

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

September 9.

A monster Catholic social and reunion of the parishioners is to be held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday evening, 28th inst. A choice programme of instrumental and vocal music, step dances, etc., has been prepared.

A cricket match between the past and present pupils of the Catholic girls' school was played in the convent grounds on Thursday afternoon, and resulted in a win for the past pupils, the scores being 105 to 79 runs. An enjoyable afternoon tea was served on the lawn and was much appreciated.

Your esteemed Christchurch correspondent has been evidently misinformed in regard to the age and weight of our Catholic school football team. Competent judges aver that the Timaru boys, taken as a whole, were no heavier than their Christchurch opponents, and that it was the superior combination and training of the Timaruvians that made such disproportionate results on the scoring board.

The Hibernians played the Druids a return card tournament on Tuesday evening last. In cribbage the results were even, but in euchre the Hibernians scored 23 games to 14, and so the final result read Hibernians 77, Druids 68.

On Thursday evening last a most successful concert was given in the Theatre Royal by the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School. The house was well filled. A noticeable feature of the performance was the clear and distinct enunciation of the children both in recitation and singing. The choruses, too, were worthy of special mention, being vigorous, clear, and bright. Master M. O'Meighan recited 'Grandma's shamrocks' exceedingly well for so young a lad. Mrs. Lynch sang 'The last rose of summer,' and 'Oh, how delightful.' A recitation, entitled 'When I'm a man,' by six pupils, was of a humorous turn, and got a good reception, as also did a quartette, entitled 'We'll all go a-singing.' A sympathetic and vigorous interpretation of 'Orange and Green' was well given by Master G. Virtue, and Master P. Kane also recited 'The drummer boy' remarkably well. Master A. McDonald's song, 'A soldier's letter,' was without doubt one of the best contributions of the evening. Mr. Higgins, of Ashburton, gave 'The meeting of the waters' and 'Killarney' in an acceptable manner. A neatly executed dumb bell exercise was given by fifteen little fellows. The choruses were 'The happy farmer,' 'Massa's in the cold ground,' and 'The lifeboat song.' A comediatta, entitled 'Blind Obedience,' gave a highly amusing sketch of a boarding school, with the usual mischievous boy and arbitrary master well in evidence. Masters T. O'Connor, J. O'Dowd, and P. Kane sustained the leading roles, and they were well supported by Masters W. Collins, T. Geaney, S. Mason, D. Bergin, and G. Virtue. Rev. Father Tubman, at the conclusion of the performance, thanked the audience for their patronage and their evident appreciation of the children's efforts, and also the Brothers and the children for the arduous preparation which such a programme must have entailed. The programme concluded with 'God Save the King.' Miss E. McGinness presided at the piano throughout the evening. The proceeds of the entertainment go to reduce the debt on the lately purchased additions to the boys' playground.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

September 15.

Last Thursday being the second anniversary of the Rev. Father Holbrook's ordination, he was made the recipient of many valuable presents, besides numerous congratulatory telegrams. Among the presents were the following:—Silver-mounted umbrella from Mrs. Thorne, Grey street; preaching stole from Mrs. Martin, Hobson street; beautiful lace alb from the Sisters of Mercy; silver pyx from the Sunday school; address from the pupils of the convent school, and an address from the Sunday school read by Miss Mary B. Sheahan. These form a slight indication of the esteem in which the Rev. Father is held by the parishioners, and are a mark of their appreciation of the zeal and energy displayed by him in all works that have for their end the well-being of his congregation.

Last evening in the Avondale Public Hall the Very Rev. Dean Hackett gave a lecture on 'Irish Wit and Humor' before a crowded audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the treat afforded by the eloquent Dean, who was aided by a talented body of vocalists. The witticisms and humor illustrated by the Dean were of the genuine stamp, altogether differing from the spurious article of the London music hall type, and therefore the more pleasurable. Dean Hackett is to be heartily congratulated,

and the hope has been expressed that he will before long redeliver his lecture in the city, where I am sure a large and enthusiastic audience would greet him. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed songs: Miss A. V. Lorrigan, Miss Bollard, Miss Coleta Lorrigan, and Mr. Wheilan. Miss Nelly Ormond played in an efficient manner the accompaniments. The proceeds of the lecture are to be devoted to the local church building fund. Mr F. B. Clay presided.

