

New Publications

'The Red Funnel'

On Tuesday last a select gathering assembled at the offices of Wilkie and Co., Dunedin, to celebrate the issue of the first number of a new monthly literary magazine, 'The Red Funnel.' The new literary venture is issued under the auspices of the Union Steam Ship Company, is edited by Mr. Brown, and is published by Wilkie and Co. It starts with a guaranteed monthly circulation of some 16,000. The manner in which it has leaped so suddenly into public favor is sufficiently explained by the remarkable excellence of the magazine both on its literary and artistic side. It comprises 92 pages of a high class of reading matter and a great number of illustrations, the bulk of which are from original wash-drawings and pen-and-ink sketches by that accomplished artist, Mr. Hawcridge. Up to the present time the magazine literature of Australasia has been sicklied o'er with the pale hue of hardly tolerable mediocrity. But the present literary venture makes its bow in the full blossom of a sudden success, and with a wealth and variety and high-water level of contents that the best English illustrated magazines might well envy. And yet it sells at the modest price of sixpence. The name of the Union Company, and a glance at the portly bulk of its advertising pages, are sufficient guarantee of 'The Red Funnel' from the commercial standpoint. This handsome magazine has come to stay. It will take a high and legitimate place among the best magazine literature of the Empire, and we heartily wish the plucky venture the full and flowing measure of success which was promised to it by the gathering that witnessed with so much surprise, last Tuesday, the high artistic and literary merit of the advance copy of the first (August) number which was placed in their hands.

'Faug-a-Ballagh'

An esteemed Wellington correspondent writes us as follows: While it is true that the generally accepted meaning of the phrase or term 'Faug-a-Ballagh' is (as you said in your issue of last week) 'Leave the road' or 'Clear the way,' yet the strictly literal translation of the Gaelic phrase is, 'Leave the home' or 'clear out from home.' It was evidently used and applied to the Irish in connection with so many of them being forced to leave their home and country through persecution, and was probably first applied to the portion of the Irish army who took service under the French, Austrians, and others on the Continent, and perhaps also to those who had to flee to the mountain wilds of Connaught. This may possibly have given rise to its adoption as a motto or battle-cry by the now famous Connaught Rangers—though the term is scarcely reminiscent of fame or glory for a motto. The Connaught Rangers certainly use it in the sense 'Leave the road' or 'clear the way.'

OBITUARY

MRS. DUNNE, BALCLUTHA.

Sincere regret was felt in Balclutha on Sunday, July 2, when it became known that Mrs. Dunne, wife of Mr. John Dunne, the popular Mayor of the town, had passed away shortly after mid-day, after a brief illness. The deceased lady was 59 years of age, and had been married 41 years, the greater part of her married life having been spent in Balclutha. Among the many who sent telegrams and other messages of condolence were the Premier, Sir J. G. Ward, Hon. T. Duncan, and Mr. Massey (leader of the Opposition). The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon of last week, being one of the largest ever seen in the district. All the members of the Borough Council were present, four of whom acted as pall-bearers. The remains were taken to the Church of St. Virgilius, where the first portion of the burial service was read by the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, who also officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

REV. FATHER BENEDICT, O.P., AUCKLAND.

On Wednesday morning we received a telegraphic message from Auckland, conveying the sad intelligence of the death of the Rev. Father Benedict, O.P., who had passed away on the previous day after a protracted illness. The deceased had been engaged principally in giving missions in various parts of the Auckland diocese for a number of years, where his labors were productive of much spiritual good. The obsequies take place to-day (Thursday), after which the remains will be interred in the Panmure Cemetery.—R.I.P.

The Home

By Maureen

Household Hints.

To render cloth or any fabric fire-proof, dip it into a weak solution of chloride of zinc.

It is not generally known that the olive, applied externally, softens the skin, reduces inflammation, and allays pain.

To keep paste for any length of time, add a small lump of alum to it while cooking. To strengthen it add a small quantity of glue.

To take iron rust out of linen, hold the part that is rusted over a bowl filled with boiling water, rub it out with lemon juice and salt, or with a solution of oxalic acid. When the spot disappears rub out the place in hot water.

To remove obstinate stoppers from glass bottles, dip a piece of woollen cloth into boiling water and wrap it round the neck of the bottle. In a few minutes the stopper can be removed.

To clean plaster figures, dissolve a small amount of whiting in just enough water to make a paste, and put it over the figure with a brush. A little glue dissolved in the water before the whiting is added, will prevent its rubbing off.

To make gum arabic that will remain sweet, dissolve 1lb gum arabic in 1 pint of boiling water, adding a piece of borax the size of a walnut. Pour into a large-mouthed bottle. Shake once or twice a day for four days, and then add 1 tablespoonful of alcohol.

To suppress a sneeze—a thing very often desirable—press the finger hard against the upper lip. It will always prevent a sneeze.

Fresh paint stains may be removed with turpentine. Grease stains can be removed with benzine; if possible the part should be subsequently washed with warm water. Candlegrease can be removed from carpets or chair covers with a hot iron. Lay a sheet of brown paper or blotting paper on the stain, pass the iron over the spot, moving the paper so as to give a fresh surface for each application; when no further trace of grease shows on the paper, apply a thick coat of fullers' earth to the surface operated on, and leave overnight.

Never wipe gilt frames or other gilding with a linen cloth. It deadens the brightness. Use a feather brush for dusting them.

There is nothing that so promptly cuts short congestion of the lungs, sore throat, or rheumatism as hot water, when applied promptly and thoroughly.

Maureen

The Government has decided to call the township on Flaxbourne estate Ward, after the Minister for Railways. The receipts at the winter show at Palmerston North totalled £1014.

Four leading auctioneering firms in Wellington have combined to erect a huge fruit, produce, and grain mart on the reclaimed land at the Te Aro end of the town. The contract has been let for £14,500. The mart will be up-to-date and complete, and will be equipped with electric hoists.

There were on March 31 last three ox-inspectors, 14 ex-sergeants, 22 ex-constables, two ex-detectives, two widows, and three children on the police Provident Fund, their aggregate annual allowance being £1138 12s 8d. There is a balance to the credit of the fund of £24,875 11s 2d, being an increase of £3081 12s 11d on the amount at the corresponding date of the preceding year.

There was an excellent attendance (writes a Hokitika correspondent, under date July 5) at the meeting of the Catholic Literary and Debating Society held last evening. Mr. M. Moloney (vice-president), occupied the chair. The subject of debate was, 'Which would be more beneficial to the town of Hokitika—the improvement of the harbor or a water supply and drainage system?' Mr. G. Maher supported the former and Mr. McKay the latter. A very interesting debate was the result, a good number of members taking part. All brought forward very strong arguments in favor of their contentions, and on a vote being taken, the meeting decided in favor of the improvement of the harbor. A letter was read from the Greymouth Hibernian Society extending an invitation to the Club to be present at a progressive euchre party to be held on July 18. The invitation was accepted.