

a squad of carpenters were engaged; the museum (which had escaped the flames) was 'turned out' and the large hop-kiln and barn were transformed; and that night, at the customary hour for retiring, every boy in the place was snugly ensconced in a capacious 'berth,' provided with a comfortable mattress and pillow. But for weeks the slumbers of the little sleepers were disturbed by lurid dreams to which the vivid terrors of the great conflagration gave, many a time, a voice and a cry that broke the stillness of nights with fresh alarms.

It rained dismally for a great part of the four weeks of feverish and anxious work that followed the destruction of 'old St. Mary's.' By that time temporary premises were completed at a cost of £600, and life pursued the even tenor of its way, as in the era that is now called by the boys 'before-the-fire.' Even during these weeks of dripping rain the health of the boys was all that could be desired. The ashes were still warm in Stoke when a new building was arranged for, to rise over the pall of black cinders which were all that was left of the old. Within six weeks the plans and specifications of the new St. Mary's were ready. Tenders were called. They were all too high. Father Mahoney decided to do the work without the contractor's adventitious aid. He started up-to-date brickworks to utilise the immense resources of fine material upon the farm, let plumbing and other contracts wherever such a course commended itself to his judgment, and did the rest of the work by day labor, under his own and the architect's skilled supervision. The result has in every way amply justified Father Mahoney's practical knowledge and business acumen. The new building was started in September, 1903. Over 300,000 bricks were used in the building. The lowest tender for the new Orphanage was £10,700. It was erected and furnished for £9500. On Wednesday of last week was solemnly blessed and opened the new and beautiful Stoke that has arisen, like a Phoenix, out of the ashes of the old. It stands to-day more like a college than an Orphanage, and is the finest and best appointed institute of its kind in New Zealand.

THE NEW BUILDINGS

The new building was erected from the designs of Mr. John S. Swan, architect, Wellington. It has a frontage of 224 feet, with a varying depth of 128 feet. The height from ground line to the highest ridge of roof is 35 feet, and to top of cross on belfry 50 feet. The outside has been treated in a bold, simple manner, the style being Romanesque. The foundation is of concrete, and the ordinary walls and gables of red brick relieved with plaster dressings. All the roofs are covered with Marseilles roofing tiles. The main entrance is approached from a massive set of concrete steps 14 feet wide. The entrance porch is 10 feet 3 inches by 6 feet 9. The main vestibule measures 10 feet 3 wide, and the fine halls and corridors 8 feet wide. The following accommodation is provided:—

Reception room; office; two rooms for the use of the Rev. Manager; a particularly beautiful chapel 54 feet by 20 by 27 feet high, with sanctuary, sacristy, fine open-work roof, and handsome window which is to be fitted with stained glass and to serve as a memorial to the late Dean Mahoney; dining hall for the boys, 43 feet 6 by 25 feet; kitchen, 21 feet by 19, with large central range and up-to-date appointments; store-rooms; scullery; sitting-room and bedroom for working Manager; dining-room for staff; workroom, with knitting machines which the boys are trained to use, and sewing machines for those learning the tailoring trade (boot-making and carpentry will shortly be added); clothes room 32 feet 6 by 16 feet 6, with locker for each boy; and dressing room for the boys, 32 feet by 13. There are two large dormitories, finished, like the rest of the rooms, in spotless white, with the architectural members of the ceilings picked out in a faint green tint. They are flooded with light and measure, one 82 feet by 36, the other 75 feet by 38, both together affording ample accommodation for 100 boys. The mattresses and pillows were all made by the boys, under the direction of the Rev. Father Mahoney, who has a thorough knowledge of the trade. Attached to each dormitory there is a prefect's room. Adjoining the dormitories is a well appointed lavatory, 48 feet by 12 feet 6, together with six baths and other conveniences. There are also three fine class-rooms, each 22 feet 6 by 20 feet, each with its own large fire-place. The rooms are divided by folding doors. All the rooms have rimu dadoes. The walls above the dadoes, likewise the ceilings, are finished in patent plaster. The rooms are (with the exception of the chapel) 15 feet high. They are admirably lighted and ventilated, and so arranged as to render the

Working of the Institute

as easy as possible. Electric bells are everywhere, and

the whole building is brilliantly lighted by the largest installation of acetylene gas in New Zealand.

