

Standard V.—Class prize, M. O'Neill; arithmetic, M. Vaughan; reading and recitation, T. Devine; drawing, M. Tansey; composition, W. Salmon.

Standard VI.—Class prize, L. Sheehy; writing and arithmetic, D. Orange; catechism (senior division), N. Gray (silver medal).

The Dominican Nuns desire to tender heartiest thanks to their kind friends who so liberally presented prizes.

ST. PHILOMENA'S COLLEGE, SOUTH DUNEDIN

As a fitting finale to the year's scholastic work an excellent variety and dramatic entertainment was given in St. Patrick's Hall, South Dunedin, on Thursday evening, and attracted a large audience. Rev. Father Delany presided, and Rev. Father D. O'Neill was also present. These displays by the students of St. Philomena's have established their own reputation, and the parents, who naturally look for something out of the beaten track, were not disappointed on this occasion. As in previous years, the young ladies manifested their ability to provide a musical treat complete in every detail. The stage was handsomely and tastefully arranged, and the costumes of the performers striking and picturesque. The introductory overture was played by Misses May Lemon, Daisy Hall, Anstis, Dunford, Monaghan, and McCormack. This was followed by the chorus 'Harvest moon,' in which eighty nicely trained voices blended perfectly. The pretty intricate movements of the dance 'Graziella' were faultlessly gone through by Misses Carter, Dyer, Curtin, Burk, McMahon, Rodgers, Hamill, Rodgers, and Fahey. Miss Daisy Hall's beautiful pure soprano was heard in 'The green isle of Erin.' This little lady, the winner of many coveted distinctions, was in excellent voice, and gave a tasteful and sympathetic rendering of the soul-stirring Irish song. In response to an imperative encore she sang with deep feeling a sweet little song, 'Myspea,' in the Irish language. A very fine orchestral selection was played by—(1st violins), Misses Doris Anstis, J. Lemon, Mary Monaghan, Florence English, Ruby Gray, M. McCormack, and M. Rodgers; (2nd violins), Misses A. English, Sadie Langford, V. McDonald, and A. McTavish; (cello), Miss May Lemon; (guitar), Miss McAuley; (mandolin and piano), Misses Nellie Langford and Jessie Lemon. Another splendid chorus was given by the students and generously applauded. Misses P. Hargreaves, Eileen Murphy, M. O'Kane, T. Dunford, E. Moloney, and Florence English played their duet, a fantastic composition, with plenty of vigor and dash. Miss Daisy Hall rendered Jensen's difficult 'Murmuring breezes' very artistically, and was enthusiastically recalled and bowed her acknowledgments. A sparkling trio was meritoriously played by Misses Walsh, Amy Dyer, Ima Dawson, May Jones, K. McDevitt, Carter, Rodgers, McDonald, and Mona Anstis. The college orchestra's second number, 'Memories of Erin,' was a fantasia on national airs, introducing a series of delightful contrasts, each of which was a separate study and treated not only with taste but with a knowledge of the original. 'Floral valsette,' a dainty action song by thirty Kindergarten tots, who revealed keen intelligence and admirable earnestness, was warmly applauded. A courtly dance, 'Gavotte lyrique,' was gracefully done by Misses Maher, Kaveney, Reid, McDevitt, Dunford, Noonan, Hayes, Langford, Dawson, McDonald, Gray, Anstis, Moloney, O'Kane, Walsh, and McTavish. A pianoforte duet, played by little Misses Meade, Curtin, Reid, McMahon, Burke, and Noonan in a manner that reflected credit on themselves and their patient instructresses, brought the first part of the concert to a close. 'King Rene's Daughter,' a lyric drama in one act, from the Danish of Henrik Herz, by the Hon. Edward Phipps, filled the second part of the programme. The young ladies showed a fine conception of the spirit of the piece, and acted with intelligence and vivacity. Where all did remarkably well according to their opportunities, it may seem invidious to mention a few, but Misses Molly Brennan, Vera Marlow, Kitty Langford, and Daisy Hall deserve more than a passing word of praise—a more faithful

portrayal of the characters assigned them could scarcely have been given. A bright final chorus brought a charming and refined entertainment to a close.

Rev. Father Delany, in a few appropriate words, complimented the students on the excellence of their entertainment. The evening's performance was an eloquent testimony to the thoroughness of the training they are receiving from the Sisters of Mercy. On behalf of the nuns he thanked the audience for their attendance.

Exhibition of Work.

In response to the invitation of the Sisters of Mercy a large number of parents and friends visited the class hall, where, as in former years, the work executed in the studio and needlework classes was exhibited. Fancy work of every imaginable description, unique and original in design, testified to the skill and rapidity with which the girls must have worked to produce a display which it would be hard to surpass. The oil, water, and Poonah paintings, the drawings in color and in black and white, reflected credit on the youthful artists. Talent was shown by the majority, and in some cases it was very marked. The Kindergarten work was the centre of much attraction, and the visitors were unstinted in their praise of the efficient tuition the children are receiving.

Distribution of Prizes.

The distribution of prizes took place on Friday, the function being of a semi-private character. His Lordship Bishop Verdon presided, and presented the prizes. A short but choice programme was gone through, each item being pleasingly rendered. Rev. Father Delany read the annual report, which was as follows:—

The records for the current year show that continuous progress has been made, and a high standard of excellence maintained in all departments of the college. We have regarded the moral training of the students as our first duty and devoted constant attention to Christian doctrine and religious instruction. It is pleasing to record that the general conduct of the students has been eminently gratifying, and that they have applied themselves to their work with energy and earnestness. The candidates presented for the practical and theoretical examinations of Trinity College and the Royal Academy of Music acquitted themselves well and gained a high percentage of marks. Besides the success achieved in these examinations, three students took prizes for vocal and instrumental music at the Christchurch and Dunedin Competitions. This year the seniors again competed in the Navy League's historical essay examinations and carried off seven first prizes. Towards the end of August the senior and middle grades were examined by the Education Board's Inspectors, whose excellent report was a fair indication of the work done, and proved that the girls were carefully grounded in the elements of a solid, well-balanced general education without which they would be incapable of profiting by the senior work. In the higher classes much energy, time, and attention have been devoted to the classical languages, literature, history, as well as to the mathematical and scientific studies; in a word, to all those branches of a liberal education universally admitted to be most powerful in developing the mental faculties, in imparting culture and refinement, and forming the taste. Kindergarten methods were applied with marked success in the preparatory school, where the little ones were led along the lines best suited to develop their originality, individuality, character, and gifts. They have been taught how to use their hands, ears, and eyes, to become self-helpful, and to find in all Gods beautiful gifts to man never-ending sources of interest and delight. All branches of drawing and painting received adequate attention, and many clever and attractive studies in nature and landscape painting were executed in the studio. Much elaborate and beautiful art work and creditable specimens of plain sewing were done in the needlework department. The physical development of the students has not been neglected. This branch of their educational training, whilst so essential, was fortunately very spontaneous, and needed in order to make it perfect, little more than time and opportunity.