

Town and Country News

PALMERSTON NORTH NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 19.

The "top of the morning" to the new-old *Tablet*. Sure! it's a fine looking paper now. I wonder if Dr. Kelly met it stalking abroad in Europe would he need an "introduction."

Time has not hung heavy on the hands of the choir members of late; besides the extra singing for Christmas they have been practising the Mass that will be sung at the opening of the new church. Haste the day!

We hoped to welcome our Infant King to the new church this Christmas, but it is not to be as the church is a long way from completion. Next Christmas will certainly find us there, and feeling very much at home too.

The school children have said good-bye to their "exam faces" for another year. At every turn one is met by the smiling unruffled calm of the "holiday face," but holidays have wings and school days will soon come back again. Both Sisters and pupils have reason to be gratified with the results of the past year's work.

Miss Nellie Scanlan, the well-known journalist, returned to Palmerston last week after an absence of several years spent in America and England. Her friends have followed her career with interest and her "Splinters from a Traveller's Log," written so regularly for the *Free Lance*, have been pleasant reading for all.

After several weeks of pleasurable anticipation we had the Forty Hours' in this parish on Sunday and Monday last, concluding as usual, after the 8 o'clock Mass on Tuesday morning. The weather was perfect: the sunshine of nature and the sunshine of Heaven poured down upon us for two happy days. Coming so close to Christmas the Forty Hours' was an ideal preparation for the Holy Season. One must not forget a word of praise for the ladies in charge of the decoration of the altar; their work was a credit to them. Dannevirke "loaned" us Father Guinane for the occasion, and one of our priests went over there as "interest" on the loan.

Do you know that the local Sisters are first-rate money-makers? They have been fleecing us right and left lately. First they treated us to a concert in the Zealandia Hall on a Wednesday afternoon. "A concert by the convent children" they called it. Next we were invited to patronise the convent "break-up" in the Empire Hall on the night of Friday, the 5th inst. "We'll go to this function and that is all, as the rest of our cash will be needed for Christmas cheer," said we. "Just a minute," said the Sisters, "we're running a garden party at the convent grounds in Broad Street on December 11, and of course you'll all come along and spend your money, won't you?" We did: the admission was free—the exit wasn't. There will be plenty of money to spend at Christmas all the same; and good luck to the Sisters in their money-making efforts.

Well, if this paper has been enlarged correspondents are not asked to go on for ever,

so here the Palmerston North "notes" end for the year 1924. May good luck be with the *Tablet* and its readers during 1925!

ASHBURTON NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 12.

The fortnightly meeting of the St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society took place on Monday evening last, and was largely attended. Two names were handed in for membership. The prospectus of the proposed United Friendly Societies' Dispensary was briefly discussed and a summoned special meeting of the branch has been called for January 19 next, when it will come to a decision on the matter.

His Lordship the Bishop, Right Rev. Dr. Brodie, attended by the Very Rev. Dean J. J. O'Donnell and Rev. Father Brown, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on last Sunday afternoon in the local church, in the presence of an exceedingly large congregation; seating accommodation being completely taxed. The candidates for Confirmation included several grown-ups. Mrs. Rooney and Mr. Lawrence Hanrahan acted as sponsors. Prior to administering the Sacrament his Lordship explained its nature and significance, and again at the conclusion of the ceremony he gave a very instructive address to those confirmed. He warned the children against the present day evils, reminding them, too, that they should have an enduring gratitude towards their parents for the privilege they afforded of a good Catholic education. His Lordship, in concluding, paid an eloquent tribute to the long and faithful services rendered to the parish by the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell, saying that to-day the Dean was the senior priest of his diocese. He also referred to the good work being done by the Rev. Father Brown. The impressive ceremony was concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at which his Lordship officiated.

AHAURA NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 16.

Early in the month the twenty-four "Follies" from Greymouth paid a visit to the Ahaura Hall. The weather was not exactly beautiful, but the concert given by the "Follies" was. Great numbers of people came from Nelson Creek, Totara Flat, and the surrounding districts. The "Follies"—"some" show,—which is in aid of the convent building fund, fills the air with music and song, and going home you think of sunbeams and lift the air of some old songs of long ago. Much credit is due to Mr. T. Clarke and his comrades in arms for their grand and successful endeavors.

Her many friends will be glad to know that Mrs. J. Blackmore, of Nelson Creek, has made a remarkable recovery from a serious illness. Mrs. Blackmore is now quite strong and able to attend to her household duties. She is deeply grateful to Lewisham Hospital.

The Nelson Creek Choir welcome Mr. I. O'Brien with pleasure and satisfaction. There is every reason to hope that the Christmas singing will be a complete success.

Preparations for the Christmas tree, to be held at the Ahaura Hall, on the 22nd inst., and for the parish picnic in presbytery grounds, on the 27th inst., are far advanced. The Christmas tree, with its wealth of beautiful and attractive toys, promises unique success. Last year the Christmas tree was beautiful—this year it will be more exquisite still. The parish picnic, too, is anxiously looked forward to by young and old. By the way, we nearly forgot to mention that on the night of the Christmas tree a special picture will be screened. Ahaura, cheer up! there's a big lot of sunshine coming very soon.

REEFTON NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 15.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was celebrated at the Church of the Sacred Heart last week, commencing on Sunday after 11 o'clock Mass, and concluding on Tuesday morning at the 6.30 Mass.

The death occurred at the local hospital on Sunday, December 7, of Mr. Thos. Walsh, at the age of 63 years. The deceased had been an inmate of the institution for some considerable time, having contracted miner's phthisis whilst engaged in the occupation of quartz mining. He was a native of Co. Limerick, Ireland, and had resided in the Dominion for upwards of forty years. Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated by the Rev. Father Herring at 9 a.m. on the following Tuesday, and the interment took place that afternoon.—R.I.P.

A party of Greymouth musicians—"The Follies"—paid a visit to Reefton on Saturday, December 13, and gave a concert for the purpose of assisting the building fund of the new Greymouth Convent.

LAWRENCE NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 17.

The handsome gold medal and chain for the Christian doctrine was won this year by May Sheehy. The gold medal and chain were the gifts of Mr. James Todd, of Dunedin.

The school "broke-up" for the Christmas holidays on the 15th inst., when the Rev. Father Farthing presented the prizes.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL CONCERT.

The annual "break-up" concert of the St. Patrick's School took place in the school on Friday night, the 12th inst., when the pupils of the school put forward an excellent programme of songs, recitations, dances, sketches and choruses (says the *Tuapeka Times*). They were assisted by Miss Mary Woods, J.R.A.M. and Messrs. C. Lennon and G. W. Brown, who gave a variety to the programme which was greatly appreciated. The accompanists were Mrs. G. W. Brown and Miss Woods. The building was packed to the doors and everyone present thoroughly enjoyed themselves and voted the concert a capital one and a splendid success. Some of the children's items were of outstanding merit and reflected great credit on their teachers and

"Kruskits" (Registered)

THE SUGAR OF MILK RUSK (Patent No. 44654).
Nature's Sugar for Babies. All Grocers. Sole Manufacturers

Phoenix Co., Ltd.
DUNEDIN