

An interesting and very successful inter-society debate took place in St. Patrick's Schoolroom, South Dunedin, on Monday night between representatives of St. Joseph's Men's Club and St. Patrick's Literary and Social Institute. The Rev. Father Coffey presided, and there was a very large and appreciative audience. The subject for discussion was 'Should military training be made compulsory for youths over 18 years of age?' The affirmative was taken by the local representatives, Messrs. Marlow, W. Carr, and O'Connell, the negative side being maintained by Messrs. T. Hussey, J. B. Callan, Jun., and C. Foley. The debate was characterised throughout by sound argument, fluent speaking, and excellent arrangement of matter. It is rarely that such a high style of oratory is reached at a debating club as was heard on Monday night, and all the speeches were listened to with the closest attention by the crowded audience. Mr. J. M. Gallaway acted as judge, and in giving his decision in favor of the local men took occasion to compliment all the participants in the debate on the excellence of their speeches.

The new convent at Winton was opened on Sunday week by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill. The building, which is of two storeys, is of brick and concrete. The work was carried out in a very satisfactory manner by Mr. Birss, of Invercargill, under the supervision of Messrs. Mackenzie and Wilson, architects. The building has been erected at a cost of £1200, of which £900 has already been subscribed. After the sermon a collection taken in aid of the convent building fund realised £92.

On Friday evening the members of St. Joseph's Men's Club were treated to an excellent paper, 'Life on a New Zealand sheep station,' by Mr. James Hill. The members anticipated a very agreeable evening, and those who were brave enough to face the inclement weather were not disappointed. The chair was taken by Mr. C. J. Foley. Mr. Hill kept his audience interested for nearly an hour. The greater part of his paper was read, but now and then he paused to give an informal explanation or to tell an anecdote, when his subject needed any illustration—a happy innovation, which was much appreciated. Mr. Hill, in his introductory remarks, said that shearing time is the one great event on a sheep station. He then detailed how the sheep are mustered, drafted, packed in the shed, shorn, sent to the outer pens, counted, branded, and finally turned forth again to pasture. Mr. Hill likewise described the different processes through which the wool passes before it is finally packed into bales, and also gave some interesting particulars regarding shearers and their ways. Altogether the lecture was not only highly interesting but very instructive, and gave many of his audience their first insight into the details of a colonial industry. On this ground alone Mr. Hill is as much to be congratulated on his choice of topic as on his manner of dealing with it. The paper will probably be published in the 'Catholic Magazine.' On conclusion of the paper, Messrs. Deehan, Hussey, Callan, Miles, and Foley, briefly thanked Mr. Hill for his very instructive paper.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent)

August 16.

The convent committee met on last Tuesday to consider the eight competitive designs received during the past month for the new convent, so sadly needed in the parish. It was decided to select that sent in by 'Dum Spiro Spero' (Mr. J. Charlesworth, of Wellington). In the event of it being found, when tenders are called, that the building cannot be erected within the £2000 limit, then one of the following designs will be accepted, preference to be given in the order named: 'True Cross,' 'Kincora,' and 'Spes.' The one at present accepted gives entire satisfaction to his Grace the Archbishop, and to the Rev. Mother Superior, of Wellington. The necessary arrangements of tenders, etc., will take some two months further to complete, when it is hoped a start will be made.

The new branch of the H.A.C.B. Society will be opened on Sunday by the Hon. Wm. Beehan, M.L.C., District President. Perhaps few have done more for the advance of the Society in New Zealand than the Hon. Mr. Beehan, and the particular interest shown in coming to help poor tardy Palmerston in the formation of its first branch should be sufficient encouragement to all intending members to put all their energy into the formation of a strong lodge. Brothers James W. Callaghan and P. J. Kelleher, president and secretary respectively, of St. Patrick's branch, Wellington, have signified their intention of being present.

A single trial of MOUNTAIN KING ASTHMA POWDER will convince the most sceptical of its efficacy.—***

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

On Sunday, June 20, the Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly, Archbishop of Cashel, ordained to the priesthood for the archdiocese of Wellington, the Rev. James McManus, a student of St. Patrick's College, Thurles.

There are nearly 1300 telephone exchange connections in Christchurch, 1420 in Dunedin, 1554 in Auckland, and over 1900 in Wellington, or about one for every 35 persons in the aggregate population of these centres.

Chief-detective Campbell has, at his own request been transferred from Dunedin to Greymouth. He will be succeeded in Dunedin by Detective Herbert, of Christchurch.

Mr. C. J. Pharazyn, of Wellington, who was in his 101st year died on Sunday night. He landed in Wellington in 1841, and had lived there practically ever since. He held a seat in the Legislative Council from 1869 to 1885, when his son succeeded him. He celebrated his hundredth birthday in October last.

Among the students who were ordained recently by the Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, at Carlow College, were the following for New Zealand:—Priesthood, Rev. Timothy Creed, Christchurch; deaconship, Rev. Ferdinand Deighman, Auckland; minor orders, Messrs. Jeremiah Cahill and William Murphy, Auckland.

At the end of June the population (exclusive of Maoris) was 818,832, consisting of 432,572 males and 386,260 females. This represents a net increase of 3990 since March 1. There were 5239 births during the three months and 2954 deaths, and 6440 arrivals against 5644 departures. Adding the Maori population (as per 1901 census), 43,143, and the population of Cook Islands and the other islands in the Pacific which were annexed in 1901—namely, 12,292—the total estimated population of the Colony reaches 874,267.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of a copy of 'Our Alma Mater,' a magazine edited by the students of St. Ignatius's College, Riverview, Sydney. This school annual has always occupied a very high position among similar publications and we are pleased to see that the present issue not alone maintains that standard but even exceeds it. The contents are varied and interesting, and apart from the records of school happenings peculiar to such magazines there are several literary contributions of a high order of merit. 'Our Alma Mater' is copiously illustrated, and its general turn out is highly creditable to all concerned.

Under the heading 'Ireland Abroad,' the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal,' of May 26, had a contributed article, appreciative of the life, work, and high personal character of the late Hon. Dr. Grace, M.L.C. The writer pays a well-deserved tribute to the memory of Dr. Grace, and points with evident pride to his ardent Catholicism, sturdy advocacy of the rights of his native land, and unblemished character in public and private life. The literary style and intimate knowledge of Dr. Grace's character possessed by the writer lead us to think that it was contributed by the Very Rev. Dr. Watters, S.M.

An exchange reports that the trustees of the Stoke Orphanage have decided to proceed with the erection of the new building in brick. As the tenders sent in are above the estimate, the work will be proceeded with by day labor, certain portions of the work being let as sub-contracts. The bricks required are to be made on the property, a brick-making plant and kiln now being erected. A start will be made with the work in a month or so.

Marseilles red roofing tiles are perfectly water tight, light, cool, inexpensive, and picturesque, and consequently their popularity is on the increase in a very marked degree. They have been used in many public and private buildings in all parts of the Colony, and have given general satisfaction. The Railway Department is going in largely for them, and they will be used for roofing the proposed railway stations at Dunedin, Bluff, and Rangiora. They are very suitable and effective for churches and convents. The sole agents in the Colony are Messrs. Briscoe and Co., of Dunedin, Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland, and Invercargill, who report that the sales in New Zealand are increasing every month. Messrs. Briscoe and Co. are also agents for Wunderlich's patent zinc ceilings, the qualities of which are now universally known and appreciated....

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.—***