

olic school, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, has been purchased by the Very Rev. Father Walsh and is to be used as a Catholic school. This is a very telling evidence of the efficiency of the local Catholic school, and bears strong testimony to the excellent educational work which is being done by the Sisters of Mercy.

The musical people of Dunedin intend to tender that talented and popular vocalist, Miss Rose Blaney, whose services have been at all times so generously given in the cause of charity and any other good work, a fitting farewell prior to her marriage and departure for England. This will take the form of a complimentary concert, which will be held about the end of the current month. Mr. A. J. Barth is to act as musical conductor, and Messrs. T. J. Hussey and H. C. Campbell are the joint hon. secretaries. The many friends of Miss Blaney and all who have been indebted to her in the past should on this occasion fill the largest hall in Dunedin.

At the usual weekly meeting of St. Mary's Literary Club, Milton, held on Tuesday night of last week—when some 30 members were present—a debate on matters athletic was indulged in. The question debated (says the 'Bruce Herald') was 'Cricket v. Football'; is cricket a more manly, healthy, and enjoyable game than football? Mr. Kirby led off for the cricketers, and was backed up by Messrs. J. A. Scott and E. Gornall. Football found a formidable following in Messrs. J. Ward (leader), J. Lynch, M. O'Connor, M. Lynch, and D. Kirby. The arguments of the latter quintette proved too strong for their opponents, for, on a vote being taken, football won by a majority of about twenty.

News has come to hand by cable of the death of Mr. M. Murphy, a prominent and greatly respected resident of Tallow (Ireland), who passed away to his rest on last Sunday. Deceased was a brother-in-law of the lamented Bishop Moran and father of Sister M. Evangelist, O.S.D. (Milton) and Sister M. Brendan, O.S.D. (Bluff). A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated this (Thursday) morning at Milton, the celebrant being the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, assisted by Rev. P. Ahern and the Rev. H. W. Cleary.—R.I.P.

The handsome new church of St. Dunstan, at Clyde, is to be blessed and opened on Sunday, the 19th inst., by his Lordship the Bishop, who will be assisted at the solemn ceremony by the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., Dunedin, and the Rev. Father Hunt, pastor of the Cromwell mission, in which Clyde is situated.

The question, 'Should the trams run on Sunday?' was debated by the St. Joseph's Men's Club at their meeting on Friday evening. The Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., presided, and there was an excellent attendance. Messrs. C. O'Sullivan and E. Spain were the respective leaders on the affirmative and negative sides. It was very gratifying to notice the able manner in which these young members, as leaders for the first time, treated the question. Messrs. Miles, Hill, Carr, and Flahavin supported Mr. O'Sullivan, and Messrs. Foley, McKenna, J. Hussey, and D. Columb supported Mr. Spain. The president said he had good reason to congratulate the speakers, especially the leaders, and having reviewed the arguments advanced took a vote of the meeting, when the 'ayes' won by a large majority. Next Friday evening a paper will be read by a member, 'Life on a station at shearing time,' which should be highly instructive and interesting.

Southland News Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

The popularity of a young Invercargillite was fittingly demonstrated last week, when Mr. T. P. Giffedder, of the Government Valuation Department, was entertained on all sides prior to his departure for Wellington, he having been promoted to the head office. One of the most important 'send-offs' was a banquet tendered him by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Senators, Invercargill Division. Grand Sec. Bro. G. A. Cormack, presided, and during an interval in the toast list presented Bro. Giffedder, presiding warden, with an illuminated address, on behalf of the officers. The address is a very artistic piece of work, and contains the photos of the present officers, whom Bro. Giffedder looked upon as his best friends. Eulogistic speeches were made by Bros. Cormack, M. O'Brien, T. O'Byrne, A. Macdonald, D. Corcoran, M. O'Meara, and G. W. Woods, and the health of the departing guest was drunk with enthusiasm.

Mr. Giffedder's lady friends entertained him at the residence of Mrs. Cormack, Eve street, last week. The proceedings were enlivened by vocal contributions from Miss Hishon, Miss Store, and Mr. O'Byrne, and by instrumental items from Mr. Cormack and Miss Stone, while Mr. Woods gave several selections with his phonograph. During the proceedings Miss M. Stone, in a neat and appropriate speech, presented Mr. Giffedder with a silver-mounted umbrella, suitably inscribed, on behalf of lady friends. Mr. Giffedder heartily thanked the ladies for their substantial token of esteem and good will. Mr. Giffedder was also farewelled by old friends in Gore and presented with a gold-mounted watch-guard and green-stone pendant, and also with a silver-mounted ebony wallang stick neatly inscribed. The Irish Athletic Society accorded him a smoke concert, Mr. J. Shepherd presiding, and presented him with a handsome gold medal as a token of esteem. Speeches were made by Messrs. M. O'Brien, G. W. Woods, W. Murdoch, A. R. Wills, J. McNamara, and the chairman. Songs were given by Messrs. Mills, McNamara, Morton, and McGrath and violin selections by Mr. Cormack.

