

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

We learn by wire from a Queenstown correspondent that the Rev. Father O'Donnell, Queenstown, has been elected a trustee of the Wakatipu Hospital.

On Friday next two nuns from the Dominican priory, Dunedin, will leave for Queenstown. They will be joined there by a sister from the local convent. From thence they will proceed to Cromwell, where a new Dominican convent is about to be opened.

Among the passengers by the *Monowai* on Monday for Melbourne was Mr. John Cleary, of Bendigo, Victoria, who had been spending a short holiday in New Zealand. Mr. Cleary is a brother of the rev. editor of the N. Z. TABLET, and whilst in Dunedin was the guest of the clergy at the Bishop's palace.

The Rev. Father Bowers of Geraldine, who is taking a trip to Australia for the benefit of his health, arrived in Dunedin on Saturday morning, by the *Monowai* from the North. He left for Melbourne by the same steamer on Monday. During his stay in Dunedin Father Bowers was the guest of the clergy of the Cathedral parish.

A complimentary farewell concert is to be tendered to Miss Kitty Blaney in view of her approaching marriage to Mr. T. Costello of Naseby. The concert, in which the leading vocalists of this city take part, is to be given in the Garrison Hall on the 31st inst. Miss Blaney's vocal talents have ever been placed, in the most cordial and ungrudging manner, at the service of every good cause. The public of Dunedin, and especially the Catholic public, owe it alike to Miss Blaney and themselves to mark their appreciation of her ability and generous services by making this farewell concert an unqualified success.

On Saturday next Mr. Alfred Harris and Mr. John J. Conuor, jun., sever their connection with the Printing Department of the N. Z. TABLET Company to take over the old-established and well-known Junction Commercial Hotel at Cromwell, which they purchased quite recently. Mr. Harris has been in the employment of the Company for seventeen years and Mr. Conuor for twelve years. During that time they have won for themselves, by their uniform courtesy and gentlemanlike conduct, a wide circle of warm friends, who will wish them prosperity in the new career on which they have embarked. On behalf of the literary, commercial, and mechanical departments of the N. Z. TABLET we wish our old confederates of so many years, health, happiness, prosperity, and a flowing measure of all good things.

St. Joseph's Gymnasium was opened on Tuesday evening. About 30 members took the floor, whilst the Rev. Fathers Murphy, O'Donnell and Cleary were also present. Instructor Smith, in a short speech, encouraged the young men to make good use of the gymnasium. He did not wish them to strive to become great gymnasts, but to train and strengthen their bodies by systematic exercise. Gymnastics would improve them mentally and physically, and would better fit them for their various callings in life. About an hour was spent in various movements, the instructor deeming it unwise to extend the time till members were in better training. In the course of a week the gymnasium will be well equipped with serviceable material.

The annual concert on behalf of the funds of the Dunedin St. Vincent de Paul Society will be given in the Garrison Hall on Wednesday, 21th inst. It is almost unnecessary to recommend the Society to the generous support of the Catholics of Dunedin, as the good work done by it in the most unostentatious manner is well known. A good deal of poverty exists in Dunedin, as well as in other centres of the Colony, and although we have many public institutions for relieving distress, still there are many in sore straits, who would rather starve than parade their poverty before a public board. Many such cases are sought out and attended to by the ladies of the Society, who by their kindness and sympathy assist in a manner which is not hurtful to the feelings of the recipients. Not alone do the members of the Society contribute to the funds, but also meet regularly to make clothing for the poor, so the least the public can do is to assist the funds by supporting the concert, which in itself will be worthy of their patronage, as an excellent programme will be submitted.

The usual weekly meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society was held on Monday evening, in St. Joseph's Hall, the Rev. Father Murphy, president, in the chair. There was a large attendance, considering the inclemency of the weather. Two motions had been set down for discussion. The first, which was moved by Mr. J. A. Scott, was to the effect that on debate nights, and on such other nights as the committee thought desirable, lady members of the congregation should be invited. This was adjourned until the next meeting. The other motion, of which notice had been given by Mr. H. McCormack, was to the effect that the name of the Society be changed to that of the Catholic Men's Society. A lengthy and animated discussion took place on Mr. McCormack's motion, the general feeling of the meeting being decidedly against the proposed change. On a division the motion was lost by 12 votes to 5. Mr. McCormack also proposed that it be a suggestion to the committee to, as far as possible, introduce dancing into the programme of the musical evenings of the Society. After considerable discussion the resolution was adopted. Several new members were elected, and the names of a number of candidates for membership were submitted. It was announced that the programme for the next meeting would be (1) consideration of Mr. Scott's motion, (2) a paper on phrenology by Mr. Foster, and (3), if time permits, a discussion on the Samoan question. A hearty vote of thanks to the chair brought the proceedings to a close.

