

THE London correspondent of the *Evening Star* writes: 'Mr A. B. O'Brien (Christchurch) at the recent examinations at Guy's Hospital secured the Michael Harris prize for anatomy. Evidently the fact that he is one of Guy's most prominent "muddled oafs" has not prevented him from scoring freely in science.'

ACCORDING to last year's census the North Island has 34 members to represent a population of 388,526, while the South Island has 32 members for 380,215 persons. The removal of this discrepancy will be one of the duties of the Representation Commissioners.

THE number of persons to the square mile in New Zealand in February, 1871, was 2,456; in March, 1901, there were 7,427. The number of females to the hundred males in the Colony in December, 1858, was 76.41. The ratio showed a steady decrease for the succeeding 12 years, but has grown since 1870, and now stands at 90.33.

A PARLIAMENTARY paper just issued gives the expenses of members and candidates at the last General Election. Mr G. Fisher, Wellington, occupies the post of honor with only a disbursement of 9s. It cost the Hon. J. McGowan £186 2s to get into Parliament, Hon. J. Carroll £102 18s 11d, Hon. W. Hall-Jones £44 5s 4d, Hon. T. Duncan £15 11s 6d, the late Sir John McKenzie £1, 16s, Sir J. G. Ward £24 19s 3d, Hon. C. Millar £113 12s 8d. The Right Hon. R. J. Seddon's return went astray. Nine candidates forfeited their deposit of £10, as they did not receive the required number of votes.

SPEAKING at Motueka last week Sir J. G. Ward said there were many things happening abroad that were exercising intelligent minds at this time because of their probable effect on the Colony. He specially alluded to the American-Anglo shipping combine, which could not be a matter of indifference to us. He could not but look with concern at the enormous tonnage represented by the combine being controlled from New York. Unless watched the combine would force up freights. It touched the settlers, the backbone of the country.

IN the course of a speech in the Nelson district the other day the Acting-Premier said that, as far as one could judge, there was every probability of peace being proclaimed. It would be a singular thing if the declaration of peace took place simultaneously with Mr Seddon's arrival in South Africa. All were anxious to see the termination of the war, and if such a happy augury should occur upon the date of the arrival of the Premier of this Colony, which had done its full share in assisting to fight the battles of the Empire in South Africa, it would, while being a unique occurrence give pleasure to a great many of the Premier's admirers.

As a contribution to the 'dairy slaves' controversy, the following figures compiled by a school teacher on the West Coast of the North Island in regard to milking done by some pupils at his school will no doubt be found of interest:—No. 1, 13 years of age, milks 5 or 6 cows morning and evening, walks 4 miles to school; No. 2, 7 years, milks 3 cows morning and evening, walks 4 miles to school; No. 3, 8 years, milks 3 cows morning and evening, walks 2 miles to school; No. 4, 10 years, milks 4 cows morning and evening, walks half-a-mile to school; No. 5, 12 years, milks 5 cows morning and evening, walks half-a-mile to school; No. 6, 13 years, milks 4 cows morning and evening, walks half-a-mile to school; No. 7, 13 years, milks 5 cows in the morning, rides 1½ miles to school; No. 8, 14 years, milks 5 cows morning and evening, rides 1½ miles to school.

THE Warrimoo, for Sydney, on Saturday (writes the Wellington correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*) had a considerable shipment of poultry for South Africa. It is stated here that Messrs A. S. Paterson and Co. have secured the bulk of the cold storage in New Zealand and Australian steamers for African poultry shipments for the next three months. The want of a direct service to South Africa, of course, entails an extra cost for freight, and in order to make up for this buyers have reduced the price by 3d per pair. The progress which the industry has made is shown by the fact that in April 10,185 birds were put through the Christchurch poultry depot, as compared with 712 in the corresponding month of last year. There are now 14 men employed in that depot as pluckers and packers. The Auckland and Wellington depots each provide similar work for three men, and four are so employed at the Dunedin depot. The Agricultural Department has received a letter from a large firm at the Cape stating that the New Zealand poultry sent to South Africa is of better quality and is better packed than that received from any other part of the world.

Opening of a New Church at Cardrona.

ON Sunday, May 11, the new Catholic Church at Cardrona was solemnly blessed and opened by the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., St. Joseph's Cathedral. There was a very large congregation present on the occasion. The church was dedicated for divine service under the patronage of St. Bridget of Ireland. Father Murphy celebrated Mass (says the *Lake County Press*) and afterwards preached an eloquent sermon, taking for his text 'The work is great, for a house is prepared not for man but for God.' In the course of his address the rev. preacher referred to the great sanctity necessary in a place erected for the worship of Our Blessed Lord, and explained that in building a church for divine service the people were at the same time erecting a monument of their faith. He instanced the holy and beautiful Temple of Solomon. He dwelt at length on the good work done by their pastor, the Rev. Father O'Donnell, and the way he had energetically carried out the big undertakings in church matters. Father Murphy also congratulated the people on their ready assistance. One of the results of the sermon was a very big collection to defray expenses in connection with the new church. The congregation included visitors from all parts of the district,

among whom were Messrs Kerin and McCarthy from Hawea. Mr R. J. Cotter accompanied Father Murphy to Cardrona the day prior to the opening of the church. The Cardrona people feel very proud of their little church, and justly so, for it has been finished in a thoroughly neat and workmanlike manner.

