

Sisters of Mercy at the orphanage. Both daily papers devoted editorial articles dealing in a sympathetic manner with the subject, and the hope was expressed that the orphanage would be speedily rebuilt. A meeting of citizens was held in the Chamber of Commerce on Friday night with gratifying results. The *Star* report stated that the public was willing to be shown a way to express appreciation of the noble work accomplished by the institution in a practical form, and this was manifested by the large and enthusiastic body of representative citizens assembled, and which so successfully launched a movement for the erection of a new building.

The Deputy-Mayor (Mr. John Court) presided, and among those present were his Lordship Bishop Cleary, Mr. J. H. Gunson (chairman of the Harbor Board), Messrs. A. M. Myers, J. H. Bradney, A. E. Glover, J. S. Dickson (Members of Parliament), and Hon. J. A. Tole. The gathering included a large number of ladies. Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, and Messrs. Ewington, Napier, and Elliot, all of whom expressed keen sympathy with the object of the meeting, and promised financial support. The chairman remarked that the large assemblage augured well for the success of the movement to acquire a new building for the worthy institution that was to be housed in it. He said he was glad to see all classes and creeds sink their differences when work of this kind was waiting to be done. He was satisfied that they would not ask in vain from the people of Auckland for funds for this very worthy purpose. For 30 or 35 years, previous to its removal to Takapuna, the institution had been situated in Ponsonby, and he had personal experience of the good work that was done there. Some £5000 worth of damage had been caused by fire, but they must not be satisfied to raise only that amount, because no wooden building would be satisfactory. They should not put these children, to say nothing of their teachers, in a wooden building, where there was always danger of fire. He hoped that sufficient funds would be raised to enable a building to be erected in brick or concrete, and large enough to meet requirements for the next 25 or 30 years.

Mr. Gunson, as a citizen of Auckland, had much pleasure in responding to the call of the chairman to move the following motion—'This meeting of the citizens of Auckland expresses its regret at the loss sustained through the destruction by fire of the girls' orphanage at Takapuna on Tuesday, 27th May.' It must appear to every worthy citizen a matter of regret that fire had destroyed the building, and interfered with the work of the institution. The trust was one that was supported by the Government, and created by Sir George Grey about 1854. It was fitting that the people of Auckland should carry on the work established by that great and far-sighted man. The nature of the work in the past demanded support, and the work that the future held in store demanded that that institution should be carried on. He desired to enlist the support of the multitude. What was wanted was the support not of a few but of all.

Mr. Bradney seconded the motion and the Hon. J. A. Tole, Messrs. J. C. Gleeson, J. J. O'Brien supported it.

His Lordship the Bishop said there was a sort of tradition among the people from the British Isles that they should hide their feelings under a mask of reserve, but the present was one of the times when true feelings found expression. Since the calamity at Takapuna he had received expressions of sympathy from all over New Zealand, and felt he could never sufficiently express his gratitude. The incident had brought all classes together on a common basis of their love for the little ones. Their orphanage work comprised two branches—that for boys had been enlarged during the past two years, and an attempt was being made to have lads trained in various trades and agricultural work. They wanted to be able to institute a regular course of technical training, and hoped to be able to send lads out into the world as well equipped as boys from larger colleges. With regard to the girls, he agreed with the previous speakers as to excellence of material that had been developed in their

institution—one girl, he knew of, had been the delight of a family ever since she had gone to them twenty-two years ago. There had been introduced latterly a good deal of technical training in addition to the former excellent training in various branches of domestic art. He had been pleased to hear a general expression of hope that the future building would not be of perishable material, but would be suitable for the thorough training of girls in every art, suitable to their sex and condition. There were some funds in hand from the sale of the old *Star* of the Sea Orphanage, but the amount fell short of requirements by from £8000 to £10,000, and for that they threw themselves upon the generosity of the people. He had given instructions to have plans immediately drawn up for a new orphanage in solid materials, and in every respect up to date, and he hoped that the result would show that the recent calamity had been a blessing in disguise. The great ragged cloud of blue smoke was already tinged with gold at its edges. Substantial support had already been promised, and soon the whole of the black cloud would be transformed by the generosity of the people of Auckland.

Mr. Gunson's motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Myers said that in view of the great calamity mentioned in the resolution just carried, and in order to give practical expression to their sympathy, he begged to move—'That subscription lists be now opened, and that the citizens be invited to contribute towards the erection of a home for the children rendered homeless by the disastrous fire at Takapuna.' Mr. Myers said that the general consensus of opinion was that something practical should be done to replace the institution that had been doing such worthy work. They did not want words, they wanted practical sympathy; they wanted to assure the Catholic community in Auckland that they took just as much interest in that institution as the Catholics did.

The motion was supported by Messrs Glover, Casey, Nerheny, and was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Gunson, seconded by Mr. Myers, it was decided to set up a committee of twelve to make such arrangements as seemed advisable. The following, with power to add to their number, was appointed a committee—Right Rev Mgr. Brodie, Messrs J. Court, J. H. Gunson, A. M. Myers, J. H. Bradney, A. E. Glover, M. J. Sheahan, E. Davis, J. C. Gleeson, M. Casey, P. J. Nerheny, J. J. O'Brien. Before the meeting dispersed, the secretary (Mr. Sheahan) announced that subscriptions totalling £2888 13s 9d had already been promised. The following are the principal amounts:—Mr. F. Gleeson, £1000; Plunket estate, £1000; Mr. Donald McDonald, £200; Bishop Cleary, £100; Mr. M. O'Connor, £100; Mr. W. J. Ralph, £100; Mr. M. Casey, £60; Mr. Myers, £50; Mrs. Brodie, £50; per Miss Mulholland, £25; Mr. Ernest Davis, £25; Hon. J. A. Tole, £10 10s; Mr. J. H. Gunson, £10 10s; Mr. John Court, £10; Mr. F. R. Golden, £5; Mr. W. J. Courtney, £5; Mr. M. Coghlan, £5; Mr. F. J. Nerheny, £5; Mr. A. E. Glover, £5; Mr. J. H. Bradney, £5; Mr. T. Carty, £5; other donations, £212 13s 9d. During the next fortnight Mgr. Brodie will canvass the city and suburbs, and then make a tour of the diocese on behalf of the funds for the erection of a new building. Mgr. Brodie preached at the Cathedral on Sunday night, and appealed for support of the orphanage building fund.

Remuera

(From our own correspondent.)

June 3.

At the monthly meeting of the Catholic Federation on last Sunday, lists of new members were handed in, and it was resolved to write Rev. Father Edge, the official organiser, to give a lecture on the Federation as soon as convenient. Meanwhile an active canvass is being made in the district for new members.

Preparations are now in hand for the annual parish 'At home,' to be held shortly in St. Benedict's Hall. A large meeting was held last Sunday morning to initiate the movement, and Mr. F. W. Grey was ap-

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