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The Very Rev Father Cummings, V.G., left this city on Friday evening last by the s.s. *Flora* for Wellington, whence he will proceed to Sydney. He intends to remain about six weeks in Australia, where he is going for the benefit of his health, which has unfortunately been very feeble for some time back. The Right Rev Or Grimes, his clergy, and all the faithful of the diocese not only regret very much the illness of the Rev Father Cummings but even his temporary departure, and they ardently hope that he will return completely restored to health.

At the half-yearly meeting, which was held last week, of the Christchurch branch of the Hibernian Society, the following officers were re-elected for the ensuing year and installed again to office by P.D.P. Brother G. J. Sellers:—President, Brother John Finlay; vice-president, Brother A. Geoghegan; treasurer, Brother J. B. Courtney; secretary, Brother W. O'Shaughnessy; guardian, Brother M. Garty; auditors, Brother D. Steinmetz and Brother M. Garty; delegate for the half-yearly meeting of the district branch, J.P. Brother M. J. Sheehan. At a subsequent meeting the president, Brother J. Finlay, who is leaving this city for Wellington in order to enter upon a course of studies at St Patrick's College, handed in his resignation. Brother Finlay was an excellent and energetic Society-man, and one well liked by all the members, who wish him every success in his new sphere of life. The balance-sheet and report, which were also presented at the half-yearly meeting, gave the present amount of the different funds, which are on the increase, as at the present time there is no great strain on them, for there are only two members on the sick list. The following is the amount of the different funds:—Sick fund, £900 15s; management fund, £43 6s 6d; benevolent fund, £3 6s. The hall committee of the branch are contemplating a scheme wherewith to raise funds to liquidate the debt on the Hibernian Hall, and, if possible, to discontinue the present arrangement for the necessary expenses. When this scheme is in operation the committee anticipate a prosperous future for the branch, also for the hall, which has been the cause of much dissension ever since it was built. The branch has also instituted a systematic canvass for subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a gate at the principal entrance to the estate at the Mount Magdala Asylum. The branch, who intend that this gate shall be worthy of the Mount Magdala institution and of the Hibernian Society, has sent circulars throughout the Colony to the different branches in order to ask them to co-operate in the good work. Several of the branches have already responded to the call and sent in their donations, and it is expected that the majority of them will assist the cause. The gate will be of iron, with a smaller gate on either side, and will be named the "Hibernian Gate." To augment the funds already collected, the branch has organised a concert which will take place on Thurs-

day evening next in the Opera House in this city. The following is the circular sent to the various branches:—"Dear Sir and Brother,—In about six weeks time we intend closing the subscription lists for the proposed "Hibernian Gate" to be erected at the Mount Magdala Asylum. We are anxious that the gate should be worthy of the name and in keeping with the magnificent block of buildings at Mount Magdala. The institution being for the benefit of the whole Colony, we feel sure you will make every endeavour to subscribe your quota; knowing that the funds cannot be used for the purpose, we only anticipate getting one or two pounds from each branch, which of course can only be got by voluntary subscription. The Very Rev Father Gnaty informs us that there are inmates from all parts of the Colony, and that the greatest number are from outside of Christchurch. If our anticipations are realised, which we have not the least doubt of, we will erect a gate worthy of the name, and second to none in the Colony. Yours fraternally,—W. O'Shaughnessy, secretary." It may be mentioned that should more money be subscribed than is necessary for the erection of the gate, the surplus will be given as a donation towards a new wing, which is so urgently required, to the buildings at Mount Magdala.

GAELIC NOTES.

The *Gaelic Journal* continues to deserve support, and to provide its readers with a quantity of excellent matter. The number for June is now before us, and we find it full of interest. We quote as an example one or two of its notes.

There are a few Spanish loan words in modern Irish (writes a correspondent from Arizona). In Arann pampúta is used for the rude raw hide sandals worn by the islanders and I am told the same word is used in Spain. The Western láigh, a spade, seems to be the Spanish *laga*, an instrument which, in Spain serves the purposes of spade, shovel and fork. In this territory, the greater number of the houses are of large bricks made of a sun-baked clay called *adobe*, and in Connaught thick yellow mud is called *dób*, and a mud-wall *balla dób*. The Munster réil, sixpence, is the same as the Spanish *reale*. . . . In the dialect of Spanish spoken here, aspiration, as in Irish, is quite usual, although not recognised in books.

In a recent number of the *Illustrated London News*, the editor, an Englishman, advocates the preservation of Irish among the people, on the grounds of the intellectual advantages of bilingualism.

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