

The health of the boys has been very good, and the institution is clean and orderly and in a creditable state of efficiency. A number of the boys who had been apprenticed from the institution returned during the year to receive the wages which had been lodged to their account at the bank, and it may be stated that £336 13s has been paid within the year. It was very consoling to observe those who had left the orphanage when mere boys now coming back as fine, respectable young men, able and willing to give a substantial donation to the fund of the Orphanage. The report of the brother who makes an annual round of visits to the homes of the boys apprenticed out, and also the letters received from the employers and from the lads themselves, continue to show that the boys in situations are, upon the whole, doing well and giving satisfaction. Even in this time of depression the applications for the services of the orphan boys are so numerous that the managers cannot meet the demand. Owing to the existing depression the private contributions have considerably fallen off on the one hand, and the numbers of homeless boys have increased on the other. In appealing to the public, the managers beg to call attention to the fact that the institution provides food, clothing, education, care and management of the above large number of destitute orphan children until they are able to provide for themselves. The report closes with grateful acknowledgements to the honorary medical officers and to the Revs. Dr. Graeber, Fathers Robinson and McCarter.

THE Hon. P. P. Gillen, late Commissioner of Crown Lands for South Australia, whose sudden death while attending a Cabinet meeting in Adelaide was recently cabled to New Zealand, was a member of the Catholic Church and was conspicuous for the fervent exercise of the sacraments of his holy Faith. Whenever practicable (says the *Southern Cross*) he was—with his intimate friend, Mr. L. O'Loughlin, M.P.—almost a daily attendant at Mass. Frequently they attended the Holy Sacrifice at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral and he was one of the chief supporters of the little church near his home. He took a great delight in assisting the priest—sometimes serving at Mass and always with the ardour of a neophyte, and at other times handing round the collection plate, while his advice was always given with great pleasure in church matters. He was ever the same and he was a source of edification to his fellow-worshipper.

LAST mail brought official notification from Trinity College, London, that the following young ladies were successful at the musical knowledge examinations held at St. Dominick's Priory, Dunedin, on June 13, and carried out in accordance with the printed regulations sent by the authorities of the college—Intermediate Grade (honours section): Misses F. Godwin, M. Burke, M. Blaney, N. Scanlan, E. Newman, M. McNaught. Intermediate Grade (pass section): Misses F. Godwin, M. Blaney, N. Scanlan, E. Newman, M. McNaught, N. Bee, M. Crawley. Junior Grade (honours section): Misses B. Coughtrey, M. Liston, E. Lawrence, L. Cross, A. Meenan, B. McNaught, M. Duggan, L. Thompson. Junior Grade (pass section): Misses B. Coughtrey, M. Liston, E. Lawrence, G. Larnach, V. Fraser, E. Freed, G. Meenan, P. Bernech, B. McNaught, M. Duggan, L. Thompson. Seventeen pupils were presented and fifteen were successful at this examination.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CALLAN, who has been so long and so prominently associated with the volunteer movement in Otago, was entertained at a mess dinner at the Grand Hotel on Friday evening last by the Dunedin District Officers' Club. Colonel Webb occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of officers. After the customary loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Colonel Webb stated that he had to propose the toast of the evening, "The health of Mr. J. B. Callan," better known to them all as Lieutenant-Colonel Callan. It was with very great regret that the officers of the district heard that that gentleman had decided to sever his connection with the volunteer force. He would be greatly missed, not only by his own battalion, but by all with whom he had come in contact. The officers had decided that he should not be allowed to leave their midst without receiving some expression of their goodwill, and had, therefore, very great pleasure in presenting to Mr. Callan, on behalf of the members of the club, a silver-mounted oak tray. Captain Smith, an officer in the Otago infantry battalion, also spoke as to the good feeling which had existed between the officers of the battalion and their late commander. In replying, Mr. Callan thanked the officers for their unexpected present. He left the force with considerable regret, but he felt that, having given over eleven years to volunteering, it was time for him to retire. The battalion which he had commanded was also composed of many country corps, and he realised that his business would not permit him to visit those companies, as he felt should be done by a battalion commander. He hoped that, although ceasing to be a volunteer, he would not lose sight of those with whom he had such pleasant intercourse.

