

Christchurch North

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A very enjoyable concert, under the auspices of the choir, was given in St. Mary's Schoolroom on Tuesday, August 19, to a large and appreciative audience. The Rev. Fathers Hoare and Dignan were present. The following programme was submitted, and met with general approval, each number being encored:—Overture, the orchestra; glee, school children; song, Mrs. Kiver; pianoforte duet, Misses Donnelly and Macdonald; song, Mrs. Cherry; tenor horn solo, Mr. Wilson; monologue, Mr. Watts; song, Mr. C. Goggin; character sketch, Mr. C. Thomas; song, Miss Stella Murray; recitation, Miss E. Devereux; 'cello solo, Mr. H. H. Loughnan; song, Mr. Stahle; selection, orchestra. The accompanists were Mrs. Goggin, Mrs. Cronin, Misses Munro and Loughlan. During the evening Rev. Father Hoare thanked the choir for providing the opportunity to hear such a number of talented artists, and also the performers for the excellent programme supplied. Mr. A. P. De La Cour made an efficient secretary.

A military Mass attended by the Marist Brothers' Cadets, numbering 70, under the command of Lieutenant W. M. Thom, was celebrated at St. Mary's, Manchester street, at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. The celebrant was the Very Rev. Dean Darby (Hamilton). Twelve cadets were present in the sanctuary, and stood with rifles and fixed bayonets. During the Elevation they presented arms. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Hoare, S.M. (captain chaplain), who took for his text, 'Fear God, honor the King.' The preacher said that the life of a priest and the life of a soldier had much in common, both were engaged in war—one spiritual and the other temporal. Hence, he pointed out, the need of training and discipline in the army, just as it is necessary for the spiritual battle. Every citizen should be loyal to his king and country. The soldier clearly exemplified this by his defence of his country and his loyalty to his King. Yet there was another King to serve and be loyal to—namely, the King of kings, Jesus Christ. Just as they were loyal and true to the earthly king, they should also be true to their Eternal King. They might never be engaged in a temporal battle, but they were every day engaged in a spiritual warfare against the enemy of souls. They have to fight again the battle that was fought in heaven, when St. Michael defeated the rebel angels. The watchword should then be 'Who is like to God.' After Mass the cadets were inspected by Captain Finnis.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

August 25.

The Catholic Club, under the presidency of Mr. O'Halloran, held a most successful 'Journal night' on last Wednesday evening.

The peal of eight bells, now on order for the Sacred Heart Church, will be the first full peal installed in any Catholic Church in New Zealand.

* The Marist Missionaries are to open a week's mission at St. Andrews on Sunday next. The following Sunday will see the opening of a children's mission in Timaru. On Sunday, September 10, they will commence a two weeks' mission for the adults of the Timaru parish.

Very Rev. Dean Tubman, who was present at the consecration of his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, referred at the 11 o'clock Mass yesterday to the impressiveness of the consecration ceremony, the deep manifestation of faith made by the Catholics of the metropolitan city, and the hospitality extended to the visitors.

The boys' school has just been thoroughly renovated inside and outside, at a cost to the Very Rev. Dean Tubman of close on £200. The interior has been given a light pea green shade, with chocolate dadoes, new windows and an extra exit have been added, and

the whole building brought well up to modern school requirements.

The Catholics of Temuka will be interested to learn that Dr. Ardagh, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Ardagh, of Timaru, is about to commence the practice of his profession there. Dr. Ardagh, who has had a brilliant scholastic career, has been on the medical staff of the Auckland Public Hospital for some years, and has lately been acting medical superintendent of that institution.

Temuka

(From our own correspondent.)

The members of the Temuka Catholic Club held an oratorical competition on Tuesday evening last for a trophy presented by Mr. E. B. Gillespie. There were five competitors, and Rev. Father Taylor (Marist Missionary) acted as judge. The points given were 40 for matter and 60 for delivery. First honors were awarded to Mr. J. Scott, who scored 83 points, Mr. T. Knight being runner-up with 80. Mr. R. P. Connell scored most points (35) in matter.

The Children of Mary, Kerrytown, held a very successful euchre party in the schoolroom on Wednesday evening last, when about 80 persons were present. Mr. J. Scott controlled the game, and the Rev. Father Lezar, S.M., presented the prizes. The following were the winners:—Lady's, Miss M. Coughlan; gentleman's, Mr. L. Brosnahan. After the presentation of the trophies, refreshments were handed round.

'A BIT O' BLARNEY

The Irish drama, 'A Bit o' Blarney,' was produced for the second time in His Majesty's Theatre, Dunedin, on Thursday night in the presence of a very appreciative audience. The piece is typically Irish, with some tragedy and a good deal of comedy. It had been carefully rehearsed under the capable direction of Mr. T. J. Anthony, and this in no small measure, no doubt, accounted for the finished manner in which it was presented, the swing with which it went from start to finish, and the confident and capable manner in which the performers acted their respective parts. The part of Roddy the Rover, the hero of the play, was admirably filled by Mr. T. J. Anthony, whose delineation of the character was life-like and natural. Incidental to the part were several items of vocal music, in the rendering of which Mr. Anthony acquitted himself very creditably. Rosaleen O'Connor, the heroine, found a faithful impersonator in Miss Ethel Young, who spoke and acted the part to perfection. Miss Lillian King, as became the character, was a dignified Lady Patrice. Cuddeen Cassidy ('a creature of circumstances') found a conscientious impersonator in Mr. R. B. Reynolds, whilst Mr. G. G. Denniston was equally successful as Squire Rossmore (the usurper). The part of the Californian lawyer, Lawton, was capably filled by Mr. W. W. Crawford. The minor characters—Teddy Burke, Captain Castleton, and Corkery—were satisfactorily impersonated by Messrs. J. W. Elliott, C. V. Hill, and J. Budge respectively. The humor of the piece was entrusted to Miss A. Heley (Shevaun Jack), a lady who engaged in the unlawful but exciting pastime of selling whiskey which had never been contaminated by the presence of an exciseman at its manufacture, and to Mr. P. Carolin (Darby Darney), 'an antiquated relic of lost boyhood.' A better selection could not have been made, as they acted and spoke their parts in the most natural manner, and avoided that objectionable exaggeration to which, too often, amateurs and even professionals are prone. On the whole, the piece was presented in a manner which reflected credit on all. The staging and costumes were very appropriate, and a word of praise is due to Mr. J. Power, the scenic artist, for his excellent work. Very acceptable music was supplied by an orchestra under the capable conductorship of Signor Squarisc.