

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 1.

St. Mary's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society recently held a largely-attended half-yearly meeting in Ozanam Lodge, Bro. W. Rodgers presiding. Sick allowance (£2) was passed for payment, and one new member was initiated. The secretary (Bro. Johnston) read the balance sheet, which showed all funds to be in a very satisfactory condition. Favorable comment was made on the work of the secretary and on the excellent progress of the branch. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing term:—President, Bro. W. Rodgers; vice-president, Bro. J. Anderson; secretary, Bro. H. Johnston; assistant secretary, Bro. Smith; treasurer, Bro. H. O'Connor; warden, Bro. Wilson; guardian, Bro. Holland; sick visitors, Bros. Ormandy and Hampton; auditors, Bros. A. Roche and D. McCormick; U.F.S. Dispensary delegate, Bro. H. Johnston; U.F.S. Council delegate, Bro. H. O'Connor; U.F.S. Benevolent Association delegate, Bro. H. O'Connor.

The ordinary meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in the Hibernian Hall on Monday evening, July 25. B.P. Bro. H. Upjohn presided over a full roll of office-bearers and a good attendance of members. Sick pay amounting to £14 6s 8d and accounts (£9 4s) were passed for payment. Bro. M. J. O'Connor brought under notice the annual report and balance sheet of the U.F.S. Benevolent Association, and detailed the good work carried out by the association, which has expended £1164 12s 6d in relieving distress. Despite heavy demands during the year the balance sheet disclosed a highly satisfactory financial position. During the evening four new members were initiated and four nominations received. The secretary (Bro. Grimes) having enrolled the greatest number of new members during the past year, was presented with a framed certificate.

A very pleasant couple of hours were spent the other Sunday evening at the Catholic girls' hostel (writes our travelling correspondent), when, at the invitation of the matron, a few friends were invited to meet Miss Morgan and Mr. Tom Minogue, Catholic members of the J. C. Williamson Opera Company, then performing in Christchurch. Both these talented artists are Australians, and have previously visited the Dominion. Much appreciated musical items were given by Miss Morgan and Mr. Minogue, also by Misses M. G. O'Connor and Olga Wacked. Miss Eileen Hatch, who was successful in the recent Competitions, played a violin obligato to one of the vocal numbers. Supper was served in the large dining-room, after which Rev. Father T. Hanrahan, on behalf of the guests, thanked the matron (Miss Beveridge) and all who contributed to the enjoyable function. Messrs. Minogue and Amodeo also expressed the pleasure experienced on the occasion, Rev. Father Gallagher responding on behalf of the hostess. In conclusion, and by special request, Mr. Minogue sang "God Save Ireland."

A POPULAR POLICE OFFICER HONORED.

Prior to his departure for Wellington, having been promoted from Constable in charge of the Paeroa police district (a position he has very capably filled for the past six years) to the rank of sergeant (writes our own correspondent), Sergeant T. H. Dyer was entertained at a smoke social by the townspeople, among whom he is held in the highest esteem. The Mayor (Mr. P. E. Brennan) presided at a largely attended gathering in the local Returned Soldiers' Hall. Mr. H. Poland, M.P. for Ohinemuri, telegraphed his regret at his inability to be present, eulogising Sergeant Dyer's efficiency as a police-officer, and wishing him and his family every prosperity in his advanced position and new location. After Mr. E. W. Porritt (solicitor) had paid an eloquent tribute to the fine character of the guest of the evening, the Mayor, in his civic capacity and also as a justice of the peace, spoke in laudatory terms regarding Sergeant Dyer's tactfulness, consideration, and other sterling qualities which go to make—what their guest had proved himself to be—a thoroughly just and efficient police-officer. In asking Sergeant Dyer's acceptance of a gold watch, also of a gold wristlet watch for Mrs. Dyer,

Mr. Brennan said these were gifts from all sections of the community, as the subscription list testified; a plain indication of the high esteem in which both recipients were regarded by the people of Paeroa. In acknowledging with expressions of sincere gratitude the honor shown him and Mrs. Dyer, the sergeant said he regretted leaving Paeroa, where he and his family had been very happy. One's ambition naturally was (he said) to advance in whatever service his lot may be cast, and in his (the speaker's) instance promotion in the police service having come to him he must go where duty called. Mr. T. E. McMillan, of the *Ohinemuri Gazette*, in eulogising their friend's capabilities as a police-officer, remarked that a learned judge had expressed the opinion that "the highest function of the police was not to bring criminals to justice but to prevent crime being committed. Sergeant Dyer (he said) had lived up to this high ideal, and in honoring him the people of Paeroa were honoring themselves. In a similar strain kindly sentiments regarding their guest were voiced by a number of other prominent residents of the district.

The proceedings, which were enthusiastic throughout, were interspersed with musical and elocutionary items capably rendered and much enjoyed.

WEDDING BELLS

McCARTHY—STITT.

The wedding was solemnised at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland, on June 21, of Mr. Dominic McCarthy, and Margaret, youngest daughter of the late Mr. James Stitt. Rev. Father Murphy officiated and celebrated a Nuptial Mass. The choir, conducted by Mr. W. Pringle, rendered Weber's Mass in G, with Mr. H. Hiscocks at the organ; the soloists being Miss M. Coleman and Mr. W. Pringle. The bride, who was given away by her brother (Mr. J. L. Stitt) was attired in a handsome gown of white satin trimmed with silk tulle and white fur, a train lined with gold satin, and beautiful veil of Limerick lace, and carried a sheaf of arum lilies. She was attended by two bridesmaids—Misses Tessie O'Connor and Kathleen Scalley. The former was attired in white satin and black picture hat, and the latter in lavender crepe-de-Chine and hat to match. The two little train-bearers—Leon Watts (niece of the bride) and Kathleen O'Leary—wore pretty cream silk net frocks and torquoise blue French bonnets. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a beautiful gold Rosary and brown fox furs. A reception was held at the residence of the bride's sister (Mrs. P. Murphy), when Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, on behalf of St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir (of which the bride was a member), presented the newly-wedded couple with several handsome and useful gifts. Among the guests were Rev. Fathers Murphy, O'Connor, and O'Malley. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy subsequently left on a tour of the Waikato, the bride wearing a navy-blue and fawn cloth frock and jade-green hat.

McCARTHY—WHELAN.

The wedding was solemnised at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland, on July 12, of Patrick McCarthy, third youngest son of Mr. Patrick McCarthy, of Westport, and Annie, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Whelan; of Kumara. Rev. Father Buckley officiated and celebrated a Nuptial Mass. The bride, who was given away by Mr. Patrick Barry, late of Greymouth, was attired in a neat navy blue costume with grey velour hat to match, and carried an ivory-bound prayer-book. Miss E. Byrne (late of Kumara) as bridesmaid was attired in a smart grey costume and black hat prettily trimmed with nattier blue. Mr. William McCarthy (nephew of the bridegroom) was best man. After the ceremony the bridal party motored to the residence of Mr. P. Barry, where wedding breakfast was partaken of and the customary toasts honored. The numerous and costly presents received made an interesting display, and showed the esteem in which the newly-wedded couple are held. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy left for Devonport, where the honeymoon was spent prior to taking up their residence at Te Kawhita.

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