

Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa. The deceased, whose name in the world was Letitia O'Connor, was a remarkable woman in many ways. Despite the fact that she had almost reached four score years, despite the agony consequent upon a fall over 11 years ago—since which time she had never known a really painless day—Mother Mary Isidore was as active and energetic, as thoughtful and careful in her business affairs as many a woman a generation younger. She was a woman of wonderful intellectuality. A brilliant French scholar, she translated many works, especially historical ones, from the Gallic tongue into that of her adopted country. She was the author of *The Life of Mother Francis* and numerous other productions of great interest and value. Her knowledge of the languages was equalled only by that of law and medicine. Indeed, as a literary and scientific woman, in all fields, her rounded education made her phenomenal. The reverend mother was educated in a convent in Dublin, where her father was a lawyer of eminence.

THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MOVABLE MEETING.

THE annual movable meeting of the H.A.C.B.S. was opened in the Hibernian Hall, Melbourne, on Wednesday, April 19. Brother E. J. Hayden, Chief President of Australasia, presided.

The Chief President, in declaring the meeting opened, said the society had made steady progress during the year. Nine additional branches had been established, the total membership over Australasia had increased by 847 members, and additional assets, valued at £3,642, had been acquired. At the present time the total membership numbered 15,676, and the assets represented no less a sum than £92,507. A proposal had been made by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America to amalgamate with the Australian order, and if it were not agreed to in that form, at least reciprocal relations with the American order should be established. The amalgamation of the Ballarat and Melbourne districts had been effected during the year, and would doubtless result in a large increase of members. The order was, in the truest sense of the word, federated, and, although it was a non-political association, the individual members appeared to take a lively interest in the federation of the Australasian colonies, and were endeavouring to make history for the land of their birth and adoption by assisting in building up one grand Australian Commonwealth.

The Executive Directory Officers in their report said:—In presenting for your consideration, this, the 28th Annual Report of the Society, it is our pleasing duty to congratulate you upon the Society's continued progress, both numerically and financially during the past year. Our Society now consists of 246 Branches, being an increase of 8 Male Branches and 1 Ladies' Branch, and comprising in all 201 Male Branches, 32 Ladies' Branches and 13 Juvenile Contingents, with a numerical roll respectively of 13,926, 1,499 and 260, making a grand total of 15,685 members, an increase for the year (returns incomplete) of 847 members. The Funds (returns incomplete) of the District and Branches amount to £90,554 6s 1d, the Executive Directory Funds amount to £1,933 2s 5d; making a grand total to the credit of the Society of £92,507 2s 6d, showing an increase for the year of £2,612 6s 3d. From the December reports of the New Zealand district, we find that the District Funds have a credit of £3,989 19s 11d. The Branch returns for September quarter amount to £8,475 3s 6d, making a total of £12,465 3s 5d. We regret that owing to many of the Branches in this District not having furnished their returns to the D.S. in time for their insertion in his return, we are unable to state the true position of the District. They have 23 Male and 3 Ladies' Branches with a roll of 972 members. They have opened one new Branch during the year.

Regarding the decease of the much-respected District Secretary for New Zealand, the Report says:—We deeply regret having to report the death of Bro. P. Kearney, who for many years held the position of District Secretary of the New Zealand District. He was a

true Hibernian, and commanded the respect of all with whom he was associated, and his loss will be severely felt by that District.

In compliance with the instructions of the last A.M.M., we communicated with the Ancient Order in America, and we are pleased to say that our correspondence has been promptly attended to by the National President, Mr. J. T. Keating. We have received from him the Constitution and Bye-laws of their Society, also letters which will be laid before you to-day, asking that some agreement be entered into to bring about the unity of the two bodies, such agreement to be ratified at the National Convention, to be held at Boston, in May 1900, to which accredited delegates from the H.A.C.B.S. are invited.

The Revision Committee brought up a set of proposed amendments to the laws, involving the repeal of all existing regulations in favour of the new proposals.

On the motion for the adoption of the preamble, an amendment was moved by Bro. P. Tighe, D.V.P. (Melbourne), seconded by Bro. J. W. Ryan, D.S. (Melbourne), that the proposed amendments could not be legally dealt with, on the ground that the Executive Directory, in forwarding the amendments for the consideration of the annual meeting, had not complied with the law providing that all proposed alterations should be submitted to its half-yearly meeting.

A long discussion ensued. Several deputies stated that there was a danger of the registrars of friendly societies in the other colonies declining to pass the laws adopted in Victoria.

The amendment was negatived on a division by 27 votes to 6.

It was ultimately decided to alter the preamble, giving the various intercolonial districts power to make laws for themselves, which would be subject to the approval of the Executive Directory.

The sub-committee reported various small alterations in laws 14, 20, 23, and 27. They also suggested that clause 5 of rule 32, referring to the government of districts be struck out; that rules 33, 31, 35, 36 and 38 up to 45 be struck out; that clause 3, 4, 5 and 6 of rule 37 referring to district secretaries be struck out; that rule 48 be excised, and that rule 49 should stand. The whole of these recommendations were agreed to. It was decided to send a delegate to the Convention of Ancient Hibernians at Boston next year. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Chief president, Bro. M. Fennessy; deputy chief presidents, Bros. W. White and J. Tooney; chief treasurer, Bro. J. Whelan; corresponding secretary, Bro. T. W. O'Shea; auditor, Bro. A. G. O'Keefe.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in Sydney.

The youthful King of Spain is brought up strictly in accordance with the laws of hygiene, and hopes are entertained that by-and-by he will completely outgrow the delicacy of constitution from which he has hitherto suffered. His amusements are like those of most boys of his age. One of his hobbies is gardening, and he has a pronounced liking for roses, enjoying experiments for the purpose of modifying their colour and perfume. 'The King and his comrade a watchman's son, who shares His Majesty's amusements, work together at amateur gardening,' writes one who knows King Alfonso. 'It is interesting to watch the two running about with little spades or rakes, wheelbarrows or shovels, garden scissors or flower baskets. One day some trees in the royal garden were being pruned, and the King's humble companion having gone off for a few minutes on an errand of his comrade and monarch, reappeared wearing a leafy crown over his hat, which he had improvised out of a somewhat gaunted bow. "What's that round your hat?" asked the King. "That's my crown," replied the boy comrade, "it nearly tore the ribbon round my hat as I pruned it. There are plenty more up there where they are pruning the trees. Would you like me to get you one?" and the boy's eyes sparkled with pleasure as he spoke. "No, thanks, not any for me"; a pause, and then—the only crowns I can put on are heavy ones that are worn on the bare head; besides, I don't want my skin torn like the ribbon of your hat." The King usually rises at 7 or 8 o'clock, and begins his Latin lesson at 10, afterwards taking his lessons of religion. But before studies of any kind he goes to Mass every day with the Queen Regent in the private chapel of the palace.

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