

The Sunday school at Woolston was opened in the Druids' Hall by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais on Sunday afternoon, with an attendance of 40 children. Mr. E. O'Connor, president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Pro-Cathedral Conference, was present, and other members at once assumed charge of the classes. It is contemplated in the near future to acquire a site for the erection of a much-needed church and school, a good congregation being already located there.

As chaplain of the H.A.C.B. Society the Rev. Father O'Connell thought it necessary at the meeting of the local branch to comment on some published statements recently made by a prominent member on the amalgamation of friendly societies, with the result that a paragraph appeared in the daily papers wherein the opinions expressed were repudiated as emanating from the Society, but were the acknowledged individual ideas of the member alone.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

September 17.

At St. Benedict's last Sunday Haydn's Imperial Mass was rendered in fine style by the choir, assisted by members of Musgrove's Opera Company, who also assisted at Vespers.

Friday last, September 11, was the anniversary of Bishop Lenihan's birth, and he received many messages of congratulation, and also many practical proofs of the high esteem in which he is held.

A social in aid of St. Joseph's Convent, Surry Hills, is to be held in St. Benedict's Hall on Wednesday, October 14. The object is one calling for a whole-hearted response, as the Sisters of St. Joseph at Surry Hills have a stern battle to fight.

At St. Patrick's last Sunday evening the Rev. Father Meagher, recently from Tasmania, preached to a crowded congregation on the glory and beauty of our heavenly home. The rev. gentleman arrived last Monday week, and is at present the guest of his Lordship Dr. Lenihan.

The names of the prize winners at the art and industrial exhibition held in connection with St. Leo's Academy, Devonport, have now been published. The number of successful pupils and the many subjects for which prizes were awarded show that the work carried on at the school is of a very comprehensive and practical character.

Rev. Bro. Basil, Superior of the Marist Order here, has informed me that matters scholastic are progressing favorably at the new Sacred Heart College. Quite an influx of pupils has taken place, and as this is considered the 'off season,' it augurs well for the college. Bro. Basil has had a large portion of the ground ploughed up and put under crop. In this department the land can easily produce all the vegetables that the college requires.

Bro. the Hon. W. Beehan, M.L.C., has presented to the Auckland branch of the H.A.C.B. Society a nicely framed certificate of membership of his father-in-law, the late Bro. Dempsey, who was one of the founders of the branch. He has also presented a framed picture of a group of several delegates who attended the recent biennial meeting of the society in Sydney. Bro. George Rice has presented to the branch a beautifully framed picture of St. Patrick. All of these presents adorn the walls of the branch room.

In the parish church of Ballingarry, County Tipperary, the Month's Mind was recently held for the repose of the soul of the late Father W. J. Croke, of Auckland. The following clergy were present—Rev. Father Lanigan, Ballingarry, celebrant; Rev. Father Maher, Ballingarry, deacon; Rev. Father Foran, O.S.A., Callan, subdeacon; and Rev. Father O'Mahony, O.S.A., master of ceremonies. In the choir were—Very Rev. Canon Cantwell, Ballingarry; Very Rev. Canon Walsh, President of Clonliffe College, Dublin (cousin); Rev. W. Cantwell, Mullinahone; Rev. Father Maher, Ballingarry; Rev. C. F. Ryan, Drangan; Rev. Father Canty, Killenaule; Rev. Father Quinlan, Killenaule; Rev. Father Prendergast, Manchester, England; Rev. Father Blake, Edinburgh (cousin). The church was draped for the occasion, and all the friends of the deceased priest for miles around were in attendance.

