

ship she was in charge of the operating theatre and also of the women's medical ward. Subsequent to leaving the Christchurch Hospital she was for some time *locum tenens* for a matron on the West Coast, and since then has been nursing in Sister Beck's hospital in Gloucester street.

The Rev. Father P. H. Fanning, M.S.H., who has been in charge of the Darfield parish for the past six and a-half years, leaves next week to take up work in Australia. He will probably spend some weeks on furlough in Sydney. He will be much missed by his parishioners and the public generally. At a recent meeting of the Belgian fund committee, special reference was made to the work he has done in connection with that body, his efforts having helped materially in making a success of the collections and entertainments organised. His place will be taken by the Rev. Father Richard Graham, M.S.H., of Sydney.

Under the auspices of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, a most interesting and enjoyable entertainment, described as 'An Irish night of scene, song, and story,' was given in the presence of an audience, including several of the clergy, which crowded the Hibernian Hall to excess on last Tuesday evening. A musical and elocutionary programme, contributed to by Mrs. Commons, Miss Main, Messrs. Frank McDonald, P. J. McNamara, and A. MacDonald, and consisting wholly of items of a national character, met with much acceptance. Another popular item was an Irish jig danced by Mr. J. Gilmore, the whole programme being opened with a finely staged tableau, entitled 'Erin free,' the central figure being taken by Miss Manuela Banfield, guarded by a detachment of the Marist Brothers' School Cadets in uniform and equipment. During this scene, Mr. C. Fottrell sang 'A nation once again.' Mr. P. Augarde played several pianoforte selections, and also the accompaniments. In a few brief but appropriate remarks, the Rev. Father Long (branch chaplain) introduced Dr. H. T. J. Thacker, M.P. for Christchurch East, who, after expressing his appreciation of being afforded an opportunity of contributing to the evening's entertainment, proceeded to give an illustrated lecture, entitled 'A trip through Ireland.' Numerous beautiful views were shown by the lecturer of places and scenes familiar to him from his youthful days when a medical student in Dublin. These evidenced a true sense of the beautiful and artistic in nature, and the constructive genius of an advanced people. As a matter of fact nothing better, or nearly so good in a similar connection, has been shown here, and their selection at once stamps Dr. Thacker as an ardent lover of his country. He, too, has evidently made a close and intimate study of the life, character, and tradition of the Irish people, and was thus enabled, not alone, to describe the various scenes and objects, but to clothe in local coloring incidents and experiences that had impressed him. Nowhere in Ireland (he said), with many years of experience and travels, over the length and breadth, and throughout the interior of the country, had he met with the grotesque individual pictured by the 'stage Irishman,' neither had he ever met with any of the many other senseless and stupid things attributed to the country by her enemies. To those familiar with the Old Land, the scenes reproduced and described must for the nonce have transported them back to their dear homes and haunts of other days, whilst those of New Zealand birth certainly saw and learnt much that will not be easily forgotten. All, indeed, have reason to be exceedingly grateful to the genial doctor for his able lecture, and for the pleasure and information derived therefrom. At an interval Mr. T. B. Pike led in the song 'Erin, beautiful Erin,' the audience joining in in the refrain, and also at the end in the chorus, 'God save Ireland.' At the conclusion, Dr. Thacker was very cordially thanked, as were also all those who had contributed to the programme. The stage was prettily and effectively decorated by Mr. J. Joyce, landscape gardener.

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

On last Sunday afternoon the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of permanent additions to the Lewisham Hospital, Bealey avenue, conducted by the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, was performed by his Excellency the Governor, Lord Liverpool, in the presence of a numerous gathering. With the proposed addition of accommodation, provision will be made for a private ward for patients unable to pay. These will be admitted free without consideration of creed or nationality. Among those present were her Excellency Lady Liverpool, the Mayor of Christchurch and Mrs. Holland, several members of the Legislature and prominent citizens. His Lordship the Bishop, who welcomed the visitors, was accompanied by the Very Rev. Chancellor Price, Adm., the Rev. Mother Xavier (Superior, Lewisham Hospital, Sydney), and Rev. Mother Boniface (Superior of the Christchurch Community).

After blessing the foundation stone, his Lordship Bishop Grimes said that on behalf of the Superior and the Community of Nursing Sisters, he was desired to tender their Excellencies, a very hearty welcome. Their Excellencies' personal co-operation in hospital matters on Saturday and that afternoon showed their sympathy with the cause of the suffering human race. It was about twelve years ago that the good Sisters, with Mother Xavier, to whom they owed so much, with Mother Joseph and Sister Bridget, had come over with the idea of establishing a second Lewisham in Christchurch, and they had gone away delighted with the country and with Christchurch. It did not require any great efforts on the speaker's part to induce them to come here and establish a foundation of their celebrated hospital. They came last year, and, by a strange coincidence, he had been struck down by sickness and became an inmate of the hospital. Providence, that arranged all things, arranged that he should be able to study the work of the Sisters at first hand, and he had no words strong enough to express the high appreciation in which he held their work, and he fully understood why the medical staff were so loud in their praise of the Sisters. Nursing was a noble profession, and demanded much skill, care, and devotion, but the Sisters looked at it as more than a profession; it was in their eyes a vocation, and they felt that every patient that came into the hospital, irrespective of race or creed, was a representative of Him Whom they humbly wished to serve. The Bishop said that he was not a prophet, but he felt safe in predicting that the work of the hospital was certain of a successful future.

Dr. A. B. O'Brien read apologies from the Hon. R. Heaton Rhodes, the Hon. Sir Charles Bowen, Sir Joseph Ward, Sir Geo. Clifford, Messrs. A. E. G. Rhodes and G. Rhodes, who were unable to attend, and added a warm eulogy of the scientific attainments of the Sisters. He pointed out that all the Sisters in the hospital were as fully qualified as any in any other institution, and the standard set in the Lewisham Hospital was second to none. In time it was hoped that the hospital would become more of a public institution, but that depended on the help of the public. At the same time, the speaker instanced many cases where those unable to pay had been cared for free of cost.

His Excellency the Governor then proceeded with the laying of the foundation stone, amid applause. He said that both her Excellency and himself had great pleasure in being amongst them there that afternoon, and for the second time assisting in such a deserving cause as hospital work. He heartily congratulated the Sisterhood on their undertaking, and the excellent way it was carried out. In Christchurch their minds would not only be associated with local hospital work, but would, most likely, be turned to Europe where so many thousands were suffering in the great cause. He could testify that the people of New Zealand of all creeds and classes had not been behindhand in assisting to alleviate suffering by means of the money for hospital work.