

ception of immigrant girls was brought home to the lady workers in that connection. As time went on this need became intensified, and it was decided to initiate a club, even on a limited scale, primarily as a convenient place for girls to meet in their spare time, and attend to many little personal matters in the performance of which facilities were not always available at the place of their occupation. A room was consequently rented as a beginning, but this speedily proved inadequate, so quickly did the new organisation develop and grow. On looking around for more extensive accommodation, the ladies interested secured at a moderate rental for a term a large dwelling, which, for the time being, appeared to offer all that could be desired for the purposes of the club and hostel. One of their number, to whose keen enthusiasm and benevolence the committee are deeply indebted, promptly guaranteed all the financial assistance necessary. Operations on an extensive scale were at once entered upon, and the institution has progressed in a way that has surpassed the expectations of even its most sanguine promoter. Situated on an elevated frontage, facing Cranmer square, in the most favored residential portion of the inner city area, the hostel enjoys a pleasant outlook from any of its fourteen rooms. With a zeal and sacrifice worthy of their strong faith in the necessity and usefulness of the undertaking, the Misses Johnson (who occupy the positions of matron and manageress) placed all the furniture of their former home in the new institution, thus largely contributing to what was an auspicious beginning. On March 19 (Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph), the hostel was ready to receive those for whom it is intended, and was shortly afterwards formally opened. The board of management, so far as the ladies are concerned, consists of Mrs. G. Harper (president), Mrs. Palmer (vice-president), Mrs. S. Barrett, Misses Hayward and Harrington—all well representative of the Catholic ladies of the city. Since the opening there has been an average of seven regular boarders. Ten visitors to the city have made the hostel their temporary home, and a number of other Catholic girls, coming or going, to or from positions, have taken advantage of its hospitality.

It must be thus conceded that the hostel has established its usefulness. Visitors have been received from Hawke's Bay, Dunedin, Invercargill, Wellington, Timaru, etc. The clubroom of the hostel is a spacious apartment, and here weekly entertainments are given, to which all are privileged to invite Catholic friends. These social gatherings have proved eminently successful and enjoyable. Well-thought-out rules and regulations have been framed for the discipline of the hostel, which, whilst not unduly exacting, are rigidly enforced. In a pleasant interview with the matron I, like all others

who visit the institution must be, was greatly impressed with its possibilities, and its timely establishment is an achievement every Catholic in the diocese should applaud. That the hostel and club may continue and prosper, all, without exception, will desire, marking, as it does, yet another important step in advance. Help, however, will be needed, and as the Catholic Federation originated the project of which the hostel is the practical outcome, aid should be forthcoming to extend its usefulness. Surplus country produce, coal, etc., are always acceptable commodities, and such donations would go a long way towards minimising current expenditure, and assist greatly in the initial stages of the enterprise. Ladies or young girls contemplating a visit to Christchurch could not do better than get into communication with the matron, and the present writer can fully vouch for the satisfaction they will receive.

Temuka

(From our own correspondent.)

The ordinary meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Monday last, Bro. J. Scott (president) presiding. Three new members were initiated, and five candidates were proposed.

Several ladies of the parish have been actively engaged for some time past in working for the Red Cross Society. On Sunday an appeal was made for larger attendances, and it is to be hoped that on Wednesday next this worthy object will receive more assistance than in the past.

A progressive euchre party, organised by some of the Catholic young ladies of the parish in aid of the Red Cross fund, was held in the clubrooms on Monday last. The prizes were won by Misses Connell and McShane and Messrs. C. Horgan and Brosnahan. The affair was very successful, and the sum of £10 was netted.

On Friday Mr. R. P. Connell, M.A., who has resigned his position as senior assistant in the secondary department of the Temuka District High School to accept an important position with the North Canterbury Education Board, was presented by his pupils with a leather wallet. He also received a presentation from the teaching staff, who gave him a case of brushes. Addresses were delivered by Mr. McLeod, B.A., and others, and all spoke very highly of Mr. Connell's capabilities as a teacher and his fine personal qualities. Mr. Connell suitably responded.

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