

been injured by the late floods, applied for compensation, but were admonished by the stern reply, that the conscript reverends in question were not accountable for "the act of God?"

When such a council, then, undertakes to sit in judgment, it may justly claim to be regarded as a "DANIEL," and rightfully may overwhelm with contempt all who would impertinently venture to question its impartiality, even though it should itself stand at the bar as well as sit upon the bench—metaphorically as well as Hibernianly speaking of course. But, nevertheless, we must, shame-facedly and to our confusion, confess that we have been by no means satisfied by the result of the inquiry into the circumstances attendant on the death of Mr. PEARSON'S child at the Fever Hospital.

It is true that a considerable amount of evidence, in favor of the manner in which the hospital is conducted, was brought forward on the refusal of the complainant, under certain circumstances, to proceed with his case, but we have so frequently seen the most confident testimony completely overthrown on the hearing of the statements opposed to it, and that without the slightest suspicion of an intention to deceive on the part of any of those concerned, that we consider all that was adduced on the occasion alluded to as simply a mere waste of time and words. So much, however, we managed to glean, as that it was plainly admitted that the attendance employed at the hospital was insufficient, and that the dying child was removed from the room where it had passed the day on four nights, evidently rather to suit the convenience of Mr. JOHNSTONE, the care-taker, than for any benefit to be derived from the change by the poor little sufferer—that is, from the change considered in itself, and without reference to the alternative of the child's being left unwatched in any manner during the hours of the night.

But it is not our purpose to sift the evidence given, and if, we allude to the case at all, it is simply in order to express a hope that the affair may not now be considered as settled. We greatly doubt the wisdom of the compulsory clause in the Health Act, for we believe that by leading to the concealment of infectious disorders, on the part of persons not wholly under the control of reason and common sense, and such folk greatly preponderate in this vale of tears, it is far more likely to conduce to the spread of disease than to its prevention; but it must be clear to all, that, to render it so much as endurable to those who fall within its reach, it is above all things necessary that it may be seen beyond possibility of error, that the welfare of the sufferers is insured by their forcible removal from home, and that they are taken away as much to secure for them increased means of recovery, as to prevent the disease by which they are affected from spreading abroad. Otherwise, we fear that "our duty towards our neighbor" may occasionally prove a little tougher than what it can reasonably be expected that mere flesh and blood will be inclined peaceably to perform.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MANY of our readers, and especially those who have children attending St. Joseph's female school, Dunedin, will learn with much regret that the Dominican sister, who has been for some years especially charged with the direction of the institution in question, is on the eve of leaving this Colony for Ireland. For some time this lady has suffered from weakness of the eyes, and it was intended that she should visit Melbourne for the purpose of consulting an eminent oculist in that city, but as an opportunity has offered for her to accompany a family of the highest respectability to London, she has decided on availing herself of it, and she will set sail from Port Chalmers on Saturday next in the Calypso.

THE Dunedin and Port Chalmers Regatta, to come off this day, is no doubt looked forward to with anxiety by many of our readers. Amongst the various athletic and pleasurable exciting sports that take place from time to time, there are none more calculated to afford amusement and interest to the spectators, or healthy exercise and useful training to the competitors than the various kinds of boat races, and it is always well when advantage has been taken of the provision for them made by nature that they should be sustained and encouraged. We therefore hope to see the day kept up with spirit, and every available position from which the contests may be viewed occupied by crowds of on-lookers. Intending visitors will find by reference to our advertising columns that their convenience has been amply attended to by the railway authorities, and that arrangements have been made to run trains throughout the day so as to suit the requirements of all.

Two other handsome oil paintings have been added to those provided for the Art Union to be held in September next in connection with the new Conventual buildings in Dunedin. They are views of the Ocean Beach and of the Upper Harbor, taken by Mr. Power, and are each valued at £20. The coloring is especially happy, and the manner in which the breakers and the sea generally are painted can scarcely be too highly lauded.

We find that so satisfactory was the manner in which Mr. J. B. Steele sustained the various characters assumed by him during the engagement of Mrs. Scott-Siddons in Dunedin, that an arrangement has been entered into by which it is settled that he shall accompany the eminent lady in question on her tour in New Zealand. Mr. Steele has long been known as an actor of high talents, and wherever he has played he has invariably won the plaudits of his audience. During his last engagement in Dunedin, however, unfortunately for the drama-loving public, he was not so prominently put forward as he might, with much advantage, have been, and in some instances the bad taste of substituting another artiste for him was very evident, more especially when the "Lady of Lyon's" was on the boards. We conclude by wishing him every success.

