

Sports and Entertainments

St. Patrick's Miniature Rifle Club, Timaru (From our own Correspondent.)

To mark the completion of a very successful year the St. Patrick's Miniature Rifle Club held a progressive euchre party and dance at which the trophies won during the year were presented. There was a large attendance of members and friends, and also members from other clubs.

During an interval between cards and dancing, the club captain (Mr. J. E. McKeefry) in outlining the year's performances, said that the club had had a very successful season; the membership had considerably increased over the previous season, and in all competitions the club's teams had taken a leading part. Four teams of five men each had entered for the *Herald* Shield Competition, the individual aggregate of which was won by Mr. F. Bartos. Two teams of ten men entered for the Hayhurst Shield Competition, the B grade team winning the shield with a record score, while the other team after a splendid score in the final round, tied for the C Grade Shield, Mr. W. McGrath winning the B Grade aggregate medal. In the South Island championship the club's team was well to the fore, having the highest score of all the South Canterbury teams.

The Captain then called on the patron (Rev. Father Hurley) who had always taken a practical interest in the club, and to whom they were much indebted, to present the trophies. The Gilmore Shield was won by the veteran of the club (Mr. J. Collins) who holds it for the season, and also wins a miniature silver cup presented to the winner of the Shield by Mr. D. Doyle. The championship cup presented by Mr. C. Byrne was won for the fourth successive year by Mr. F. R. Bartos, who also won from scratch the miniature silver cup presented by the patron. Mr. J. Murphy won the second, and Mr. W. McGrath the third prize, in the club championship. The Leigh Challenge Medal, presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Leigh, was won by Mr. F. R. Bartos.

Other trophies were won by Messrs. J. Murphy, jun., R. Campbell, D. Underwood, R. O'Connor, W. McGrath, J. Batchelor, E. Prendergast, L. McKeefry, R. Seamen, C. Durning, E. Power, J. Collins, L. Fountaine, J. McKeefry, F. R. Bartos, H. Travis, and V. Collins.

Trophies were donated to the club by the following:—Rev. Father Hurley, Mrs. O'Leary, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Davey, and Messrs. T. P. Crowe, J. Murphy, W. Moore, T. Cronin, M. J. Doyle, M. Mullin, J. Baxter, G. Lamborn, M. Houlihan, V. Meehan, J. J. Ardagh, E. Fountaine, W. Angland, R. Rodgers, R. Marshall, and F. DeLargey.

Sale of Work at Timaru (From our own correspondent.)

The members of St. Anne's Guild, who have been busily engaged for months past preparing a great variety of useful and ornamental articles for the purpose, held their annual sale of work on the 24th and 25th ult. The various stalls were heavily laden with goods,

which were displayed to the best advantage. The hall was most artistically decorated and presented a charming appearance. Brisk business was transacted, and a creditable amount was realised towards the many good works undertaken by the guild. The following is a list of the stall-holders:—Art and fancy: Mesdames Whitehead, Venning, and Crowe, and Misses Blackmore (3). Plain work: Mesdames Travis, Quinn, Thompson, and Seaman. Children's: Mesdames Rush, Hooper, and Power. Knitting: Mesdames Lyne and Perriam. Produce: Mesdames Sullivan, Leeming, and Miss Sullivan. Sweets: Mesdames Dunn and Cosgrove. Refreshments: Mesdames Kane, Durning, and McGrath. Dip: Mrs. Stapleton.

At the conclusion of the sale, Mrs. Whitehead (president), on behalf of the members, made a presentation of a fountain pen to Mr. H. Travis, who has so willingly helped the guild for many years, and has also conducted the card parties promoted by the guild during the last three months.

An Outline of Baseball

Baseball is not a game of "glorified rounders," as some historians contend.

Outside of passing the buck, it is the oldest known sport.

Credit for the invention of baseball is divided between Ok, the son of Wok, and Ug, the son of Wug, two young athletes who lived about the year 200,001 B.C.

Ok and Ug lived in caves on opposite sides of a little valley in the ancient land of Shush, and there was great rivalry between them and their families.

Whenever Ok felt the spirit moving him, he would heave an armful of smooth round stones across the valley into Ug's front door, and naturally Ug would retaliate, and thus they whiled away many a prehistoric day. In time they became quite proficient in throwing stones and in catching them on the fly. Thus developed what is now known as "playing catch."

There was a caveman in the community known as Ump. He had an ingrowing disposition and was hated cordially by men, women, children, and dinosaurs alike. One day Ump was walking down the valley, grouchy as usual, and when he heard the stones whistling past his ear he assumed a commanding aspect, made a jerking motion with his right thumb and cried: "That's out!"

Immediately Ok and Ug forgot their feud and began bouncing smooth round stones off Ump's dome. It made a great hit with the spectators who had gathered on the hillsides to watch the daily game. They became so enthused that they started tossing war clubs, hatchets, and marrow bones at Ump and chased him four miles down the valley.

That is how baseball originated, and that is why ever man feels an uncontrollable urge to heave something at an Ump.—*Birmingham Age-Herald*.

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