

at 6 o'clock this (Monday) morning. This is the Rev. Father Creagh's first visit to Christchurch. With him is the Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., who assisted in the Mission given here last year, and they are to be joined this week by the Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R.

The centrally situated, and altogether up-to-date club rooms of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association in St. Asaph street, were formally opened on last Monday evening, in the presence of about seventy members. The Rev. Brother Calixtus, in an inaugural address, congratulated the members of the association on their possession of such spacious, convenient, and well-furnished rooms, and warmly complimented the executive committee on the realisation of their efforts to have everything ready and in good order for the opening of the season. There were evidently very great possibilities in regard to the club, and he wished it a continuance of the remarkable success already achieved in all its undertakings. Messrs. W. Rodgers and L. C. Corbett (vice-presidents) handling the cues, sent the balls across the billiard table for the first match, whilst the rest of the gathering engaged in games at the various tables for the remainder of the evening. The rooms are well lighted with electricity. A fine billiard table occupies the centre of the main assembly room, around which are ranged comfortable backed and cushioned seats. There are also six nicely finished card tables which, together with the seating, were all made by members of the executive committee. In addition, there are twenty-four new and serviceable chairs. Around the room are hung large framed photographic groups of the three last season football teams of the association. Occupying a conspicuous position is shown the handsome club banner. This is of green silk with deep gold fringe. In the centre is emblazoned the harp of Erin, interwoven with shamrocks, above and below, which are worked in letters of gold 'M.B.O.B.A.', Christchurch. It is a beautiful and artistic production, and is the work of the Sisters of the Missions. A committee room, with a large table, also made by the members, a bathroom, with shower bath, etc., and other conveniences, are also provided. The floors are covered with linoleum, whilst interior decorations are still in progress. On the whole, the association is accommodated in a manner surpassed by few, if any others, in the city, and judging by the way the members attend each evening, the rooms have become already a popular resort.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

On Thursday last about 500 children and adults left Timaru, some by special train and others by vehicles, for the annual St. Patrick's Day picnic. St. Andrew's was the scene of the gathering, and, with suitable weather and an ample supply of edibles, and prizes for the children's sports, a most enjoyable time was spent. Rev. Fathers Tubman, Smyth, and Murphy accompanied the party, and took control of the programme.

On Friday, St. Patrick's Day, the Masses were largely attended, and in town the green was everywhere in evidence. In the evening a grand National concert in the Theatre Royal fittingly concluded the celebrations. The house was crowded, and the really excellent programme, arranged by the Rev. Father Smyth, was one of the most artistic ever heard on these occasions. Mrs. Meade, one of the leading Christchurch vocalists, received an ovation on each appearance, her singing of the 'Jewel song,' from 'Faust,' being magnificent. Miss Dale, an Oamaru singer, also received an excellent reception. The other artists contributing were—Messrs. W. Jordan, W. McBride, Moore, and Andrews. The school girls gave a neatly executed scarf drill, and the boys added a fine display with the bar-bells. The Garrison Band played some acceptable items. Mrs. Mangos and Miss M. Venning presided at the piano, and greatly helped in the success achieved.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

At the 8.30 o'clock Mass at the Basilica yesterday morning the members of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society approached the Holy Table for their general Communion. There was a very large muster of the society, and they formed an imposing body as they took up their position in the Basilica in full regalia, and led by their officers. Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, V.G., celebrated Mass.

Seldom has such a large and appreciative audience been seen in the Opera House as that which welcomed the re-appearance of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society in Darnley's farcical comedy, 'Facing the Music,' on St. Patrick's Night. The performance from first to last was in every way worthy of the flattering reception accorded to it. To those who have a knowledge of the amount of study and hard work required before a piece of this description can be played in public, it seems almost incredible that the splendid result witnessed on Friday evening was achieved with only six weeks' training. One would naturally conclude from the high merit of the production that at least three months had been spent in preparation. It speaks volumes for the painstaking care with which the society's director drilled his members, and the whole-hearted enthusiasm brought to bear by the director and members

