

St. Benedict's Hall, when an executive committee was elected for the ensuing year.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place at the Cathedral on Sunday from the 11 o'clock Mass until after Vespers, when there was the usual procession, followed by Benediction. Rev. Father Dunphy preached an eloquent sermon.

An official visit by Messrs. Plummer and Warren, inspectors of the Auckland Education Board, was made to the school of the Sisters of Mercy, Vermont street, during last week. A similar visit was paid to the school of the Marist Brothers, Vermont street, during the past week.

Mother Ignatius, of the Sisters of Mercy, celebrated her feast day on Saturday last. The good Mother is now well on the way to her diamond jubilee as a member of her illustrious Order. There are many citizens of Auckland of both sexes who remember her teaching and advice with gratitude, and who wish her many happy returns of the day.

Many of our Catholic youths continue to enlist for the front. Several, indeed, who had been to the Dardanelles and are back again with us, bear unmistakable evidence of the bitter struggle. Included in the last batch of recruits is Mr. James Collins Gleeson, ex-Auckland City Councillor, son of Mr. Patrick Gleeson, well known throughout the Dominion.

Rev. Fathers Kelly (St. Benedict's) and Brennan (Te Kuiti) addressed the last two meetings respectively of the Holy Family Confraternity. Father Kelly deeply interested his hearers with a stirring address on practical fidelity to and love for our holy faith. He impressed upon all the great good to be accomplished by laymen, who often obtained a hearing where the priest could not, therefore it behooved them to study the principles and doctrines of the Church, with what capacity and ability they possessed, in order to combat the numerous false accusations made against it. Father Brennan, in his discourse, chose the ancient glories and renown of Ireland's cherished faith. In a brief and lucid manner he depicted the reception of the faith from St. Patrick by the Irish, which spread rapidly throughout the island, and eventually to Europe, where Irish saints and scholars carried light and learning. It was one of the most glorious chapters in Ireland's history. The battle grounds in Europe, of which we read to-day, were the scenes of the early triumphs of Ireland's missionaries, to whom European nations owe so much. Records of those missionaries are in evidence in various countries to-day, and no Irishman, who views them, could do so without pride and emotion. You should always remember with pride (he said), the great race and country from which the majority of you have sprung. Truly, it is a land of saints and scholars.

Huntly

(By telegraph, by our own correspondent.)

August 2.

Much sympathy is felt for the popular proprietor of the Waipa Hotel (Mr. Smith), whose wife died suddenly and unexpectedly last Monday, while attending to her household duties. — R.I.P.

A sodality of the Children of Mary was established in Ngaruawahia on Sunday last, when the following officers were elected:—President, Miss M. Cavanagh; secretary, Miss R. Cavanagh; treasurer, Miss F. Prendergast. Fifteen members have joined the sodality.

At the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday the prayers of the congregation were requested for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Blanchfield, who died at Westport last week. The deceased was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boyle, of this parish, to whom is extended the sincerest sympathy.

The arrangements for the opening of the mission at the Ngaruawahia Church on Sunday, August 8, have been completed. The mission will be conducted by the Rev. Father McCarthy, S.M., who is well known

in this part of the Dominion as being an eloquent preacher and a very successful missionary.

The statement of the financial position of the Ngaruawahia parish was made at the 9 o'clock Mass last Sunday by the Rev. Father O'Doherty, who thanked the congregation in general and the church committee in particular for the great effort they had made during the past half year to clear off the debt on the church. The balance sheet showed that on December 31 the debt amounted to £925, and to-day it has been reduced by £305, and now stands at £620. This result reflects great credit on the Ngaruawahia people.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

DUNEDIN DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation was held on Wednesday evening at the Bishop's Palace, Dunedin. The Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. (president), presided, and the other members of the executive present were—Messrs. J. Kelleher (vice-president), T. J. Hussey (treasurer), and J. Hally (secretary). The following delegates attended: South Dunedin, Rev. Father Delany and Mr. J. J. Marlow; Milton, Rev. Father Howard.

After some introductory remarks, Very Rev. Father Coffey called upon the secretary to read the annual report of the executive, which was as follows:—

Your executive committee have much pleasure in again meeting branch representatives, and regret that circumstances will not permit the presence of direct delegates from every parish. With a view of bringing about a more desirable state of affairs the executive have a proposal to put before you which will to some extent, we hope, get over the present difficulty.

Membership. Your committee regret that the figures submitted to you do not show an increase in the roll of membership. The only test that can be applied is to reckon only those who have paid their subscriptions, and by this it will be found that we have 3140 members. Your committee think that this total is satisfactory, considering the number who assist in the enrolment, but they are firmly convinced that if the number of workers were doubled the membership would be doubled or perhaps trebled.

Finances. The total receipts for the year, including a balance brought forward, were £195 2s 7d, whilst the expenditure amounted to £136 17s 1d, leaving a credit balance of £58 5s 6d. For the building fund of the hall for Catholic soldiers at Trentham the sum of £29 had been received, the amount being made up as follows:—Cromwell, £3; Riversdale and Dunedin, £2 each; Gore, Ophir, Mosgiel, Winton, Invercargill, South Dunedin, Milton, Queenstown, Lawrence, Wrey's Bush, Ranturly, and Riverton, £1 each.

By the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch, a breach has been made in the ranks of our hierarchy. This diocese was greatly indebted to the late Bishop Grimes for numerous acts of kindness, and your committee, whilst sympathising with his people, sincerely deplore the loss which the diocese of Christchurch, and the Catholic Church generally, have sustained. Your executive feel that they can speak for the whole of the Catholic people of Otago and Southland regarding the illness of the beloved Bishop of Auckland. The Catholics of this diocese, in common with their co-religionists throughout this Dominion, are his debtors for an enormous amount of work done on their behalf, and they fervently hope and pray for his speedy restoration to health, and early return to New Zealand.

As no remits have been sent forward for discussion, your committee are at a loss whether to attribute this to a want of interest on the part of the branches, or as an evidence that the parish committees feel that the interests of the Federation are safe in the hands of the executive. Your executive have the following motion to bring before you—'That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable that future annual meetings be