

CORRESPONDENCE

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

IRELAND AND ILLEGITIMACY.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—A week or two back in dealing with the 'Birth problem,' Dr. Izard, of Wellington, asserted that the illegitimate rate is lower in Australia than in any country in the world excepting only the Netherlands and Switzerland; this statement I knew to be incorrect, but unfortunately I had not available the evidence to refute it. I have since obtained the following data from *Chambers' Encyclopædia* showing the illegitimate rate per hundred of all births recorded in the countries here enumerated: Holland, 2.54; Ireland, 2.6; England and Wales, 4.0; New Zealand, 4.3; Switzerland, 4.4; Italy, 5.5; Australian Commonwealth, 5.67; Scotland, 6.2; Belgium, 7.07; German Empire, 8.7; France, 8.9, and so on up to 13.65 in Austria and Hungary. From these figures it will be seen that with an inappreciable difference Ireland and Holland share the position of highest honor. According to other authorities, Greece, Serbia, Russia, Canada, and the United States are all much below Australia, so much for Dr. Izard's accuracy of statement. My only reason for referring to it is due to the fact that he has followed the usual practice of disregarding Ireland's claim to fair treatment. I suppose it is because her most trivial offences and lightest faults have—by some sinister process—been magnified with malicious ingenuity into appalling crimes by the Tory press, and been proclaimed throughout the world in large capital letters by the subservient Press Association, that so many people find it so easy to believe that nothing but evil can or does exist in Ireland. It seems inconceivable that *Chambers' Encyclopedia* should allow itself to be swayed by racial prejudice and animosity; that it is so is proved by the carping spirit in which it seeks to disparage Ireland's extraordinary low rate of illegitimacy. In quoting, it endorses the opinion of a writer (George Moore) who, with the morals of a libertine, laments 'the strange and awful chastity of the Irish people that has killed all joy amongst them.' This is not fair comment or just and reasonable criticism, it is malignity degraded unto unmitigated filth. Surely no country that tolerates such iniquity as this suggests will escape the doom that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah for their gross immorality. No such fate can befall the nation in which the purity of their lives is the most sacred heritage of the people. This is the sure foundation on which our country rests; the safeguard of the honor and glory of Old Ireland.—I am, etc.,

NEW IRELAND.

P.S.—It may interest your readers to be informed that the illegitimate rate in Ulster is 3.4 per cent., or five times greater than in Connaught, where it is only 0.7.—N.I.

WEDDING BELLS

CARROLL—ANDERSON.

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

A wedding of interest was celebrated at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Eketahuna, on August 9, when Mr. P. S. Carroll, of Waipukurau, second son of Mr. P. Carroll, of Westport, was married to Miss Jenny Louise Anderson, second daughter of Mr. A. Anderson, of Eketahuna, one of the old and respected residents of the district. The church was decorated with wattles by the friends of the bride, and the ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna, of Masterton. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a gown of white charmeuse satin, with a court train of lace, edged with satin fringe, and the usual veil and orange blossoms. She carried a basket of violets and snowdrops, decorated with maidenhair fern. The bridesmaids were Miss Alice Anderson (sister of the bride), and Miss Grace Dixon (Wellington). Mr. P. Anderson (brother of the bride) attended the bride-

groom as best man, and Messrs. Albert and W. Anderson as groomsmen. The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a gold necklet and cross, and to the bridesmaids were given gold and pearl brooches. After the ceremony about seventy guests were entertained at a wedding breakfast at the home of the bride's parents, 'Glenara,' the usual toasts being honored. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll left for the south by the express train, where the honeymoon will be spent.

Blenheim

(From our own correspondent.)

The Catholic Club held an enjoyable social on Wednesday, August 2. The lady friends of the club provided an excellent supper. Mr. W. O'Neill, the club's energetic secretary, is sparing no effort to place the club on a sound basis, and is ably assisted by an enthusiastic executive.

The Catholics of Blenheim are to be congratulated on possessing a valuable property altogether free from floods. Thanks to the foresight of the early pioneers of the Church in this district, the present generation possess a property probably the most valuable in Marlborough.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

August 14.

By the new delimitation of the electoral boundaries Kerrytown, which has always had its political fortunes united to Timaru, has been taken out of our district.

Mr. P. Mahoney, secretary to the Irish envoys' reception committee, received a letter from Mr. Hazleton, M.P., prior to his departure from New Zealand, expressing his appreciation of the generous support given to the cause in Timaru, and the kind treatment he had received.

The ladies of St. Anne's Guild, to the number of over sixty, at the invitation of the Rev. Mother, visited the convent on Sunday afternoon. The pupils gave a select and much appreciated concert programme, and afternoon tea was served. The Rev. Mother and Sisters placed themselves at the disposal of their guests, and the afternoon was passed very agreeably.

The scaffolding round the new church has been almost entirely removed, and the grandeur and nobleness of Timaru's architectural gem is now more apparent. On Sunday it was announced that the opening will take place on Sunday, October 1. The members of the hierarchy of New Zealand have signified their intention of being present on the occasion, and his Grace Archbishop Redwood will preach in the evening of the memorable day. The celebrations will doubtless be of an enthusiastic character.

Next Sunday is the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. Father Tubman's ordination to the priesthood. For some time past a movement has been on foot to suitably recognise the occasion by a presentation and address, but as the celebrations in connection with the opening of the new church are close at hand, it was thought desirable to postpone the function till then, as a larger number of the Rev. Father's well-wishers and friends would be able to be present.

The Catholics of St. Andrew's intend making Rev. Father Tubman a presentation of a purse of sovereigns at a social to be tendered to him on August 22.

On Tuesday evening last an enjoyable social evening was tendered in the public hall, Albury, by the envoys' reception committee to their chairman (Mr. J. S. Rutherford) and their secretary (Mr. A. Lindsay). Mr. W. Barry occupied the chair, supported by Mr. M. Scannell, and Messrs. C. Byrne and P. Mahoney represented the Point and Timaru committees. Mr. Rutherford was presented by Mr. Barry with a framed illuminated address and gold pendant, and Mr. D. Angland made the presentation to Mr. A. Lindsay of a handsome gold pendant. A musical programme was gone through and toast list honoured, the proceedings being of an enthusiastic character.