

NEW PLYMOUTH

(From an occasional correspondent.)

August 8.

Recently there passed away one of the oldest, most devoted, and highly respected members of the Catholic congregation, Mrs. Johanna Kingdon. For years it had been her pride and pleasure to look after and decorate the altars in St. Joseph's Church, which noble work she persevered in until old age and declining health compelled her to hand in her resignation. Every movement for the benefit of the church had in her a willing helper, but it was in connection with the Sacred Heart Society that her zeal and earnestness were most displayed. A large number of relatives and other mourners, including the school children, followed her remains to their last resting place. The Very Rev. Dean McKenna officiated in the church and at the grave, and feelingly referred to the many admirable traits of deceased's character, especially her spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice in the service of God.—R.I.P.

On Thursday the new parish school was formally opened by a concert and social. Despite the constant downpour of rain the building was well filled, and a pleasant evening was spent. His Worship the Mayor, Mr. Richard Cock, presided, and in a neat speech congratulated the Catholic body upon the noble spirit they had shown in erecting such a splendid school for the education of their children. He took occasion also to compliment the Sisters of the Mission upon the excellence of work done in the convent, and instanced the case of his own daughter, who had been trained under them and whose attainments (he said) it would be difficult to surpass. The cost of the new school is close on £800 and the debt on it is only about £100. Dean McKenna left the collecting of the funds in the hands of the school committee, and the happy result shows that his action in so doing was a step in the right direction. As Taranaki is one of the most progressive and prosperous parts of the Colony it is satisfactory to see Catholicity keeping abreast of this progressive movement.

New Publications

'The Dominican Star'

We are in receipt of an advance copy of 'The Dominican Star,' an illustrated literary annual issued by St. Dominic's Priory and College, Dunedin. The new issue furnishes abundant evidence that this excellent annual has come to stay. In size, as well as in the range, interest and excellence of its articles and illustrations, it is a great improvement on its predecessor, while, at the same time, the patronage afforded to the 'Dominican Star' has justified its proprietors in reducing its price to a modest shilling. The change of form from demy octavo to the more imposing demy quarto has afforded the proprietors fuller scope for illustration, of which they have taken the most generous advantage. The magazine opens, very appropriately, with a dedicatory poem (illustrated) to Stella ('The Star'), by the well-known South African Catholic litterateur and divine, the Rev. Dr. Kolbe. This is followed by the piece de resistance of the magazine, a well-told tale of Irish and New Zealand life (finely illustrated by original drawings), by Agnes L'Estrange, O.S.D. The poetic side of the periodical is well up to the standard with contributions from Josephine Martin, O.S.D., A.M.B.R., A.G.R., Annette of Hawera, Adelaide Primrose, J.M., and A. L'E. A touching incident of the Boer war is feelingly told and well illustrated with original drawings. A sympathetic character sketch of one of the pioneer Dominican Nuns of New Zealand, Mother Mary Agnes, who died last year, is contributed by the facile writer, A. L'E. Under the comprehensive heading 'Our Very Own,' there is a bright series of contributions—stories, sketches, etc.—from pupils of the Dominican Nuns—full of crisp and promising writing. The interest of the magazine is also enhanced by a breezy 'letter-box,' notes and news of Dominican educational work in New Zealand, Western Australia, and other lands; an account (with special full-page original drawing) of King Edward's visit to the Dominican convent of Bom Successo in Portugal; a well-written and interesting sketch of a trip from London to Saltillo, Mexico, by a former pupil of St. Dominic's Priory, Dunedin; an animated description of the visit of the famous Hambourg brothers to the Priory in June (with striking and admirable portraits); and articles on educational and literary subjects by Miss Cecilia Ryan, B.A., Father Sheehan, and the editor. As already noted, the illustrations form an admirable feature of the new series of the 'Dominican Star.' The letterpress,

engraving, binding, printing, etc., have been executed at the 'Tablet' Office in a style which is not surpassed by that of the best London magazines.

Hibernian Society, Christchurch

At the ordinary meeting of the St. Patrick's branch, H.A.C.B. Society, Christchurch, on August 4, the Rev. Father O'Connell (past president) delivered an able and most interesting address on the objects and aims of the Society. There was a large attendance of members, and Father O'Connell was warmly thanked for his address, coupled with a request that it be repeated later on to a meeting to be convened of non-members of the Society. The balance sheet for the past quarter was read, showing receipts to be £104 13s 8d (including £31 interest), and the expenditure £61 15s 2d, leaving a credit balance of £123 15s 3½d, and a membership of 111. A letter from the Hon. W. Beehan, P.P., M.L.C., was read accepting an invitation from the branch to pay an official visit to Christchurch. The delegate to the Friendly Societies' Dispensary Committee reported that over 2000 members of the different Orders had agreed to the establishment of a dispensary, and a large number of others were expected to join later on. P.P. Bro. D. Edmonds presented the branch with a very substantial and handsome presidential chair, for which he was heartily thanked. A letter of condolence was ordered to be forwarded to the widow and family of the late Bro. Dennehy, of Charleston, one of the pioneers of the Society in New Zealand. Bors. Doolan and Sellars were appointed delegates to the Friendly Societies' Conference to be held on August 14.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 9.

St. Patrick's bells rang a joyous peal on Wednesday night announcing to the Catholics of Palmerston the proclamation of our new Pope, Pius X.

Eight competitive plans have been received by the Rev. Father Tymons from different parts of the Colony for the proposed new convent. The committee make further deliberations on Tuesday night, when we may expect an early decision, and the work will probably be proceeded with without further delay.

At a meeting held in the parish school on Monday night, Rev. Father Tymons in the chair, the permit received from the District Centre of the Hibernian Lodge at Auckland was announced to the intending members present. It was decided to hold the opening of the branch on Sunday the 23rd inst., at three p.m. Brother Aloysius Dallow, the sole representative of the Society in Palmerston, was chosen interim secretary to make the necessary arrangements, and Dr. Graham as lodge doctor. From the many inquiries of the young men of the parish for information, the formation of a strong branch may be confidently expected.

NOTICE.

With this number of the 'N.Z. Tablet' we issue a four-page supplement, containing a full-page portrait of his Holiness Pius X., and other illustrations, in addition to a full and accurate account of the coronation ceremony. In consequence of printing a large extra number of copies—almost equal to double our ordinary issue—to meet the orders from various centres, we had to go to press some hours earlier than usual, consequently communications that came to hand on Wednesday morning had to be held over.

THE NEW POPE.

SEND 7d IN STAMPS FOR FULL PAGE PORTRAIT OF POPE ON ENAMEL CARD SUITABLE FOR FRAMING.

Mr. W. S. Bedford, late head cutter with Messrs. Brown, Ewing, and Co., has commenced business at 79 Princes street, Dunedin. Mr. Bedford is well known as a first-class cutter, and patrons will find that orders entrusted to him will give every satisfaction both as regards style and finish....

A reference to the back page of our supplement will convince our readers in Otago that there are some real bargains in boots and shoes to be got at the City Boot Palace, George street, Dunedin....