

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Pro-Cathedral Conference, Christchurch

(From our own correspondent.)

Patron, Right Rev. J. J. Grimes, S.M., D.D., Bishop of Christchurch; spiritual director, Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G.; president, Bro. E. O'Connor, J.P.; vice-presidents, Bros. G. R. Hayward and J. J. Wilson; treasurer, Bro. A. Mead; secretary, Bro. W. S. Malaquin; wardrobe keepers, Bros. J. Power and J. A. Hennessy.

Report and Balance Sheet for the year ended July 8th, 1903.

In presenting the sixteenth annual report of the Pro-Cathedral Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul we desire to sincerely thank our many friends and generous benefactors, who have, by providing the means—financial and in kind—enabled us to carry on for such an extensive period this work of charity and benevolence in our midst. The special duties devolving upon the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are now so well known and understood by our people, and have been so frequently dwelt upon in previous reports that we deem it unnecessary at the present stage to again refer to them. Impressed with the importance of spreading the influence of this admirable Society, the Superior Council at Sydney, the governing body throughout Australasia, has latterly urged this great work of extension on our conference as representing our own Colony. The Pro-Cathedral Conference, in accord with that of St. Mary's, responded by cordially agreeing with the proposition, and undertaking to at once endeavor to establish conferences in the chief centres of our diocese. In this direction we have the expressed approval and co-operation of our revered Bishop with his best blessing on our enterprise. 'Nothing,' says his Lordship, 'would give me greater pleasure than to see branches of the admirable Society of St. Vincent de Paul in every part of the diocese.' These are encouraging words and worthy of our sincerest gratitude. As previously announced, the funds in hand for the establishment of the much-desired and needed home for our aged, destitute, and afflicted, amount to a little over £200, the result of two St. Patrick's Day celebrations. We ardently trust this fund may speedily assume the requisite proportions, it is an object of more than ordinary merit, and might, very properly, be the subject of special donations or bequests from the generous-minded and charitable.

We desire to return our grateful thanks to our devoted spiritual director for the generous donation of a select library for the use of members, and also to the Very Rev. Vicar-General and the clergy of the Pro-Cathedral for valued counsel and assistance. The charity sermons on the last occasion of our annual appeal were preached by the Very Rev. Vicar-General and his assistant priests, to whom we are deeply indebted for the principal means of carrying on our undertakings during the year. To the choir, who, on Charity Sunday, usually provide special music, we express our warmest appreciation.

Contained in the following summary is a brief account of the Society's operations during the past year—Orders issued for provisions, fuel, and other necessaries, 98; families visited, 203; visits to hospital, 130; Samaritan and Jubilee Homes were also frequently visited; work was procured for 23 persons, a family's travelling expenses were paid to another colony, meals provided, 58; beds, 31; 5 children were sent to Nelson Orphanage, 1 to Mount Magdala, and 2 persons to the Home for Incurables, Wellington.

General summary—New articles distributed, 89, including 5 pairs new boots, 1 pair sheets, 2 pairs blankets, 1 child's quilt, 80 new garments. To persons to make up for themselves—1 dress length, 16yds flannelette, 21yds flannel, 2yds print; 39 meetings were held during the year; about 100 visits were made to families, 20 to the hospital, 19 to the Samaritan Home, 50 to the Women's Refuge, and 25 to the Jubilee home. Books, religious objects, clothing, boots, etc., were given to the inmates of the Samaritan Home. A woman's fare was provided to enable her to go to Wellington, also a girl's fare to the same place with sufficient money given to give her a start there. A young girl was taken from the hospital and a situation found for her, with all expenses paid by the association. The president attended at the police court and took charge of a little girl pending passage to Nelson Orphanage. The president and vice-president acted on the committee for the distribution of the Mayor's coal and blanket fund, and ensured thereby a fair share of assistance reaching our poor people. Although frequent appeals are made for left-off

clothing the ladies do not receive nearly as many parcels as they could do with for cases requiring help, and trust to be in a position to acknowledge more liberal contributions in the future. Whilst thanking the clergy for much valued assistance, and other generous donors, a hope is expressed that many more ladies would join the association, either as honorary or active members, particularly the latter. Although much has been done during the year in works of relief and making the lives of many happier and brighter, still much remains undone owing to limited means and comparatively few workers.

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To balance forward	12	7 4	By donation to Ladies' Association ...	5	0 0
" Collections at weekly meetings	10	13 0	" Groceries ...	6	2 0
" Collections on occasion of last charity sermon	18	12 9	" Coal ...	1	10 0
" Donations ...	1	17 4	" Meals and beds ...	2	19 9
			" Nursing and blankets ...	1	19 0
			" Boots ...	4	3 6
			" Tram fares (Jubilee House and Deaf and Dumb Institute) ...	3	10 4
			" Train and steamer fares ...	4	2 10
			" Assistance in various ways to deserving cases ...	5	13 9
			" Sundries—including printing, books and pamphlets for distribution at hospital and elsewhere, stationery, stamps, conference requisites, clothing, etc. ...	7	4 3
			" Cash balance in hand ...	1	5 0
	£43	10 5		£43	10 5

Ladies' Association

President, Mrs. D. Scrimgeour; vice-president, Mrs. A. Mead, treasurer, Miss J. O'Connell; secretary, Miss Murray; wardrobe keeper, Mrs. Lonergan; librarian, Miss J. Cronin.

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To balance forward	8	2 5	By drapery and clothing ...	13	18 11
" Donations ..	2	7 0	" Groceries ...	1	3 2
" Collections at weekly meetings	7	5 4½	" Boots ...	1	10 6
" Honorary members' subscriptions ...	7	17 6	" Railway and steamer fares ...	1	14 2
" Discount ...	1	6 0	" Fuel ...	1	0 6
	£26	18 3½	" Sundries—including account books, carrier's fee, rubber stamp, and incidental expenditure ...	1	6 3
			" Cash balance in hand ...	6	4 9½
				£26	18 3½

MYERS and CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee the highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—***

A very useful tool is Mawson's Patent Lifting Jack, for lifting waggons and carriages while oiling, etc. It is one of the handiest and best Jacks made. One man can easily lift a ton, and its weight is only 14lb. It is quick in action. A trial will demonstrate its wonderful utility as a great saving in muscular exertion. See it. The price is only 15s. Morrow, Bassett, and Co., sole agents.—***

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