

matters affecting the societies were very fully and ably discussed. Monday's sitting was devoted to consideration of the 'Catholic Magazine,' and the desirability of its more frequent appearance was affirmed. Steps are to be taken to arrange for a monthly issue next year. On Sunday morning a very edifying sight was presented at St. Mary of the Angels' Church, Boulcott street, where large numbers of young men received Holy Communion in a body. A special sermon of much force was preached by the spiritual director, Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M. A photograph of the delegates, members of the club, and friends was afterwards taken on the club's tennis court. Breakfast was partaken of at Searl's Rooms, Cuba street, where the Rev. Father O Shea, S.M., presided over a gathering of over seventy young men. The usual toasts were duly honored. On Sunday after the breakfast the delegates and friends were driven out to the Trentham Racecourse, where lunch was provided. On Sunday evening they attended the Church of St. Anne's, Wellington South, and were afterwards entertained by the Rev. Father Ainsworth. On Monday his Grace the Archbishop was present at the conference, and delivered a brief address to the delegates. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year—Patron, his Grace Archbishop Redwood; spiritual director, Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M.; president, Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon; vice-president, Mr. E. J. Leydon; secretary and editor, Mr. H. McKeowen; treasurer, Mr. J. McGowan; executive, Messrs. A. H. Casey, J. Coyle, P. J. McGovern. The next conference will be held at Christchurch. The young men are to be congratulated on the success of their fifth council, and it is to be hoped that the movement will receive an impetus that will place our societies more in the forefront of the work of the Church.

Wanganui

(From an occasional correspondent.)

April 17.

The altar boys of St. Mary's held their picnic (which was organised by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hunt) at Long Acre Valley, about seven miles from Wanganui. The usual out-door games and races were provided. The principal winners were C. Morgan, J. Robinson, H. Hunt, and W. Neylon. After partaking of the refreshments, which were looked after by Miss Leydin and Mrs. McMahon, the boys were driven to Mrs. Hunt's residence, where they were hospitably entertained, and thence they adjourned to St. Mary's Hall, where Mr. H. Edsen gave a gramophone entertainment, interspersed with songs by Rev. Father Mahoney, Messrs. S. Stafford and L. Loftus, piano solo by Mrs. Leo Dunfot, violin solo by Mr. Horrie Hunt. Brother Virgilius caused great laughter with his interpretation of the 'Ghost' scene. The convent orphan children and the boarders were also delighted with the evening's entertainment. Very Rev. Dean Grogan and Rev. Father Mahoney, also Brothers Colman, Virgilius, and Siegfried were present at the picnic, and were very energetic in promoting the pleasure of the boys during the day.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

April 23.

The following pupils of the Sisters of Our Lady of Missions of the Sacred Heart High School were successful; at the recent examinations in music in connection with the Royal Academy:—Higher division, A. Riordan; higher division (singing), M. O'Connor. Lower division, M. Coakley (distinction), Ruby Buchanan and E. Murphy. Elementary, M. Ryan.

There was a meeting of the committee in connection with the proposed carnival to aid the Cathedral fund held on last Wednesday evening. His Lordship the Bishop presided, and among those present were the Very Rev. Vicar-General the Rev. Fathers Hickson and O'Connell. The time fixed for the carnival is August of next year. An executive committee will be formed at an early date, and the lady stall-holders appointed.

A bazaar, sale of work, and the Madden Art Union in aid of the parochial funds of St. Mary's, Manchester street, were opened on Easter Monday in the Alexandra Hall, and continued until the following Thursday evening, when the art union was drawn. The Madden paintings were on view, and made quite an effective display. Messrs. W. Hayward, jun., and W. Raymond shared the duties of secretary, and the following ladies were in charge of stalls:—Fancy, Mrs. W. Hayward, jun., Mrs. Shanaghan, Misses Dennehy, Shanaghan, Smith, Donag-

hue, and Gough; Produce, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Bradford, and the Misses Sullivan; refreshments, Mrs. Brick, the Misses Knight and Brick. A musical programme was given each evening. The attendance was good, and the business resulting satisfactory. The Rev. Father Hickson and others of the clergy took a keen interest in the proceedings. The principal prize winners in the art union were Mr. A. C. Nottingham, Mrs. G. McGowan, Mr. J. Ormandy, and Miss Barnett, the remaining prizes being fairly widely distributed.

