

a national system of education in a true sense of the term, and to preserve what we call a national system, then we must treat all our fellow-subjects alike. . . . I am as strong as anyone for a national system, but I understand a national system to be a diverse system. I say it is not necessary that all should be taught under exactly the same system. What the State, I think, should demand, is that every child should possess a certain amount of knowledge. What more it possesses is a matter of indifference to the State; we should leave that to the parents. It is needless to state that Sir Harry walked into the Ayes lobby in support of Mr. Pyke's measure.—I am, etc.,

JUSTITIA.

SECULAR EDUCATION.

Sir,—I read in the *Evening Post* of 22nd inst. a letter from 'Observer' on the Catholic School question. He says: 'It is contrary to fact that Catholics have a conscientious objection to the secular education,' and 'that denominational education has been forced upon them by their clergy,' that 'he has heard Catholics quietly express themselves as quite satisfied with the State school,' that 'others were opposed to the additional expense following upon the establishment of a Catholic school,' and so on. I do not pretend to deny that there are such Catholics, but my experience as a Catholic, living up to the teachings of the Church, is that no conscientious Catholic would for one moment advance such views. They are like many who are not of the faith, they want the State to find everything for them. If denominational education cost them nothing there are very few indeed of that class of Catholics who would not avail themselves of sending their children to Catholic schools. Many of the same class, too, would give their attendance at the churches if there were no collection. I would like 'Observer' to take in view my experience as a conscientious Catholic. I am nearly seventy years of age, I am the father of a fairly large family (nine children), whose ages range up to thirty-three years of age. I well remember Mr. Forster's Bill being passed in 1870, and that that Bill was intended at the time for the education of the poor who could not afford to pay, and not for the rich, who could and ought to pay for the education of their own children. As time advanced the better classes began to get their children educated at the expense of those Anglicans, Catholics, and Jews, who continued to educate their own children because they had consciences. Seeing that the secular teaching in the State schools was not sufficient to give my children that modest and religious training that was nearest my heart, and could only be received in the Catholic school, and would counteract the home training, I have for some forty years been compelled to pay for the education of my own children in Catholic schools, under Catholic teachers, for a good Catholic education, besides paying for the education (by taxation) for all those Turks, Jews, or Atheists, etc., who wished to get a free education. Besides all this, I have (by taxation) had to pay for the building of State schools, as well as to contribute towards building the Catholic schools and assisting to educate the children of poor Catholic parents, who, like myself, had a conscience. Notwithstanding all this, my material prosperity has gone on increasing, and all my children, without exception, are a credit to their country and the schools (Catholic) to which they were sent. No prelate, priest, or Sister referred to in 'Observer's' letter has ever had occasion to tell me my duty in the matter; my conscience was my guide, without which no virtue, great or small, can be practised effectually. I would ask 'Observer' if it is not as necessary to act conscientiously in the guidance of your children and their moral welfare, as it is to prevent you from using the money belonging to other people or any of the other thousand and one vices and temptations that present themselves every day. The conscience is the life of a good Catholic, and 'Observer's' ideas of anything clerical in the matter is an erroneous one. The duty of the priest or Sister in the matter of teaching children is to carry out the Church's teaching, which every Catholic knows he should adhere to, and if he refuses to hear the Church he refuses to hear God, its Founder. As for 'Observer's' quotation from the Catholic catechism, Catholics quite understand the meaning of every part of their catechism in a way that neither he nor anyone outside the Church could be expected to interpret for them. It would take too long, Mr. Editor, to refer to all the passages in 'Observer's' letter, and with merely referring to these few, and thanking you for space, I am, etc.,

LAY CATHOLIC.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

March 11.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary of the Angels' last Sunday.

The Brooklyn church is now nearing completion. It occupies a very prominent position, and can be seen from all parts of the city.

Everything is complete for the worthy celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The only thing necessary for success is fine weather.

