

OUR NEW CURATE.

Father Herbert, of St Patrick's College, is now permanently appointed to take his place, and he (Father Grogan) hoped that, with their kind efforts and prayers, a young priest like Father Herbert, with good health and much talent, would, please God, do much good in the parish during the coming year. Father Herbert preached in the evening on "Prayer," and from the way in which he treated the subject there is little doubt but he will be a practical and able preacher.

GENERAL.

Father Le Renneville, of St Patrick's, Sydney, is now paying a visit to Hawke's Bay, and is at present employed in giving a retreat to the scholastics at Meanee. It seems he intends visiting the hot springs of Taupo and Rotorua next week on his way back to Sydney.

The weather is still warm in this district, and the hills in the distance seem in need of rain, yet no appearance, whilst the temperature in the shade is still up to 80.

TIMARU.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

AN old acquaintance is going from amongst us. One of the well-known landmarks in the vicinity of the church of the Sacred Heart is being obliterated by the removal of the old presbytery. Since the acquisition of the new presbytery, "the Priory," the old house has been unused, and is now being removed. It was built by the Rev Father Chataigner, the pioneer priest of this parish, about thirty years ago, and in these days, before the erection of a church, holy Mass was celebrated in one of its rooms to the then small congregation. Unlike old wine, old houses do not improve with age, and time gradually sealed the doom of the old presbytery. The ground on which it is erected has recently been acquired by the ladies of the Convent of the Sacred Heart and added to their beautiful grounds, and no doubt in a year or so a few well kept flower beds will mark the spot where so many of the labourers in God's vineyard have rested after their daily toil.

It is with very great regret that I have to mention that the health of the Rev Father Hurlin has been such of late as to cause his parishioners and many friends considerable anxiety. The Rev Father is about to take a trip to Sydney, where he hopes by complete rest and change of air to regain his strength. That he may do so and return thoroughly convalescent to resume his duty amongst us is, I am sure, the earnest wish of his congregation. This parish owes a debt to Father Hurlin which it would be hard to repay. Coming here in the prime of health he went to work with a will in the execution of his multifarious parochial duties, and there is no doubt but that his present illness is due to over-exertion and anxiety. In administering financial matters Father Hurlin has done excellent work, and it is not too much to say that a few years more under his management will see the parish free from debt.

One of the chief anxieties to which our parish priest is subjected is to make both ends meet in supporting the boy's school. The end of each quarter produces the invariable result—a deficit. Here we are specially well provided for, with a school well appointed and taught excellently by the Marist Brothers and yet there are some parents who seem quite unable to appreciate the advantages at their door and will not endeavour to give the smallest financial aid to the support of the school. It is the same old story in almost all parishes. The same few always pay for the many, and it is invariably from the ranks of the latter these financial geniuses arise, who, while they pay nothing themselves are always enquiring where all the money goes to, and who are ever ready to suggest "a something crooked." Perhaps it would be wiser if they asked themselves that question as to their own money and in working out the problem they would find out that under the heading "Support to schools" they would be obliged to write down "nil."

In reference to the girls parish school under the guidance of the Nuns of the Sacred Heart too much cannot be said. If, as is very probable, the same difficulty is experienced in receiving dues as in the boy's school, nothing is heard of it, and the good Nuns work on assiduously from year to year as if in the receipt of handsome fees, and unlike Oliver Twist never ask for more.

At the last meeting of the local branch of the Hibernian Society, a resolution was adopted conveying a vote of sympathy and condolence to St Patrick's branch, Coristchurch, on the death of the late Brother William O'Shaughnessy. Brother Denehy, in moving the resolution referred to the loss the Hibernian Society as a whole had sustained by the death of the late Brother and spoke highly of his many services and his untiring efforts in forwarding Hibernianism.

The officers of the Timaru Branch for the ensuing term are:—President, P. Kane; vice-president, James Feeley; treasurer, J. McKenna; secretary, Thomas Sheehy; guardian, F. Kane; sick visitor, J. Feeley.

I learn that preliminary steps are being made towards the formation of a branch of the Hibernian Society in Temuka and that the movement meets with the full approval and support of the Rev Father Faavel. In such a district as Temuka there should be very little difficulty in establishing a very strong branch. The Catholics in the district are numerous enough to form a couple of branches if necessary and the advantages to be derived from membership are such as to wipe out all hesitation or objections as to becoming a member. A futile effort was made some years back in the same direction, but the matter is in capital hands this time and the iron will be struck while it is hot.

INVERCARGILL.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THE Catholic schools of the town have re-opened after the Christmas holidays, and are once again in full swing. The Rev Father Vereker strongly exhorted parents to send their children regularly, and read the declaration of the clergy assembled at the late Plenary Council of Sydney on the subject of Catholic education.

