

Diocesan News

Archdiocese of Wellington
(From our own Correspondent.)

December 18.

The Catholic schools throughout the city are to be congratulated on their proficiency results. In one and all the same thing has to be recorded—no failures. Some of the classes, particularly in the cases of the Brothers' schools, Tasman Street and Thorndon, are very large. An outside observer, acquainted with school work elsewhere, examining the homework exercises of a Brothers' pupil, exclaimed in admiration at their contents. The work is carefully, almost meticulously done. Nor are the convents below this standard of excellence. One of the largest and oldest schools in the city has not had a failure in the Proficiency examination for years. Work done for love always scores because a blessing is on it.

The Buckle Street and Dufferin Street Schools have each held break-up concerts. The items in each case were excellent, the children showing careful training. There was a large attendance of parents and friends in both instance, and all thoroughly enjoyed the evening's entertainment. The school reports in both cases were most praiseworthy.

Among those returning from Europe this week was Mr. Kavanagh. He passed through Wellington and gave interesting accounts to his friends of his travels.

Buckle Street is having its usual Christmas Tree. The Christmas Tree brings memories of Father O'Donnell, who used to delight in giving the children this treat.

The Commercial Travellers' Association presented Rev. Mother Aubert with a cheque for seventy pounds. This association is one of the most charitable of organisations in its Christmas activities. A deputation of about fifteen members were present in person to hand over the gift to the aged Lady Bountiful of the Poor.

On the 14th inst. a concert was given, through the instrumentality of Mr. F. X. Dickenson, to the patients at the Ewart Hospital. Misses Eileen and Mollie Kelly and Jean Coker sang and the latter also recited. Messrs. W. A. B., and A. Conroy sang. Mr. A. B. Conroy also played the cello, and Mr. Dickenson the violin, while Mrs. F. X. Dickenson made a very efficient accompanist. The nurses subsequently very hospitably entertained the party to supper; at the same time expressing their appreciation of the concert.

ORDINATION CEREMONY.

Meance holds its ordinations in the most beautiful time of the year when the grounds are full of sunshine and flowers. This year his Grace Archbishop Redwood conferred on three aspirants the dignity of the priesthood. Those ordained were Rev. Father Minehan (Carterton), Rev. Father Bell (Dunedin), and Rev. Father Dynan (N.S.W.). The relatives of the newly-ordained priests were entertained afterwards by the Seminary staff, and in the afternoon Rev. Father Minehan, assisted by his two colleagues, gave Benediction. One hundred and six students have received ordination at Meance, and

over eighty of these are Colonial born. Their novitiate is set in pleasant places, and the parishes of Auckland city and suburbs will be engaged in the campaign. Six candidates will be chosen to compete for the honor of queen of St. Patrick's, St. Benedict's, Grey Lynn, and Sacred Heart parishes will have one representative each; Parnell, Remuera, Epsom, and Onehunga (combined) one; Dominion Road, Mt. Albert, and Avondale (combined) one. An art union will also be held in connection with the carnival. Already the matter is arousing considerable interest among the parishes. The management committee consists of Archdeacon Holbrook, Rev. Dr. Buxton, and Messrs. R. A. Keenan and J. Butler.

Reefton
(From our own Correspondent.)

December 17.

A very successful social was held in the parish hall on Thursday, December 10, to celebrate the opening of the Sacred Heart library, when a pleasant and enjoyable evening's amusement was provided; the greater part of the time being occupied in card playing interspersed by musical items, songs being rendered by Mrs. Berti, Misses Rivers and McKenzie, and a pianoforte solo by Miss M. Carroll. During the evening the Rev. Father Ginisty explained the position of the newly established library, and thanked the members of the sodality of the Sacred Heart for the generous support they had accorded him, and stressed the benefit of having suitable reading material for the parishioners. He then called upon Rev. Father Herring to declare the library open. Father Herring congratulated Father Ginisty and the members of the archconfraternity upon their successful undertaking, as it was due to their untiring energy that the parish now possessed an up-to-date library, and he exhorted all present to avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining good, clean reading material, as well as educational. He had much pleasure in declaring the library open.

Rev. Brother Leonard, of Greymouth, has been spending a few days in Reefton.

Diocese of Auckland

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 17.

On Sunday last, at the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Epsom, some 40 little children received their First Holy Communion. The Rev. Father O'Byrne celebrated Mass and gave Communion, as well as instructing the little ones on the importance of the occasion. The children were afterwards entertained to breakfast at the school by the Sisters of the parish. In the evening the children attended Benediction; members of the first branch of the Children of Mary Sodality were consecrated, and a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the faithful joined, took place in the church.

It is pleasing to announce that the Rev. Dr. Buxton has been appointed administrator of St. Patrick's Cathedral. He received the congratulations of many friends. The Rev. Father Bradley whom he succeeds has been transferred to take charge of the Remuera parish, as successor to the Rev. Father Doyle, whose health has been so indifferent.

The representatives of the various parishes met at St. Patrick's presbytery on the 10th inst. to discuss matters in regard to the forthcoming bazaar. It was decided to hold a carnival in the Town Hall, during May-June of next year, to be known as the Catholic Schools' Queen Carnival. The drive is to raise funds to make possible the establishment of two additional Catholic schools to relieve the congested state of the present accommodation at Vermont Street as well as liquidate its indebtedness. The whole of the

MATER MISERICORDIAE HOSPITAL A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL GARDEN FETE

Glorious weather prevailed for the garden fete arranged in connection with the silver jubilee celebrations of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. The function was held in the grounds of "Kiwi", the residence adjoining the hospital that was acquired from the Dignan estate to provide additional hospital accommodation.

Magnificent support was accorded the Sisters by all classes of the community, and the crowded attendance bore eloquent testimony to the popularity of the institution and the success of the function. From the commencement of the fete to its close the grounds were packed, and a large portion of the residence was set apart for stalls of every description, controlled by a band of energetic workers who attracted and executed phenomenal business throughout the day. As a further means of interesting the guests, the girls from the various convents provided very exciting basket-ball contests, and Walter Smith's jazz band, in conjunction with St. Mary's orchestra, enlivened the proceedings by many appropriate musical selections. The function in every way was a great success, and it is most gratifying to announce that the handsome sum of £1000 was raised for the object.

In opening the fete and introducing Mr. William Wallace, chairman of the Auckland Hospital Board, his Lordship Dr. Linton stated that in the 25 years of its existence