

On the motion of the Rev. Father Mahoney, a vote of thanks to the Mayor was carried by acclamation, and the proceedings terminated by the pupils singing the National Anthem.

An exhibition of some very beautiful fancy-work, of needle-work, drawings, illuminations, and penmanship, the production of young ladies attending these schools, which were arranged in a room set apart for the purpose, attracted a great deal of attention and general admiration. Indeed, all the work exhibited at these schools gave proof of diligence and care on the part of the pupils, and at the same time of most careful training on the part of those having the conduct of the respective schools; and in congratulating these upon the undoubted success of their efforts, we are sure that all who were present will join with us.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, CHRISTCHURCH.

THE schools in city and suburbs (Halswell and Papanui) broke up for the Christmas holidays on Friday, December 19th. The usual examinations previous to mid-summer vacation had been made, but owing to the non-arrival of goods from Europe intended for prizes, the awards were not distributed. Certificates of merit were issued as the next best thing, and a promise of the prizes immediately after the re-opening of schools. The annual concert given by young ladies attending Select School, under the management of the religious of *Notre Dame des Missions* having been looked forward to with pleasure by those whose happiness it has been to attend there within the last few years, was, notwithstanding the absence of the prizes, given on Monday, December 22nd, and was as great a treat as ever to the audience.

Previous to the entertainment the visitors were requested to inspect the various specimens of workmanship executed by the pupils since last examination. This took place in a separate hall to that in which the concert was given, and owing to the pleasing and neat arrangement of the exhibits, the hall presented the appearance of a museum or picture gallery. On the tables and around the walls could be seen specimens of almost every conceivable article of art, or science a young lady is supposed to be acquainted with.

The copybooks containing the hand writing (plain and ornamental) were a pleasure to study. The book-keeping and arithmetic papers were really excellent, whilst the mapping and other free hand drawings were superior to anything I have ever seen on similar occasions. A mistress of one of the leading Government schools in the city was present, and minutely inspected the various exhibits, after which she was heard to say that nothing like them could possibly be procured from Government schools, and wondered how sisters could take such trouble with children in no way related to them. The embroidery, needlework, and knitting tastes of the pupils were severely criticised and much admired by the ladies present judging from the close inspection and flattering remarks all round. I was glad to see amongst the exhibits a pair of gentleman's socks, firmly and neatly put together with good strong woollen thread; they are articles I have great partiality for, especially in wintry weather, and would like to see the art of knitting and darning socks, stockings, &c., universally taught our females. Samples of Berlin wool and lace work were also shown, also crayon drawings, and innumerable other things which, to state the truth, I know nothing about. After spending over an hour in this room, and studying with interest the exhibits, I was forcibly struck with the advantage we Catholics have in imparting education over our opposite brethren. This impression was still further strengthened in the course of the evening whilst listening to the performers at the entertainment. What a blessing for parents to have their daughters under the maternal care of religious. What is it that a lady is expected to excel in that is not taught in a Convent school? Besides the three Rs. there are music, painting, drawing, embroidery in all its departments, and every other acquisition not the least of which is good manners and deportment. One can almost always know a Convent schools girl by her polite manners and graceful demeanour, all of which is entirely owing to the great care taken by their most indefatigable teachers.

The concert by the young ladies attending the Select School was given in the parish schoolroom, which was neatly decorated for the occasion. This room was erected fourteen years ago, and was then considered one of the best of its kind in Christchurch, but it is no longer capable of containing the little girls who flock in hundreds to it. It is perfectly astonishing how the Sisters could have managed so many little ones under the roof of this building, and it is no credit to those who expect them to do so.

I believe an appeal has been made by Rev. F. Ginaty to his people to enable him to rescue the Sisters and their pupils from this hot bed of disease (for it cannot be called anything else in weather like the present), and it is to be hoped it will be responded to cheerfully.

His Lordship the Bishop of Wellington, together with the Rev. Fathers Ginaty, Devoy, Grunholtz, and Chervier, were present during the entertainment. The following is the programme, all of which was neatly rendered:—

PROGRAMME.

