

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, NAPIER

The following is the annual report of the St. Patrick's branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Napier:—The conference have pleasure in submitting their third annual report and balance sheet, but before going into detail we desire to make slight reference to the cruel war in which Britain became embroiled on August 4, 1914, and in this connection we merely wish to solicit the prayers of all for a speedy termination and a lasting peace. The men's branch shows an increase from thirty to thirty-five members, of whom four are honorary. The membership of the ladies' guild numbers twelve, so that those desiring to assist either branches of this noble self-sacrificing society should not fail to do so at once. The two branches are quite separate. The men meet weekly on Sundays, at St. Patrick's, Napier, and at St. Mary's, Port Ahuriri, alternately. The ladies meet weekly, on Fridays, in St. Patrick's Hall. The men's branch, amongst other duties, pay weekly visits to the hospital, and occasional visits to the old people's home, besides seeing to the dissemination of wholesome literature. The ladies visit the poor in their homes and have regular weekly sewing bees, making garments for those in need, irrespective of creed. In particular, the ladies have shown out prominently during the war, as the calls on their time, making garments for members of Expeditionary Forces, have been enormous. The men's branch, in two popular shilling euchre parties, run during the year under review, realised no less a sum than £21 19s, all of which was handed over to the town clerk for the noble Belgians, the heroes of the great war. It is hoped to have more euchre parties during the 1915 season, in fact, steps are being taken to that end. The distribution of Catholic literature is one of the chief objects of the society, boxes of pamphlets being placed at the doors of churches for the purpose. Relief has also been given to a number of deserving cases which have been brought under the notice of the society. It is the intention of the society to promote by every means in its power the welfare of Catholic primary education. The boys' guild was commenced during the year with a membership of 23, the object being to get the lads at school to take an interest in the society. The members make a monthly Communion one of their obligations, and the first Sunday of each month is devoted to this purpose. We wish to mention that no one connected with this society gets any remuneration whatever, and also that there are no fees or charges made to those joining its membership. Everything is quite voluntary, and all money or kind, such as clothing, food, etc., is—under the most careful supervision—given to the deserving poor, for, as St. Paul says, 'The poor we have always with us.'

The receipts for the year ended February 28, 1915, were, including £29 18s 6d brought forward, £73 19s 6d, the principal items being: charity sermon collection, £18 15s; half proceeds of collection in church on behalf of relief fund, £12; collection at meetings, £9 15s 11d. The expenditure during the same period was £47 9s 2d, leaving a credit balance of £26 8s 4d. The principal item of expenditure was a sum of £12 17s 6d spent on groceries, clothing, etc., for the needy.

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CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—As several inquiries have been directed to me by outside branches as to the feeling of the local branch in connection with the proposal of the District Executive to postpone the triennial meeting, which is to take place at Westport next year, I wish to make it perfectly clear to all concerned, that the members of St. Canice's branch are unanimously of the opinion that the society's business should proceed as usual, and that the meeting take place in accordance with the wishes of the Napier conference. At the proper time and place the views of my branch will be fully represented, suffice it to say for the present, that I sincerely trust branches will give their delegates definite instruction on this matter, and not allow false ideas to hamper the progress of the society.—I am, etc.,

F. M. O'GORMAN.

Westport, July 26.

ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CLUB, AUCKLAND

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Monday evening, July 26, the junior debating branch of St. Benedict's Club, held their first public debate. The subject was—'Should capital punishment be abolished?' Messrs. A. W. Temm, H. Heighton, and J. Connell took the affirmative side, and Messrs. E. Slade, T. Treacy, and P. Lillis the negative. After a very good debate the negative side won by the narrow margin of two points. Mr. A. J. Fernandez acted as judge, and in delivering judgment complimented the young speakers on their good showing, and gave them each in turn some useful advice. The president of the club (Mr. L. O'Malley) also complimented the debaters on their fine handling of the subject, and thanked those present, especially the ladies, for their attendance, which would prove to the members of the club the interest taken in their affairs by the parishioners generally. Mr. Temm, on behalf of the losing side, congratulated the winners on their victory, and moved a hearty vote of thanks to the judge and chairman, which was carried by acclamation.

At the last meeting of the club a letter was received from the executive of the Federated Catholic Clubs, advising that the *Catholic Magazine* would be issued next month. Mr. F. G. J. Temm was elected club correspondent to the *Magazine*, the *N.Z. Tablet*, and the press generally. The official opening of the club's new gymnasium will take place shortly, and arrangements are being made to obtain the services of a competent instructor. The vacancy in the office of secretary, caused by the resignation of Mr. Leo Hodgson, who has enlisted for the front, has been filled by the election of Mr. J. Foy.

Be kind to your mother, for when you were small,
She kissed and caressed you, if you had a fall.
She nursed you in sickness, and laughed at your joy,
For she was your mother and you her dear boy.
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