The following pupils of the Sisters of Mercy were successful in the practical musical examinations held in Auckland last week under the auspices of Trinity College, London:—Senior division (honors)—Eileen Cronin (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 80. Senior division (pass)—Jane Amodeo (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 74; Linda Nicholson (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 66. Intermediate division (honors)—Jennie Hutchisson (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 84; Mary Kelly (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 82. Intermediate division (pass)—Mary Kelly (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), singing, 75; Alda Ralph (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), singing, 75; Mary Moriarty (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 69; Myrtle Reardon (St. Patrick's High School), singing, 63; Beatrice Stewart (Thames Convent), 77. Junior division (honors)—Rosina Frances Lowe (Thames Convent), 82; Eileen Montagu (Thames Convent), 81; Alma McCaig (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 89; Flora McLean (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 82. Junior division (pass)—Margaret Ralph (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 69; Margaret Douglas (Thames Convent), 72; Eva Johnson (Thames Convent), 64. Preparatory division (pass)—Rosie Ralph (St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby), 64; Kathleen McLeod (Thames Convent), 76; Violet Hazel Lowe (Thames Convent), 71; Rubina Dunbar (Thames Convent), 66; Sarah Johnson (Thames Convent), 67; Rene Dunbar (Thames Convent), 64. In the senior division two pupils of Miss Ada Yates—Rose Yates (honors) 90, and Mary E. Sheahan 74—were successful.

The following are the results of the half-yearly theoretical examination of musical knowledge under the auspices of Trinity College, London, held last June at the Thames Convent:—Intermediate division (honors)—Rosina Frances Lowe, 80. Intermediate division (pass)—Violet Hazel Lowe, 62. Preparatory division (pass)—Kathleen McLeod, 95; Cecilia Foy, 93; Annie Gibson, 92; Elsie Mann, 90; Annie Bond, 82; Alma Schofield, 75.

Bros. C. Little, D.P., and W. Kane, D.S., of the N.Z. District of the I.A.C.B. Society, returned home from their visit to the West Coast of the North Island last Tuesday. Their mission on behalf of the Society was a success. They left Auckland on September 5, and attended a meeting of the New Plymouth branch on the following night, at which the Very Rev. Dean McKenna and the Rev. Father McManus were present. The Dean said the local branch and the Society generally always commanded his admiration and support. He would do everything possible to assist it. Thirteen put their names down for admission to the branch. The visiting officers left next day for Okato, where, as the result of their visit, a new branch was opened. Rev. Father Cognet was present and promised to assist in making the Okato branch successful. A return was made to New Plymouth, thence to Palmerston North, where the flourishing local branch held a large and enthusiastic meeting to welcome their district officers, who were delighted at the strength of the branch and the keen interest evinced in its management. Rev. Fathers Tymons and Bowden were present and spoke in high terms of the Society and its good work, and promised their aid to further it. Wanganui was next visited and a new branch was formed, which promises to be very successful. The Very Rev. Dean Grogan, S.M., and Rev. Father O'Sullivan, S.M., attended the meeting and spoke earnestly on behalf of the new branch, and said the Hibernian Society was a most excellent one and performed a lasting service in the cause of Faith and fatherland, at the same time providing for the material welfare of its members. Twenty-one new members were initiated and the new officers installed. Stratford was visited on the 10th inst. Rev. Father Treacy and several of the local Catholics lent their assistance, and though no branch was opened, it is very likely that one will, ere long, be established there. New Plymouth was revisited on Sunday, the 11th inst., according to promise, and those who gave in their names, when the district officers passed through a few days before, were initiated at a special meeting. Bro. Jones, secretary of the New Plymouth branch, is entitled to a word of praise, because he was in a great measure responsible for the success of the district officers' visit. Bros. Little and Kane are exceedingly pleased with the result of their tour. They wish to return sincere thanks to the priests in all the parts visited, as well as the many kind friends, and especially to Bro. Jones, of New Plymouth, for his invaluable aid.