

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Dunedin

The annual meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Dunedin, was held in St. Joseph's Hall, on Friday afternoon. The Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presiding.

Report and Balance Sheet.

The following are the report and balance sheet for the year ended July 19:—

The committee have much pleasure in submitting the annual report and balance sheet for the year ended July 19, thus completing the twenty-first year of the existence of the Dunedin branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. During the past twelve months the Society has relieved a great deal of distress, and has also been the means of sending 7 children to St. Mary's, Nelson, 8 girls to St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin, one woman to Mt. Magdala, two young girls to their home in Wellington, and one girl to her home in Palmerston North. To all the generous and sympathetic friends your committee offer their sincere thanks, and would specially mention his Lordship the Bishop, the clergy, the nuns of the Good Shepherd (Mt. Magdala), Messrs. Callan and Gallaway, Dr. O'Neill, U.S.S.Co., the Society for Protection of Women and Children, and all subscribing members.

The following ladies are office-bearers for the current year:—President, Mrs. Jackson; vice-president, Mrs. Moutat; treasurer, Miss Colum; wardrobe-keeper, Mrs. Swanson, secretary, Miss Purton.

Forty-three meetings were held during the year; 470 visits were paid to the poor and sick, 7 boys were sent to St. Mary's, Nelson, 8 girls to the Orphanage, South Dunedin, one woman to Mt. Magdala, two young girls to their home in Wellington, one girl to her home in Palmerston North. The Society has had 9 children baptised. Grocery orders were given to 56 people, coal orders to 40. There are 170 honorary members on the roll and 9 active members.

The following is a list of the articles sent out during the year:—One bed (new), 9 pairs blankets (new), 2 pairs (second hand), 36 overalls (new), 8 do (s.h.), 3 capes (new), 1 do (s.h.), 46 sets of women's and children's under-wear (new), 17 skirts (new), 7 do (s.h.), 47 pairs stockings (new), 18 do (s.h.), 8 men's shirts (new), 14 do (s.h.), 19 women's dresses (new), 18 do, (s.h.), 4 children's hats (new), 26 do (s.h.), 30 women's coats (s.h.), 53 blouses (s.h.), 36 pairs of boots and shoes (new), 21 do (s.h.), 3 shawls (new), 4 do (s.h.), 4 overcoats (s.h.), 16 pairs men's trousers (s.h.), 16 men's vests and coats (s.h.), 18 boys' suits (new), 5 do (s.h.), 110 yards dress material, 96 yards print, 29 yards flannel, 252 yards flannelette, prayer books, scapulars, medicine, jellies, fruit, etc., to the sick.

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance in bank,		By Groceries	23 5 0
July, 1905	47 9 11	" Coal	15 17 3
" Subscriptions	32 8 6	" Boots	8 16 8
" Donations	34 13 3	" Drapery	29 1 2
" Poor-box	2 3 0	" Urgent Board	3 17 0
" Church collection	42 9 9	" U.S.S. Co.	19 0 0
		" Railway fares	1 19 2
		" Offerings Mt. Magdala, etc	6 0 6
		" Telephone	6 5 0
		" Sundries—	
		" Cleaning room, cab hire, telegrams, etc.	11 7 2
		" Medicine	0 12 6
		" Balance in bank	33 3 0
	£159 4 5		£159 4 5

Rev. Father Coffey, in putting the motion for the adoption of the report and balance sheet to the meeting, said that last year the Society made a move in the direction of having a collection instead of the annual entertainment in aid of the funds, and the change was justified by the results. He regretted that there was a fallings off in the amount this year—the sum received being £42 9s 9d. He did not think that it was creditable to the Catholics of Dunedin that the whole of the work of the Society should be left to nine active members. It was not fair, considering the number of young people with plenty of time, that so much work should fall on the shoulders of a few. With more collectors the list of regular subscribers could be considerably increased. The work of the Society on behalf of destitute children was worthy of all praise. Comment was sometimes made with reference to the number of Catholic children in charitable institutions compared with our Catholic population, but this could be

accounted for by the activity of the members of Catholic organisations. The sick poor were not visited as often as they might be, and an increase in the active membership would help to remedy this. The question of starting a men's branch of the Society in the interest of the boys and of the sailors coming to this port has been under consideration, and he trusted that their hopes in this direction would be realised in the near future. In conclusion Father Coffey, on behalf of his Lordship the Bishop, the clergy, and the parishioners, thanked the ladies of the Society for the admirable work they were doing.

The motion for the adoption of the report and balance sheet was then put and carried.

Wireless Telegraphy

Out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean the wireless telegraph operator on board 'La Provence,' of the French Line, accomplished the other day the hitherto unrealised feat of communicating with both Europe and America.

Spanning 1800 miles of water to the eastward and 1700 miles to the westward, the wireless operators talked through the night in fogs and storms and winds, and over the mighty swells of the ocean, to stations at Poldhu and Cape Cod. They accomplished what has been striven for by inventors ever since the wonders of wireless telegraphy first crystallized into established fact.

The wireless telegraph feat accomplished by 'La Provence' came as a surprise. The ship was ploughing steadily westward when, at 2 a.m., the wireless operator was startled by discovering that he had both continents at his command.

Just previously the operator at Poldhu had been sending the latest news of the San Francisco disaster, as received in Europe by cable. The dots and dashes were snapping and crackling briskly and the message was flowing smoothly. At the end of a paragraph the instrument paused and there was a minute's silence.

When the cheerful crackling of the instrument began again it spelled out an account of manhole covers being blown off the sewers in the garage district of New York.

At first the 'La Provence' operator did not realise the truth. He thought Poldhu had begun sending another message.

'What do you mean by switching to New York news?' he asked Poldhu. 'Go ahead with your San Francisco stuff.'

Then the answer came back: 'This is Cape Cod in America. Who are you?'

In the excitement of the moment the operator found it difficult to control himself and reply:

'La Provence.' Report us all well. Wait a minute till I finish with Poldhu.

The Cape Cod operator kept still, and as the ship ploughed along through the darkness 'La Provence' talked again with Poldhu and told the wonderful story of spanning 3600 miles of ocean almost as easily as a boy might shout across a river.

A few minutes later the 'La Provence' operator called Cape Cod, and for an hour the ship talked alternately with Europe and America. Then the Poldhu messages became indistinct and the 'La Provence' operator wired: 'Good-night.'

Wireless telegraphy is now being used for the first time in connection with the Polar expedition, as we were informed by cable last week that Mr. Walter Wellman has established wireless communication within a distance of 600 miles of the Pole, via Hammerfest. The balloon-house is in course of construction, and the aerial expedition to the Pole starts in the middle of August. Mr. Wellman, who hopes to reach the Pole by means of a dirigible balloon, together with automobile sledges and a metallic boat, says that it is his intention to carry a wireless telegraphic apparatus with him, so that the instant the Pole is discovered the news will be flashed to the outside world.

Mr. Walter Wellman is himself a very clever Marconi operator, and he sees no difficulty in sending a message from the Pole (should he reach it) to Spitzbergen, where arrangements will be made to receive it. From Spitzbergen to the Pole is only about 600 miles, and Mr. Wellman declared that he and his party will be in constant communication with that place during the whole of their trip, and that information regarding his movements will reach Spitzbergen almost hourly. During the time Mr. Wellman is 'dashing' towards the Pole by means of his balloon he does not intend to rise to a higher elevation than 300 feet, and, as the air in the Arctic regions is particularly favorable for wireless messages, it will be possible to follow his movements, almost from hour to hour, with the greatest ease.

For Children's Hacking Cough at Night, WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE, 1/6 and 2/6 per Bottle.