We understand that the Rev. Father Kelly, S.J., left the Bluff yesterday by the s.s. Ringarooma for Melbourne. On Monday last the rev. gentleman delivered his able lecture on "Mary Stuart," at Invercargill, the chair being occupied by Sir John Richardson. The lecture was delivered to a numerous and appreciative audience, and was, as it invariably happens where the eloquent son of St. Ignatius is concerned, a thorough success.

At the Dunedin Catholic Young Men's Society meeting, held in St. Joseph's school-room, on the 14th February, there was a large attendance, and a very pleasant evening was spent. The programme consisted of an essay, readings, recitations, &c. There was another meeting last Wednesday, at which the Rev. Father Crowley was present. A programme similar to the one of the previous meeting was carried through with great satisfaction to the members.

The three paintings, which we have already, in a former issue, alluded to as ordered from Rome to serve as prizes in the approaching Dominican Convent Art Union, have now arrived, and it is found that they far exceed in value the prices placed opposite to their names on the tickets which have been printed and distributed, the principal of them being fully worth £50, and each of the two others £15. They are, as announced, a copy of Guido Remi's "Aurora," a "Sybil," and an "Italian Peasant Woman," and their beauty is extreme. The first named is a magnificent allegorical painting of large size. The chariot of the sun is driven by Apollo, and is preceded by Aurora and accompanied by the Muses. The god is of surpassing beauty, and by his blonde complexion symbolises light; the other figures are likewise of wondrous grace, and each one of them would in itself form a study of no mean standing. The picture would, indeed, not only make a splendid ornament for any private residence in the colonies; but would be a striking and much admired addition to the treasures of any public gallery of art in the Southern hemisphere. Were the art union organised for the purpose of disposing of this alone, it would be well worth while to compete for its possession. The parcel in which these paintings were enclosed, contained, as well, a number of lesser pictures, several of which are also of great beauty, and which are intended as prizes for those persons who will each get rid of £5 worth of tickets. Some other works of art were also forwarded, principally bronzes and mosaics. Amongst the latter are two exquisite tables, both of the rarest marbles; the one made in the form of a chess-board; the other round and having in the midst a view of the Roman Forum, surrounded by a circle of malachite; these, however, are not intended for the art union, but will be otherwise disposed of. We understand that arrangements are about to be made, by which all the articles mentioned, together with the other pictures provided, will be placed on exhibition.

We are happy to announce that the Rev. Father Donovan has returned to Dunedin from Melbourne, quite restored to health by his visit to the Victorian capital. The rev. gentleman arrived at Port Chalmers by the Tararua yesterday morning.

A THRILLING SCENE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the 'Ledger,' who was present at a review of the Austrian cavalry, narrates the following incident:—It is a grand sight—twenty to forty thousand horse, where each and every horse knows and understands the slightest note of the bugle, sweep over a broad plain, and changing positions like an enormous machine guided by an unerring master-hand. It must be seen to be appreciated. Words cannot reproduce the picture. On a certain occasion an event transpired which lent an interest most thrilling to the military scene. It was at a review, held in Vienna, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the military order of Maria Theresa.

Nor far from 30,000 cavalry were in line. A little child—a girl—of not more than four years, standing in the front row of spectators, either from fright or some other cause, rushed out into the open field just as a squadron of hussars came sweeping around from the main body. They had made the detour for the purpose of saluting the Empress, whose carriage was drawn up in that part of the parade ground. Down came the flying squadron, charging at a mad gallop—down directly upon the child. The mother was paralyzed, as were others, for there could be no rescue from the line of spectators. The Empress uttered a cry of horror, for the child's destruction seemed inevitable—and such terrible destruction—the tramping to death by a thousand iron hoofs!

Directly under the feet of horses was the little one—another instant must seal its doom—when a stalwart hussar, who was in the front line, without slackening his speed or loosening his hold, threw himself over by the side of his horse's neck, seized and lifted the child, and placed it in safety upon his saddle-bow; and this he did without changing his pace or breaking the correct alignment of the squadron.