

speedy recovery of his Majesty. In the evening Rev. Father Patterson also referred to the King's illness, as did also Rev. Father Lane at Onehunga, Rev. Father McIntosh at Parnell, and Rev. Father Brodie at Waititi.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

Miss E. McGuinness, A.T.C.L. (pianiste), organist of the Church of the Sacred Heart, and her pupils gave a musical evening on Tuesday, July 1, in the Assembly Rooms. The invitations were numerously responded to, and the hall was well filled by the many friends of the teacher and her pupils, and also by several representatives of musical circles in Timaru who were not disappointed in anticipating a musical treat. The Rev. Fathers Tubman and Aubry were also present. The programme was as follows:—Part I. Duet, two pianos, 'March Hongroise' (Kowalski), Miss Nellie Egan and Miss E. Dennehy; piano solo, 'Nocturne in E Flat' (Chopin), Miss L. Steward; duet, two pianos, 'Valse Brillante' (Lach), Miss May Goulding and Miss Agnes Dick; solo, 'Valse Improvisu', Miss Mary Geaney; duet, two pianos, 'Matin' (Chaminade), Miss Julia Hoare and Miss Beatrice Knight; piano solo, 'Polonaise in A' (Chopin), Miss Nellie Egan; duet, two pianos, Miss E. McGuinness and Mr G. B. Donn (encored). Part II.—Duet, two pianos, 'Intermezzo' (Chaminade), Miss Maggie Burns and Miss Eileen Twomey; piano solo, 'Polonaise in D. Minor' (Chopin), Miss E. McGuinness (encored); piano solo, 'Recordanga' (Jensen), Miss Julia Hoare; piano solo, 'Rondo in E Flat' Miss Eileen Dennehy (encored); piano and organ duet, 'Martha', Miss Monica Venning (piano), Miss E. McGuinness (organ); piano solo, 'Nocturne in B Major' (Chopin), Mr G. B. Donn; duet, two pianos, 'Valse Capricieuse' (Chaminade), Miss E. Twomey and Miss Lillian Stewart, Miss McGuinness, Mr Jefferson and Mr Coombs (violin) also assisted, rendering respectively Gounod's 'Ave Maria', 'My Queen', and 'Polonaise in A' (Hare), violin solo, and 'Madrigale' (Simmonetti) which were much appreciated, Mr Coombs' violin solo securing an encore. The various items on the programme were well rendered by the pupils and Miss McGuinness was highly congratulated at the close of the evening on the excellence of the programme and the efficiency of her pupils both in execution and interpretation. The stage was tastefully decorated and light refreshments were handed round during the interval, the company dispersing about 10.30 and all expressing their pleasure in having spent such an enjoyable evening.

The quarterly meeting of the local branch of the Hibernian Society took place in St. John's Hall on Thursday evening, the president (Bro. P. Kane) being in the chair. There was a large attendance of members, and over £50 was taken in quarterly contributions. Much interest was taken in the nomination of officers for the ensuing six months. The election takes place on next meeting night.

The Very Rev. Father Lewis, who journeyed from Wellington to conduct a retreat for the Dominican Nuns at Dunedin, broke his journey each way at Timaru, and his old parishioners had the pleasure of hearing him again in the pulpit at Vespers on the last two Sundays. Father Lewis bears his responsibilities well, and his many old friends in Timaru were pleased to see him looking so well.

The Marist Brothers' football team, with the exception of one reverse, are putting in a good claim for the junior flag amongst the district schools, and it is still on the cards that they may repeat their last year's performance and come out on top.

The Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney and the Bishops of the Province have issued a joint Pastoral Letter referring to the Pontifical Silver Jubilee of his Holiness Leo XIII, and the annual collection of Peter's Pence. After describing the position of the Pope, the Bishops say: 'Thanks to God, the wants of the Supreme Pontiff are not forgotten. The people willingly and generously furnish all they can towards the support and dignity of their pastors. They do so for the Pope (the Holy Father) above all. Some nationalities deserve honorable mention for their contributions to Peter's Pence. They send their offerings annually, and they do so devotedly. Catholic Ireland and Catholic Belgium have been frequently accorded this distinction by the Supreme Pontiff in his Allocutions. He has also spoken in praise of the United States, and of Australia, where the Catholic population mainly consists of Ireland's exiles and of their heirs, both alike faithful to the traditions of St. Patrick. Thus, we may remark, a double triumph has been the reward of the fortitude and fidelity of Ireland during historic persecution. At home, peace finds her more than ever confirmed in loyalty and devotion to creed and country. Abroad, wherever the language of the oppressor is spoken, Erin's children have implanted, with marvellous fruitfulness, their own characteristic zeal for all religious works, and especially for attachment, in obedience and love, to the Chair of Peter. The sum of £1600 is contributed annually, as an ordinary collection of Peter's Pence, by the Archdiocese of Dublin alone.'