To the left of the entrance, set in one of the gable ends, is a memorial tablet to the late Very Rev. Dean Mahoney. The inscription thereon reads as follows:— 'This building replaces old St. Mary's, destroyed by fire 27th April, 1903. A home for the homeless waifs and strays of the Colony, it is raised, moreover, as a memorial of the late Very Rev. Dean W. J. Mahoney, S.M., the orphans' greatest benefactor and constant friend. "He that shall receive such little child in My name receiveth Me."—St. Matt., xviii., 5.'

Detached from the main building is the hospital, which is not yet complete. It will contain a ward 36 feet by 18; nurse's room, kitchen, bathroom, and other conveniences. The latest sanitary appliances have been used, and the drainage is disposed of by the septic tank and filter-bed system. An excellent water supply has been obtained by building, on a hill some 150 feet above the Orphanage, a large concrete reservoir holding some 30,000 gallons. This is fed by a mountain stream, and from it the water is conducted in pipes to the building, which is also furnished with ample and ever-ready appliances for the extinguishing of fire. Up a sunny, osier-planted valley there is a large swimming bath, in which the boys disport themselves in the summer-time.

Some idea of the extent of the Orphanage may be gathered from the fact that over 300,000 bricks have been used in the walls, and about 80 tons of tiles for the roof work. The bricks were made on the Orphanage property. An everlasting supply of the finest brick-clay has been tapped. It is treated by new and thoroughly up-to-date plant. There is shed accommodation for 120,000 bricks, but sheds and kilns have to be enlarged to meet the increasing demands for the excellent article that is being turned out by the brickworks staff.

Other sources of revenue to meet the heavy outlay are a flock of some 800 sheep; a well-kept poultry run; a hop-garden; and some hundred or so of sleek, comfortable 'gentlemen that pay the rent'—and look as if they knew it.

But there is a heavy burden of debt upon the Orphanage—some £10,000 all told, including an old liability that remains, like an Irish 'hanging gale,' from the days before the fire. The Government has declined any building grant; and it only remains for generous souls throughout the Colony to come to the aid of this great New Zealand charity. And he gives twice that gives speedily.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

The new Orphanage and Industrial School were solemnly blessed and opened on May 24, Empire Day. The ceremony was performed by his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, who was assisted by the following clergy: Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M.; Very Rev. Father Lewis, S.M., V.G.; Very Rev. Dean McKenna (Masterton); Rev. Fathers Hickson, Tubman (Timaru), S. Mahoney (Christchurch), Fay (Blenheim), O'Shea and Moloney (Wellington), Clancy and G. Mahoney (Nelson), and Cleary (Dunedin). The beautiful chapel was first blessed, and then the remainder of the Institute. The ceremonies were witnessed by a large gathering of people of various creeds from the Province and its capital, including the Mayor of Nelson and other local representative men, the Hon. Colonel Pitt, Attorney-General and Acting Minister of Education; the Hon. F. Trask, M.L.C.; and the architect (Mr. Swan). Among the assembled gathering were many old Stoke boys. Apologies were received from his Excellency the Governor, who expressed his intention of shortly paying a visit to the Orphanage; the Right Hon. Mr. Seddon; Sir J. G. Ward; the Right Rev. Dr. Mules, Anglican Bishop of Nelson; the Hon. R. Reeves; Mr. Mackenzie, M.H.R.; Judge Kenny; Mr. Hogben, Inspector-General of Schools; and many of the clergy and laity throughout New Zealand.

At the close of the ceremonies of blessing and opening the building,

Addresses

were delivered from the steps at the entrance.

Archbishop Redwood said in part: 'I have first of all to express my sincere thanks to those who have assembled here to-day in such large numbers to assist in the ceremony of inaugurating so great a work. I feel sure that if the late Dean Mahoney were present here in the flesh to-day, his heart would leap with joy to see the beautiful building that has arisen on the ruins of the old Orphanage. When the fire destroyed the old Orphanage, there was universal grief among the Catholic body. But now there is universal joy because we see erected a building so far superior in every respect to the one that has been destroyed, and I feel sure that the whole Catholic body will feel proud of a building which is a credit to them, and to their generosity. It was a great blow to us when the old