

in my book. I'll see if there's one hiding somewhere. Your answer is right. Would you like "Buster," "Bingo," "Snooky," and "Tip" for your four kittens' names. You'll see your circus with the others.—Anne.)

[Is there some little girl with a birthday on 2nd May to be a letter mate for Ellen.—Anne.]

Dear Anne,

Just a few lines to let you know that I should like to join the L.P.L.C. I read the *Tablet* every week. I go to St. Joseph's Convent, and I will be in Std. 3 this year. The Crib is open at present and it will be shut any day now. My little brother is two years old. We have two dogs at our place now. The weather has not been to nice for Christmas. Our holidays are nearly over and I am sorry about it. I must close now.—Yours sincerely, Jean Souter, St. Joseph's Convent, Wanganni.

P.S.—May I put some riddles sometimes, please.

(Welcome Jean, tell me when your birthday is and I may have a letter-mate for you. Yes, send along any good riddles you know.—Anne.)

Dear Anne,

I send the answers to your puzzles. I see by the number of games the All Blacks have broken their predecessors record. I think it would be nice to have badges for the Letter Club. I was successful in the proficiency examination. I remain, yours sincerely, Dan McCormack, Makaekakaho.

(Look out for your circus with the others Dan. I'm glad you like us to have badges, and I think, like you, that the All Blacks made a great record. Won't they get a reception when they come out again.—Anne.)

Dear Anne,

I am just writing you a few lines hoping you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Our break-up was on the 19th of December—we enjoy it happily; we started at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and finished at 5 o'clock. We had races, singing, and other things. Good-bye, with all love from your little friend, Annie Thornton, Waimatuku School.

(Thank you for good wishes Annie, look out for your circus. You did have a fine "break-up" at the year end, hope you're enjoying the holidays.—Anne.)

Good-night all,

ANNE.

## ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE AND HOSTEL TENNYSON STREET, DUNEDIN.

In accordance with directions issued by the Public Health Officer, St. Dominic's College will remain closed till further notice.

Extern lessons in Pianoforte, Violin, and Singing will be resumed on Monday, 9th February.

Pupils are prepared for the Higher Leaving Certificate, Matriculation, Teachers' Examinations, Public Service, Intermediate Examinations, and Commercial Course, and for the Practical and Theoretical Examinations in Music conducted by the Trinity College, London, and the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London.

Hostel accommodation may be secured at St. Dominic's by a limited number of University or Training College Students.

For further particulars, apply to—

THE MOTHER PRIORESS.

## Wedding Bells

WILLIAMS—SWEENEY.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at St. Patrick's Church, Grey-mouth, on December 1st, the contracting parties being Henry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, of Weheka, and Bridie, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sweeney, of Okarito. Rev. Father Riordan officiated and celebrated Nuptial Mass. The bride, who entered the church on the arm of her brother (Mr. Patrick Sweeney), looked charming in a beautiful frock of figured satin caught up at the waist with a bunch of orange blossoms. Her handsomely-worked veil was held in place with a coronet of orange blossoms. She also carried a beautiful shower bouquet of white flowers. The bride was attended by Miss Fanny O'Donnell, as bridesmaid, who wore apricot figured silk with hat to match and carried a bouquet of pink flowers. Mr. Lawrence Williams (brother of the bridegroom) was best man. After the ceremony the bridal party adjourned to Harker's Tea Rooms where wedding breakfast was partaken of and the usual toasts honored. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a handsome skunk stole, and to the bridesmaid a moonstone necklet. The bride's present to the bridegroom was a shaving outfit. The newly-wedded couple left by the express for Christchurch en route to the North Island where the honeymoon was spent; the bride travelling in a grey marocain relieved with brown and hat to match.

## IRISH SOCIETY, DUNEDIN ANNUAL MEETING AND SOCIAL.

The annual general meeting of the Irish Society was held on Tuesday, the 27th inst., in the Overseas Club Room; Mr. P. J. Wilson was the chairman, and referred with satisfaction to the past year's activities. The presidential report for 1924 stated that the year had begun with a most successful picnic, which was held in the Woodhaugh Gardens, and attended by a large number of members and their friends. This third annual picnic had proved even more successful than either of the preceding ones. Enjoyable programmes had been presented at the society's monthly meetings, and during the year £4 was donated, in accordance with custom, to the Dunedin Competitions Society for two sections for Irish songs (ladies and gentlemen). Lectures were given by his Lordship Dr. Whyte, and several others.

The financial statement disclosed that there was a credit balance of £10 8s 7d.

The report and balance sheet were adopted.

The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mr. J. McGuire; vice-presidents, Messrs. F. Carter and M. Coughlan; committee—Messdames Carter, Coughlan, Dawson, and Monaghan, Misses A. Heley, E. Denham, E. Ryan, Messrs. A. J. Ryan, J. Sheehy, R. W. Fox, J. Ranken, and E. F. H. Cain; honorary secretary and treasurer, Miss M. Gallagher.

An enjoyable musical and elocutionary programme was contributed as follows:—Pianoforte solo ("Irish Airs"), Miss Baird; guitar solo ("Last Rose of Summer"), Mr. B.

Sheehy; song ("Kate O'Shane"), Miss Skinner; recitation ("O! the Shamrock"), Miss Gallagher; song ("The Harp that Once"), Miss McElligott. Miss M. Sandys was accompanist. Refreshments were handed round and dancing concluded a successful and pleasurable gathering.

## LAYMEN'S RETREATS

(By a St. Bede's Retreatant.)

The idea is new—one might almost say painfully new—in this country. Painfully is a startling word to use, but the majority of men when exhorted for the first time to attend a Retreat, think once, look sideways, and then express themselves forcibly. Man is a curious creature where his soul is concerned: he doesn't mind wandering along in the old rut but takes a deal of persuading when a new-fangled notion is brought up.

It is extremely difficult to analyse one's feeling after attending a Retreat for the first time. Still it is important to notice that the predominant thought is one of satisfaction. Whether it is satisfaction of a good deed done, penance endured or spiritual troubles alleviated depends entirely on oneself. Still I am certain that it is an exceptional man who does not derive great spiritual comfort from a Retreat.

And now a word about the Retreat at St. Bede's. The schedule time was 8 p.m., Friday, the 16th January, till 8 a.m. the following Monday morning. Many unfortunately could not come in until the Saturday afternoon. It is a pity that one's annual spiritual bonus should have to suffer any curtailment. I believe a better arrangement obtained at St. Pat's, the Saturday morning workers joining up with the others on the Friday night. They left for work from the College, returning for dinner. By the evening of Saturday about 60 men were in residence at St. Bede's. Strict silence was kept and the effect of this was marvellous on meditation powers. One gradually loses all thought about the world, and meditation, which is nearly impossible to most men becomes exceedingly easy for all. From the rising bell at 6.30 to lights out at 10 there was always something to occupy one's thoughts—Morning Prayers, Holy Mass, and Communion, Lectures, etc. With the programme completed, the ordinary man did not regret his game of cricket or tennis missed on Saturday. After bidding adieu to the Retreat-master one left St. Bede's on Monday morning with the feeling—something attempted, something done, and the realisation that after all it is the soul that matters most.

## The Famous Newtown Band

The attention of our readers is drawn to the advertisement of the famous Newtown Band. There are 56 valuable prizes being given away the total value of which is £4614 14s 9d. This, we understand, is one of the biggest art unions ever conducted in the State. The tickets are only 1/- each, and are obtainable from the local newsagents and tobacconists. We have seen the list of prizes, and we must say that they are remarkably good ones.

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