In cases of Sprains or any injury to the limbs the application of WITCH'S OIL gives instant relief.—*.*

Mr Johnstone, the well-known chemist of Manse street, Dunedin has taken Mr Haslett, who has had twenty years' experience in Auckland, into partnership, and the firm will in future be known as Johnstone and Haslett. Both of these gentlemen served their apprenticeship at the same time at the establishment of Messrs J. and J. Haslett, Belfast, and passed their examination in Dublin. They claim to be the only two Irish chemists in business in this Colony....

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE.

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

After formal business had been transacted on Tuesday the House adjourned until Wednesday afternoon. In the evening Mr Sidey, the member for Caversham, moved the Address-in-Reply which was seconded by Mr Hornsby, and after brief speeches by Messrs Witheford, E. M. Smith and McNab the debate closed.

The debate was one of the shortest on record, and its brief duration is looked upon as a good augury for a short session.

During the afternoon notice was given of a large number of bills, many of which were old friends such Absolute Majority, Elective Executive, Referendum, Smoking by Youth's Suppression.

Very little business was transacted by members on Thursday the sitting only lasting for a couple of hours. About five and twenty bills were introduced and read a first time. The title of many of these have graced the Order Papers during past sessions, and it is more than probable that most of them will never be placed on the Statute Book. However they serve a purpose by keeping the names of the introducers before the public.

Friday afternoon was taken up with the first reading of another batch of bills, the answering of questions, and other formal business.

In the evening the Acting-Premier moved the second reading of the Government Railways Superannuation Fund Bill, to establish a superannuation fund in connection with the Government Railways Department. He said it was scarcely necessary for him to say that, in a department which now consisted of some 8000 employees, it was desirable that a scheme should be adopted on the lines proposed in the bill. In sketching the scheme provided by the bill, he pointed out how the superannuation system had worked in connection with the London and North-Western Railway Company, and said the bill was an honest effort to meet a complex and difficult problem. He quoted extensively from figures to show how the scheme would benefit the employees of the department, and informed the House that the officers of the department had reported that the bill provided a very safe and sound scheme, and one that would prove beneficial to employees as a whole.

The measure was very favorably received, and the second reading agreed to on the voice, after which the House rose.

LOBBY GOSSIP AND NEWS.

Already Sir J. G. Ward has won golden opinions from members on both sides of the House for the business-like way in which the work of the session was inaugurated. The Governor's speech was concise and to the point, and the Acting-Premier's speeches in reference to the illness of his Majesty, the honor conferred on Captain Russell, etc., were models of diction and good taste, the right thing being said in the right place.

The Old Age Pensions are mounting up. For the year ending March 31 the amount was over £207,000, about £10,000 more than the previous year. This is equal to a tax of about 5s per head of the whole population. About one person in every 65 is a pensioner.

Notwithstanding the introduction of penny postage during the year ending March last the gross revenue was only £15,262 less than that of the preceding 12 months. One result of the lowering of the postage rate was that there was an increase of 13,000,000 letters. During the year close on 50,000,000 letters were posted in this Colony, which is equal to 62 letters per head of the population, and is believed to be the record for the world.

The total amount to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on December 31, was £6,350,013, being an increase of nearly half a million sterling in the previous year.

There is a telephone exchange connection in New Zealand for every 90 persons, the number being 9260.

To judge from the amount disbursed in Old Age Pensions Auckland seems to be a very healthy place to live in, as the number of pensioners there is about two and a half times that of Wellington and one and a half times that of Christchurch or Dunedin. The annual amount paid in the principal centres is—Auckland, £14,821; Dunedin, £31,186; Christchurch, £29,064; Wellington, £17,823.

The Acting Premier stated in the House on Friday that tenders for the erection of the new railway station at Dunedin would be called for shortly.

The total earnings of the Government Railways for the past financial year amounted to £1,874,586, or an increase of £147,350 over the previous year, and presents the highest level as yet reached by the railways of the Colony. After deducting the expenditure, amounting to £1,252,237, there is a net profit accruing of £622,349, against £599,388 for the previous year.

For Chilblains there is positively no remedy to approach Evan's WITCH'S OIL—an absolutely certain cure.—*.*

If Cyclists or Footballers meet with accidents, they will find that Evan's WITCH'S OIL is infallible.—*.*

As spring is approaching, farmers should apply without delay for particulars to Messrs Reid and Gray, of Dunedin, regarding the firm's extensive list of agricultural implements, which includes drills, ploughs, harrows, and cultivators. All their implements—whether locally made or imported—are of the best kind, and have always given the greatest satisfaction to purchasers....