

THE Dunedin Catholic Literary Society brought their session to a close by a musical and literary evening at St. Joseph's Schoolroom, which looked exceedingly pretty. It was nicely decorated for the occasion, and was crowded. The Rev. Father McKay presided. The Rev. Fathers O'Donnell, Murphy, and O'Neill were also present. The president, Father Lynch, in answer to many anxious inquiries, stated that Bishop Moran's health continued to improve. The orchestra, under Mr Vallis, rendered several selections. Miss Morrison, who was in excellent voice, sang 'Killarney,' and as an encore, 'Ever of Thee.' Master E. Wilkins pleased everyone with his recitation, 'Bingen on the Rhine.' Mr Caroline, 'Never More' was also a success. Miss Rose Blaney was in good voice, and sang 'Salve nos Domini,' and 'Last Night.' Mr Woods sang, 'Our Guards,' and Miss Murphy, 'In Happy Moments,' Miss Mary Drumm playing the accompaniments during the evening in her usual sympathetic style. The second part consisted of the farce, 'An Ugly Customer,' several local allusions being much appreciated. The characters were sustained by Messrs W. E. Davis, J. P. Hally, T. D. Waters, and the Misses J. and C. Maecdo. During the interval, tea, coffee, and cakes were enjoyed.

THE attractiveness of an officers' dance has been frequently remarked, and the one given in the Calliope Dock by the officers of H.M.S. Tauranga last week is described as quite one of the most enjoyable dances of the season. The moon was bright and the evening delightful but for rude bores, whose attentions rather ruffled the crimps and crepons of the ladies. The ferry boat landed the guests at the Dock, and in a prepared outer shed they removed their wraps. Thence they ascended to the ship where they were received by the officers in the terribly brilliant glow of the electric light. The deck was enclosed with canvas, and tastefully draped with flags, whilst arm lilies, white flowers, and greenery conveyed a breath of land and gardens. The boards were polished like glass, and were splendid for dancing, whilst the music was perfect. The gentlemen were slightly in the majority, so that every lady had an especially good time.

A PARTICULAR note of praise must be sounded as regards the supper, which was extremely good and substantial—the choicest wines, with ham, turkey, duck, chicken, oysters, jellies, trifles, ices, fruit, etc., the whole being very prettily decorated with roses. Everybody seemed loth to leave the vessel when the hour of parting came, and after the guests had adjourned to the ferry, three hearty cheers were given to the officers, who returned three for the Auckland ladies and three for the Auckland gentlemen. All the way across the harbour on the return journey, the search light illumined the ferry steamer, and it is strange to relate some of the passengers didn't like it! But the watching officers on the Tauranga seemed amused by the disclosures it made.

A MOST successful juvenile dance was given in All Saints Schoolroom, Dunedin, by Mesdames Sale, Shand, and Ulrich. There was a large number of guests, and dancing was kept up with great spirit till the small hours. The hostesses received their guests, and throughout the evening left nothing to be desired in the way of attention, looking after the happy young people thoroughly. The party was almost entirely juvenile, only a few exceptions being made.

THE pernicious system of baby-farming, which has flourished so long in Sydney would seem to have also made a promising beginning in our young country. For some of the parents of these destitute and abandoned children no one can entertain feelings of commiseration or sympathy. They have brought their misery entirely on themselves, and in many cases deserve punishment rather than pity. But for the helpless little ones who have been thrust into a cold, cruel world without any choice of their own, every Christian man and woman is bound to feel compassion. These infants, varying in age from a fortnight or less to three years, have been boarded out, with, in too many instances, most pitiable results. They have been treated in the most inhuman manner, slowly starved to death, allowed to live in rooms whose filth made even a seasoned inspector turn away, quite overcome with the odour; or even cruelly and brutally ill-used. In Auckland, Mrs Cowie, of Bishopscourt, whose warm sympathies have long been enlisted by these suffering babes has opened a home or *crèche* in Parnell, where, for the small charge of seven shillings per week, they can be received and properly fed and nursed. This small sum does not cover expenses, and it is hoped that there are many whose hearts have been stirred by the recent exposures in Sydney, who will send donations of clothes or money to Bishopscourt for this needed work.

THE notice of Miss Scott's Juvenile ball which took place on Monday evening has been crowded out of this issue, but will appear in our next.

A COMPLIMENTARY social was given in the Choral Hall, Dunedin, to Mr J. W. Jago, by the employees of the Star Office, on the occasion of his having completed his twenty-first year in the capacity of manager of that paper. There

were about sixty couples present, and dancing was one of the chief features of the evening. Mr Mark Cohen presented Mr Jago with a beautifully illuminated address, to which was appended sixty-two signatures, headed by that of Mr G. Bell.

ONE of the most liberal entertainers of the Auckland winter season has certainly been Mrs McMillan. Another very large and charming 'At Home' was given at 'Ardstrath,' Remuera, last week, which was much enjoyed by the numerous guests. The garden and verandah were like glimpses of fairyland, with the numerous Chinese lanterns resembling huge glow-worms amongst the trees, whilst the verandah was one mass of fairy lights. Music is always an excellent feature at this house. Amongst those who contributed towards the pleasure of the evening in this way were the hostess, Mrs McMillan, and her son, Mr Gibson McMillan (song), whilst her daughters rendered pianoforte solos; songs by Mrs Kilgour, Lieutenant Hume, Mr Archdale Taylor, Mrs Butt, Mrs Moss Davis, Mrs Goldstein, Misses Stevenson, Tilley, etc.; quartette by Misses Stuart and Shurland, and Messrs Whitney and A. Clarke; violin, Mr McClean; zither, Mr James, made up a good programme. Afterwards followed the dramatic performance of a burlesque on 'Three Temptations.' Those who took part were Messrs Airey, Woolcott, Goldsboro', Uplif, Bruce, Whewell, Tilly, Carr, G. McMillan, Misses F. Stevenson, K. McMillan, E. McMillan, A. Law, H. Worsp, Keesing, Tilly, Thompson, McFarlane. The scenery was extremely pretty. 'Ardstrath' has three large rooms opening into one another, in one of these is erected a stage with drop scenery. The whole thing was a great success. Mr Bruce's acting was perfection. Afterwards everybody adjourned to supper, which was prettily laid out. The flower decorations were yellow with greenery. Wines of the choicest were on the table, where abounded every good thing, such as oysters, jellies, trifles, meringues, etc. Songs and dances were interspersed during the rest of the evening.

