

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL, LAWRENCE

A very sensible innovation (says the *Tuapeka Times*) was introduced this year in connection with the annual break-up of the school. The programme was held in the forenoon, during the afternoon, it was decided to hold it in the evening. The change proved a wise one, for it admitted of the attendance of the parents and friends of the school in large numbers. A very entertaining programme consisting of vocal items, action songs, dialogues, etc., was provided for the children, who are to be complimented on the very creditable manner in which they each and all acquitted themselves. The double piano forte duets which were given showed the excellent musical training the girls are obtaining at the hands of the Dominican nuns of Lawrence. The action songs, and dialogues by the youngest of the children were all carried through without a hitch. The movements and being performed with the utmost precision and in strict musical time. The concluding item on the programme was a little piece entitled 'Beauty and the Beast,' in which the senior girls took part. This was a somewhat pretentious undertaking, but the various characters were admirably sustained, and considerable histrionic skill displayed by several of the performers. The audience showed keen appreciation of the many points of the play, and was unstinted in its applause.

At the conclusion of the programme the prizes were distributed by Monsignor O'Leary as follows: Standard I, Annie Paget; Standard II, Cyril Hart; Standard III, Margaret White; Standard IV, James Sandys; Standard V, Rose Donohue; Standard VI, Rosalie Halba; Standard VII, Dorothy Hart. Religious knowledge, senior division (prizes presented by Monsignor O'Leary), P. Higgins and D. Naughton (equal); junior division, C. Hart, M. Napier, F. Kennedy; good conduct (silver medal), S. Franklin; composition (prize presented by Father Morkano), K. Leslie; French, D. Hart; politeness (prize presented by Miss Eva Hart), A. Roughan; dux of school (silver medal presented by Mr. Jeffery), D. Hart; attendance prize, G. Laffey; needlework, T. Napier; class singing, P. Higgins.

The Very Rev. Monsignor O'Leary expressed his pleasure at seeing so many parents and friends present, and he felt sure they had been rewarded for coming out for the programme had been an excellent one from every point of view. It was a puzzle to him how the good Sisters could devise a new programme year after year. The children had excelled themselves that evening, and they could not but realise the great labor and pains the good Sisters had bestowed upon the children in training them for such an entertainment as they had given that night. The parents were privileged in having such high-class teachers as the Dominican nuns, who were ladies of high culture, to instruct their children, and on behalf of the parents of the parish and for his own behalf he desired to thank them for the zeal and devotion they had shown in the education of the children under their care. As proof of the excellence of the instruction imparted by the nuns, he referred to the report of the examination of the school by Dr. Don, in which the work was classed as 'good,' 'very good,' and 'excellent.' The reason they kept their own schools was that they desired to give their children a good Christian education, and he pointed out that in the refusal of the State to contribute to their support the Catholics were suffering a grievous wrong. They only asked for a fair share of the money they contributed in taxation for school purposes, and he hoped the time would soon come when they would receive fairplay in this matter. He concluded by thanking all those who had contributed prizes, by expressing the hope that the children and teachers would enjoy their holidays, and that they would come back invigorated for the new year's work.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent)

His Lordship Bishop Grimes presided at the annual entertainment and distribution of prizes in connection with St. Mary's High School, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, Colombo street. Among those present were the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M.C., the Cathedral and resident clergy, and visiting priests. At the conclusion of an enjoyable and varied programme, his Lordship the Bishop spoke at length on the question of education, and the successful efforts of Catholics to maintain a standard of efficiency equal to State requirements, and in many respects far in advance of the public school system. He referred to the progress made by the disabilities under which our schools labored, that of the disposal of National Scholarships being one of the most glaring. As showing to what lengths the injustice was being carried, he instanced the fact that in a district of Canterbury where the Sisters of Mercy had established a high school which was quite adequate for the sparse population the State followed by opening a district high school. Catholics are debarred from entering the State institutions, and when they open their own are subjected to opposition.

The pupils of St. Mary's Parish School, Manchester, gave their annual entertainment in the schoolroom on the evening previous, the prizes being subsequently distributed by His Lordship the Bishop in the presence of the Very Rev. Vicar-General and a number of the clergy. His Lordship spoke in terms of encouragement and appreciation of the good results of the teachers' efforts.

