

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 16.

His Grace the Archbishop left for Woodville on Friday to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation and to open the new portion of the church.

It has been decided to rebuild the Stoke Orphanage in brick at a cost of £8000. It is to be a one-storey building, and Mr. Swan, of Wellington, is the architect.

Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais and Rev. Father Marnane, of Christchurch, passed through Wellington on their way to Nelson to attend the Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Dean Mahoney.

His Grace the Archbishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at Carterton on Sunday last to 30 children and several adults. His Grace preached on the Sacrament, and at Vespers on devotion to our Blessed Lady.

The Meance Catholic Mission will be represented by the Rev. Father Huault, Professor of Theology, in the trip to the South Sea Islands in connection with the blessing and opening of the new Cathedral at Suva.

The first of the winter socials, under the auspices of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association, was held at Spiller's Hall on Wednesday evening, and proved an unqualified success. There were 50 couples present. Mr. McKeowen acted as secretary and Messrs. A. Eller and J. Callaghan as M.C.'s. Mr. S. Cimino presided at the piano.

The weekly meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Literary and Debating Society was held on Tuesday evening at St. Patrick's Hall. Rev. Father Kimbell presided. The following subjects, on which errors of history are common, were dealt with: 'The Spanish Inquisition,' by Mr. Percival, 'Massacre of St. Bartholomew,' Mr. L. Reichel, and the 'Gunpowder Plot' by Mr. H. McKeowen. The papers proved most instructive, and each was ably discussed.

Sunday last, being the festival of the Patronage of St. Joseph, Solemn High Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street. The Very Rev. Father Keogh was celebrant, Rev. Father Hills deacon, Rev. Father Tymons sub-deacon, and Mr. Timmings master of ceremonies. The choir rendered Haydn's Mass in B. flat, the soloists being Miss Segrief (soprano), Miss Lawless (contralto), Mr. Ennis (tenor), and Mr. Butcher (bass). At the evening devotions the Very Rev. Father Keogh preached on the day's feast.

Strong efforts are being made to re-establish the St. Patrick's College Old Boys' Association. At a meeting of old boys held some weeks ago a committee was formed to make preliminary arrangements. The committee has drafted rules, etc., and is now by circular inviting all old boys to a general meeting, to be held at the college on Sunday afternoon, 7th prox. It is hoped to secure a large attendance from all parts of the Colony, and the result, no doubt, will be that the Association will be formed on a firm basis. An endeavor will be made to provide accommodation for old boys visiting Wellington to attend the meeting. Owing to the difficulty in ascertaining correct addresses it is possible that the circular may not reach some old boys. These are asked to communicate with the acting hon sec., Mr. M. J. Crombie, 21 Marion street, Wellington.

St. Mary's Choir.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The choir of St. Mary of the Angels', Wellington, held their annual meeting in the presbytery library on Wednesday, May 6. The Rev. Father O'Shea (president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Mrs. F. J. Oakes, Misses Ross (3), Kent, O'Sullivan, Simpson, Gosling, Hyde, and Kenny. Messrs. F. J. Oakes (conductor), Ali McDonald, J. Pope, R. Duff, E. Brook, and D. Kenny (organist). The rev. president congratulated the choir on their work of the past year and hoped that the coming year would be productive of even better efforts. The balance sheet showed a slight debit balance, but outstanding subscriptions would more than wipe that off. The library was reported to be in good order and the following new works were reported to have been added during the year: Mass by Father Turner, Mass by Hammerell, and some Benediction services by Cary, and motetts for various festivals, kindly presented by Mr. J. A. Hayes, of Brisbane.

Rev. Father O'Shea announced that a new organ was being obtained. The organ at present in use, he said, was not in keeping with the church and its requirements, and after consideration it had been decided to obtain a new one at a cost of £450. The proposed instrument would contain two manuals and 16 stops. The construction would be on the most modern principle and some entirely new improvements in organ building would be introduced. It was thought that members would appreciate such, and in view of meeting the cost of same it was suggested that subscription lists be distributed among them and all should use their best endeavors to collect from their friends.

The members viewed the project with much enthusiasm, and promises of assistance were forthcoming in the room.

