

OUR SCHOOLS.

ST. PHILOMENA'S COLLEGE, SOUTH DUNEDIN

The annual distribution of prizes took place on Wednesday evening, December 15, in St. Patrick's Schoolroom, South Dunedin. Rev. Father O'Neill presided, and there were also present Rev. Father Corcoran (St. Joseph's Cathedral) and the parents and friends of the students. Prior to the entertainment the audience visited the handsome study hall of the college, where a magnificent display of paintings, pastel and crayon drawings, plain and fancy needlework, kindergarten work, etc., executed by the pupils during the year, testified that art has reached a very high standard of excellence, whilst the varied programme of choice and judiciously chosen items gone through by the students showed that their musical and histrionic talent has been carefully developed by the Sisters of Mercy, and that physical culture and graceful and lady-like manners are scrupulously attended to at St. Philomena's. The overture 'Marche elegante' (P. Wach), by six pupils, was followed by a spirited chorus. The feature of the performance was the staging of Racine's 'Esther,' in which Miss Lynch (Assuerus, King of Persia), Miss M. Brennan (Queen Esther), Miss O'Malley (Mardochai), Miss Mackaness (Aman, favorite of the King), Miss Hargreaves (Hydasphes), Miss I. Carmody (Elice), Miss J. Dunford (Miriam), Miss J. Kaveney (Asaph), Miss V. Marlow (Zares, wife of Aman), Miss M. Dunford (Sarai), Miss Carter (Rebecca), Miss McDevitt (Rachel), and Miss T. Dunford (Anna) acquitted themselves in creditable manner. All were letter-perfect, and their finished elocution and natural and earnest acting evidenced dramatic ability and assiduous training. A pianoforte duet by six tots was warmly applauded, as was another clever juvenile effort, the dialogue 'Baby's Rights.' A selection by the college orchestra was a popular number. The vocal quartet, 'Come where wild flowers bloom' (White), was artistically rendered. Dainty dancing fairies, by a bevy of lithe, daintily-attired maidens, was a very pretty item. The Irish jig by six little girls and a comic action song by the boys were greatly enjoyed by the audience. Nine of the seniors gave a fine performance of Francois Behr's 'Grand mazurka,' and nine intermediate pupils played Behr's 'Polka brillante' with excellent effect. Another splendid selection by the college orchestra and a final chorus brought a highly artistic and enjoyable programme to a close.

Rev. Father O'Neill apologised for the unavoidable absence of his Lordship the Bishop, and in congratulating the students said the evening's performance was an eloquent testimony to the thoroughness and completeness of the training they were receiving. Their curriculum is based on the union of faith and religion with the different forms of intellectual achievement, and the records for the past year showed that a high standard of excellence had been maintained. The students had been remarkable for uniform self-respect and gentleness. For the past six years pupils had carried off local prizes for practical and theoretical music. This year Miss Lynch won the Trinity College local gold medal for highest marks, and another pupil secured a prize for theoretical work. Two students competed successfully in the Navy League's essay examination, Miss O'Malley distinguishing herself by winning the district prize, for which some 50 public schools competed. The Sisters of Mercy trained their pupils for something higher than mere worldly fame; they prepared them for the stern realities of life. In years to come, when the world's trials and cares were pressing upon them, they would look back to their school life, and derive hope and encouragement from the lessons so well inculcated by the Sisters. He was proud and glad—and the parents of South Dunedin were glad also—to have the good Sisters of Mercy in their midst. The Sisters not only imparted a sound religious and secular education to the children entrusted to their care in the college and primary schools, but also did a noble work in the parish in the cause of Christian charity. In conclusion, he wished Sisters and students a Happy Christmas and a pleasant vacation.

The following is the prize-list:—

Senior School.

Civil Service Class.—Christian doctrine (gold medal), J. Kaveney; Literature and physiology, May O'Malley; next in merit, M. Lemon. Higher mathematics and French, M. Lemon. English and improvement in Latin, A. Egan. Elocution and violin, I. Carmody; next in merit, M. Lynch. English composition (prizes awarded by the Navy League)—M. O'Malley 1 and special, J. Kaveney; 2. Music (pianoforte), M. Lynch; Mandolin, J. Lemon; next in merit, M. Lemon. Class singing, Irene Carmody. Amiability, G. Carmody.

Senior Division.—Good conduct (silver medal), Vera Marlow; arithmetic, K. Farrington; reading and deportment, M. Brennan; freehand drawing and general improvement, J. Dunford; geography and model drawing, V. Mackaness; English composition, M. Dunford.