Last Sunday the Catholics of Shannon presented Father Kelly with a horse and trap. Mr. M. Moynihan made the presentation. The horse was donated by Mr. Smith, of Moutoa.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M., who has been on a visit to Tasmania, will proceed to Perth, West Australia, in order to take part in the consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. Clune, C.S.S.R.

Mr. John S. Swan, architect, has accepted the tender of Messrs. Campbell and Burke, £17,894, for the erection of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Wanganui. The contract has been signed, and the work will be started at once, and should be finished within twelve months from this date.

The members of the confraternity of the Holy Family, attached to St. Gerard's Church of the Redemptorist Fathers, have been photographed for the purpose of forwarding a copy to the Right Rev. Dr. Clune, the Bishop-Elect of Perth, the founder of the confraternity in Wellington.

There was a large attendance of parishioners at the Guildford Terrace schoolroom last Wednesday for the arrangement of preliminaries in connection with the bazaar which is to be held at the Town Hall at Easter. A large number of ladies have promised their assistance.

Mr. T. Buckley, Chief Electrician of the Post and Telegraph Department, and a parishioner of Te Aro, leaves Auckland by the Matai to-day for America and England to inquire into the latest systems of telephony and telegraphy in those countries.

The Catholic Club are organising a concert for March 29, the proceeds of which will be devoted towards the expenses of the delegates attending the Easter Conference of Catholic Clubs at Christchurch. The dramatic branch is busily engaged preparing a piece as an item on the programme.

The Rev. Father W. D. Goggan, S.M., at present in charge of the Novitiate at Island Bay, has been appointed parish priest at Nelson. The Novitiate is to be closed, much to the regret of the Catholic residents of Island Bay. A meeting of the parishioners was held at Mr. Krohn's residence with a view of obtaining a pastor for the district, but it was found that the Catholic residents are not sufficiently numerous to support one.

Shooting in the competition for the company belt, and for trophies presented by Hallenstein Bros., was continued by the St. Anne's Defence Cadets on last Saturday, the conditions being seven shots at 200yds and 500yds. Scores were:—Pvt. Mason, 53; Sergt. J. Carroll, 52; Sergt. L. Turner, 49; Corp. Jansen, 44; Pvt. James Davis, 44; Bugler Christensen, 46; Col-Sergt. Gould, 41; Pvt. Haydn, 37; Sergt. J. Heavey, 35; Pvt. D. McCarthy, 26; Pvt. Beagley, 23.

The quarterly meeting of the Particular Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was held in St. Anne's Hall, Wellington South, on last Sunday, there being a fair attendance of members. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Martin Kennedy, K.S.G., and the clergy present were the Vicar-General (Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M.), Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., Rev. Fathers Herring and Venning. Reports from the city Conferences were read and disclosed satisfactory progress.

The ladies branch of the H.A.C.B. Society met last Wednesday evening, there being a large attendance of members, over which Sister K. Robinson presided. Four new members were initiated. A social committee was formed with the object of arranging musical evenings, etc., for the inmates of our charitable institutions. The first institution to be visited will be the Ohio Home. The committee will also make the necessary arrangements for the fifteenth anniversary social of the branch, which will be held about next July. It was also decided to form a literary and debating department, the president announcing that Bro. S. J. Moran, LL.B., had kindly consented to place his services at their disposal for the purpose of encouraging the ladies in this work.

Masterton

(From our own correspondent.)

Miss Annie O'Leary, of Masterton, won the 50yds championship at the Wellington Ladies' Swimming Club carnival, and also won her heat in the 100yds handicap, her time for the distance being a New Zealand record for ladies.

The results of the musical examinations held in Masterton in December are to hand. All the pupils presented by St. Bride's Convent were successful, a fact which certainly reflects very great credit alike on the Sisters and pupils. The results are as follow:—Examination for Diploma of Teacher, T.C.L., Paper on Art of Teaching.—Miss Edwards, 82 (honors); Miss Hanify, 66. Paper on Musical Rudiments.—Miss Hanify, 84 (honors); Miss Edwards, 80 (honors). According to the College Calendar Miss Ed-