

had done and is doing in the matter of education. When all others neglected this great work the Church, by its monasteries and convents, kept the light of learning burning. The majority of the great universities owed their foundation to the Catholic Church.

The half-yearly meeting of the St. Anne's Club was held in the clubroom on Thursday, February 11, Mr. J. Fagan presiding. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, Ven. Archdeacon Devoy; president, Mr. B. A. Guise; vice-presidents Messrs. M. Segrief, E. B. L. Reade, J. Fagan, J. Wickliffe, and the Rev. Father Peoples; spiritual director, Rev. Father O'Connor, S.M.; hon. secretary, Mr. F. Galvin; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Hayden; executive officers—Messrs. T. C. Rouse, W. Rouse, P. McCarthy, T. McCarthy, E. Lee, E. Galvin, W. Heavey, J. Duggan, and O. N. Foote; hon. auditors, Messrs. J. E. Gamble, and T. H. Forster; chairman of the Literary and Debating Society, Rev. Father O'Connor, S.M.; vice-chairman of the Literary and Debating Society, Mr. J. Fagan; librarian, Mr. W. Heavey.

A special effort is being made by the members of St. Joseph's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to increase its membership. At St. Joseph's Church last Sunday his Grace Archbishop O'Shea preached a most impressive discourse from the text, 'Blessed are the merciful,' and exhorted the congregation to assist the St. Vincent de Paul Society in its works of mercy by every means in its power. In the sixth annual report of the conference great satisfaction is expressed at the progress made. The active membership is 9; 51 meetings were held, with an average attendance of 7. Five public institutions were visited regularly. At the Ohiro Home a monthly service was conducted by the brothers for the inmates who, in the majority of cases, are unable to attend church. The members organised the night watch for the Forty Hours' Adoration, and a working bee for the improvements to St. Joseph's Home: 400 lots of coal (donated by J. Staples and Co.) were distributed amongst those in need; 148 visits were paid to the public institutions, and some 1400 inmates interviewed; 129 visits were made to people in their own homes, and clothing and literature distributed. In several cases employment was found for those out of work. The receipts totalled £23 11s 8d, and the expenditure £30 2s 6d, the small credit balance at the commencement of the year (£13 3s 7d) being encroached upon to meet the expenditure. Nearly 2000 Catholic Truth Society publications were distributed. Those interested in the good work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society should communicate with either the president (Mr. B. Ellis, Hargraves street), or the secretary (Mr. W. F. Johnson, Broadway terrace), who will be only too glad to enrol new members.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

An energetic committee has arrangements well forward for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. A grand national concert is to be held in the evening, for which the best talent has been engaged.

During the past fortnight plans for buildings, estimated to cost £27,000, have been examined by the borough engineer. It is predicted by contractors that this will be a record year for the building trade in Palmerston North.

The people of Palmerston have learned with pleasure that Dr. A. A. Martin, of this town, has been mentioned in Sir John French's despatches for his magnificent work on the battlefield. Dr. Martin has written to the local papers a number of very interesting letters relating to the war.

New Plymouth

The Rolland Hall, New Plymouth, was well filled on the occasion of the concert, organised by St. Joseph's Choir in aid of the poor in Great Britain and Belgium

relief funds, which should benefit considerably as a result. An excellent programme was submitted, and the audience showed their appreciation by insisting upon recalls. The ladies responsible for the organisation—Mesdames McClelland, Drury, and Bevan, and Misses Radford, Francis, and Lumsden—have every cause to feel satisfied with the results. The stage was tastefully decorated, Mr. B. Vinsen rendering valuable assistance in this department, and also in the arrangement of the hall. The following programme was submitted: 'Overture,' 'Anthems of the Allies,' Mrs. George's orchestra; song, 'Hungarian cradle song,' Miss Rea, Miss M. Ambury accompanying, and as an encore 'Waiata Poi'; banjo solo, 'Fire away,' Mr. Gadd (encore, 'Kilties'); recitation, two recruiting stories, 'Fall in' and 'Buck up,' Captain Allen (encore, 'A scrap of paper'); Highland fling, Miss Cameron (encored); monologue, Beethoven avenue, Mr. R. Head (encored); violin solo, 'Cavatina,' (encore, 'Themes from "Ave Maria"'), Mr. R. George; song, 'Blow, blow,' Mr. R. Hill-Johnson (encore, 'Little man'); euphonium solo, 'Answer,' Mr. Austin; overture, 'Panama Pacific march,' orchestra; song, 'Sleeping camp,' Mr. Lambert (encore, 'Invitation'); song, 'My ain folk,' Miss Cameron (encored); song, 'I'll sing thee songs of Araby,' Mr. Haslam (encore, 'Two eyes of grey'); song, 'Remember me no more,' Mrs Drury (encore, 'Somewhere a voice is calling'); musical sketch, 'Strolling musicians,' Mr. B. Vinsen (encored); duct, 'Life's dream is o'er,' Mesdames Drury and George (encore, 'Whispering hope'); recitation, 'The absent-minded beggar,' by Captain Allen, who went round with the tambourine at the conclusion and collected £1 17s; orchestral selection, 'Invincible eagle,' 'God save the King' brought a very successful programme to a close. Miss George presided at the piano, and accompanied the singers sympathetically on a piano lent for the occasion by Mr. Hoffman. Mr. J. Heinrichs was stage manager.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

February 22.

The orphan children of Mount Magdala were treated to a delightful outing in motor cars to Waikuku Beach, and generously entertained there by members of the Automobile Association on last Saturday week. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd express their grateful appreciation of the kindness extended.

Favored with suitable weather on next Saturday the excursion to Ashburton, under the auspices of the Cathedral schools' committee, promises to be most successful and enjoyable. Members of the committee have worked hard to perfect arrangements, and as this is the first similar Catholic outing at such a distance for a considerable time, it should be largely patronised.

Arrangements have been completed for the opening of a Sunday school at Linwood for the large number of Catholic children in the district, who reside at too great a distance from the Cathedral to avail themselves of the opportunities offered to attend the Christian doctrine classes there. The kindergarten schoolroom in Rolleston street has been secured for the purpose, and already about thirty children have given in their names. The Sunday school will be conducted by the Sisters of the Missions and assistants.

Of the fifty nurses that are being sent by New Zealand for service in the field under the direction of the British War Office, eight will be supplied by Canterbury, and the whole eight ladies who have been chosen were trained at the Christchurch Public Hospital. The first mentioned among those on the published list is Nurse Fanning, one of a Catholic family in this city. Sister Rose Gertrude Fanning commenced her training in the Christchurch Hospital in March, 1905, and passed her final examinations and gained her certificates three years later. She was appointed a sister in 1909 and resigned that position in October of the following year to take up private nursing. During her sister-