The Irish Athletic Society of Southland are vigorously following the spirited policy of past years. This year the principal event, the Sheffield Handicap, has been raised to the value of £12 10s; to the chopping contest, £10 has been assigned; to the sawing, £7; to the mile race, £8 10s; to the half-mile race, £8 10. There are also two bicycle races, one for amateurs and the other for cash riders. One of the items on the programme is an Irish jig. This is as it should be. But it is earnestly to be hoped that those who have charge of the affair will see that none of the competitors parades himself in the ridiculous costume in which the jig is accustomed to be danced, and which is a libel on, and gross insult to, every Irishman. It should be the aim of every society of the kind to banish the ignorant prejudice prevailing in regard to our countrymen, and to show them in their true colours. Irishmen ask for no more, and do not fear the result. For the rest, the directors are to be commended for their spirited policy, and it is to be hoped that a large attendance of the public and numerous entries for the various events will reward them for the responsibility they have taken on their shoulders. That the responsibility is no light one will be evident when it is known that about £110 will be given in prizes this year. The sports will be held on Wednesday, 18th March. On the nights of the 17th and 18th March the Irish Dramatic Society, in conjunction with the Athletic Society, will stage Dion Boucicault's famous Irish drama, "Inshavogue." The name of the author is a sufficient guarantee that the Irish character will not be held up to ridicule in the way we have often seen in the "stage" Irishman, and as the management of the drama is in the experienced hands of Mr T. J. Anthony, a faithful and appreciative rendering can confidently be looked for.

A concert is to be held at West Plains on next Wednesday, in aid of the building fund of the Catholic Church, now being erected there, and which the residents are making strong efforts to have opened free of debt. I hope soon to have the pleasure of recording the opening of this monument to the ceaseless activity of the Rev Father Vereker.

Mr A. J. Barth and Signor Squarise have arranged a complimentary concert to Miss Blanche Joel, which takes place at the Choral Hall on the 14th inst. All the local favourites including Miss Rose Blaney, Miss Kitty Blaney, Mrs Wakefield Holmes, Mrs J. Coombe, Miss Cooper, Mr Harry Smith, Mr Jago and others will contribute. Miss Joel, who has always been recognised as one of our sweetest and most artistic singers, will sing her old favourite, "Daddy," and also play as a piano solo, the "Schiller March," by Meyerbeer-Liszt. There should be a capital house.

Messrs Dwan Bros, the well known hotel brokers of Willis street, Wellington, report having sold Mr B. Oxner's interest in the Metropolitan Hotel, Molesworth street, Wellington, to Mr M. Lahman, late of the Post Office Hotel, Palmerston North; Mr J. Couchman's interest in the Mount Egmont Hotel, Midhurst, to Mr John Theobald, late of the Railway Hotel, Johnsonville; Mr William Ryan's interest in the Empire Hotel, Palmerston North, to Mr Thos a Proctor, late of Foxton; Mr Albert White's interest in the Commercial Hotel, Kaponga, Taranaki, to Mr William Farquhar, of Wellington; and Mr George Dennis' interest in the Te Aro Hotel, Upper Willis street, Wellington, to Mr George Ryland, an old Wellington resident, recently returned from Sydney. As Messrs Dwan Bros' business is very extensive in this line, intending purchasers of hotels can always rely on getting the soundest and fullest information. In our advertising columns will be found some hotel properties for sale.

Bland Holt's Dramatic Company commence a return farewell season at the Princess Theatre on Tuesday evening next the 18th inst., when the powerful drama "Saved from the Sea," will be produced. The well known merits of Bland Holt and his splendid company have been recognised throughout the Colony and this coupled with the fact that the prices have been lowered on account of this being a return season, crowded houses may with safety be anticipated. We would strongly recommend our country friends who wish a genuine night's amusement to patronise this entertainment.

P.P.P.—The great remedy for Sciatica, Sprains, Neuralgia. To be had from all chemists.—ADVT.

Mr A. Morrison, family butcher, Frederick street, has commenced business, and can supply meat of first-class quality, and at lowest prices, for cash. We would advise our subscribers, in Dunedin and suburbs, to give him a trial. Mr Morrison will be happy to wait on families for orders, and, it is needless to say, that they will be punctually attended to.

We would call attention to the bargains offered by Messrs Strang and Co, Christchurch, on page 5 of this issue.

Fitzgerald's Circus Company, after a successful tour through the Colony, will open in Dunedin on the 18th inst. The show contains many new novelties recently imported. The principal being Madame Adelina Antonio, an aerial gymnast, who turns a double somersault from the top of the tent into a net; Professor Charles Peart, from the Indian Exhibition, who will dive from a height of 115ft into a tank 6ft square. The Alton troupe of acrobats; K. gollia, a gymnast; and Ted Leonard, a celebrated clown, are included among the novelties. There is also the talking horse, Mahomet, a perfect equine wonder. Mahomet's feats include telling the numbers put on a slate by members of the audience, and answering questions put by his trainer, Mr E. L. Probasco.