

Agnes Dixon, and Eva Thurston, Messrs. William Dickson, Nixon, and Stan. Dunstan. The organ accompaniments were played by Mr. Cyril Towsey, Mrs. J. Boylan, and Miss D. Boylan, while the choir was conducted by Mr. W. H. Whelan. Mrs. J. Boylan and Mr. W. H. Whelan were the joint-secretaries. Every item was thoroughly appreciated by the congregation which filled the beautiful Church.

Rev. Father Duffy, C.S.S.R. opens a month's mission in the parish of Puhoi, on Sunday, September 4.

A very lucid and scholarly lecture was given by Rev. Father Lyons to the Men's Confraternity, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, on Tuesday, August 30. His subject was "The Catholic doctrine of honoring the saints."

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HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, AUCKLAND.

The half-yearly meeting of the New Zealand district of the Hibernian-Australasian Catholic Benefit Society was held in the Central Hall, Cook Street, on Monday evening, August 29. Right Rev. Dr. J. M. Liston, Coadjutor-Bishop of Auckland, opened the meeting with prayer. Bro. P. Duffin, district president, presided, and there were present—Bro. T. Kelly, P.D.P., Bro. W. Kane, district secretary; Bro. M. J. Sheahan, district treasurer; and a large number of delegates representing the various branches throughout New Zealand. The funeral fund showed a balance of £17,181. The amount of funeral claims paid during the half-year was £510, and a net profit of £547 was earned in the period. The supplementary sick fund showed a credit balance of £4575, and a net profit of £237. The sick fund (for district members) showed a credit balance of £271, and a net profit of £10. In the investment fund (for branches) the balance at January 31 was £4694. Withdrawals totalled £1780, and deposits £523, and the balance on July 31 was £3438. The guarantee fund had a balance of £709. The following officers were nominated: District president, Bro. the Hon. P. J. Nerheny, M.L.C.; vice-presidents, Bros. Hughes and Colquhoun; district secretary, Bro. W. Kane; district treasurer, Bro. M. J. Sheahan; auditors, Bros. F. J. O'Meara and J. B. R. Stead.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

September 5.

The annual social in connection with the Christchurch Celtic Club, held recently in the Hibernian Hall, was well attended, and proved a successful and enjoyable function.

St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society, at its recent fortnightly meeting, made arrangements for participating in the promotion of a garden fete in aid of the new school building fund.

The spiritual retreat for men, which was commenced on last Friday evening at St. Bede's College, and is being conducted by Rev. Father Herring, Marist Missioner, is attended by 53 retreatants from over a wide area. The Marist Fathers who arranged the retreat are naturally gratified at the response to this initial retreat for men, and are thus encouraged to look forward to even greater success for the movement in the future.

Rev. Father Kane, of Wellington, and Rev. Father McEvoy, of the diocese of Lismore, New South Wales, preached at St. Mary's Church and the Cathedral, respectively, on last Sunday evening.

Members of St. Patrick's branch of the Hibernian Society, and of the Christchurch Celtic Club and M.B.O.B. Association, learned with deep regret of the death of Mr. George O'Sullivan, a young man who was prominently associated with all these organisations, and who gave much valued assistance at entertainments and Catholic gatherings generally.—R.I.P.

At a recent social promoted by the parishioners of St. Anne's, Woolston, advantage was taken of the occasion to recognise the services of Mr. and Mrs. McBrearty, who are leaving the district for Rangiora. Rev. Father T. Hanrahan, Adm., in presenting each with tokens of esteem, spoke of the valuable services rendered by them, and assured the recipients that they carried with them to their new home the very best wishes of the Woolston people.

Mrs. C. M. Green has, owing to health reasons, found it necessary to sever her connection with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Her resignation was received by Rev. Father T. Hanrahan, Adm., and the members of the society with deep regret. Mrs. Green has been associated with the parish work in Christchurch for 24 years, 21 of which she has been an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and held the office of president for 17 years. The amount of work accomplished by her in the cause of charity—the relief of distress, the welfare of the unfortunate, and finding shelter for the homeless—is quite incalculable, for Mrs. Green has not allowed her activities to be confined to the work peculiar to the society but extended her sphere of action to every kind of misfortune. She took upon herself many responsibilities, invariably seeing her object carried to a successful issue. The society records with pleasure and pride her noble services, and prays that she may be restored to health and at some future time renew the activities that in many a poor family will now be sadly missed.

GARDENING NOTES

(By Mr. J. Joyce, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)
WORK FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

The Vegetable Garden.—The busy time in gardening operations may now be considered to have fairly set in, and the spring sowing of vegetable and flower seeds should be the main occupation this month. With the warmer weather now approaching, the soil in most gardens, will probably be in a fit state to receive attention. Where the soil is of a friable, loamy nature seed sowing may be gone on with at once, but where it is of a stiff, clayey formation with at once, but where it is of a stiff, clayey formation it would be advisable to defer this work until a little later. As a general principle it is bad gardening to sow seeds in wet soil; warmth and moisture are the essential conditions for the germination of plants. All the principal vegetable seeds, such as peas, broad beans, carrots, turnips, may be sown, also a sprinkling of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, radish, mustard and cress, a good square of onions and a small quantity of leek. A patch of early potatoes should now be sown, providing a suitable situation is available. If asparagus is needed, now is a good time to plant a bed; also plant rhubarb and seakale. The sowing of kidney-beans must be delayed until the possibility of frosty weather is past.

The Flower Garden.—Attention should now be directed to the sowing of hardy annuals and perennials. These require to be sown in patches along the borders, and the more tender specimens in boxes under glass for later transplanting. Watering must not be neglected. Patches of sweet peas sown in the borders, and provided with branches for support, make a very effective display. Antirrhinum or snapdragon are now in great favor, as there are so many varieties to choose from, and they make such a good show for a lengthy period in the garden. Violas look well in edgings. Another good annual is double godetia and double clarksia, and both make a good display. The dwarf French marigold (Legion of honor) makes a good edging, and keeps in flower throughout the season, even until the frosts appear. The Iceland poppy, when grown in clumps, looks very pretty, and is very much sought after for table decoration. Cape marigold is a showy annual. The aquilegia or columbine, delphinium, and phlox Drummondii are all favorite annuals for display in plots. These, as well as lobelia, should be first raised in boxes. Now is a good time to sow down lawns. Keep the grass constantly mowed and the lawn rolled. By well rolling the lawns at the present time the roots of the grass will be firmly established in the soil after the winter rains and frosts, and a firm and even sward will be the result throughout the season.

The Fruit Garden.—It is now time that all pruning and planting should be completed, and spraying attended to. It is necessary to collect prunings and rubbish of all kinds. These should be destroyed by fire, and on no account left in heaps about the garden as they harbor vermin and blights. If planting is still necessary it is advisable to carry out the work without any delay. Where trees are planted out in exposed situations it is necessary to tie them to stakes for support.