

stricken by the scourge, was to be isolated, after a physician and priest had been assigned to duty within its walls.

Fires, built in public places, were used in some countries at an early date to combat epidemics. Aromatic herbs were burned in small fires in the houses; deodorants, including specially prepared fumigating candles or pastilles were used, and vinegar was utilised as a steriliser. Its value is still appreciated, though it cannot compare with our modern disinfectants. In the episcopal city of Mayence, during the epidemic of 1667-1668, the bed-straw used in houses visited by the plague was ordered to be burned. A quarantine of six weeks was prescribed and enforced on all inmates of dwellings thus afflicted, and the quarantine was not lifted for six weeks and not before the house had been fumigated. The preparation to be used for this purpose had to be purchased from the public apothecaries.

In the latter city public burials and marriages were forbidden during the epidemic, and even religious processions were placed under the ban. Thus a procession planned by the pastor of the cathedral of the city and the usual Pentecostal procession were prohibited. An exception seems to have been made in regard to two meetings only, one being the occasion of a solemn vow of the citizens, and the other the laying of the corner-stone of the chapel of St. Sebastian.

From all of this it may readily be seen that certain effective measures of precaution and cure during epidemics were well known and practised by people in Catholic cities and countries at an early age. To pretend that the knowledge of these means is altogether modern, or that formerly people submitted passively with a sort of religious fatalism to such visitations is unjust and unscientific.

Nelson

(From our own correspondent.)

A considerable improvement to the interior of St. Mary's Church has lately been effected by replacing all the lower windows with stained glass. The new windows were designed and executed by Messrs. Hardman and Co., Birmingham, England. Character and expression are given to the figures in a most realistic manner, and the color tones are very rich and varied. The donors of the windows are Messrs. L. J. Frank, J. Hodgins, J. Larmer, M. D. Flaherty, C. McDonald, W. Fitzpatrick, W. O'Connor, Mrs. J. Shain, and Miss M. Hodgins. Two are memorials to Fathers Garin and Mahoney.

A new lighting plant has been installed in the Sacred Heart Church, Takaka.

Presentations were recently made to two zealous parish workers—Miss Monica Fowler, accompanist at the winter parish socials, by which the equipment of the parish schools was greatly improved, and Miss F. McGrath, assistant secretary to the orphanage committee. Their willing and valuable help has been much appreciated.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

February 28.

The annual national concert commemorating St. Patrick's Day will be held in the local Opera House, on Monday evening, March 17. A programme of exceptional merit is being prepared, and some of the leading artists in the Dominion, including Mrs. Mangos, Mrs. Rule, and Miss Agnes Cunningham, of Timaru; Mr. Ernest Drake (Auckland), Mr. Watters (Oamaru), and Miss Paula Scherek (Dunedin) are to contribute thereto. St. Patrick's concert is the recognised musical treat of the year and so excellent a programme should attract a record house. The proceeds are for the benefit of the parish schools.

PETONE CATHOLIC BAZAAR

A bazaar organised by members of the Petone Catholic Church for the purpose of supplementing the fund for the erection of a memorial church to Chaplain-Father McMenamin, who was killed in action, was opened on Monday evening, February 24, by the Hon. the Minister of Defence, Sir James Allen. Opportunity was also taken by the Minister of Defence to present the Military Medal won by the late Gunner E. A. Parr to his mother.

Father Quealy explained the objects of the bazaar, and paid a tribute to the memory of the late Gunner A. Parr and Chaplain McMenamin.

Sir James Allen said he had a double function to perform—first of all he had to present the Military Medal to the mother of Gunner Parr, who lost his life at the front, and his next was to open the bazaar, which was being held for the purpose of raising funds to carry out the work Chaplain McMenamin had at heart. First of all he would deal with Gunner Parr. Gunner Parr had been killed in action on October 30, 1917, and he regretted very much that Gunner Parr had not been able to come back alive and well in order that he might himself receive the medal. He was sure they all felt very deep sympathy for his parents and relatives, particularly his mother, who had bravely come there to receive the medal. Gunner Parr, killed in action, was awarded the medal for conspicuous bravery, and no words of his could convey to the mother what he would like to tell her and what the people would like him to tell her, but he could assure her they all honored this brave man and sympathised with her and his other relatives in the loss of one who was of necessity dear to them. He hoped this medal would bring comfort to her and be a lasting memorial of what this man did. Sir James Allen then handed to Mrs. Parr the medal won by her son, Gunner E. A. Parr.

The Minister then went on to perform the opening ceremony in connection with the bazaar. He said they were met there to do honor to another brave man, Chaplain McMenamin, killed in action, and he hoped they would realise the full meaning of the words. Chaplains were not sent away from New Zealand with rifles and bayonets to fight with; they had to fight another battle—to fight against temptation and evil. Chaplain McMenamin was one of our bravest chaplains, and he (Sir James Allen) was sorry he was not spared to come back and resume his duty, and he deeply regretted his loss. General Godley had written to him more than once about Chaplain McMenamin, and asked that he might have accelerated promotion. That acceleration had been granted. Chaplain McMenamin had been one of the first chaplains to leave New Zealand. Chaplain McMenamin's work was well known to the Defence authorities, and had he been spared to come back his services would have been of great value with the Territorials. He felt great pleasure in being present to do honor to two brave men—one a fighting soldier and the other a fighting chaplain, brothers in arms, brothers in adversity, and now brothers beyond the vale. He had much pleasure in declaring the bazaar open, and hoped they would be able to raise sufficient funds to carry out Father McMenamin's cherished plans.

The Hon. T. M. Wilford also expressed his pleasure at being able to help in the bazaar and to pay tribute to Gunner Parr, who had "gone West." Speaking in regard to the late Chaplain McMenamin, Mr. Wilford said that if out of this war one great war memorial was erected, and an epitaph written for those who laid down their lives in this great cause, the epitaph he would write would be in these words: "For your tomorrow they gave their to-day." For the National Government, he would say that New Zealand had got to stand by and see that every one of the returning men was given a good start. In conclusion, he hoped they would all give willingly and help to carry out Father McMenamin's cherished plan.

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