

sisted of a variety entertainment, under the direction of Miss Brennan, and to which the following contributed:—Mesdames Fannon and Ramsay, Misses Fenton, Brennan (2), Mulholland (2), and Lockhart. The second part was as follows: Pianoforte solo, Miss Netta Rings; song, 'I seek for thee in every flower,' Mr. Moore; recitation, 'Reggie,' Miss M. D'Arcy Davidson; waltz song, Mrs. J. H. Gale; song, 'The sea road,' Mr. F. Woods; song, Miss D. D'Arcy Davidson; humorous item, Mr. J. B. McConnell; song, 'Spring song,' Miss A. Heffernan; 'God save the King,' Misses Madge Mulholland and Hughes acted as accompanists.

CATHOLIC SEWING GUILD.

The Catholic Sewing Guild for Belgian relief met again on Wednesday, when there was another very good attendance. Donations were received from the following:—The Sisters of Mercy, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Bell, Miss Brennan, Mrs. Carnell, Miss Cread, Mrs. Dyer, Miss Dunbar, Miss Dunsford, Mrs. Dickie, Mrs. Gebbie, Miss Hegarty, Mrs. Hoare, Miss Meade, Mrs. Manning, Miss Malquin, Mrs. L. McConnell, Miss Montgomerie, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Salmon, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Walls.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

INQUIRER, Pahiata.—The so-called "Nun Divorce" case was dealt with in our Current Topics column a fortnight ago.

J. D., and others.—The C.S.G. examinations will be held again this year. Full particulars will appear in our columns in about a couple of weeks' time.

COUNTRY MOTHER, Lower Hutt. The headquarters of the D.I.C. are in Dunedin, and the management inform us that there is no such movement on foot as that to which you refer. The employees contribute weekly to a fund for the general relief of Belgian distress; and in some cases sewing bees have been established to make up clothing for children, but not for the special class to which you allude.

CEREMONIAL. The playing of the 'Dead March' is, of course, no part of the service or sacred function, but is a non-liturgical act introduced from without the Church, and permitted owing to its harmlessness. There is, therefore, no prescribed or authoritative rule or regulation as to the procedure to be observed. It is usually considered the common course for the congregation to stand, out of sympathy with this act of respect for the memory of the dead.

J. T., Mamunu.—(1) St. Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, March 17, 493. (2) The Fenian Brotherhood was a political organisation which originated in the United States, having for its object to win independence for Ireland by force of arms. Ireland, since the Union, had not been in such a deplorable state as in the sixties of the last century. It had lost two millions of its population through the terrible famine and the emigration which followed. The landlords, with their crowbar brigades, pursued their brutal treatment of their tenants, whilst the Government were indifferent to the sufferings of the people. Constitutional agitation had come to naught, and the outlook seemed hopeless. The Irish exiles in the United States, having bitter memories of their own treatment in Ireland, concluded that the time was opportune for righting their country's wrongs by physical force. They accordingly started several organisations at various times having this object in view, but it was not until 1858 that they got into touch with the Irish at home. In that year James Stephens arrived in Ireland, and proceeded to Skibbereen, where a political club, called the Phoenix National and Literary Society, had been established. Stephens, who was a very clever man and a born organiser, informed the members of

the club of what had been done by the Irishmen in the United States to aid those at home to gain their independence. Before a month had passed, out of one hundred young men in the club, ninety had been sworn in as members of the new secret organisation. Such was the start of Fenianism in Ireland. Among the Fenians in America there was a certain dynamite party who believed that the English people could be frightened into measures of justice for Ireland by plots for the destruction of human life in English cities; and one or two such attempts, happily unsuccessful, were actually made. It ought to be said, however, that the recognised Fenian leaders never lent any countenance to acts of such a character. As being a secret society, the organisation was condemned by the Church; but many, both of the leaders and of the rank and file, were men of high honor and pure motives. Two of the Fenians who were actually condemned to death afterwards won credit and distinction in peaceful pursuits. One of these was John Boyle O'Reilly, whose death-sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life, and who was transported to Western Australia. He contrived to escape and made his way to America. He settled in Boston, rose to great distinction as a journalist, an author, and an orator, and was made welcome in Boston's most cultured literary society at a time when Emerson, Longfellow, and Oliver Wendell Holmes were still living. The other James F. X. O'Brien, was for many years a respected member of the British House of Commons. Although the movement failed in its immediate object, it undoubtedly had the effect of bringing home to the minds of Englishmen the need of some improvement in the condition of things in Ireland, and in this sense may be said to have laid the foundation for many important subsequent measures of reform.

COMMERCIAL

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, March 30, 1915, as follows:—**Rabbiskins.** At our sale yesterday we offered a small catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Prices were a shade easier since the last sale. Prime winter does, to 15½d; outgoing does, from 11½d to 12½d; best locks, to 13d; outgoing, 9d to 11d; prime racks, 6½d to 8d; light racks, 5½d to 6d; autumns, 7½d to 9d; prime winter blacks, 28d to 30d; horsehair, 19d to 20½d per lb. **Sheepskins.** Our next sale will be held on Tuesday, April 13. **Hides.**—Our last sale was held on the 25th inst., when we offered a medium catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Prices were a shade better than at our last sale. Quotations: Prime ox, to 10½d; medium, to 9d; light, to 8½d; heavy cow hides, to 9½d; medium, 8d to 8½d; light, to 8d; inferior, 4½d to 7d; calfskins, to 10½d; medium, 8d to 9½d; inferior, 4d to 7½d per lb. **Tallow and Fat.**—Small consignments are coming forward and competition is keen. Best rendered tallow, 22s to 24s; medium, 18s to 20s; best rough fat, 16s to 18s; medium, 14s to 15s. **Oats.**—The market is a shade easier. Buyers are not operating so freely owing to the Government's decision to restrict export. Prime milling, 4s 1d to 4s 2d; good to best feed, 4s to 4s 1d; inferior to medium, 3s 9d to 3s 11d per bushel (sacks extra). **Wheat.**—As most of the millers are holding good stocks just now they are not so keen to operate, and there is very little business passing, consequently values are a shade easier.

I canna leave the auld folks now,
I'd better 'bide a wee,
Dad's got a cold, and Mum's not well,
And pipes the ither c'e.
I'll gang doon to the corner store
For Woods' Great Peppermint Cure,
And Mum and Dad will 'greet' no more.
Aye—they'll be richt for sure.