

GENERAL.

The first of the Te Aro Parish socials in aid of the school fees is to be held on the 30th inst.

Mr. P. J. O'Regan, M.H.R., has been re-appointed by the Government as a member of the Victoria College Council.

The Rev. Father Deby of Christchurch, who has been visiting Wellington was the guest of the Ven. Archbishop Devoy.

The Catholics of Hastings besides being the possessors of perhaps the most beautiful church in New Zealand are, as a result of their late bazaar, in the enviable position of having it entirely free from debt.

At a meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys Association held on Wednesday it was decided to form a debating society. The first meeting of the Society is to be held on Friday next. It was also decided to hold three socials during the winter months.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The drawing of the art union in connection with St. Patrick's Pasifica, Oamaru, has been postponed to a later date. This has been necessitated by so many blocks not coming to hand in time.

Father Tracey, of Amberley, is on a flying visit to Dunedin, where he is the guest of the priests at the Bishop's Palace. The Rev. Father has been for some time in an impaired condition of health. He returns to Amberley for Sunday.

A Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late reverend Bishop of Dunedin, Dr. Moran, will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 9 o'clock on Tuesday, the 30th inst., the occasion being the fourth anniversary of his death.

Messrs. Manning and Co., Christchurch, whose ales and stouts have more than a New Zealand reputation, received a number of awards at the Auckland Exhibition for the excellence of their exhibits. They secured a gold medal, three silver medals and an honourable mention for ales, and a gold medal for stout.—* *

In reference to a paragraph which appeared in our last issue regarding the Rev. P. Lynch, C.S.S.R., formerly of Dunedin, we now learn that he is to remain at Tynemouth, England, until August. The information on which we based our local of last week was contained in a private letter, but the statement that Father Lynch was to come out to Western Australia was evidently premature.

The farewell concert which is to be tendered to Miss Kitty Blaney, prior to her departure from Dunedin, promises to be an unqualified success. A representative committee of prominent citizens has taken the matter in hand, and nothing has been left undone to make the concert worthy of the occasion and of the talented vocalist for whom the compliment is intended. The concert takes place in the Garrison Hall on next Wednesday evening.

The Dominican Sisters open their school in Cromwell to-day (says the local *Times*, May 16), three of the nuns having arrived from the head house in Dunedin (*via* Queenstown) yesterday. The Catholic Presbytery, which has been vacated by the Rev. Father Hunt for the use of the sisters, has been thoroughly painted and renovated by Mr. K. Pretsch. St. John's Church has been altered for the purpose of a temporary schoolroom, so that all arrangements are complete. We hear the Sisters start school with a numerous attendance.

The Bald Hill correspondent of the *Cromwell Times*, writing recently, said:—Father Hunt celebrated Mass here on the 6th inst., and in his sermon he referred to the sad death of Miss Katherine Butler in a manner which caused several of the congregation to shed tears. The writer of these notes has had the pleasure of the late Miss Butler's acquaintance all her life, and always found her kind-hearted and good in every respect, one who will be held in loving remembrance for many days by those residents of Bald Hill who enjoyed the pleasure of her acquaintance.

The new St. Joseph's Hall is being splendidly patronised, and its value to the Catholic body in Dunedin has been placed beyond doubt. The hall is utilised every evening of the week with the exception of Wednesday and Friday. On Monday it is used by the Catholic Literary and Debating Society. On Tuesday the newly-formed singing association and the gymnastic class hold their meetings. On Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons the latter class also meets there for practice. Every day shows the necessity that has existed for such a building, and the use that has been made of it, even in the short time that has elapsed since it was completed, demonstrates its value to the Catholic community of Dunedin.

The many friends of Mr. Edward Dwyer, of the Pier Hotel, Dunedin, will hear with deep regret of his death, which took place on Monday night. The deceased, who was only 38 years of age, was born in Coone, Kilkenny, Ireland, and had been about 20 years in New Zealand, having been a resident of Dunedin the greater part of the time. Mr. Dwyer had been in failing health for a considerable time, and went home not long ago, but the trip did him but little good. Mr. Dwyer leaves three sisters in the colony—Misses Jennie and Maggie Dwyer, Dunedin, and Mrs. Stewart, Alexandra—to mourn their loss. The deceased was nephew of Mrs. E. McKewen, Cumberland street, Dunedin.—*R.I.P.*

A very successful entertainment, in aid of the local Catholic church was given at Allanton on Friday evening. An excellent programme was submitted, nearly the whole of the items being encored. Mr. F. H. Stokes, organist of St. Joseph's Cathedral, conducted, and Mr. H. McCormack was stage manager. Songs were given by Misses Annie Knott, Staunton, Chapman, Crawford, and Messrs. M. Coughlin, Fottrell, J. Black, J. Woods, and Walsh. Miss Chapman and Mr. Stokes contributed a vocal duet, and recitations were given by Misses Addie Heley, Busch, and Mr. H. McCormack and Master Croft. Miss O'Leary played a pianoforte selection very well. There was a large audience, and the concert as a whole was thoroughly appreciated.

