong to a benefit society, and a young man starting in life who had not laid up some store for himself should join a benefit society and make provision for the future. He regretted to hear that some of their Catholic young men were joining other organisations when they had such an excellent Catholic society as the Hibernian Society. He would have liked to have heard of an increase of 140 instead of 40 members. He was glad to hear that the members of the Society were doing their duty in every way, and had been faithful to the counsels of their priests. By being united with their priests and faithful to the instructions they received they would assist themselves, their country, and their holy religion. They were called upon to give a good example, to be faithful to the rules of their Society. It had been suggested that the Society's meetings should be made pleasant and instructive, which would induce members to join. They should aim at combining utility with usefulness in their meetings. Let them in every way be faithful to the teachings of their clergy, and live up to the rules of their Society, and by this means they would have the good-will of their ecclesiastical superiors. He trusted the members would be faithful and true to their holy religion and the teachings of their fathers. Living as good Catholics, they would have the good-will of their priests and bishop, and they would succeed in every way.

A vote of thanks to his Lordship for presiding brought the proceedings to a close.

WAIHI NOTES!

(From our own correspondent.)

March 17

Yesterday morning at the 11 o'clock Mass, the Rev. Father Brodie announced that the Catholic school conducted by the Sisters of Mercy would be opened in Waihi on Monday, April 7. This step is taken in pursuance of the diocesan statute, which enacts that in any place where the number of Catholic children of school age exceeds 40, a Catholic school shall be established as soon as possible, so that every facility may be offered to enable children to be thoroughly instructed not only in the various branches of secular knowledge but also in the essential matter of religious instruction, which is an indispensable factor for the proper training of youth. The new church building will serve for school purposes in the meantime till the school proper is erected. Arrangements have been made to fully equip the school with all the requisites prescribed by the Government school inspectors. The Sisters appointed to the school will arrive in Waihi at the end of the present week, and will be temporarily accommodated in the dwelling lately occupied by the Rev. Father Brodie. The work of erecting the convent is already well in hand, special rooms being provided for the teaching of music and fancy work, in which branches the Sisters of Mercy have always been eminently successful. The school would be free to all, collections to be made from time to time for the support of the Sisters.

In consequence of the partial suspension of railway communication with Christchurch on Monday and Tuesday, the mails from the north were late in coming to hand. As the space then at our disposal was limited, we were obliged to condense letters and news items to a considerable extent.

As a result of the heavy rains of Sunday and Monday considerable damage was done to the railway line, public roads, and bridges in Canterbury. Many districts were under flood, and corn in stook and stack has been injured in South Canterbury, especially about Temuka and Winchester; serious losses of stock are reported from Fairlie, Geraldine, and Temuka. Unless the weather changes for the better very soon the outlook for the farmers in many districts of Canterbury is rather gloomy.

Extra express trains will run between Dunedin and Christchurch and Dunedin and Invercargill during the Easter holidays. The time table appears in our advertising pages...