

ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Monday evening, May 3, the pupils of St. Dominic's College tendered a concert to his Lordship the Bishop in connection with the anniversary of his consecration. The programme presented was an excellent one, the items being varied and interesting, and the whole was carried through with the smoothness and ease which necessarily follow careful training and thoughtful study. The opening chorus, 'Blindman's buff' (Liza Lehmann) went very well, and the parts were well sustained. The college orchestra contributed a pizzicato selection, 'Mignonette' (Godard). The rendering of this delightful fragment was exceptionally good, the only fault—if such one may name it—being that it was much too short. Two bracketed piano numbers by Miss E. Millow, 'Romance' (Rubinstein) and 'Sur le lac' (Moore), demonstrated the artistic taste and executive ability of this young lady. Miss Brown was heard to great advantage in 'Nobil Signor' (Meyerbeer). The violin solo, 'Mazurka' (Wieniawski), by Miss Annetts, was characterised by brilliant attack and good technique, while the dainty passages were by no means overlooked. Five scenes from 'St. Catherine of Alexandria' (M. Francis Raphael, O.S.D.) proved that elocutionary training has not been neglected. The scenes presented gave many opportunities for the exhibition of dramatic talent, and these golden opportunities were seized by those taking part. It would be difficult to find a more suitable play, or a better performance than the one in question. The characters were suitably and artistically dressed in the fashion in vogue in those far-off days, the parts were well spoken, every syllable being distinguishable, and the incidental music by invisible singers captured everyone's attention and added materially to the beauty of a charming performance.

The second part of the programme opened with an instrumental trio, 'Ave Maris Stella' (Grieg), by Misses D. Annetts, Z. Venning, and D. Kelly. This was a musical treat, and the parts blended beautifully, due regard being paid to the piano passages. Miss H. Collins gave a splendid rendering of the piano solo, 'Allegro burlesco' (Kuhlan). Perhaps the gem of the evening was Miss Carter's singing of 'Alla Stella Confidente' (Robaudi), with cello obligato by Miss Venning. Miss Carter possesses a rich contralto voice, beautifully trained, and artistic temperament. Her singing was delightful. The pupils contributed a second part song, 'The Angelus' (Chaminade). The programme concluded with a most amusing French comedieta, entitled 'The wolf,' given by the junior pupils. The delightful simplicity of the children, and their keen appreciation of the humor of the play enabled them to enter into the spirit of it, and keep the audience convulsed with laughter.

His Lordship addressed the assembly, thanking the pupils for their delightful entertainment. May 3, nineteen years ago, he said, he was consecrated Bishop of Dunedin. On that occasion the then pupils of St. Dominic's had given him an entertainment which, at the time, he thought quite one of the best concerts he had heard, but the standard of efficiency had by no means lessened. That night's concert had been quite as enjoyable. May 3 was a memorable date to him, as on that date fifteen years previously Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, had been opened. The beginning was small and unpretentious, but that, too, had progressed marvellously.

Supper was served after the entertainment. All enjoyed the delightful evening.

Wrey's Bush

(From an occasional correspondent.)

May 7.

A very successful entertainment was held at Wrey's Bush on Friday evening, April 30, in aid of the Convent school. The public hall was filled by a large and appreciative audience. The programme consisted of a lecture by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, of Invercargill,

and recitations and musical items by friends of the school.

The Very Rev. Dean dealt with the history of Europe during the past 50 years, the origin of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente, the resources and aims of the six great Powers—Russia, Germany, Italy, Austria, France, and Britain,—and the trend of world politics that led to the present conflict between the members of the Alliance and those of the Entente. Germany's aims in the war were described as four fold. In the first place, the combination of all the German peoples in Europe, and of the Slavs and Hungarian Magyars in the Austrian Empire. In the second place, Germany's objective is the command of the sea by means of the German fleet, the extension and efficient protection of German commerce, to end in the taking over by force of the French and British colonies. In the third place the exploitation of Asia Minor—a work already well in hand,—either by an understanding with Turkey, or by crushing her, and again, the annexation of Holland, Belgium, and Denmark as opening a way to the Atlantic and the west. Finally, world domination or the imposition of German 'kultur' on all the surrounding nations. The Allies are fighting to stop the advance of this Juggernaut in its attack on our existing civilisation. They are fighting against the German creed of 'Might is right,' the trampling on small nations and minorities. They are fighting that justice and right should rule, that small nations and minorities should have fair play. They are fighting to save the world from militarism, from the domination of soldiers and professional man-slayers, and from a state of things by which three or four vain and ambitious individuals can send thousands, even millions, of men to death, and their families to poverty and destruction. We should feel proud, said the Very Rev. Dean, that our fellow-countrymen and the men of our race are taking so prominent a place in this great contest. They have special motives for doing so at the present time, when their motherland has become a nation once again. They fight, because Irish leaders from O'Connell to Redmond guaranteed that if England gave Ireland Home Government, Ireland would give England faithful co-operation and all assistance in the hour of need. They are fighting to take their place in perfect equality with the other constituent parts of our great Empire, which they have helped to build up. They fight to repay Belgium and France for that sympathy, vast help, and protection these countries gave Ireland's sons in the dark days, when the penal code drove Irishmen to their kindly shores. They fight to assert the rights of minorities, the claims of justice, religion, and nationality; in other words, they continue the contest they have carried on against superior force for 700 years. In his recent speech, delivered in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, John Redmond quoted statistics showing that at least a quarter of a million men of the Irish race were now with the colors, and were distinguishing themselves both as officers and soldiers. The names of French, Beatty, Carden, Creagh, in the higher; of O'Leary, Kenny, and Hogan in the lower ranks of the Army, are evidence 'that Ireland is doing her duty.'

The lecture was listened to with rapt attention by the large audience, the speaker being frequently greeted with outbursts of applause.

The second portion of the programme consisted of musical items by Misses McLeod, Burke, Patterson, and Messrs. Cusack and Clappe: recitations by Miss Prendeville, and step dances by Miss I. Richards. The various performers were very successful in their contributions, encores being the order of the evening.

At the conclusion of the programme, the Very Rev. Father Lynch, who presided, in a few appropriate remarks thanked all who had assisted in making the entertainment such a success; he specially thanked the Very Rev. Dean Burke for his able and instructive lecture, the performers for supplying a capital programme, and the accompanists, Misses Patterson and Forde, and Mr. W. Egan, for kindly assistance. As a result of the entertainment the school funds will benefit to the extent of about £40.