The following are the names of the successful candidates who passed the theoretical examination conducted by Trinity College, London, and who were prepared at our convent schools:—Senior division.—pass—Ivy Munro (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 70; Eileen McMahon (St. Patrick's High School), 66; Ella Le Huquet (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 62. Intermediate division.—pass—Violet Locke (St. Patrick's High School), 64. Junior division.—honors—Harry Woolley (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 94; Eileen Kearney (St. Patrick's High School), 93; May McDonald (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 92; Eva Barber (St. Patrick's High School),

90; Winifred Boylan (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 87; Zoe Wordsworth (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 86; Jessie Smith (St. Patrick's High School), 80. Junior division.—pass—Ethel Barber (St. Patrick's High School), 75; Jeanie A. Kelly (Convent School Coromandel), 71; Emily Clark (St. Patrick's High School), 66. Preparatory division.—pass—Ethel Keenan (St. Patrick's High School), 93; Bessie McDonald (St. Patrick's High School), 93; Elsie McSpinks (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 92; Flora M. Blackburn (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 90; Dorothy Boylan (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 81; Daisy James (St. Leo's Academy, Devonport), 78; Olive Short (Convent School, Coromandel), 78; Aileen Wild (Convent School, Coromandel), 63; Kathleen Little (St. Patrick's High School), 62.

The King's Visit to Maynooth College

If for no other reason (says the 'Irish Weekly,' July 31) than that for the first time in the history of Maynooth, a head of the British Empire has vouchsafed to Ireland the favor of visiting the centre of her Catholic life, the year 1903 will remain in the memories of Irish Catholics an auspicious one. On Friday King Edward and his gracious Queen proceeded in State to the famous ecclesiastical college to accord their Royal recognition and greeting to the Church of which the overwhelming bulk of the Irish race are loyal and devoted children. With that courtesy and tact which distinguish him beyond many of his predecessors on the English throne, his Majesty sought to manifest more clearly his respect for the creed which has supported Ireland through many a struggle by ordaining that his suite should invest themselves in mourning apparel for the occasion, and that part of the Royal State in which he usually travels should be dispensed with. Her Majesty the Queen also, in kindly consideration for the grief of the Irish people at the loss of their beloved Pope, was attired in black. The great heart of the Celt will respond to these evidences of their Majesties' wish to place themselves in harmony with the gloom which the knowledge that the Vicar of Christ on earth lies dead in St. Peter's has disseminated over every Catholic home in the land.

Their Majesties were received at Maynooth with unmistakable cordiality. Their Graces the Archbishops of Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam, at the head of most of the Irish hierarchy, accorded a dignified welcome to their Royal visitors; and the noble institution which has given forth so many patriotic Irish priests was fittingly prepared for their reception. The address was couched in terms which will be endorsed by every Catholic who appreciates the courtesy to his Church and its heads which their Majesties have consistently displayed since they set foot on these shores. It expressed the pleasure which the Irish hierarchy felt at having an opportunity of testifying in person their sense of the sympathy which their Majesties have exhibited regarding the situation in which the Irish people at present find themselves placed. Their Lordships declared their especial gratitude at the visit paid by the King to the illustrious Pontiff Leo XIII., and the emotion aroused in their breasts by the words of condolence which their Majesties have joined in giving utterance to in respect to the death of his Holiness.

In reply, the King reminded his hosts of his visit as prince to the National Ecclesiastical College of Ireland, and assured their Lordships that event had left pleasant memories with him. After paying tribute to the renown of Maynooth as the Alma Mater of many 'devoted men,' laboring in the sacred duties of the ministry in every part of the English-speaking world, his Majesty testified his gratification at the true appreciation which not alone the hierarchy, but the Irish race in general, entertain of his feeling towards them. He passed on to words of thanks for the services which have been rendered to his Empire by many sons of the Irish soil, and to declare the esteem in which he holds the 'admirable gifts of mind and heart' of which he considers his Irish subjects are possessed.

His Majesty's words regarding his personal relations with our late Pope will be read with mingled feelings of pleasure and sadness, manifesting as they do the lively sense of sorrow that must animate him when he recalls the sweetness and affectionate warmth with which his Holiness greeted him on his visit of respect to the Vatican. His Majesty has done much since his arrival in this country to ingratiate himself with us in Ireland. It is a source of unestimable pleasure to us that by his kindness, his delicacy, and his true sense of our position, expressed in all the words and acts which have proceeded from him and his amiable Consort, he has earned all the warmth which the Irish people are infusing into their welcome. This additional proof of his friendly feeling towards the Catholics of his kingdom will not soon be forgotten.