Rev. Father O'Shea, in reply to a question, stated that the organ would be completed in the church in six weeks' time, and he hoped every member would exert himself or herself in the matter of obtaining contributions.

The following committee were elected for the year: Messrs. A. McDonald, J. Pope, E. Brook, D. Kenny, F. J. Oakes, and it was announced that Mr. A. A. Corrigan, who by the way shows a deep interest in the choir and its work, had kindly offered his services to the organ committee, the other members being Rev. Fathers Kimbell and Moloney. Votes of thanks were accorded to the rev. chairman, retiring committee, Mr. J. A. Hayes, Mr. A. A. Corrigan, the conductor, and organist. This concluded the business.

WANGANUI.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 16.

Among the successful candidates at the recent pharmacy examination I notice with pleasure the name of Mr. R. J. N. Beasley, of this town. As Mr. Beasley passed the section A (Educational) about twelve months ago, he is now a qualified pharmaceutical chemist, but he is only twenty years of age, and his certificate will not be issued to him until he has attained the age of twenty-one. Mr. Beasley is a son of Mr. R. T. N. Beasley, a prominent member of the congregation of St. Mary's. He received his primary education in the first instance from the Sisters, and later on at Old St. Mary's and the Marist Brothers' School. It is only three years since he began his studies in chemistry, entering the firm of Mr. R. M. Gatenby, to whose guidance and ability he is not a little indebted for his success. Mr. Beasley has accepted a position in the service of Mr. George Mee, of Wellington, who is president of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 14.

Five candidates were admitted to the Confraternity of the Children of Mary at St. Patrick's last week.

Bro. W. Beehan, district president, who attended the biennial conference of the H.A.C.B. Society at Sydney, returned last Monday. He was greatly impressed with the advancement in Church and Society matters in New South Wales.

The Auckland Catholic Cemetery Board met last Friday evening at St. Benedict's presbytery, Rev. Father Gillan in the chair. It was decided that no work of a permanent character should be undertaken in the cemetery until the advent of spring.

His Lordship the Bishop is due at Hamilton next Sunday, where the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., is at present giving a mission and preparing candidates for the holy Sacrament of Confirmation. Rev. Father Darby is in charge of the Hamilton parish. The Bishop subsequently visits other Waiakato parishes, finally going to Rotorua.

St. Benedict's Young Men's Club on Tuesday evening held a musical evening, at which the Rev. Father Furlong presided. Rev. Father Torney was also present and warmly welcomed after his long and enforced absence. Several of the members rendered vocal items and recitations. A most enjoyable evening was spent. An instructor has been obtained for the gymnasium, and next week a start in this direction is to be made.

Mr. Moss Davis, of this city, when he read of the burning down of the Stoke Orphanage, at once sent to our Bishop three guineas to be placed to the fund for the re-erection of the building. Dr. Lenihan thanked the generous donor, and, with another subscription from himself, the Bishop forwarded the money to the proper quarter. Mr. Moss Davis, who belongs to the Hebrew faith, has many a time given abundant proof of his generosity towards our institutions.

'Crime and Responsibility' is the heading to a leader in the 'Star' of last Tuesday in which the editor adversely criticised Judge Denniston, of Christchurch, and the latter's comments upon the ugly criminal calendar he had before him in the City of the Plains. The 'responsibility' for those repeatedly had calendars rests in a great measure with the advocates and upholders of our present system of entirely secular education. In the present instance it reminds one of the old adage 'there is none so blind as those who will not see.'

The Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., received news by cable this week of the sad death of his brother-in-law, the Hon. John T. Toohey, K.C.S.G., and member of the Legislative Council of the State of New South Wales. The deceased gentleman was on his way back to Sydney from Europe via America when the sad event occurred. The late Hon. Mr. Toohey was of a genial, kindly, and charitable disposition, and was highly esteemed and respected by all with whom he came in contact. He was a fervent Catholic and an ardent lover of his native land, and his place will be hard to fill. To his sorrowing family, in their great bereavement, widespread and genuine sympathy will be unstintingly given.—R.I.P.

In a shop window in one of the principal streets of our city there was exhibited last week a card upon which appeared, 'More Idolatry: Bishop Lenihan worships an image of the Virgin.' The writer of the above is a crank of the first water. In proof of this it may be stated that some time ago he prophesied to the day—