

Stories of Colonial Life

The various committees of the forthcoming New Zealand International Exhibition are covering the ground with admirable thoroughness. The schedule for the Home Industries Department, which should be seen by all Australians, is a small volume in itself, and covers a wide range of prize competitions, from the writing of an invoice to the cooking of a pie. And though entry for many of the contests is only possible for New Zealanders, there are others which are open to the world. The section that will perhaps interest most readers is that covering the writing of short stories. (In this department eight prizes (gold, silver, bronze medals and a certificate) will be awarded for the best original stories (3000 words) based on colonial life.

This department is subdivided into—(a) For competitors under twenty-five; (b) for competitors of any age, and is open to the world. Four prizes will be awarded to the winners of each section. A registration or entrance fee of 1s is charged.

To enter for this contest is a simple matter—provided the competitors can first write the story. A 1/- postal note must be sent at once to the Secretary, New Zealand Exhibition, Christchurch, or to any one of the following commissioners:—A. B. Robinson, 'Age' office, Melbourne; W. H. Croker, 84 William street, Melbourne; F. W. Jackson, Union Steamship Co., Sydney; E. Owen Cox, care Messrs. Birt and Co., Sydney. The intending competitors will at once receive a receipt and an official number in the form of a label. The label must be attached to the story, when completed, and posted to one of the addresses given above by October 24, 1906. When sending in the shilling, the competitor must write saying, 'I wish to enter for section 11, Home Industries Section, Class 1 (under twenty-five); Class 2 (over twenty-five, as the case may be.

On no account must competitor's name appear on MS. The name and address may be enclosed in a separate envelope, and sent with the entry, enclosed only with official number supplied.

An Australian—Mr. T. Shaw Fitchett, editor of the well-known home journal, 'The New Idea'—has been appointed judge of this section, and we understand that the prize-winning stories will be published in that journal, for which the competitor will be paid by 'The New Idea,' in addition to receiving the prize awards from the Exhibition. We advise those of our readers with literary aspirations to enter for this section. All details of other Home Industries contests can, of course, be obtained from the local commissioners in the various States, who will forward schedules on application.

At the Communion Breakfast of the H.A.C.B. Society in the Cardinal's Hall, Sydney, in Sunday, August 5, there was a record gathering. When his Eminence the Cardinal entered, accompanied by the Irish envoys and Monsignor O'Haran, there was an outburst of cheers such as, perhaps, was never before heard on this scene of many memorable celebrations. Brilliant speeches were delivered by the Cardinal and the envoys. Mr. Devlin was at his best, and when he stood on a chair to deliver his address the whole audience rose and waved their hats, and cheered for two or three minutes. When he resumed his seat he was greeted in the same way. Mr. Donovan was likewise honored. The Irishmen presented a cheque for £500 to the envoys for the Irish Parliamentary Fund, the second instalment of the £1000 promised some little time ago.

In cricket field or football bounds,
Sporting with gun or following hounds,
In swift horse-race or yachting course,
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An important debate took place on July 3 in the House of Commons on the Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways (England) Bill. After the Bill had been read a second time Mr. McVeigh moved that the committee be instructed to insert a clause providing for appointment to the clerkships by competitive examination. He showed by figures that Catholics are now nearly altogether excluded by the Great Northern Railway of Ireland, the members of that denomination employed not numbering more than one per cent. Mr. Gordon, a director, opposed the motion, but it was supported by Mr. Redmond, accepted by Mr. Lloyd George, and passed by a majority of 130 votes. Mr. Lloyd George described Mr. Gordon's speech as one of the most intolerant he had ever listened to.

Cardinal Mathieu, who has succeeded Cardinal Perraud as a member of the French Academy, is a writer whose style is considered singularly excellent. Two works of his, 'The Concordat' and 'The Former Government of the Province of Lorraine' have had a very large circulation.

The heir to the Roumanian throne is a Catholic and son of the late Prince Antoine, of Hohenzollern, of the Catholic branch of that house. The present (who is the first) King of Roumania, having no direct heir, adopted his brother's second son to succeed him on the throne. The wife of Prince Ferdinand, Princess Mary of Coburg, has remained a Protestant, but their children are brought up in the Greek religion. The Prince goes to Mass on Sundays with the King. The Princess goes with the Queen to the Calvinist church. The children have their Greek priest at the palace. So that in the same family there are three religions.

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