

the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., Messrs. J. E. Doolan, M. Garty, T. H. C. Williamson, and the secretary. In reporting on the correspondence received and despatched, the secretary stated that circular letters had been sent to all branches, with regard to the special progressive movements sent forward by the Dominion executive. Excellent reports were received from the organiser (Mr. Girling-Butcher) of the successful results of his work in Westland, and arrangements were made for meetings commencing this week in the city and vicinity. Speaking at Mass in St. Ann's Church, Woolston, on last Sunday, the Rev. Father Murphy, B.A., made a particularly fine appeal in the interests of Catholic Federation, and presumably the same was done in the other churches in anticipation of Mr. Girling-Butcher's visit.

THE ALLIES' STRATEGY

Mr. Hilaire Belloc, whose journalistic writings on the war have aroused general interest, gave two lectures dealing with the present conflict at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, on February 18, the event being under the auspices of the Liverpool Geographical Society.

The subject of the afternoon address centred around the strategy of the war. It was upon the decision in the western campaign ultimately that the result of the war would turn, said the lecturer. The first rule underlying all military operations was that in any particular field, other things being equal, numbers were the decisive factor, but only when used in a decisive time and place. Merely to have more men than the enemy did not mean victory. At the beginning of the war in the west the Germans had a numerical superiority in trained and equipped men of sixteen to ten. (Even to the present day the numerical preponderance lay with the enemy of 81 to 72). Of that ten the British force might be reckoned as 5 and the Belgian army as an equally small decimal. The only thing the French could hope to do was to pin the enemy down, destroy his initiative, and contain him. It was the only success the Allies could reasonably expect, and that had not been sufficiently appreciated by public opinion in this country. The French rightly expected growth in both their own and the British forces (the English contingent now was five times the size of the original Expeditionary Force), and if they could pin the enemy, in six or eight months the numbers of the combatants would be more equal. The chance of success rested upon a device not unknown to Napoleon, and a favorite one with the French military school, known as the open strategic square, which Mr. Belloc proceeded to describe by means of diagrams. It was part of the scheme to hold a large force in reserve, and to rely on the capacity of another force to receive the full pressure of the enemy's blow and to carry out a pre-arranged retreat without being annihilated. It was the German opinion that modern conscript short service troops could not stand the strain of such pressure as would fall upon what Mr. Belloc called 'the operating square.' This 'square' at Mons, however, consisted of the British troops and the Fifth French Army, and its superb fighting quality justified the French theory. Had the operative or sacrificial square been pierced, then all was lost. At the best the scheme was a gamble, and it only just succeeded.

The next problem of the Allies' strategy in the west was to wear down the enemy until he could no longer hold with the men available so long a line as that from the Swiss mountains to the North Sea, and on that task they were still engaged. What the issue would be, whether we could get a shorter line or not, nobody could tell.

'It is my conviction,' declared Mr. Belloc, 'that when the enemy finds he has to shorten his line he will appeal for an inconclusive peace. It will be made to look as flattering for the Allies as possible. He will appeal for that peace, relying upon the ignorance of a civilian population which cannot be expected to judge, on the ignorance or partiality of neutrals. A great

deal will be made in the press and in political speeches about the position being a deadlock, that he cannot win and we cannot win, and that it was no use going on merely wasting young lives day after day. He will depend on a radically false conception that our task is to push him back, and he will appeal to that very fallacious method of argument which thinks of the progress made and the distance to the Rhine. He will have behind him powerful financial interests, who will ask that the war be called a draw. It is essential that public opinion in this country shall understand that when the enemy makes that appeal the thing is no longer a deadlock, because he knows, and hopes we shall not know, he is in danger of shortening his line, and that is the moment for public opinion here to answer him "No." When he asks for an inconclusive peace, at that moment we are in sight of a conclusive peace.'

Christchurch North

April 12.

The Rev. Father Moloney, S.M. (Wanganui), after a short visit to St. Mary's, left for Temuka.

At a meeting of the parish committee, held yesterday afternoon, the report disclosed a gratifying result of the penny collections, and it was decided to extend the system to the outlying churches at Hornby, Paparua, and New Brighton.

Mr. John Francis Knott, second son of the late Mr. Wm. Knott, of Mosgiel, passed away at the residence of his brother-in-law (Mr. F. Walls), Fitzgerald street, St. Albans, on Sunday, April 11, fortified by the rites of Holy Church.—R.I.P.

On Tuesday morning, April 6, the death occurred of an old and respected parishioner of St. Mary's, in the person of Mr. W. F. Roche. The deceased, who was in delicate health for some time, was very widely known, and much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Roche and family in their bereavement.—R.I.P.

The euehre party in aid of the funds of St. Mary's Altar Society, held in the Art Gallery on Thursday evening, proved a most enjoyable entertainment. The card playing took place in the exhibition room, which gave those present an opportunity of admiring the beautiful works of art for which the gallery is famed. The prize-winners were Miss Donnelly and Mr. F. Ward. Immediately after the euehre a short programme of music was gone through. A dainty supper was served by the ladies of the Altar Society, after which the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., who was present with the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M., thanked those responsible for the very enjoyable evening's amusement, which they had provided. Miss E. Harrington made a most efficient secretary.

The official opening of the Catholic Girls' Club took place on Saturday afternoon. The event was looked forward to for some time with considerable interest, and the popularity of the movement was evidenced by the large gathering which assembled to celebrate the occasion. Mr. W. Hayward, jun. (president of the Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation), in extending a hearty welcome to those present, gave an outline of the aims and objects of the club. In thanking the ladies who had worked so hard to make the club an actual fact, he showed the necessity of such an institution in our city, and predicted a great future for it. Mrs. G. Harper (president of the club), in the course of her remarks, spoke of the spontaneous support and encouragement received by her committee in the undertaking. Lady Clifford then declared the club open. Afternoon tea was served in the spacious club room, after which an inspection of the building and furnishings was made. Mr. T. B. Riordan's orchestra was present, and added considerably to the enjoyment of the afternoon by the rendering of popular selections.

There is more money saved in buying good Brushware than in any other thing about the house. You find only good Brushware at Smith and Laing's, Invercargill....