alike in the rehearsals, and finally in the performance itself. Undoubtedly this proved one of the society's best efforts, and won only appreciation and praise from all who witnessed it. There were no weak points in any part of the interpretation, and the performers showed a wonderful grasp of the spirit of the play as intended by the author. Space does not permit of saying more, but in a sentence, the production was a delightful and highly meritorious one. Mr. T. de Spong gave a correct interpretation of the role of Rev. John Smith, and was at all times highly diverting and amusing. Miss N. Falconer as Mabel, the curate's wife, proved the correctness of the surmise formed after the performance of 'Caste,' and she has wonderfully improved since becoming more familiar with the stage. Her impersonation was very pleasing, and she looked the part to perfection. Mr. F. J. Mulvihill made a great hit as John Smith, and his appearance was always a signal for much merriment. His presentation of a long and difficult role it would be difficult to equal. Miss M. O'Grady, as Nora, was charmingly natural, and her acting was very favorably commented on. Mr. H. L. Warsaw gave a capital impersonation of Dick Desmond, and his acting in conjunction with Mr. Mulvihill was the cause of most of the merriment. As Colonel Duncan Smith, Mr. W. McCombie showed a good knowledge of the old man's part, and he both spoke and looked well. Mr. J. A. Birss was again at his best as Sergeant Duffell, and his representation of the cute detective was most amusing. Miss F. Bevan made her debut as Miss Fotheringay, and was quite at home in her part. Though small, her part was not altogether easy for a debutante; and her success is doubly creditable. The last, but by no means least, of a strong cast, was Mrs. Mulvihill, who had the important role of Mrs. Ponting to portray. Her impersonation of the kindly housekeeper of John Smith was distinctly good. Prior to the comedy a short but delightful programme was gone through, the following contributing:—Overture, 'O'Donnell's lakes,' orchestra; monologue, 'The game of life' (encored), Mr. de Spong; piano duet, 'Tarantelle,' Miss M. Woods and Mr. P. Hanley; song, 'Killarney' (encored), Mrs. Lynch; song, 'Off to Philadelphia,' Mr. F. Jones (encored); song, 'Kathleen Mavourneen' (encored), Miss M. Woods, L.R.A.M. The accompaniments were played by Miss Woods and Mr. P. Hanley.

Invercargill

The annual social of the Hibernian Society took place in Victoria Hall on Wednesday evening, there being over 200 persons present, including several representatives from other societies. Bro. Matheson, secretary, had all the arrangements well in hand, and as a result a very enjoyable evening eventuated. A committee of ladies kindly attended to the supper arrangements.

A very successful social gathering, organised by the ladies of the congregation, was held at the Bluff on St. Patrick's night. The proceeds are to be in aid of the Convent school. There is every prospect of a new school being provided before long, and to raise funds for this purpose it is proposed to hold a bazaar during the second week in May. The prospects of the undertaking are very encouraging, and everything points to its success.

The Irish Athletic Society are singularly unfortunate as far as weather is concerned, and this year was no exception to the rule. Notwithstanding the fact that Wednesday, the 15th inst., was an unpleasant and rainy day, over 3000 people turned out to witness the sports meeting. The gate money amounted to close on £150, and from other sources (nominations, members' tickets, etc.) another £150 is expected, so that the balance-sheet will probably show a credit balance. The meeting was conducted in a manner characteristic of the society, which has earned quite a reputation in this respect. The Marist Brothers' team won the schools' relay race, which each year proves one of the most interesting events on the programme. A word of praise is due to all the directors, but particularly to the superintendent of sports (Mr. C. W. Matheson) and to the secretary (Mr. B. E. Murphy) for the excellent manner in which they carried out their arduous duties.

The annual meeting of the Athletic Football Club was held in the Catholic Club Rooms on Friday. Mr. G. W. Woods presided over a large attendance. In the favorable report submitted to the meeting, feeling reference was made to the death of Mr. L. W. J. Morton, who had for many years been an active supporter of the club. After the usual routine business had been disposed of, the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. G. W. Woods; vice-presidents, Mr. H. Grace (active), and Messrs. R. Ryan, M. P. Scully, P. Scully, J. McMahon, C. Matheson, T. Cavanagh, T. McGrath, Jun., Rev. Father Kavanagh, and the Rev. Bro. Arthur; secretary, Mr. E. Prendergast; captain, Mr. J. Ryan; deputy, Mr. R. J. Timpany; committee—Messrs. P. J. Scully, J. Ferry, J. Gilfedder, M. Timpany, W. Tansey, P. Maloney, R. J. Timpany, E. Horan, J. D'Arcy, J. Stapleton, and J. Scully; selection committee—captain, deputy captain, and Mr. P. J. Scully; delegates to S.R.F.U.—Messrs. G. W. Woods, H. Grace and P. J. Scully. Fifteen new members were elected to the club at the meeting, which was a most enthusiastic one. A committee was set up to make arrangements in connection with the match to be played against the Celtic team in Timaru, at Easter. The balance-sheet showed a credit of £1.