Solo (2 pianos), "Silvery Waves," *Wyman*, Misses Boylan and O'Brien; Prologue, delivered by Miss Moir; French Song, "Ave Bonheur," Young Ladies of Senior Class; Duet (7 Pianos), "Fairly Quadrille," *Farmer*, by 14 Performers, Misses McGarva, Webb, Geoghagan, Hoban, Howard, Herbert, Kennedy, Conley, K. Conley, A. Conley, O'Neil, O'Brien, Doherty, and Boylan; Song, with Chorus, "The Chimes of St. Mary's," Young Ladies of Senior and Junior Classes; Solo (7 Pianos), "Woodland Whispers," Misses Moynihan, Webb, O'Brien, Hoban, Conley, Geoghagan, and Doherty; Recitation, "The Cross in the Wilderness," *Mrs. Hemans*, Miss E. Holly; French Song, "Salut! Salut!" Young Ladies of Senior Class; Duet (6 Pianos), "What are the Wild Waves Saying?" *Brinley Richards*, by 12 Performers, Misses O'Brien, Conley, Cronin, N. Cronin, Geoghagan, Hulbert, Hickson, Boylan, Webb, Doherty, Moynihan, and Hoban Solo (vocal), "The Blind Girl to her Harp," Miss Burke;

Song, with Chorus, "The Minute Gun at Sea." Young Ladies of Senior Class; Duet (5 Pianos), "Linnet Polka," Misses O'Brien, Geoghagan, Hoban, Conley, K. Conley, A. Conley, Hickson, and Doherty; Song, "A Smile from thee, my Mother dear," Junior Class; Recitation, "The Wreck," Miss Howard; French Chorus, with Solo, "Un jour de joie," Young Ladies of Senior Class; Solo (4 Pianos), "Kathleen Mavourneen," Misses Cronin, Hoban, Conley, and O'Brien; Song, "Pretty Swallow, Homeward Fly," Senior and Junior Classes; Recitation, "The Sicilian Captive," Miss Comer; Song, "Home is Home," Junior Class; Duet (5 Pianos), "Coote's Watz," by 10 Performers, Misses Howard, McGarva, Hulbert, Kennedy, A. Conley, K. Conley, Conley, Connolly, O'Neill, and Hoban; Glee, "My Childhood's Home," Senior Class; Duet (4 Pianos), "Retreat March," Misses Bird, Doherty, O'Neil, Geoghagan, Webb, McGarva, and Hickson; Song, "The Cuckoo's Notes," Junior Class; Duet (4 Pianos), "The Watchman," Misses Mulligan, O'Connell, Browne, Conway, Dillon, Kennedy, A. Conley, and K. Conley; Duet (vocal), "When shall we two meet again," Misses A. Funston, and E. Holly; Duet (3 Pianos), "Home, Sweet Home!" Misses Back, Heslop, O'Reilly, O'Connell, Connolly, and Hulbert; Solo (2 Pianos), "La Voix du Ciel," Misses Boylan and O'Brien; Song, "Ever of thee," The Misses Conley, and A. Funston; Solo (7 Pianos), "Buds of Spring," Misses Butler, McGarva, Doherty, Webb, Geoghagan, and Hickson; Scng, "Home to our Mountains," *Il Trovatore*, Senior Class; Solo (Piano), "A Twilight Song," Miss O'Brien; Duet (vocal), The Wind and the Harp," Misses Burke and M. Funston; Chorus, "The Music of the Shell," Senior and Junior Classes; Duet (6 Pianos), "Il Corricolo," *Leone*, Misses O'Brien, Hoban, Moynihan, Hulbert, Webb, Doherty, Boylan, K. Conley, Cronin, N. Cronin, Conley, and Geoghagan; French Hymn, "Amour au Sacré Cœur," Senior Class.

PRIZE LIST.

Gold medal by the Parish Priest, for excellency, Miss Webb. Silver medal for good conduct, Miss Egan, 1; Miss Geoghagan, 2. Politeness and amiability, Miss Moir, 1; Miss Back, 2. Deportment, Miss O'Reilly. Order, Miss Moynihan, 1; Miss Webb, 2. Regular attendance, Miss Moynihan, 1; Miss O'Brien and Miss Kennedy, equal.

