

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 5.

A social in aid of church purposes will be held by the Catholics of Newtown on the 29th July.

The Marist Brothers' Old Boys will give a dramatic entertainment on the 14th and 15th inst., in aid of the organ fund, at the Church of the Sacred Heart.

The inmates of Mount View Asylum were on Wednesday evening entertained by a party of ladies and gentlemen organised by the Rev. Father O'Shea. A well selected programme of musical items was given by Miss Mahar, Messrs Hendry, T. K. Thompson and Sawtell. Mr McLaughlin acted as accompanist.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was held at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last. Rev. Father Herbert sang the Mass. The choir rendered Gounod's Mass in an efficient manner, the soloists being Miss Mahar, Messrs Rowe and Cronin. In the evening after Vespers there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament when the Rev. Father Galerne preached the sermon. The choir was assisted by an orchestra at the morning and evening services.

The many friends of Miss Agnes Moran will regret to hear of her death, which occurred at the residence of her brother-in-law on Sunday last. Some six months ago the young lady underwent an operation for an internal complaint, from the effects of which she never recovered. Her death was a most edifying one. Her remains were interred on Tuesday morning at Karori, where Rev. Father O'Shea, assisted by Rev. Father Galerne, officiated at the graveside. R.I.P.

At the nine o'clock Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart on Sunday last the illness of his Majesty the King was referred to by Rev. Father Holley. In King Edward, he said, Catholics would find an object for their prayers in which they were most interested. His Majesty was not animated by bigotry or sectarianism, and in fact loved all his subjects independently of their nationality or their creed. In conclusion he expressed the hope that his Majesty would be speedily restored to health. At Vespers his Grace the Archbishop also exhorted the congregation to pray for the King's recovery.

The half yearly meeting of the Hibernian Society was held at St. Patrick's Hall on Wednesday evening. Rev. Father O'Shea and a very large number of members were present. The proposal to join the Friendly Societies' Dispensary was discussed at some length and was finally rejected by two votes. It was resolved to levy a tax of 6d upon each member to establish a Benevolent Fund. The following officers were elected for the ensuing half year:—President, Bro. J. W. Callaghan; vice-president, Bro. O. Krohn; secretary, Bro. P. Kelleher; treasurer, Bro. M. Bohan; warden, Bro. W. J. Gosling; guardian, Bro. M. Mahoney; sick visitors, Bros. P. O'Callaghan and P. Shannon; trustee, Bro. P. M. Twomey; delegate to United Friendly Societies' Council, Bro. H. G. Houldsworth. Three candidates were initiated, and two proposed.

A deputation of organists waited on the City Council on Thursday in regard to the recent decision made by the Council to discontinue the supply of water to motors used for driving church organs. The deputation was introduced by Mr W. Allen. Mr W. H. Blow expressed the hope that the Council would see its way clear to make an exception in the case of churches. The amount paid for water used by the churches during the year amounted to £21 17s 6d. This sum at 6d per 100 gallons would show that only 875,000 gallons were required yearly for the churches. As the water was only used on Sundays the demand on the supply was then not nearly as great in the city as on any other day. Mr Maughan Barnett stated that it had been proved beyond doubt that water power was the only one which proved satisfactory for organ purposes. Mr Martin Kennedy and several others also spoke, asking that the decision formerly agreed upon by the Council should be rescinded. His Worship the Mayor pointed out that the Corporation Act required that every house requiring water should have its wants supplied before water could be used for motor purposes. He promised to give the question due consideration. At a subsequent meeting of the Council, on the motion of Cr. Winder, it was resolved that the Council take no action against the churches in regard to using water for driving organs.

OTAKI.

The Sisters in charge of the Otaki Convent school (says the local Mail) had arranged to hold a concert on Thursday morning to celebrate the Coronation. When the sad news was received of the King's serious illness and the postponement of the Coronation, it was decided to hold the entertainment, but to alter the programme, striking out items which had been specially prepared for the Coronation celebrations. Accordingly the concert was given in the convent schoolroom on Thursday afternoon, when a considerable number of parents and friends of the scholars attended to witness the children's performance. Considering that the whole affair had been arranged at very short notice, the result was really wonderful, the excellent programme submitted reflecting the greatest credit on the teachers, who must have worked extremely hard to arrange such a splendid concert in so short a time. Many of the items on the programme were of exceptional merit and the programme was greatly enjoyed by those present.

The following was the programme:—Pianoforte duet, 'Fairy barque, Misses O'Rourke; dialogue, 'Welcome'; action song, 'Happy Children, infants; 'Our Cinquevalli'; Master S. Bevin;

pianoforte solo, 'Adieu,' Miss M. Hurley; poi dance, 'Misses Carkeek, K. and M. Arekatara; pianoforte solo, Miss M. Bevan; recitation, 'Little Flo's letter,' Miss B. O'Rourke; action song, infants; pianoforte solo, Miss M. Petrie; tableau, 'The sleeping palace'; pianoforte duet 'Canary birds,' Misses M. Hurley and D. Carroll; Irish jig, Miss M. Hurley; action song, infants; recitation, 'Oh, fancy! just fancy!' Master R. Williams; farce, 'The crack photographer,' Master T. O'Rourke and V. Kerrigan; dialogue, 'Red, white, and blue'; vocal duet, 'The wind and the harp,' Misses D. Carroll and M. Hurley; tableau, 'The King's illness.'