JOSEPH'S (CATHEDRAL) GIRLS' PARISH SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH

The annual breaking-up entertainment in connection with the above school was largely attended by the parents and friends of the pupils. An excellent programme was presented, consisting of singing, recitations, physical exercises, dialogues, etc. The whole reflecting credit on the teachers, and the Sisters of the Mission. His Lordship the Bishop presided, and was accompanied by the clergy of the Cathedral. After the distribution of prizes, his Lordship complimented the teachers on the excellent results of the scholastic year, and the careful training the children were receiving, and concluded by wishing the children all the joys and blessings of the approaching festive season.

ST. BRIDE'S CONVENT, MASTERTON

A most enjoyable concert was given by the pupils of St. Bride's Convent, on the evening of December 19. The attendance of parents and friends was exceptionally large. It was quite evident that the pupils had been trained with painstaking care; they sang well, they played well, and they acted well.

At the conclusion the Mayor (Mr. P. L. Hollings) was invited by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna to distribute the prizes. Mr. Hollings expressed the pleasure that he felt at being present, stating that although not a Catholic, he was sufficiently broad-minded to appreciate the good work that was being done at the St. Bride's Convent Schools, and the careful training that was being imparted to the children.

The following is the prize list:—

- Infants: First Primer—Writing, D. Taylor; reading and poetry, K. Wickens. Second Primer—Reading, F. Foley; reading and poetry, R. Jury.
- First Class—Kindergarten drawing, K. Bunny; writing, K. Bunny.
- Second Class—Arithmetic, R. Page; spelling, E. Dixon; history, E. Dixon.
- Third Class—Arithmetic, D. Page; grammar, D. Page; poetry and reading, E. Bunny.
- Fourth Class—Arithmetic, M. Parsons; history, M. Bunny; 1st Class 2, geography, E. Hodgins; English grammar, M. Bunny; writing, E. Cress; reading and poetry, M. Cress; second geography card, E. Cook.
- Fifth Class—Arithmetic, N. Collerton; history and composition, R. Dennis; geography, M. O'Neill; English grammar, M. O'Neill; neat exercise, N. Collerton.
- Senior Class—Arithmetic, M. McKenna; geography, C. McKenzie; 1, R. Hodgins; 2, history, E. Hanify; parsing and analysis, E. O'Connell; English grammar and composition, I. Taylor; neat exercise, M. McKenna; best examination, M. McKenna; algebra and geometry, M. McKenna.
- Civil Service Class—Best examination, C. Smythson; physiology, K. Nelson; arithmetic, C. Smythson; algebra and geometry, C. Smythson; English composition, D. Fowler; history, K. Nelson; geography, D. Fowler; English literature, C. Smythson; Latin, K. Nelson; French, C. Smythson.
- Needlework—Infants, D. Page; junior, M. O'Neill; senior, M. Cavanagh; E. O'Connell; 2, shorthand, R. Hodgins; book-keeping, L. O'Dowd.
- Theoretical Music.—Trinity College—Intermediate honors, V. Edwards; Alma Fuller, C. McKenzie; junior honors, S. Cameron, D. Fowler, D. Varnham, N. Collerton, E. Lang, L. O'Dowd; pass, O. Pryor; preparatory, R. Hodgins, K. Nelson. Royal Academy—High School harmony, C. Smythson; Hanify; local centre rudiments, M. O'Neill, P. D. Bennett, and I. Taylor.
- Practical Music.—Trinity College—A.T.C.L. P. Hanify (watch); A.T.C.L. V. Edwards (gold medal); senior honors, C. Smythson, R. Jury; senior pass, K. Holloway, O. Isakson, A. Fuller; intermediate honors, D. Fowler; pass, Vera Edwards; pass, violin, M. O'Neill; pass, piano, E. Wall, E. Boyd, D. Varnham, F. Lenz; junior honors, O. Pryor; pass, K. Nelson, N. Collerton, T. Harding, M. Brooks; pass, violin, P. Hanify, R. Page; pass, singing, R. Hodgins; preparatory, singing, D. Flood; piano, M. Shaw.
- Advanced honors (gold medal), M. McKenna; advanced pass, C. McKenzie; advanced singing, D. Bennett; intermediate honors (gold medal), A. Fuller; pass, I. Taylor. Higher school—Pass, R. Hodgins, C. Minogue; pass, singing, M. Welch; Lower school—Pass, T. Robertson, M. Parsons. Elementary—D. Page. Primary—M. Shaw.
- Christian Doctrine.—M. McKenna 1, K. Nelson (silver medal) 2, F. Foley 3.
- Good conduct.—C. Smythson.