On last Monday evening Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon, president of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies, gave an interesting address to members of the Christchurch Catholic Club. Among those present were the Rev. Father O'Connell and the Marist Brothers' teaching staff. The president, Mr. J. R. Hayward, occupied the chair, and during the introductory remarks referred in congratulatory terms to the success of Mr. Fitzgibbon; those successes, he trusted, were but the beginning of a progressive movement among Catholic young men and in connection with Catholic matters which would tend to raise the standard of Catholicism to the plane—socially, educationally, and generally—which it should occupy in this Colony, in short, 'a power in the land' by virtue of the sterling ability undoubtedly possessed by many of our young men, and displayed in an eminent degree by Mr. Fitzgibbon and his confrere Mr. F. P. Kelly.

Mr. Fitzgibbon expressed sincere thanks for the hearty reception given him, and also intended for his friend and comrade Mr. Kelly, whose absence he apologised for as being, in the circumstances, unavoidable. He felt particularly grateful to the president (Mr. Hayward) for the splendid hospitality he had extended not only towards himself, but to all his fellow students during their visit to Christchurch. His (the speaker's) experiences had always proved the loyalty existing among Catholics. It was a pleasure to him to meet the Catholic young men of any centre, and as president of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies, he deemed it a duty and a privilege to meet those of the various clubs and societies. He realised the very great interest manifested by the Catholics of this city in their success, which he felt was a reflex of the same interest felt in them throughout New Zealand. This was a sincere honor to which they were fully alive, and he trusted deeply appreciative. Referring to the recent competitive debate, he said they had met foemen worthy of their steel, some even with previous unbroken records, and as regards Mr. Kelly, he had never spoken so well before. After relating some interesting particulars concerning the university life of Victoria College and giving some side lights on the inner workings, he again took up the theme of Catholic combination and co-operation, especially in our relation to the clergy, who had too much to do, and for whom we did too little. He concluded a stirring address by strongly urging as many as possible to adopt a university career, and to see to it that Catholics enjoyed a fair share of university life. These institutions should not be run by any one special class, sectarian or atheistic, and one of the best means to prevent this is by the inclusion of a fair percentage of Catholic students. The introduction of anything of the kind into Victoria College would be strenuously opposed, and for this reason among others he trusted we would be always well represented.

Rev. Father O'Connell, in expressing pleasure in meeting Mr. Fitzgibbon and listening to his excellent address, said their visitor was evidently one who fully realised the importance of his religion. The remarks they had listened to on university life were to them welcome, and proved the necessity of study, which among our Catholic young men was too much overlooked. He was afraid they did not realise the power within their easy reach. All should make an endeavor to raise themselves in the estimation of their fellow-citizens, and to do this a college career was not an absolute essential. He felt that the club would benefit by the visit of Mr. Fitzgibbon that evening, and that one result would be the acquisition of some of the enthusiasm of their visitor and his coadjutors in Wellington in the interests of club matters. Whilst congratulating Mr. Fitzgibbon on the success attained, he said, although it was the privilege of the few to rise to distinction and eminence, still it was in the power of everyone to advance if only earnestness, zeal, and energy were exercised.

Brother Basil said he had listened to the late debate with pleasure and profit. He likened Mr. Fitzgibbon to Mr. Redmond, the great Irish parliamentarian, when he had first heard the latter. With regard to their guest, he predicted a brilliant future for him.

Mr. Heenan followed with a few witty remarks, after which a cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Fitzgibbon, who suitably replied.

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