During an interval in the programme the Rev. Father Melu presented Eileen O'Rourke with a silver medal for first prize in 'Christian doctrine' and gave a second prize to Lily Williams. Maggie Hurley was also awarded a prize for perseverance. These prizes had been specially given by the Rev. Father Melu.

At the conclusion of the entertainment the Rev. Father Melu thanked the Sisters for the excellent concert they had presented that afternoon. He stated that as loyal subjects they joined in the universal sorrow at the serious illness of the King, and prayed that he would be very shortly restored to health, and enabled to go through the coronation ceremony.

At the Rev. Father Melu's request the proceedings closed by the singing of 'God save the King.'

After the entertainment the children were treated to a splendid tea. The Sisters return their sincere thanks to the following ladies who gave refreshments for the children, viz.:—Messdames O'Rourke, McBeath, Hurley, R. D'Ath, Landall, O'Connell, W. Smith, Hombersley, Ahern, Lorigan, Ayre, Arekatara, and Gordon.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 3.

Rev. Father McIntosh has been transferred from Otahuhu to the Parnell parish.

Rev. Father Gillan is improving in health after his long illness, and was able to say Mass at St. Benedict's last Sunday.

The twenty-ninth anniversary of the establishment of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society is to be celebrated by a ball in the Hibernian Hall on Wednesday evening, 23rd July.

The Pastoral Letter of the Archbishop and Bishops of New Zealand was read at St. Patrick's last Sunday. It had reference to the duty of Catholic parents to send their children to Catholic schools.

The Anglican Primate, the Most Rev. Dr. Cowie (to whom I referred in my last letter), died at his residence, Parnell, last Thursday morning. Bishop Lenihan in the morning, and Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., in the evening, at St. Patrick's, made kindly reference to the many good qualities of the late Primate.

The collection of Peter's Pence was taken up throughout the diocese last Sunday. Referring to the matter at St. Patrick's, the Bishop said that, as Catholics, we could not pay too much attention to this important offering. It was for the propagation of our holy Faith, and without the material aid which Peter's Pence afforded the Holy Father would be greatly hampered. It behoved Catholics to do their utmost to enable his Holiness to spread the Faith throughout the wide world.

His Lordship Dr. Lenihan had a busy time of it last Saturday and Sunday. He was at St. Patrick's early on Saturday morning, thence he proceeded to the Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Newmarket, where he offered up Mass for the speedy recovery or happy death of Mother Mary. During the evening he heard confessions at St. Patrick's, and said the 7.30 Mass there on Sunday morning. Later on he went to Parnell, where he addressed the congregation concerning parochial needs, at the conclusion of which he drove to St. Patrick's, arriving just in time to preach there at the 11 o'clock Mass.

The boys at Takapuna, under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, spent a very happy day on Saturday, June 28. The postponement of the King's Coronation did not prevent them from enjoying the good things provided for the occasion by some generous friends. It was intended that the boys should be entertained at St. Patrick's Convent on Coronation Day, but as the festivities were cancelled it was thought best to forward the viands to the orphanage where some friends assembled in the afternoon, who took great delight in watching the little fellows at their various games. The Sisters return thanks to the kind friends who were so thoughtful of the little ones, amongst whom were Messrs. Earle, Rew, Gibbons, Corley, O'Hare, Arthur and Co., Hall and Perkins, Tooman, Campbell, Priestly, Clarke, Forbes, Swann and Lewis, Messdames Dias, Kane Duffin, Rist, Thorne, Tobin, Molloy, Williams, McHugh, and Miss Reidy.

His Lordship the Bishop at St. Patrick's last Sunday morning spoke feelingly of the illness of the King, and in the course of his remarks said:—'Irish Catholics were spoken of as disloyal subjects. If disloyalty were to be judged by the adverse criticism which they bestowed upon the bad government of their dear country they were certainly disloyal. But condemnation of the government was not disloyalty. Surely they would not call those who denounced the Seddon Government disloyal to New Zealand. When the late lamented Mr. Gladstone introduced his Home Rule Bill it was commonly known that he lost the friendship of the late Queen, while at the same time he found an ardent admirer in the Prince of Wales, now Edward VII., Irish Catholics, therefore, always grateful, and essentially generous hearted, for a kindly action sympathised with the King in his present illness. Though the King was forced by a Protestant nation to call them idolaters, and to say that the Holy Sacrifice, at which they were at present assisting, was blasphemous, yet they fully believed that the declaration was most objectionable to the King.' After Mass the congregation offered up prayers for the