Intermediate Division.—Good conduct and application (silver medal), P. Hargreaves; English and crayon drawing, Ruru Carter; second English, mapping, and regular attendance, Jack Dyer; theory of music, I. McDowall; geography, M. O'Kane; drawing, E. Murphy; arithmetic and order, Maggie Walsh; writing, T. Dunford; elocution, Stan. Marlow.

Junior Division.—Bible history, C. Fahey; good conduct and punctuality, Muriel Carter; reading, Ima Dawson; arithmetic and needlework, K. McDevitt; recitation, May Jones; spelling, A. Reid; mental arithmetic, Ronald Marlow.

Kindergarten School.

Division A.—Music, May Curtin; recitation, L. Curran; reading and composition, K. Burke; spelling and neatness, Amy Dyer; arithmetic, Marie McMahon; drawing, A. Hannah; mental arithmetic, Fred Carter; writing, V. Reid; improvement in writing, D. Jones. Division B.—Reading, Brigie Meade; writing, Leo Murphy; attendance, E. Morrissey; handwork, E. Wilson; crayon drawing, E. Curtin; number, Raymond Marlow. Division C.—Good conduct, Gordon Pearson; singing, J. Kennelly; writing, Brenda Meade; sight reading, C. O'Kane; order and neatness, Kitty Dyer; politeness, Brenda Marlow; recitation, N. Francis; memory drawing, W. McDowall; punctuality, W. Curtin. Division D.—Neatness, Frank Haig; improvement, V. Jones; B.B. drawing, Ella Kennelly; word-building, E. Jones; pricking, M. Francis.

SACRED HEART CONVENT, TIMARU

(From our own correspondent.)

The annual distribution of prizes took place on December 9 at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in the assembly room, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion with flowers, laurels, and ferns. His Lordship Bishop Grimes presided, and presented the successful pupils with their prizes after complimenting them on their progress.

The most appreciated items in the musical programme were two splendid choruses—'If with all your hearts' (Mendelssohn) and 'Lord, in Thee have I trusted' (Handel's Dettingen Te Deum). There was also some fine instrumental music. The drama of 'Blessed Joan of Arc,' written in blank verse, was splendidly rendered by the pupils. Beautiful scenes were shown of the cottage garden at Domremy, the inn at Vaucouleurs, Orleans, after the relief and Rheims after the crowning of the King. Miss Nancy Loughnan took the part of Joan with great ability. The concluding tableau in which Joan is received into Heaven by angels and saints was most impressive.

The following is the prize-list:—

First medallion and ribbon of merit, N. Loughnan; third ribbon, E. Chitty; fifth ribbon, J. Henrys; sixth ribbon, M. Mackenzie; next in merit, M. O'Brien; third green ribbon, D. Nottingham, N. Lister; fourth ribbon, F. de Lisle; next in merit, E. Hailes; pink ribbon, E. Preston; M. Taylor, N. Nottingham, R. Hatton, C. Macdonald, J. Mackenzie; general good conduct, N. Loughnan, E. Chitty; Christian doctrine—First division, N. Loughnan; M. Farrell; second division—E. Chitty; third division, M. Taylor, D. Nottingham, N. Lister; fourth division, N. Nottingham, M. Taylor. Diligence—First class, N. Loughnan; second class, J. Henrys, M. Taylor; third class, P. Ward, E. Chitty; fourth class, F. de Lisle, D. Nottingham; fifth class, N. Lister, D. Tate; sixth class, M. Brown; eighth class, C. Macdonald. Success in studies, N. Loughnan.

First Class.—Elements of Christian philosophy and literature and composition, N. Loughnan; history, M. Farrell. Second Class.—Composition, F. Flynn; history, J. Henrys, M. Taylor; geography, M. Taylor; repetition, M. Taylor, J. Henrys.

Third Class.—Elements of logic, P. Ward, E. Chitty; composition, E. Taylor, M. O'Brien; history, E. Chitty, C. Henrys; geography, E. Taylor, E. Chitty; repetition, C. Henrys, E. Chitty, P. Ward.

Fourth Class.—Composition, F. de Lisle; history, D. Nottingham, F. de Lisle.

Fifth Class.—Grammar, D. Tate, M. Mannering; history, L. Gaspard, D. Tate; geography, M. Mannering, E. Preston; repetition, D. Tate, E. Preston.

Sixth Class.—Grammar, M. Brown, M. Taylor; history, E. Birdling, N. Nottingham; geography, E. Birdling, M. Brown; reading, M. Taylor, N. Nottingham.