

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

OPENING OF NEW HOME AT DUNEDIN

The Little Sisters of the Poor commenced their noble work of charity in Dunedin in December, 1904, and since then their self-denying and self-sacrificing labors have become so well known and appreciated that they receive assistance from every class and denomination in the community. They opened the old and inconvenient weather-board building with one inmate, but very soon the accommodation was taxed to its utmost limit, and many a time since then they have been reluctantly forced to refuse many worthy applicants owing to want of room. To remedy this serious drawback to the success of their work, the Sisters decided to erect more suitable premises, and on Labor Day, 1907, the foundation-stone was laid by the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin. The site is a commanding one, and the progress of the building was watched with interest by residents in all parts of the city and suburbs, especially by those whose sympathies were with these devoted nuns in their unselfish and heroic work. The site at Anderson's Bay, which consists of close on five acres of land, is an ideal one for the purpose. It has a gentle slope to the sun, is sheltered by belts of pines and native bush from the prevailing winds, and commands a comprehensive view of the city of Dunedin, with its background of hills, dotted with the dwellings of the

put up by Messrs. Briscoe and Co., Dunedin. A detailed description of the building appeared in the *N.Z. Tablet* when the foundation-stone was laid. In the basement is situated a kitchen, sculleries, store-rooms, Sisters' and postulants' refectories, central dividing hall, men's dining room with its own scullery, smoking room, boot room, lavatory, bathrooms. On the first floor are women's infirmary and dining room, bathrooms, Sisters' room, scullery, men's infirmary and dining rooms, lavatories, parlors, chapel, women's dining room, dormitories, guard-room, etc. The second floor consists of a women's dining room, scullery, lavatory, dormitories, men's dining room and dormitories, etc.

On Sunday afternoon the blessing and opening of the new Home took place. His Grace the Archbishop of Wellington performed the ceremony, and was assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon. All the local clergy were present, and the attendance of the public was very large, a good percentage of them being members of other denominations. After the religious ceremony addresses were delivered from a dais erected in front of the main entrance by his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, his Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin, Mr. Justice Williams, the Mayor of Dunedin (Mr. Walker), and Mr. J. M. Galloway.

The Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, addressing the large gathering, said he had to thank them on behalf of the Little Sisters of the Poor for coming there that day to assist at the opening of the Home for the Aged and Infirm Poor. Their most sincere thanks were also due in a



Muir & Moodie, photo.

NEW HOME FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM POOR, DUNEDIN.

(In Charge of the Little Sisters of the Poor).

residents of Mornington and Roslyn. An uninterrupted view of the sea and beach from St. Kilda to St. Clair can be got from any part of the grounds. As we have said, the foundation-stone of the new building was blessed and laid over eighteen months ago. The new Home is a three-storey brick building, roofed with Marseilles tiles, and having concrete foundations. It is a plain, but substantial, building, and everything which could tend to the comfort and convenience of the aged inmates is provided. The drainage and all sanitary arrangements are on the most modern principles. It is lighted by electricity, and is heated by hot water radiators, which maintain a comfortable and even temperature throughout the building. There are several bathrooms and lavatories. For those of the inmates who, through age, infirmity, or illness, cannot go on to the grounds, the balconies opening from the upper storeys offer a pleasant outlook. The whole of the work has, we understand, been carried out for about £10,000. The levelling of the site and the other preparatory work was carried out by day labor under the direction of Mr. Mulquin. The building was erected by Messrs. Crawford and Watson, the electric light was installed by Messrs. A. and T. Burt, and the installing of the hot water plant and other plumbing work were carried out by Messrs. J. and R. Scott. Mr. F. W. Petre, Dunedin, was the architect. The Wunderlich ceilings were

very special manner to his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington, who, at very great inconvenience, had undertaken a long journey to come here to assist at the blessing of that Home and encourage the Little Sisters of the Poor by his presence and by his words. Their thanks were also due to Mr. Justice Williams, who was always ready to encourage every work of true charity, and who had manifested his kind sympathy for the work of the Home from its commencement. It gave them very great pleasure to see the Mayor of Dunedin present, also the representatives of many of the suburban boroughs, and representatives of the legal and medical professions, and to all the Little Sisters of the Poor wished to extend their very kindest thanks. About five years ago the Little Sisters of the Poor came to Dunedin, and they were fortunate in securing one of the most beautiful sites about Dunedin for their home. The buildings on it were only capable of providing accommodation for twenty aged and infirm inmates. In a short time the available room was fully occupied, and the Little Sisters were obliged to refuse the demand of many applicants. It was suggested that a temporary building should be erected to give the accommodation that was needed, but the Little Sisters wisely judged that it would be poor economy to spend money on temporary buildings, and accordingly it was decided to erect permanent buildings. About a year and a half ago the founda-

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