WEDDING BELLS.

MCCARTHY—WARREN.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, on February 11 (writes our Auckland correspondent), Mr. Wm. McCarthy, formerly of Charleston, and Miss Kate Warren, formerly of Dillman's, Westland, were united in the bonds of Matrimony by the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm. The bride was given away by Lieutenant Wall, of the Permanent Artillery, Devonport. Miss Jessie Forbes was bridesmaid, and Mr J. Findlay best man. A large number of friends were present at the ceremony. The bride was attired in a dress of pearl cashmere, and wore a black picture hat. The bridegroom presented the bride with a beautiful gold chain with pearls, and the bridesmaid with a handsome gold and diamond brooch. The wedding breakfast was laid in Mr T. B. O'Connor's Victoria Hotel, at which a number of friends were present.

DUDDERIDGE—DURHAM.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised on Thursday, April 17, at St. Raphael's Church, Hawarden, between Mr William Henry Duddridge, of Somersetshire, England, and Miss Annie Durham, of Monmouthshire, South Wales, England. The bride, who looked charming in a beautiful dress with Brussels lace insertions and picture hat to match, was attended by the following bridesmaids: Miss Annie Bryant, Miss C. Lee, and the Misses Winifred and Dorothy White, all of whom wore handsome cream and white dresses, excepting Miss Dorothy White, who was charmingly attired in a dress of ivory satin and carried a bouquet of choice exotics. In the absence of her father the bride was given away by Mr C. G. White, while Mr Eustace White supported the bridegroom as best man. The Nuptial Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Price, Rector of the parish, who delivered an address on the duties and responsibilities of the married state. After the ceremony the bridal party were entertained at breakfast at the presbytery, and the Rev. Father Price proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom.

Obituary.

MRS. BROSNAHAN, TEMUKA.

Yet another of the fast diminishing numbers of early settlers has passed away in the person of Mrs Brosnahan, relict of the late Mr James Brosnahan, whose death (says the *Temuka Leader*) at the age of 86 is announced. The deceased lady was a resident of the district for the past 36 years, having settled here on her arrival from the County of Kerry, and was well known and highly respected. During the last 12 months her once familiar figure has not been seen about as frequently as of yore, owing to illness. The late Mrs Brosnahan was the mother of Mr John Brosnahan, of Arowhenna, Mrs M. Gaffaney and Miss Brosnahan (Temuka), Mrs Gaffaney (Dunedin), and Mrs Bryant (Christchurch). She leaves altogether one son, four daughters, 41 grand-children, and 20 great-grand-children. Previous to her illness she was hale and hearty, and was often to be seen walking to or from Mr Brosnahan's to her own house in Temuka, preferring to do so than drive.—*R.L.P.*

Messrs Louis Gille and Co., the well-known Catholic booksellers of Sydney and Melbourne, have a list of new books in this issue...

Our readers in Christchurch and district will find a first-class assortment of musical instruments at the Musical Exchange, Manchester street. These include, pianos, violins, banjos, guitars, mandolines, flutes, etc. Any instrument can be obtained on the time payment system—organs from 7s, and pianos from 20s per month...

The Commissioner of Crown Lands notifies that a number of allotments in the Windsor Park Settlement, North Otago, will be open for selection on lease-in-perpetuity, at the District Lands Office, Dunedin, and at the office of Mr Henry Mackintosh, Oamaru, on May 28.

In this changeable weather many people are subject to coughs and colds, which, if not attended to immediately, may develop into something very serious. Benjamin Gum, that well-known medicine prepared by Loasby's Wahoo Manufacturing Company, of Dunedin, breaks down a cough or cold without loss of time, loosens the phlegm, soothes the throat and air passages, and, in a word, prevents any serious consequences arising. Hundreds of testimonials have been received from grateful sufferers who have had experience of its efficacy in bad cases of bronchitis and chest complaints...

Mr G. T. White, watchmaker, manufacturing jeweller, medalist, etc., of Colombo street, Christchurch, and Lambton Quay, Wellington, offers his patrons a large and superior stock to select from. They will find at both establishments the latest novelties and designs, and at prices which will compare favorably with any other house in the trade...