

Across the harbor at Muritai there is St. Antonio's Church. In a short time there is to be a new school for girls at Te Aro, and the new Cathedral will shortly be commenced. This is a splendid testimony of the sacrifices Catholics, who are but one-seventh of the population, have made and are making in the cause of their faith.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 21.

On the national scholarships question the following editorial appeared in the *Lyttelton Times* of last Tuesday:—

'We think that the rector of St. Bede's Collegiate School is quite justified in protesting against the regulations which prevent children who win free places or State scholarships enjoying the fruit of their successes at Roman Catholic secondary schools. This question stands quite apart from denominational grants. We are opposed to grants to denominational schools because we believe they would seriously impair the efficiency of our national system of education. But if a child has been sufficiently well taught at a Roman Catholic primary school to win a free place or a scholarship in open competition it is surely illogical and unjust to insist that he shall not hold his free place or his scholarship at a Roman Catholic secondary school. It is necessary, of course, when the State pays for a child's education for the State to see that the child is properly taught. It does this when he is attending a State secondary school, and if he is not making the progress prescribed by the regulations and ascertained by further examination the payment ceases. The same tests could be applied without any additional cost in the case of a child attending a denominational school, and it seems to us that if he came through them successfully he ought to be allowed to remain at the institution which his parents preferred. We can think of no reasonable objection that can be urged against this course. Sectarian differences should be divorced as far as possible from our education system, and it would be another step in this direction to make the quality of the teaching and not the place of the teaching the first claim for assistance towards secondary education.'

There was a large attendance of members at the Christchurch Catholic Club's meeting on last Wednesday evening. The president, Mr. R. Beveridge, presided. The programme of the evening was the periodical oratorical competition for the diploma of merit awarded by the Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand. The contestants were Messrs. Frank McDonald ('Pitt's Speeches'), J. P. Laurensen ('Sir J. G. Ward, Bart.'), E. Anderson ('Cleopatra'), and P. McNamara ('Sir George Grey'). Messrs. J. R. Hayward and E. L. McKeon were judges, and although recognising that Mr. McDonald's selection and delivery was a fine oratorical effort, it was not, in accordance with the set rule, and placed Mr. E. Anderson as first in order. During the evening the president handed the award, donated by Mr. E. L. McKeon, for the member who introduced the greatest number of new members during the year, to Mr. F. O'Connell. The president, on behalf of the club, proposed the health of Dr. A. B. O'Brien, who leaves shortly for England, and eulogised in graceful terms Dr. O'Brien's active interest in club matters, and the regret all felt in even for a time being deprived of his presence and highly valued influence. He sincerely wished Dr. and Mrs. O'Brien and family a safe and pleasant voyage, coupled with heartfelt greetings for the approaching festive season. Dr. O'Brien, who was very warmly received, expressed the great pleasure it had been to him to be associated with the club ever since settling in Christchurch, an association which he hoped to renew on his return. He was fully convinced of the need and usefulness of such an institution, our devoted clergy did everything possible to safeguard us in the faith we loved so well, but withal something remained for ourselves to do, and in doing this, and also helping others in a like manner, clubs such as this adequately provided the means. He wished

the club and all connected with it every prosperity. Advantage was also taken of the occasion to say farewell to Mr. Harbison, another active member, who is leaving for New York. Among the guests present was a gentleman, late of the Catholic Young Men's Club, Leeds, England, and Mr. Ramsey, secretary of the Ashburton Catholic Club. Supper was provided, and the evening filled in with an enjoyable musical programme.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

St. Benedict's Hall presented a brilliant spectacle on Saturday afternoon, when Mr. Myers, M.P., in the presence of the Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan and Rev. Fathers Carran and Forde, and a very large gathering of people, declared the Christmas tree and bazaar in connection with St. Benedict's Convent formally opened. The pupils of St. Benedict's, in order to show their appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Myers, presented Mr. Myers with an address and a gift suited to the occasion, whilst Mrs. Myers was the recipient of a beautiful bouquet, presented by Miss Audrey Dickenson. The following ladies were in charge of the stalls:—Mrs. Fernandez, Newton stall; Miss Lorrigan, Children of Mary stall; Mrs. Doolan, Mount Roskill stall; Miss Taylor and Mrs. Attridge, Grafton stall. The Christmas tree is in charge of Mrs. McVeagh.

The pupils of the Marist Brothers' School, numbering about 180, journeyed to Motatapu for their annual picnic. In the early part of the day the weather was anything but good, but about 10 a.m. it broke fine and continued so the whole day. In the afternoon the annual sports were held, and the following events were decided:—100yds Championship, J. McCarthy 1, B. Lanigan 2; 400yds relay race (Standard VI. pupils), J. McCarthy, I. Hing, B. Lanigan, S. Johnston 1; long jump (over 13), A. Hatton 1, I. Hing 2; long jump (under 13), R. Tercel 1, A. Ralph 2; hop, step, and jump (over 13), A. Hatton 1, I. Hing 2; hop, step, and jump (under 13), R. Tercel 1, N. Dodds 2; swimming race (50yds), R. O'Connor; swimming race (25yds), P. Shivan 1, M. O'Shea 2; obstacle race (over 13), J. Draffin 1, R. Stanley 2; obstacle race (under 13), A. Ralph 1, B. Lanigan 2; three-legged race (over 13), J. Draffin and J. Draffin 1; three-legged race (under 13), M. McVeigh and C. Murray 1; wheelbarrow race (over 13), A. Hatton and N. Dodds 1; wheelbarrow race (under 13), A. Ralph and B. Lanigan 1; high jump (over 13), I. Hing 1, A. Hatton 2; high jump (under 13), B. Lannigan 1, W. Ireland 2; wrestling (over 13), R. Stanley, (under 13), J. O'Hara. All the events were keenly contested, and some very good performances were put up. Before leaving for home the boys gathered in their numbers and gave three hearty cheers for Mrs. Reid, who so kindly gave the use of the grounds.

On Monday evening, December 11, about 300 of the parishioners of Portland assembled in the convent schoolroom for the purpose of honoring the Rev. Father Heath on the eve of his departure from amongst them, after six years' work in the district (says the *Catholic Press*). Mr. J. A. McDonald was in the chair, and the priests on the platform included Very Rev. Father M. J. O'Reilly (Provincial of the Vincentians), Rev. Fathers Flanagan, Adm., Hall, C.M., and Cooney (Oberon). Dr. Wilson, who made the presentation—a purse of sovereigns and a handsome address—referred to Father Heath's fine work in Portland, and the general love and appreciation he had inspired. Father Heath was also eulogised by Councillor Harembbrand, Mr. H. A. McGrath, and Fathers O'Reilly, Flanagan, Hall, and Cooney.

Portraits Are Our Forte

Sittings a pleasure, not an ordeal at the "Tesla" Studios, opposite Post Office, Wanganui, so the hackneyed phrase no longer required—sooner have a tooth out.

Enlargements made from any photo. in black and white, sepia, or water colours.