On Thursday evening a meeting was held in St. Joseph's Hall, for the purpose of taking steps to form a singing class. The Rev. Father Murphy presided, and there was an attendance of over forty persons. After a conversational discussion it was decided to form the class, and a committee, consisting of Rev. Fathers Murphy and Ryan, Misses Lily Columb and Mary Murphy, and Mr. J. A. Scott, with power to add to their number, was appointed for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements, and drawing up a set of rules. The services of Mr. Braik have been secured as teacher, and it has been arranged that the members are to meet in St. Joseph's Hall on Tuesday evenings for practice. From the numbers that have signified their intention of joining it is expected the class will very soon have a membership of eighty.

The London and Berlin Piano Company, George street, Dunedin, of which Mr. Kroon is manager, has just opened a large and varied stock of pianos, organs, violins, guitars, brass instruments, etc., which will be offered to the public at exceptionally low prices. These goods are direct from the manufacturing centres of England and Germany, and consequently the middleman's profit is saved to the purchasers. The firm is prepared to give a liberal discount to cash purchasers, while those wishing to buy on the time-payment system will be accommodated with easy terms. Persons wanting musical instruments would do well to inspect the large stock exhibited by the London and Berlin Piano Company, which they can do without being pressed to purchase, and then compare prices with those ruling elsewhere.—* *

A highly interesting debate took place in St. Joseph's Hall at Monday evening's meeting of the Catholic Literary Society. A large number of members were present, as well as several ladies. The subject of the debate was: 'Would the return of the present Government to power be for the benefit of the Colony?' Mr. J. A. Scott, B.A., LL.B., led off in a lengthy speech of great interest and ability, during which he marshalled statistics in a very telling way. He was supported by Mr. H. McCormack and Mr. P. Halley, both of whom delivered very good addresses. The lead on the negative side was taken by Mr. Hussey, whose speech was ably and carefully thought out, and was very well received. Mr. Hussey was ably supported by Mr. J. Halley. At ten o'clock the adjournment of the debate was moved by Mr. T. Hill. Great interest is manifested in the proceedings, and next meeting should be a very good one.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 22.

It will be gratifying to the nuns of the Sacred Heart, Timaru, to learn of the successful career of one of their ex-pupils, as a medical student at Edinburgh University. The young lady referred to is Miss Edith Cochrane Brown, daughter of Mr. Thomas Brown of the Strathmore Hospital in this city. At the close of the winter session, in March, she had 100 per cent. in the class examination, and passed the second part of her first professional examination with first-class honours. Miss Brown matriculated from the Timaru convent in December 1897.

To facilitate the work of a house to house visitation, the Pro-Cathedral parish has been divided into three areas, and each of the priests attached to the Pro-Cathedral has had a district allotted. The Very Rev. Vicar-General takes the city within the Belts and Linwood; the Rev. Father Richards, the west side of Colombo Road, which includes part of Sydenham, Addington and Halwell; and the Rev. Father Crotty, the east side of Colombo Road, Woolston and Opawa.

The event of most importance during the week has been the 'Great Early History Carnival' in the Opera House. The opening ceremony was performed by His Worship the Mayor, Mr. C. Louissou, on Monday the 15th inst. His Worship expressed his sympathy with the efforts being made by the Catholics of the Colony to extend the benefits of religion to the multitudes, their praiseworthy and consistent zeal in the establishment and maintenance of schools, where, besides imparting a sound and vigorous secular education, the all important principles of faith and morality were fostered, and the very foundations laid for a higher and nobler life. He had noticed and admired in many lauds the parental care exercised by Catholics over their children, and it gave him pleasure to say those of Christchurch were no exception. At the termination of an admirable address he declared the carnival open. Signor Borzoni's performances are altogether admirable, but to speak of them in detail would occupy too much of your space.

The following ladies are in charge of well-stocked and handsomely arranged stalls:—The Misses Lewis, willow stall; Mrs. Burke, poppy stall; Mesdames Deamer and Green, red rose stall; Misses Dunn and Haughey, statue stall; Mesdames Nelson and Harper, white rose stall; Misses Schamanski, Foster, and Cook, marguerite stall; Mesdames Bonnyman and Dunohue, sunflower stall.

The carnival has been exceedingly well patronised during the week, and excellent business done by the lady stall-holders and their army of assistants. The various committees have worked remarkably well to ensure the success of the carnival, and the secretary, Mr. A. J. Malley, has adequately proved his fitness for the office. A word of praise is due also to Mr. M. O'Brien, treasurer.

Attached to the bazaar there is a fine collection of oil paintings, from the brush of Mr. M. J. Madden, which, I believe, form some of the prizes to be distributed at the art union drawing towards the end of the carnival. In another part of the building there is to be seen a most interesting exhibit, which the owner has generously placed at the service of the committee. It is a model of Westminster Abbey, made entirely of New Zealand woods. The model, which is a marvel of minute and faithful detail, was constructed by Mr. G. Petersen, and took over five years to complete.