The President of the Southland Athletic Association, Mr. W. Murdoch, presented Mr. Giffedder with an address from all the athletic societies in Southland, and an address from Invercargill citizens is to be sent to Wellington and presented to Mr. Giffedder by Mr. Hanan, M.H.R., on behalf of the people of Invercargill. If the proceedings of the past week are indications of popularity, then Mr. Giffedder enjoyed the distinction of being one of the most popular young men of Invercargill. A large number of friends assembled at the railway station to say good-bye, and cheers were given for Mr. Giffedder as the express moved off.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, WELLINGTON

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The formal opening of the new branch of the Hibernian Society, established in Wellington South, took place on Sunday, June 28. The members and intending members, with visitors from the Wellington city branch, attended the 7.30 o'clock Mass, wearing their regalia, and received Holy Communion; and afterwards had breakfast together in the new schoolroom adjoining the church. The tables were laid in the long room of the school, where an excellent breakfast was served by the caterer, Mr. J. J. Callaghan, who has recently opened an establishment in Lower Adelaide Road. Bro. J. O'Leary, of Wellington branch, carried out the duties of secretary in an efficient manner.

The members of the Society and their friends were again present at the 10 o'clock Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Ainsworth, who spoke in regard to the objects of the Hibernian Society. He said that improvements had gradually been made in the parish, the priest of which had been appointed only in September last. A new schoolroom—the largest Catholic school in New Zealand, he believed, and certainly the most up-to-date—had been built, and the church building had been improved, and would be improved still further. But hitherto there had been wanting in the parish some organisation which would be as a bond of union which would keep the people together and lead them to work in harmony as brothers. He thanked God that this want was now to be supplied. They were now to have an association in their midst for the common good. They were to enrol themselves members of this society in order first of all that they might be good Catholics; in order also to foster among themselves the love of Ireland, the land of their fathers, the land which had preserved the Faith so well, and the land all must admire, no matter what his nationality; and in order also to assist each other in time of distress. Ireland, in all her sufferings, had preserved the Faith, though other countries, which, like her, had been tried in the crucible, had lost it; and a bright day was dawning for Ireland, as there was for every soul which gave up all for the Faith. The Hibernian Society had also for its object to establish in the hearts of the people the love of the Church. It was not an Irish Society, but a Catholic Society, and persons of all nationalities might become members, if they were practical Catholics. Father Ainsworth spoke at length of the value of the Society from this point of view, and dealing with its material benefits, said it was a glorious thing to assist others who were stricken down by illness, and give them practical help at that time when they were in sore need. He earnestly commended the new Society to the people of the parish, and wished it every blessing.

Bro. M. Bohan, P.P., of the Wellington branch, opened the new branch at three o'clock, Father Ainsworth kindly placing the church at the disposal of the members for the ceremony. Fifteen candidates presented themselves for initiation, and the whole of them being unanimously elected to membership, the initiation ceremony was duly carried out by Bro. Bohan, assisted by the following officers of the Wellington branch: Bro. J. Stratford, junr., P., Bro. J. Gosling, V.P., Bro. P. H. Kelleher (secretary), Bro. J. W. Callaghan, P.P., and Bro. Gamble, P.P.

The election of officers took place on Thursday night, time not permitting of this being done on Sunday, and resulted as follows: President Bro. E. J. Fitzgibbon; vice-president, Bro. P. J. Guthrie; secretary, Bro. P. J. Sullivan; treasurer, Bro. P. Barry; warden, Bro. E. Rubick; guardian, Bro. A. Rubick; auditors, Bros. M. H. Fitzgibbon and F. Green; trustees, Bros. T. S. Philpott, J. Pearcey, and P. J. Guthrie; sick visitors, Bros. D. O'Meara and T. S. Philpott; medical attendant, Dr. W. C. Alexander. The officers having been installed by Bro. Bohan into their various positions, they returned thanks to the members for the honor conferred on them, the president, Bro. E. J. Fitzgibbon, delivering a splendid speech, which at once convinced all present that the members had made a wise choice. Five candidates were proposed for election at the next meeting. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to Bro. Bohan and the officers of the Wellington branch who had attended to open the branch and initiate the new members, and to Bro. James W. Callaghan, who has taken a deep interest in the formation of the Newtown branch, which really owes its establishment to his untiring efforts. Bros. Bohan and Callaghan returned thanks for the kind remarks made concerning their efforts to start the branch and said what they had done was for the advancement of the Society, which they were pleased to assist in every possible way.