Class I.—Catechism, Miss Egan. Bible history, Miss Comer. Grammar, Miss Moynihan. Analysis and parsing, Miss Webb. Geography, Miss Doherty. Arithmetic, Miss Hoban. English history, Miss O'Brien. Modern history, Miss Holley. Use of globes, Miss Hoban. Chronology, Miss Hoban. Book-keeping, Miss Howard. Mapping, Miss Moynihan. Ornamental writing, Miss Geoghagan. Plain writing, Miss Webb. Recitation, Miss Comer. Composition and letter writing, Miss Holley.

Class II.—Catechism, Miss A. Conley. Analysis and parsing, Miss O'Neil. Geography, Miss Kennedy. Arithmetic, Miss McGarva. English history, Miss O'Reilly. Mapping, Miss Geoghagan. Plain writing, Miss Courtney. Composition and letter writing, Miss O'Neil. Reading, Miss Courtney. General application, Miss A. Funston. General improvement, Miss O'Reilly, 1; Miss Butler.

Class III.—Catechism, Miss O'Connell, 1. Geography, Miss Hulbert. Grammar, Miss Funston, 1; Miss Courtney, 2. Arithmetic, Miss O'Connell. Composition, Miss M. Funston. English history, Miss Browne. Bible history, Miss C. Conley. Dictation, Miss Browne. Reading, Miss C. Conley. Writing, Miss Hulbert, 1; Miss Moir, 2. General improvement, Miss M'Hugh, 1; Miss Tait, 2; Miss Conway 3. Drawing and illumination, Miss Webb. French, Miss Moynihan. French exercise, Miss Doherty. Music (senior class), Miss O'Brien.

Class IV.—Miss M. Conley. Junior Class, Miss Hulbert. Singing (senior class), Miss Burke. Special prize, Miss O'Neil. Work (point lace) Miss Egan. Leatherwork, Miss Webb. Plain needlework, Miss Geoghagan, 1; Miss Hulbert, 2. Artificial flower work, Miss K. Conley. Fancy work, Miss O'Brien.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

Class I.—Good conduct, Miss Bertha Weston, 1; Miss Agnes Reston, 2. Politeness and amiability, Miss Mulligan, 1; Miss Bryant, 2. Regular attendance, Miss Alice Bird. Reading, Miss Mulligan. Writing, Miss Leonard. Arithmetic, Miss E. Funston, 1; Miss A. Bird, 2. Dictation, Miss Leonard. Grammar, Miss Bertha Reston. Geography, Miss Leonard.

Class II.—Writing, Miss Walsh, 1; Miss A. Kirkwood, 2. Reading, Miss Jane Heslop. Arithmetic, Miss Jane Heslop. General application, Miss Dillon, 1; Miss G. Weston, 2.

Class III.—General improvement, Miss Lucy Oliver. Writing, Miss J. Black. Arithmetic, reading, and tables, Miss E. M'Guinness.

After the distribution of certificates, His Lordship addressed the children in a few well-chosen words. He thanked them for the grand entertainment they had given, and expressed his pleasure in being present. He, moreover, told them how happy he was to hear from Rev. Mother that they were all so good, and had worked assiduously during the past year. He could see from their work in the adjoining room that their progress was great since he last saw them, and hoped they would continue to persevere. He trusted that next year, instead of the small room in which they were compelled now to receive their prizes, they would have a commodious school hall, and worthy of the parish and themselves. He advised them to be good and obedient at home during their holidays, and do their utmost to reward their good parents, who were doing so much to give them a superior education. He also thanked the good Sisters for their attention to their pupils, and concluded by saying he would be present on the following (Tuesday) evening, when a dramatic entertainment would be given.

On Tuesday, the 22nd, the following programme was gone through, all the items being clearly and distinctly delivered. The playing of the Misses Boylan and O'Brien was especially good, particularly the former. The singing of Miss Burke was generally appreciated, and very deservedly so. She has a pleasant voice, and only wants a little more confidence to be perfect. Miss Holley played her part in the drama well, also Miss O'Neill, Miss Moir, and Miss Hoban, especially Miss O'Neill, who kept the audience in roars of laughter. On the whole the Sisters have reason to be pleased with the very creditable manner in which their pupils conducted themselves, evidently the result of great pains on the teachers side also apprecia-