

Some thirteen children received First Communion in St. Andrews Church on Sunday, December 3. Rev. Father Le Floch had been instructing them for some months past, and finished their preparation by a three days' retreat. The church looked its best on Sunday morning, green and red hangings in graceful loops falling to the walls on either side, and the altar and sanctuary tastefully decorated with a wealth of late spring flowers. The children received at the nine o'clock Mass, and renewed their baptismal vows at the second one. Rev. Father Le Floch celebrated both, and gave short discourses suitable to the occasion.

After the sermon yesterday evening three postulants were received into the Children of Mary, and a large number of aspirants made their consecration.

A most successful bazaar was held in the St. Andrews Public Hall last week, the proceeds going to the funds of the local church. The fair was opened on Tuesday night by Mr. G. Lyall, J.P., and as the weather was particularly violent, heavy rains and strong wind, the attendance was but small. However, on the three following nights the elements were kinder, and the attendance and business done more than satisfied the zealous stallholders, Mrs. O'Callaghan and Miss O'Loughlin, as well as our local clergy. Although it was election week and there were many attractions in town, a party of ladies and gentlemen drove out from Timaru each evening to provide concert programmes. Among the vocalists were the Misses McGuinness and Walsh, Rev. Father Finnerty, Messrs. Jordan, McDonald, and Healey, and Master McDonald. Messrs. McCarthy and Ryan gave a step-dance, and some school children also lent their efforts to entertain. The Misses E. McGuinness, E. Dennehy, and W. Egan presided at the piano in their usual able manner, and Mr. A. Wilson very satisfactorily fulfilled the duties of secretary. The drawing of the art union took place on Friday.

St. John's Tennis Club held its official opening on Wednesday last, and the day being a holiday and the weather fine there was a large attendance of members, the fair sex being in the majority. Rev. Father Tubman, president of the club, in his inaugural remarks, congratulated the members on the assiduity with which they attended morning and evening for practice, and expressed his pleasure at being able to help them towards the laying down of the second court, which would do away with long waits for a game. He duly declared the courts open, and set a good example by starting in a game of mixed doubles. Afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies of the club.

### LYTTELTON

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Friday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the children of the convent school, Lyttelton, as usual invited their devoted pastor, Rev. Father Cooney, to the schoolroom, where they had prepared a very entertaining concert to celebrate the anniversary of his ordination. This year the parishioners joined heartily and generously with the young people in making a suitable presentation, as a slight recognition of his zealous and untiring efforts for their spiritual and temporal welfare. The gifts presented were a handsome silver tea set, a set of carvers, and a pretty Japanese afternoon service, with some other smaller useful presents. The Rev. Father thanked the parishioners and children for their beautiful and valuable gifts, all of which gave him a great surprise. In alluding to his work amongst them he said that he had many difficulties to face on coming to Lyttelton, but he certainly had the co-operation of the people, and only for their help he could not wipe off a debt of £800 in four short years. He had (he continued) celebrated that day the eighth anniversary of his ordination. Five years of this time were now almost spent in Lyttelton, where he felt quite happy and satisfied to remain and work as long as Almighty God and his Bishop willed it. The parishioners then wished Father Cooney many happy returns of the day.

### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Letters and other communications for our issue of December 28 should reach this office, if possible, on Friday, December 22, as only brief items can be accepted on the morning of our publishing day (Wednesday).

We have received from the New Zealand Clothing Factory six puzzles, which they are distributing gratis during this month. The puzzles are all extremely interesting and novel, and will afford amusement to those who are able to secure them. These puzzles are another example of this firm's smart advertising, for which they are so thoroughly well noted, in addition to their local manufactures under the 'H.B.' brand.

### Hibernian Society, Dunedin

The quarterly summoned meeting of the Dunedin branch of the Hibernian Society was largely attended. The items on the business paper were numerous and interesting, no less than four notices of motion having been disposed of. It was unanimously resolved to pay a friendly visit to the Milton branch and attend Mass there in regalia. The secretary's salary was increased, as was also the treasurer's. Considering the numerical strength of the branch entailing a large amount of work, it was thought that those officers were underpaid for some time. A vigilance committee was appointed to look after members getting into arrears with the view of influencing them to retain their connection with the Society. During the evening two presentations were made. Bro. D. O'Mahoney, who had been treasurer of the branch for seventeen years and had been forced to retire through ill-health, was presented with a solid gold Celtic cross suitably inscribed. The president, Bro. T. McDermott, in making the presentation referred to the many services rendered by Bro. O'Mahoney to the branch during his long term of office. Bro. O'Mahoney feelingly replied and thanked the members for remembering him, and said that he did not at all consider himself deserving of such kindness on their part and expressed the hope that he would yet be of some service to the branch. He congratulated the members on securing such an able officer as Bro. J. Hally as his successor. Speaking generally, he said that during the first part of his treasurership the branch was not as flourishing as it should be, but thanks to able administration it gradually improved until now it was the premier one of New Zealand. Bro. J. M. Casey was also presented with a P.P. certificate suitably framed and glazed, as a token of the able manner in which he conducted and presided over the meetings during his term of office as president. Bro. Casey, in thanking the members, said he never expected such recognition, and at the first intimation of this presentation he was most agreeably surprised. He assured the members that his interest in the branch would not cease with this presentation, but he would continue his present activity and if possible take a keener interest in its welfare in the future. It was also decided to present Bro. W. Carr with a testimonial in recognition of his past services to the branch. It is most gratifying to find such good feeling existing amongst the members, especially such a large membership, because when members agree amongst themselves and conduct the business harmoniously there is more time and encouragement for other good works.

The Rev. Father Coffey, branch chaplain, said he hoped to see every member living in the district present at Communion on Sunday, December 24, when the members, in regalia, would approach the altar rails in a body. Those who had not regalia could fall in with the rest, as he was anxious to see a large attendance, and thus show their strength and faith as worthy members of a Catholic society. One candidate was elected and two proposed.

The following officers were elected without opposition: President, Bro. T. McDermott (re-elected); vice-president, Bro. T. McQuillan (re-elected); secretary, Bro. J. O'Connor (re-elected); treasurer, Bro. J. Hally; warden, Bro. W. Butler (re-elected); guardian, Bro. W. J. Menton, sick visitors, Bros. J. Saunders and T. McQuillan (re-elected); auditors, Bros. T. Hussey and D. Columb (re-elected); judicial committee, Bros. Jacques, Flynn, Casey, Hoare, Saunders, Hussey, Colgan, Boyle, and Ford.

### New Publications

The 'Advocate' Press (Melbourne) has reprinted in pamphlet form in full the 'Hansard' report of the recent great debate in the Federal Parliament on Home Rule for Ireland. This timely pamphlet consists of 111 pages of closely-printed matter, and is the handiest publication dealing with both sides of the question that we are acquainted with. It is illustrated with portraits of the members who voted in favor of the Home Rule motion, and, at the modest price at which it has been published (sixpence), should command a ready sale among 'the sea-divided Gael,' and among all who take an interest in this burning question of our time.

A private telegram received in Dunedin on Tuesday conveyed the intelligence that the Very Rev. Dean Foley had a turn for the worse on that day. The patient is still in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Auckland. His many friends throughout New Zealand will anxiously await better news regarding him.