Our Invercargill correspondent writes:—There was a large attendance at the meeting of the Literary Society on Monday evening.

ing. when Mr. Gilfoffer, M.H.R., gave a very interesting description of an overland journey which he made recently to Preservation Inlet. He illustrated his discourse by a rough sketch of the country lying between the Waiou River and Preservation Inlet, and pointed out the places of especial interest. He characterised the country as being hilly and covered with bush. Numerous rapid streams had to be crossed, not without danger, and high mountain ranges had to be surmounted. He found the small lakes and lagoons, of which there are many, covered with ducks, swans, and swamp hens. At the conclusion of his discourse he was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.—On Tuesday Mother Mary Gabriel and five sisters of the Dominican Convent, Dunedin, on their way to Western Australia, paid a farewell visit to the Dominican Convent here. They were met at the Bluff by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, and thence they came on by train to Invercargill. On their departure a large number of people assembled at the station to wish them *adieu*, and many even accompanied them to the Bluff.—A farewell banquet was given to Sub-Inspector McDouall on Tuesday evening by the Highland Society of Southland. Several influential citizens were present, and many eulogistic speeches regarding the sub-inspector's sterling qualities, and especially his strict attention to duty, were delivered. The sub-inspector left for Wellington on Thursday, Sergeant O'Neill having arrived on Saturday from Dunedin to take his place.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

WE publish next week the audited balance-sheet of the N.Z. TABLET Irish Distress Fund. Our readers will in the meantime be interested to know that it reached the magnificent amount of £888 8s. 9d.

THE May number of the *Trial* is to hand. This month a musical supplement is given, which will no doubt be appreciated by the readers. The illustrations as usual are very well done, and the printed matter is up to the usual standard.

WE understand that Mr. Cyril Gudgeon intends to start a general commission agency in Queenstown. His long connection with banking business, extending over a period of thirty-five years, as well as his knowledge of mining and insurance matters, should prove of good service to him in his contemplated sphere.

A PLEASANT gathering took place one day last week, when the staff of Messrs. Neill and Co., Dunedin, made a presentation to Mr. Norman H. Bell, who is severing his connection with the firm. The presentation was made by Mr. Rankin, who expressed his appreciation of the recipient's many good qualities, and referred to the good feeling which had always existed between Mr. Bell and the staff. Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Rankin and the others for their present, and acknowledged the many kindnesses which had been shown him by those in the office during his connection with the firm. Mr. Bell, who is a tea expert, has, it is understood, joined the firm of Messrs. R. Wilson and Co. Mr. Bell's many friends will wish him every prosperity in his new sphere.

At the last meeting of the Ashburn Catholic Literary Society Mr. M'Sherry read an interesting paper on 'Henry VIII and the Reformation,' which was well received. Mr. D. McDouall also contributed a paper, dealing with 'Cycling,' showing the numerous advantages of the bicycle, and the strides made by the industry during the last 30 years. Mr. F. Cooper then took the members for a trip over the Southern Alps by the aid of his magic lantern, showing altogether about 30 slides of the most interesting scenery. Needless to say, the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. At the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the three gentlemen for the able manner in which they entertained the members. Messrs P. Hanrahan and R. J. Henry were elected to fill vacancies on the council, and three candidates were nominated for membership. It has been decided to form a dramatic club in connection with the society.

THE members of the Hibernian Society, and especially the committee of management, are to be warmly congratulated on the success which attended their first annual social, held in St. Paul's Schoolroom, on Friday evening last. The schoolroom was comfortably filled, so that those present enjoyed themselves thoroughly, which would scarcely have been the case had the attendance been larger. Among the visitors were the Rev. Fathers Murphy, Coffey, O'Donnell and Cleary, who showed by their presence the interest taken by the clergy in the welfare of the society. The schoolroom was nicely decorated with flags, banners and evergreens, this being the work of Mr. Davy, the custodian. An addition to these decorations was an Irish flag, bearing a harp without a crown, hung in a conspicuous position over the stage, by Bro. J. O'Connor, secretary of the society. About sixty couples took part in the dancing, which was continued up to the small hours of the morning, the music being supplied by Messrs. Yates Brothers. The duties of M.C.'s were admirably carried out by Bros. Keogh, Dee, Rogers and Heley. At intervals during the evening songs and recitations were contributed by Messrs. Black, Attridge, Dee, McCormack and Miss Grehan, the latter being honoured with an enthusiastic *encore*. General satisfaction was expressed regarding the superior manner in which the catering was carried out by Mr. S. Lean. The committee are so pleased with the success attending the initial gathering that they are considering the advisability of holding like entertainments monthly, or at least quarterly. The main object is to bring the Catholic people together, and to get them to know each other.

Official statistics for British India alone show that about 21,000 people and 90,000 domestic animals are killed there every year by wild beasts.