

Aires, an Irish lady, Mrs. Morgan, having built the hospital and convent there. The Order has, at the present time, seventeen hospitals and five hundred trained Sisters.

A Governor's Compliments.

Sir Gerald Strickland, Governor of New South Wales, in moving the adoption of the report at the twenty-fourth annual meeting, held on May 21, said: 'I feel that I do not know a tithe of the good work that others are doing in this State. I feel that all of us would be better in mind at least, if not also in body, by studying the self-sacrifice, the skill, and devotion to duty of the good Sisters who are giving health, strength, and happiness within these walls. Going through the institution, it is clear that there is an incentive that inspires the working thereof. The Sisters are laboring for higher ideals, and look for their reward, not in this world, but in the next. Here they are serving their Master, and making the most of their lives, and an appreciation of this ideal performs a grateful and aseptic cure in my mind, as it must in the minds of all who come in contact with it.'

The Christchurch Institution.

The Christchurch institution, of course, will have a small beginning, but it is hoped that, with the admirable aims in view, it will soon grow. At first there will be a staff of seven Sisters with Mother Xavier Lynch in charge. There will be accommodation for twenty patients, and the equipment will include the most modern operating theatre and sterilisers. The Sisters also will nurse the sick in their own homes.

WEDDING BELLS

HANRAHAN—MADDEN.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Wednesday, August 27, the Church of the Holy Name, Ashburton, was the scene of a very pretty and popular wedding, when Mr. John Hanrahan, second son of Mr. P. Hanrahan, of Dromore, was united in Matrimony to Miss Charlotte Madden, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Madden, of Ashburton. The marriage was solemnised by the Rev. Father Hanrahan, brother of the bridegroom, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell, and the Rev. Dr. Kennedy. The bride, who was given away by her father, was beautifully attired in a gown of cream charmeuse, trimmed in one-sided effect with handsome lace, draped skirt with new fish-tail train, the usual veil and orange blossoms being worn. She was attended by her sister, Miss Agatha Madden as bridesmaid, who wore a soft pink satin dress, with lace coat, draped skirt caught up with black velvet bow and ends, and tiny pink roses, and pretty hat to match. The bride's travelling dress was a smart navy blue costume with tobacco colored revers, and champagne cloth collar. The bridegroom was assisted by his brother, Mr. P.

Hanrahan, jun., as best man. After the marriage ceremony, the Rev. Father Hanrahan celebrated the Nuptial Mass, which was served by two of his nephews, the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell and Rev. Dr. Kennedy being present in the sanctuary. As the bridal party left the church, the Wedding March was played by the organist (Mrs. D. Crowe). The popularity of the young couple was evidenced by the large crowd of friends and well-wishers assembled at the church. After the ceremony the party repaired to the Tancred Street Hall, where a dainty wedding breakfast was partaken of. After full justice had been done to the good things provided, Dean O'Donnell, who presided, in a very happy speech voiced the feelings of all present in wishing the newly married pair every happiness and prosperity, and referred to the great pleasure it gave him to be present that morning at the marriage of two for whom he had always entertained feelings of the very warmest regard. The toast of 'The bridesmaid' was proposed by Mr. J. Daines and responded to by the best man. The Rev. Dr. Kennedy, in a characteristic speech, proposed the toast of the parents of the bride and bridegroom. He recalled the time when he had been stationed in Ashburton, and when the families of the bride and bridegroom had been among his closest friends. He paid a touching tribute to the kindness of the late Mrs. Hanrahan, for whom he entertained feelings of almost filial regard, and whose memory would always be held by him in feelings of deepest veneration and affection. Rev. Father Hanrahan, in replying to the toast of his health, proposed by Dean O'Donnell, referred to the pleasure he felt at being present that morning. As a priest it was most gratifying to him that the bride of his brother's choice was so exemplary a Catholic, and adorned with every virtue calculated to make her a model wife. The happy couple left by the second express for Christchurch en route for the North Island, where the honeymoon was spent. Numerous wires of congratulation were received, which, with the many and costly presents received, testified to the great popularity which the newly-wedded pair enjoy.

About 5000 Catholic parishes in all America have parochial schools, their number increasing by about 400 each year. In them are 1,500,000 students. Boston, Chicago, and Seattle have well established high schools for Catholic youths, and St. Louis, St. Paul, Detroit, and Denver have colleges ranking as high schools or that carry on high school work.

According to the Paris *Univers*, the oldest Catholic Bishop in the world is Monsignor Abbati, a Franciscan, at present dwelling in a convent of the Franciscans at Bordighera, Italy. Monsignor Abbati was born in Modena in 1820, entered the Franciscan Order while still very young, and was made a missionary Bishop in the Levant. Last March he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his consecration. He has been in retirement at Bordighera for some years.

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