SAYS our Christchurch correspondent:—The services at the Pro-Cathedral were of a special character on Sunday last, which was Rosary Sunday. The offertories on that day were, by the direction

of the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, devoted to the aid of the Mount Magdala Asylum. The Very Rev. Father Cummings preached at the 9.30 and 11 a.m. Masses. In eloquent and powerful sermons he urged the claims of the asylum to public support on account of the great good done by the institution, not only to individuals entrusted to its care but also to the community. In the evening there was a large congregation and many persons were unable to gain admittance. The Bishop preached an admirable discourse, and after procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the interior of the sacred edifice had taken place, he solemnly blessed and unveiled a very beautiful picture of the Holy Face, which, for the veneration of the faithful, has been permanently located in an elaborate frame in the Pro-Cathedral. The collections during the day realised a substantial sum, but owing to the unfavourable weather the morning congregations, though numerous, were not as large as could have been desired. Donations in aid of the Mount Magdala Asylum will, however, be received during the coming week by the Vicar-General at the Presbytery. Early during the week the Bishop will proceed to Rangiora, Amberley and to Cheviot in order to make an episcopal visitation of those places.

Archdiocese of Wellington.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 3, 1896.

THAT admirable society, the League of the Cross, which is doing more genuine temperance work than many a more pretentious organisation, gave a very enjoyable social in St. Patrick's Hall, on Tuesday night, the Very Rev. Father Devoy presiding. Vocal solos were contributed by Misses McDonald and Murray, Mesdames Snaddon and Woodmass and M. Hynes. Misses Daniels sang a duet, and a gentleman rejoicing in the euphonious name of Ah Tong, contributed a comic song and also a Chinese sketch, the fun of which was redolent of the kingdom of the sun. Mr. O'Driscoll gave a reading, and Mr. Tobin was very successful in an Irish step dance. During the evening St. Mary's Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. Dean, played some admirable selections. The remainder of the programme was made up of a laughter-provoking farce, in which the members of the Dramatic Club in connection with the society, took part. At the conclusion of the performance, the Very Rev. Father Devoy thanked the performers on behalf of the League, and delivered a short address on temperance, exhorting those who were members of the League to persevere in the good work in which they were engaged, and to do all in their power to get others to join.

A meeting of ladies and gentlemen, interested in the forthcoming bazaar in aid of the convent, which is to be opened towards the end of this month, was held on Wednesday night. Reports were received from the different committees which showed that the arrangements were nearly all completed, and everything promised that the undertaking would be very successful. Apart altogether from the excellence of the object, which would be sufficient at all times to ensure success, the very great enthusiasm with which the project has been taken up, coupled with the many attractions provided, is a guarantee that the result will be all that could be desired.

About 100 children will make their first Communion at the early Mass at St. Mary's of the Angels to-morrow. The church has been very nicely decorated for the auspicious occasion. The children have been instructed by the Rev. Father Ainsworth, who will preach to-morrow morning.

St. Patrick's College Band annual picnic will be held at Day's Bay on Tuesday next.

The Rev. Father O'Shea, lately at Meane, and who is at present in Australia for the benefit of his health, will return about the end of the month for the purpose of taking up his duties in Te Aro parish.

After a couple of nights of stonewall by half a dozen Members the Amending Liquor Bill has passed the House of Representatives, not before some of its features, especially those relating to the counting of votes in favour of reduction were considerably modified by compromise. The clauses bringing clubs under the licensing law is the most important feature of the measure, and one which will probably be a stumbling block to its being placed on the Statute Book this year. The Upper House is sure to resent this interference with the liberty of the subject, and the old and popularly recognised axiom that an Englishman's house is his castle will be trotted out in support of the elimination of this portion of the measure. As this is one of the main features of the measure, and one on which the Premier laid special emphasis it is not likely he will accept the alteration, if made and consequently the bill will probably be dropped. It is all very well to legislate in the direction of saving Tom Jones, the bricklayer from himself, but when the law puts Mr. Bigacre, the squatter, or Mr. Sparecash, the importer, on the same footing, then it will be recognised the "law is an ass." If clubs are to be closed at eleven p.m. how are the habitués of these institutions to account to their better halves, for their absence from home until the early hours of the morning, unless they happen to be Members of Parliament? It was very improper of the Premier to state that men left clubs in a state which necessitated their being assisted into their cabs. A man might be jolly at a club, but drunk, no, never; it is only the working man who thus forgets himself. Should the measure become law, and national prohibition be carried at the next general election, will not the chemists have a busy time of it making up prescriptions in which whiskey and brandy will form a large percentage. Should the Prohibitionists have their way there is evidently a great future before the chemists of the Colony.

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