THE Pollard Juvenile Opera Company have been playing to fair houses in Nelson for three nights last week. They opened on Thursday, and unfortunately amidst pouring rain, which doubtless prevented many from going who would otherwise have been present. The 'Princess of Trebizonde' was an opera new to Nelson theatre-goers, and is certainly a bright and lively opera, the fun all through being immense. 'Patience' is an old favourite here, but the attendance was very large, chiefly owing to the performance after 'Patience' of 'Adam's Eden.' This little opera is very similar in character to 'Princess Ida,' and full of wit and fun. The 'Gondoliers' was performed on Saturday amidst great applause of an appreciative audience.

THE Auckland Yacht Club held their meeting last evening too late for a report in this week's issue. The report adopted read as follows:—'The committee has much pleasure in congratulating the members on the progress of the Club, and the increased interest in yachting at Auckland during the past year. A large number of new yachts have been added to the club's fleet, which now comprises fifty-five yachts. A display of the fleet was made in December last in honour of His Excellency the Governor, and witnessed by him on board of the Commodore's yacht. The revival of yacht racing has been a feature of the past season, and the races at the local regattas were well contested. The club races were also interesting, and resulted as follows:—1 (not exceeding 6—rating), Mr F. W. Mace's 'Awatea,' 1; Mr G. Warman's 'Mebaro,' 2. 2 (not exceeding 3—rating), Mr J. Logan's 'Gloriana,' 1; Mr Swale's 'Aline,' 2. The Annual Picnic and Aquatic Sports were held at the Lake Beach and were well attended. The measurement rule of the Yacht Racing Association of Great Britain has again been adopted by the Club, and a former objection to it has been removed by an addition to the rule. The committee much regrets the loss which yachting has sustained by the death of Mr Waymouth (sen.), ex Commodore of the Club, and of Mr W. H. Levin, Vice President of the New Zealand Yachting Association. The coming season promises to be the most interesting in the history of the Club, from the fact that the championship races of the New Zealand Yachting Association will be held at Auckland in January next. The statement of accounts shows a balance to the credit of the Club of £50.'

THE PALMER-BEAUMONT CONCERT COMPANY.

A FIRST CLASS COMBINATION.

THE praise of the press scarcely carries the weight it should do in the colonies, it being well understood by the public that it is the almost universal custom of the daily papers to deal leniently with advertisers, and that while praise is given on the smallest, or even on a suspicion of provocation, blame is altogether escaped providing the advertisement occupies half a column or so. The GRAPHIC has always taken up an independent tone, criticising without fear or favour, and uninfluenced by the

presence or absence of advertisement. It is pleasant for once in a way to bestow almost unqualified praise on the concert company who conclude to-morrow (Thursday) a most successful season in Auckland. It is a very long while since the public have had a chance of listening to an artist of Mr Gee's calibre. He has a marvellous voice and sings with perfect taste and expression. Nothing finer has been heard in Auckland, at any rate since Foli sang to such wretched houses that the stigma lies on Auckland yet. Mr Gee has drawn the public in earnest, and it is with the knowledge that nobody can afterward rise and revile me for persuading them that I recommend the public to hear Mr Gee at any cost in Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, or wherever he may be. Nor is he a single star. Lemmone, the flautist, is equally great in his own line, and the concerts would be worth attending to hear him alone. The harpist, Mr Barker, is likewise altogether delightful, and the harp solos are amongst the most enjoyable items on the programmes.

Mrs Palmer will be welcomed by hosts of old friends. Her voice is wonderfully preserved, and she sings with all her old taste. Armes Beaumont, the tenor, sings like the artist he is, but his voice is not what it was, and there is no earthly use pretending it is. He sings and is applauded, for some of his notes ring out clear and sweet, but it is almost a pity. The effort it causes him to sing is almost painful. The second soprano is a pleasant, but not a great songstress, and would be well advised to stick to ballad-singing. This she does really well. The concerts as a whole are the best offered to the public since Foli departed, and are likely to be far more popular. Mr Gee, Mr Lemmone, Mr Barker, and Mrs Palmer form a quartette of stars. Personally, I have not enjoyed a visit to the opera so much for nine months.

A FAREWELL CONCERT.

The farewell concert on Thursday evening in Auckland promises to be the biggest thing of the kind done in Auckland for many a long day. That the house will be packed is a foregone conclusion, since everyone seems talking of the affair, and the booking is phenomenal. It will be a splendid concert. Several sacred numbers will be given, amongst them the following gems from the oratorios:—Duet, 'I Waited for the Lord'; trio, 'On Thee Each Living Soul Awaits'; quartette, 'Cast thy Burden'; aria, 'In Native Worth'; aria, 'Angels Ever Bright and Fair'; solo, 'Nazareth'; aria, 'O Rest in the Lord.'

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