

ST. COLUMBA CLUB, GREYMOUTH

(From the club correspondent.)

The success of the St. Columba Club at the recent competitions has been most gratifying to all supporters of this splendid institution. The Town Hall was packed to the doors on the final evening of the competitions, when Mr. J. K. Campbell, president of the West Coast Competitions Society, in presenting both the senior and junior cups to the president of the St. Columba Club (Mr. A. McSherry), took occasion to congratulate the club on the very meritorious performance of its members. The West Coast championship medal for most points scored in all elocutionary and speaking items, was won by the club's champion, Mr. K. S. Dillon. Both Mr. McSherry and Mr. Dillon received a great ovation from the very large audience.

The following are the points scored by the members in the senior cup competition:—K. S. Dillon (7 events), 1018; H. Doogan (9), 822; M. Keating (5), 514½; A. Fraser (5), 404; J. Minehan (7), 404; C. Rasmussen (6), 277; H. Millard (3), 253; A. McSherry (4), 157; W. McGrath (4), 132; B. Rasmussen (4), 131; J. O'Donnell (2), 123. Only the three highest club members' scores in each event went towards the club's total. When it is realised that only 18 points separated Trinity and St. Columba at the conclusion of the competition, it is evident that the contest was a very exciting one; and the club members are once again to be complimented on their success. The Russell Cup has now been won by the club twice in succession, and a win next year gives them possession of it.

The following members contributed to the club's total in the various events:—

Prepared Reading—K. S. Dillon, 4; H. Doogan and C. Rasmussen also scored.

Oration—K. S. Dillon, 1; W. McGrath, 2. H. Doogan was highly commended by the judge.

Shakespearian Recitation—K. S. Dillon (135), 1; J. Minehan and H. Doogan were the next highest of the club competitors.

Impromptu Speech—None of the club's representatives were placed in this item. M. Keating (143) was one of the five recalled for the evening session out of 36 competitors. H. Doogan (139) was specially mentioned, C. Rasmussen, 134.

Sight Reading—K. S. Dillon, 2; H. Doogan, 4. M. Keating and A. Fraser were also prominent.

Prepared Speech—K. Dillon (159), 4; H. Doogan (158), 5; M. Keating (157), 6; and A. McSherry (157), 11. The winner in this event was Mr. F. O'Gorman (St. Canice's Club, Westport), who scored 163 marks in the day session, and 171 when recalled at night.

Musical Monologue—K. S. Dillon, 1. H. Millard and H. Doogan also scored well for the club.

Recitation—K. S. Dillon (200), 1. J. Minehan and W. McGrath also scored well.

Impromptu Debate—C. Rasmussen and A. Fraser (286), 3; B. Rasmussen and M. Keating (270), 5, highly commended. Fourteen teams competed. This event was taken in two sections, the first question, 'That the age of chivalry has passed,' being taken on the Thursday night, and on Friday 'Are the youth of New Zealand too much addicted to sport?' The second night's subject was much easier to handle than the first, and as both Trinity teams were in the second section, they reduced the very commanding lead of the St. Columba Club from 60 points to 18.

Outside club events, the club members were also prominent. Messrs Dillon and McGrath won the Shakespearian dialogue. The medal for the junior scoring the most points for the club was won by Mr. W. Martin, Mr. J. Deere being second with only a few marks less.

Miss J. Crowley, of the St. Cecilia's Ladies' Club, won the ladies' impromptu speech very easily. In this event there were six competitors, and the judge spoke very highly of the brilliant performances of the ladies who took part in this very interesting event. The question, 'How to make the home life attractive,' was dealt with in a most convincing manner by all the speakers,

and Miss Crowley is to be complimented on winning the first impromptu speech for ladies at these competitions.

A GREAT UNIVERSITY

It is a pleasant experience to read of the continued progress of the great Belgian Catholic University of Louvain as set forth in its *Annuaire* or Year Book for 1913. As most people know, it is a purely Catholic University—founded, directed, and maintained by the bishops, priests, and people of Belgium. Considering it as a voluntary, free, unendowed University, with the Catholic faith as its chief motive power, its growth, its dimensions, its success, its results are truly marvellous (says the *Dublin Leader*). They are a standing and over-powering evidence of the advantages and necessity of the intervention of the Catholic Church, and of Catholic teachings and principles in the domain of higher education. Louvain University is not ashamed of its Catholicity. So highly does it prize this aspect of its existence that although State endowments and privileges could have been easily obtained during the past twenty-nine years from the Catholic Government, which has always included eminent Louvain graduates amongst the Cabinet Ministers, still the authorities of the University have refrained from accepting State endowments of any kind in order to preserve absolute freedom of teaching, management, and control. Nor has the great institution suffered any loss in making this choice, as means have never failed it in providing for all the requirements of a thoroughly up-to-date, progressive University.

Louvain University, although under ecclesiastical control, is not by any means an ecclesiastical institution as to its courses, its staff, or its students. In fact it is a lay University for lay Catholics. It embraces all the faculties of a first-class University, viz., Theology, Law, Medicine, Philosophy, and Letters, Science, Special Schools, and Agriculture. In each and all of these departments the training, the teaching, and the specialisation are of the highest order. The entire staff now numbers about 150, of whom about one-fourth are ecclesiastics and three-fourths laymen. Each and all are men of the highest ability and fitness for their work, and one and the same motive animates them all, and that is the promotion of the best interests and welfare of the University and its students. One fact alone proves the success of Louvain University, the steady and continuous increase in its students from its re-establishment to the present day—in 1835 it began with 86 students—last year (1912) the number on its roll was 2735. Arranged according to Faculties the numbers stood as follow:—Theology, 90; law, 675; medicine, 599; philosophy and letters, 422; sciences, 314; special schools, 431; agriculture, 204; total, 2735.

As I said, Louvain University glories in its Catholicity. In fact its official title is *L'Université Catholique* ('The Catholic University'). Its heavenly patroness is the Blessed Virgin, and on the outer cover of its calendar there is a likeness of the Mother of God and her Divine Child under the title 'Seat of Wisdom.' On the first page we find an indulgenced prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Its earthly patron is the Sovereign Pontiff of the Catholic Church. This, too, is very appropriate, as the University was founded in 1425 by Pope Martin V., and re-established in 1834 with the sanction and blessing of Pope Gregory XVI. Is it not fair to conclude that its unparalleled success under such patronage is something more than a mere coincidence?

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