

writers of the Revival who were often imitators of Ibsen. We have never believed that (apart from Deirdre) there is any real Gaelic inspiration in John Synge's work, but unless we are mistaken the great Norwegian gave him his gloom and repulsiveness. The only writer we can remember who seems notably influenced by the Russians is Patrick Macgill, who is more Russian than Celt in his brutality and elemental passion.

Having mentioned Macgill, we venture to express our regret that Mr. Egan should have advertised him at all; and that he should have selected that unpleasant novel, *Maureen*, for commendation seems still worse. Macgill made a hit with his first novel, *Children of the Dead End*, which was Russian in its faithful pictures of hardship, poverty, passion, and suffering. He then proceeded to tell the same story several times in several new novels and people grew tired of it. In *Maureen* he tells it with frills and variations: but *Maureen* is decidedly inferior to *The Children of the Dead End* besides being a book for which the author ought to be horsewhipped by every Irishman who ever meets him.

It is regrettable that Mr. Egan should find his way to Patrick Macgill and Gerald O'Donovan when he "goes to Irish novels to find a clue to local or national characteristics" and finds instead "a perverter of known truth like Gerald O'Donovan." There are, as we have indicated, scores of modern Irish books which do not pervert the truth, which give true pictures of Irish life, are well written, worth reading, and, on the whole, a proof that the moderns are greatly superior to the men of Lever's or Lover's day. If any apology is needed for expressing at such length our difference of opinion as to Mr. Egan's criticisms, we can only say that we write because we are certain that Mr. Egan is not only wrong but unjust to the modern writers.

### DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Sisters of Mercy gratefully acknowledge a donation of £1 for St. Vincent's Orphanage, from "Wellwisher," Invercargill.

In observance of the Month's Mind of the late Monsignor Coffey, there will be Solemn Requiem Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday next, the 13th inst., commencing at 9 a.m.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the eleven o'clock Mass on Sunday last. In the evening after Compline there were the devotions in connection with the men's branch of the Sacred Heart Confraternity—the members being present in very large numbers. An impressive sermon was preached by Rev. Father More-O'Ferrall, S.M., who afterwards carried the Sacred Host in the procession, and officiated at Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Revs. M. Spillane and F. Marlow being deacon and subdeacon respectively.

His Lordship Dr. Whyte, Bishop of Dunedin, leaves Wellington to-morrow (Friday) by the Ulimaroa for Sydney en route to Rome.

Rev. Brother C. Marlow, of the Christian Brothers, St. Kevin's, Melbourne, who spent his Christmas vacation with his parents (Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Marlow, of Musselburgh, Dunedin) and in visiting his relatives, was a passenger by the Moeraki on Monday, on his return to the Victorian capital.

### ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN.

The following successes at various public examinations were gained by pupils of St. Dominic's:—November examinations of University of New Zealand: First section B.A., Katherine Bourke, French and Latin; Mary Lynch, French and philosophy (exempted students). Teachers' examinations: Class D, M. Dowdall and M. Lynch; partial pass, W. Kaveney; two groups, K. Bourke and M. Kennedy; one group, J. Sorenson. Matriculation, Solicitors' General Knowledge, and Medical Preliminary: Katherine Hickey, Josephine O'Neill, Roma Reilly. Matriculation: Winifred Lauren, Sheila Todd; partial pass, Mary Phelan, Gonza Shiel; completed partial pass (M.S.P.), Mona Kennedy. Public Service entrance examination: Kathleen Hewes (credit list), Agnes Clark, Nina Hardy, Nora McTamney, Margaret Hanley, Mary Piper, Grace Beath; intermediate: Edna Crowley, Margaret Ford, Noreen Jones, Kathleen Mackenzie, Ada Sligo; junior national scholarship, Mabel

Rice. Miss Doris Roche won the prize for Irish essay donated by the Dunedin Irish Society.

### ST. PHILOMENA'S COLLEGE, SOUTH DUNEDIN.

All the students entered for the public examinations in December by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Philomena's College, South Dunedin, were successful. Following are the results:—University of N.Z. Matriculation and Solicitors' General Knowledge: Misses Mary Poppelwell, Mary Ann Garr, and Margaret M. Faulks; senior free place, Miss Monica Delany; intermediate, Miss Kathleen Phelan; junior national scholarship, Miss Annie MacGregor.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

February 2.

The Right Rev. Dr. Liston (Coadjutor-Bishop) blessed and opened the school of the Good Shepherd parish, Dominion Road, on Sunday, January 28, after the Mass at 9 o'clock. The new presbytery was afterwards opened. Both buildings are constructed of brick, with rough-cast facing. The school, which will be conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, will have a roll number of nearly 200 pupils. In a brief address Bishop Liston paid a tribute to the self-sacrifice of the sisters who devoted their lives to teaching the children. They taught them that there were other things in life beside "money grubbing." They taught them truth, obedience, reverence for God and love of their country. A debt of gratitude was owed them for the work they did. "What strikes me about the position is this," the Bishop said, "here are religious teachers doing the work of the State, and the State, which is supposed to care for everybody, gives them no support. That, to my mind, is an act of grave injustice. If the State did not take our Catholic money for the education of other children it would not be so bad." In England, Scotland, Canada, and Holland the State gave assistance to Catholic schools. In Southern Ireland, where non-Catholics were only about one in 50, the framers of the Constitution provided that no religious body should ever be at a disadvantage compared with others as far as the schools were concerned. That was fair. If it could be done in England and Ireland, why not in New Zealand? Things were very different here (continued the Bishop). Only last week two boys won senior national scholarships and a third won a junior national scholarship. The boys who won the senior national scholarships were placed second and third, so evidently the Catholic schools were able to hold their own with others. The boys were entitled to a free education and a money grant. But here was the point! They were Catholic boys and naturally their parents would like them to continue their education in Catholic schools. But the State said no, they must go to other schools. I trust some day a man with a big heart and fair vision, a man of the soil, born in New Zealand, will arise and sweep away this injustice. Our parents are paying education taxes, and have a right to say how the money shall be applied. For the sake of New Zealand justice should be done to us, and Christianity put into the schools of the country."

On Sunday afternoon, January 28, the school and convent of the Sisters of Mercy at Avondale were opened by the Coadjutor-Bishop. Both buildings are in brick. The property of eight acres was bought last year at a cost of £2000, and the cost of the school building is £2000. When the school starts in February there will be an attendance of 100 children. Rev. Father Colgan is now in charge of the Avondale parish.

### The Famous Diggers

During this month the "Famous Diggers," that popular company of cheerful entertainers (now augmented by a number of clever and talented lady artists), who have for so long and so successfully given of their best to the people of this Dominion, are touring the West Coast towns of the North Island, and playing to the large audiences their show so well merits. The "Diggers" open at Palmerston North on Monday next, the 12th inst.; on the 14th at Wanganui, and will then follow the itinerary as published in our advertising columns. For a good, clean, and artistic entertainment there is nothing better offering at the present time than that provided by the "Diggers."

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