

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Last week the members of the local branch of the Hibernian Society held their annual social in the Victoria Hall, and the function proved a decided success. The thanks of St. Joseph's branch are due to their Gore brethren for sending two representatives, in Sister Martin and Bro. Daly, who expressed themselves as well pleased with their reception. The committee are deeply grateful to Mrs. Hill and her able assistants for presiding over the supper-room.

On Monday evening the members of St. Joseph's Men's Club held a debate with the members of St. Joseph's Ladies' Club, the subject for discussion being 'When women compete with men in trades and professions should they be paid the same rate of wages?' The occasion being the first in the history of either club when a debate between members of the opposite sex had taken place, there was a very large attendance of members of both clubs, and the keenest interest and rivalry existed throughout the discussion. The ladies, as was to be expected, led in the affirmative, and are to be warmly complimented on the success of their efforts. Without exception they spoke with fluency and ease, and presented their arguments in a logical and convincing manner, and infused into their remarks more humor than their opponents. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., who officiated as judge, expressed his entire satisfaction with the debate, and, in awarding the negative side the victory by a margin of 19 points, said that the result might easily have been reversed, but as was natural on their first appearance, the ladies did not possess the confidence necessary to make effective replies to preceding speakers, and they, therefore, despite their very good matter, good delivery, and good arrangement, could not score so successfully as their opponents, who had paid more attention to actual debating. He was sure, however, that with a little more experience the club would produce some very effective speakers. The Rev. Father Buckley occupied the chair.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

The week's retreat for the members of the arch-confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament was brought to a close in the Cathedral on Sunday evening. After a powerful sermon on 'Frequent Communion and final perseverance,' the Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., said that he could not close the arch-confraternity retreat without thanking the Administrator (the Very Rev. Chancellor Price), not only for personal kindness to him, but also for his great kindness, at all times, to the Fathers of the Congregation. He congratulated the people of the Cathedral parish on having such good priests with them, on having an Administrator so full of zeal for souls and the beauty of God's House, and possessed of such administrative ability. He knew that no work was nearer or dearer to the hearts of his Lordship the Bishop and his Administrator than that of the arch-confraternity, and he felt sure that, under its new director (the Rev. Father Murphy) the traditions of the sodality would be fully maintained. He thanked the clergy from his heart for their generous help, and he had no hesitation in saying that in no apostolic work had he met with greater co-operation than that which he had received from the Cathedral clergy during his missions and retreats in Christchurch. He also thanked the secretaries, prefects, and sub-prefects for their untiring efforts since the arch-confraternity was established.

Messrs Bryant and Co., Ltd., clothiers, outfitters, etc., Hastings street, Napier, began their great winter fair of men's up-to-date wear on Saturday last. The proprietors recommend with confidence this fair to the money-saving public, as unequalled bargains will be offered in all departments. The object is to clear their winter stocks, and this they are prepared to do at any sacrifice.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

DUNEDIN.

In connection with the resolution adopted last week by the Dunedin branch of the Catholic Federation to the effect that canvassers be instructed to take precautions against duplication of signatures to the petitions now in circulation, the mover of the resolution requests us to mention that the motion also laid it down as an instruction to canvassers that the signatures of Catholics only be taken.

INVERCARGILL.

(From our own correspondent.)

June 30.

A meeting of the committee of the Catholic Federation was held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Tuesday evening last. A considerable amount of important business was transacted, and Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F., and Mr. F. G. O'Beirne, LL.B., were appointed delegates to the diocesan council. The local committee consists of the following members:—St. Mary's parish representatives: Messrs. F. G. O'Beirne, Jas. Robertson, Jas. Collins, Thos. Pound, J. McNamara, and P. Scully; Hibernian Society: Messrs. F. Fraser and Jos. Shepherd; Catholic Club: Messrs. Peter Scully and Jas. O'Brien; Children of Mary: Misses Kane and Baird; St. Vincent de Paul Society, Mrs. Timpany; Altar Society: Misses M. Baird and Waterston. Messrs. J. McNamara and Thos. Pound are joint secretaries. A start has been made with the enrolment of members, and next Sunday at the 11 o'clock Mass all the members of the committee will be present, and arrangements have been made whereby it will be possible to enrol all present at the Mass.

WANGANUI.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A large and representative gathering of the parishioners of Wanganui, under the auspices of the parish committee, was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening, June 22, after devotions. The Very Rev. Dean Holley, S.M., occupied the chair and outlined a scheme providing for an exhaustive canvass of the whole parish for signatures to the petitions to Parliament. The proposal was unanimously adopted. The work was enthusiastically taken up, and its completion is expected in about a week. Now that the excellent work which is being done by the Federation is becoming known, requests for enrolment in the Federation are steadily coming in. A house-to-house canvass for enrolment purposes is to be undertaken shortly, and it is anticipated that the number of members, which has already risen by one hundred since the meeting of the diocesan council in June, will rise to well over one thousand.

ST. MARY'S ORPHANAGE, AUCKLAND.

We have received the following subscription for the building fund of St. Mary's Orphanage, Auckland:

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Gresham, Geraldine	0	10	0

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

C.J.H.—(1) You do not say on what particular points you want advice. Apply to the nearest priest, who will furnish you with a copy of the Provisional Constitution of the Federation which gives full information as to the establishment and constitution of the organisation. (2) Drop a line to Mr. W. Kane, District Secretary, Auckland, who will gladly give you all possible assistance and information in regard to the establishment of a branch of the H.A.C.B. Society.

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