

GREYMOUTH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 24.

An unusually large number approached the Holy Table on the feast of the Assumption.

At the meeting of the St. Columba Club, held last week, Captain D. Byrne, of Christchurch, gave a most interesting lecture on his experiences during the South African war. The lecturer was listened to attentively throughout, and at the conclusion he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The two diplomas conferred for meritorious work, done in connection with the local club, by the executive of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies, were balloted for, and were unanimously awarded to Mr. B. J. Phillips (hon. treasurer) and R. C. Heffernan (hon. secretary).

The annual meeting of St. Mary's Cricket Club was held last week. The report and balance sheet showed the finances of the club were in a sound condition. The election of officers for the ensuing season resulted as follows:—Captain, Miss Annie Heffernan; vice-captain, Miss Florice Shanahan; secretary, Miss Emily Roche; treasurer, Miss Julia Greaney.

The contractor for the tower and spire of St. Patrick's Church removed the scaffolding last week. The tower stands out prominently, presents a very pleasing appearance, and can be seen from any part of the town. The church is now complete, and is a credit to the Catholic community of this town and to the Very Rev. Dean Carew, who has worked most energetically for its completion.

At the meeting of the Hibernian Society held last week Bro. E. A. Burke (who has retired from the office of secretary after having held that position for upwards of twenty years) was presented with a secretary's collar as a slight token of the esteem in which he is held by his brother members. Bro. Burke, in thanking the members for their generous gift, said he trusted the Society would still prosper.

The St. Columba Club is very much alive. On last Monday the junior oratorical competition evoked even greater interest than the senior one held a fortnight previously. A very large crowd assembled to give the younger members some encouragement, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. A medal had been offered by Rev. Father Taylor for competition, and this drew out the talents of several who, through bashfulness or lack of ambition, do not usually engage in debates. All the speakers were well up to senior honors, and two or three quite carried away the house. R. C. Heffernan, who spoke first, took for his subject 'Daniel O'Connell.' P. C. Heaphy treated in a clever manner the life of the elder Pitt; T. Heffernan chose as his theme the career of our late Premier. He received a great ovation from the audience. J. Condon showed how the great Edison climbed the ladder of fame. Wm. Hassall told us some interesting things about the Australian poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon, and was followed by T. J. Barry, who gave a warm appreciation of Lord Tennyson. Arthur Fraser was the last to speak, and to him the judges awarded the medal after much discussion. The winner spoke on Ambrose O'Higgins, and several times warmed up to real eloquence. His manner, style, and delivery were pleasing, animated and convincing. He promises to become the champion orator of the club. All agreed that this was one of the most entertaining evenings ever spent at the rooms. The thanks of the club are due to the Rev. Father Taylor, for the great interest taken in the members, never failing to attend the meetings and often at great personal inconvenience.

OBITUARY

MR. JOHN FAHEY, TUAPEKA.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. John Fahey, who passed away at the residence of his sister, Mrs. A. Harris, Waimate, on August 17. The deceased had been a resident of the district for six weeks, during which time he was constantly attended by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, and Rev. Father Tymons. He was a practical Catholic and died a most edifying death. The remains were taken to Lawrence for interment. The funeral, which was the largest seen in the district for a considerable time, took place on Sunday, August 19, and Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, who officiated at the graveside, made special reference to the exemplary life of the deceased. The late Mr. Fahey was a native of County Galway.—R.I.P.

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, WELLINGTON

SILVER JUBILEE OF FATHER HILLS, S.M.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Tuesday of last week the Rev. Father Hills, S.M., Vice-rector of St. Patrick's College, celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. In 1881 Father Hills was ordained in St. Mary's, Dundalk, by Archbishop McGettigan.

After morning school on Tuesday, Master Francis O'Connor, as senior monitor, in a few well-chosen words, wished Father Hills many happy returns of his ordination day, and expressed the hope that he would live many years to continue, within the walls of St. Patrick's, the good work he was at present doing. On behalf of the students he then presented Father Hills with a handsome souvenir of the occasion.

Father Hills said that he had been quite taken by surprise, and thanked the boys for their valuable present. For the last thirty years he had been among boys—in France, in Ireland, and in New Zealand, and the boys of the last-mentioned country were as good in every way as those of the older lands. He wished the boys every happiness and prayed that God's blessing would be with them in their various walks of life. Cheers for Father Hills brought the gathering to a close.

During the day all the clergy of the city and suburbs assembled in the college to wish every good thing to their jubilarian confrere. In the afternoon at the Wellington College ground, St. Patrick's College second team met and defeated Wellington College in a match for the fifth-class championship. The St. Patrick's boys, who showed good combined play, gave a fine exhibition and rather easily defeated their opponents by 16 points to nil. Tries were scored by Cullen (3), Campion, and Quinlan, Jas. Ryan and Campion converting one each.

In the evening the 'old boys' of the college entertained the present students at a social gathering at the college. About 50 'old boys' were present, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

At half-past eight a musical programme was commenced in the Study Hall and past and present joined in the evening's amusement. Songs and other musical items were contributed by Father Hills, Messrs. S. Hickson, Sullivan, Walsh, and Kelly, and Mr. W. E. Butler amused all present with his humorous anecdotes. Mr. J. Finlay contributed some very clever recitations which were much appreciated. The present students were represented on the programme by Masters Miller, B. Ryan, Geaney, and Seymour, while the college orchestra contributed several well played and very pleasing items. The 'old boys' were fortunate in having the services of Mr. Watkins, Mus. Bach., as accompanist all through the concert.

At the conclusion of the programme the Rector addressed the gathering, and said that the re-union had been transferred from a former date, in order that the 'old boys' could join the present boys in doing honor to Father Hills on the occasion of his silver jubilee. He told of his long acquaintance with Father Hills, dating back to their college days, and of many reminiscences of bygone times. As this was the half-yearly meeting of the Old Boys' Association he was happy to congratulate them on the large increase of active members since last general meeting, and on the extremely satisfactory state of their finances—a condition of affairs which augured well for their future development.

Mr. A. H. Casey, on behalf of the Old Boys' Association, congratulated Father Hills on the anniversary which they were celebrating on that evening. He said that many there present had been under Father Hills in their college days, and one and all spoke highly of the sterling qualities which had endeared him to each. In conclusion he wished Father Hills many years of health and happiness to do good work in the vineyard of the Lord.

Father Hills in reply thanked the 'old boys' for the kind things they had said about him, and wished them every success in life.

Games were then indulged in by young and old and, after supper had been served and done justice to, cheers for the Rector, the staff, the 'old boys', and the present boys, brought a most enjoyable evening to a conclusion.

Throughout the day Father Hills received many telegrams and messages of congratulation from all parts of the Colony.