

by a comedy of exceptional merit. It is safe to assume from the well-known ability of the performers that the entertainment will be the best of its kind given here for some time, but apart from this the object for which it is given is one that should enlist the sympathy of all who take an interest in the great and good work which is being done by the orphanage.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

(From our own correspondent)

December 7.

The second of a series of sacred concerts in aid of the organ fund was given in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday last, November 30, after Vespers. There was a large congregation, who much appreciated the efforts of the choir and their friends. The following items were very creditably rendered:—Choir, 'Kyrie' (Mozart's Twelfth); 'For ever with the Lord' (Gounod), Mr. Arthur Bennett; 'Lead kindly light' (Pinsuti), Miss Scanlon; violin solo, 'Ave Maria' (Mascagni), Mr. P. Tombs; 'He wipes a tear,' Miss Hogan; 'Thou didst not leave his soul in hell' (Messiah), Mr. Tom Rodgers; clarinet solo, 'The lost chord' (Sullivan), Mr. Brunette; 'Ave Verum' (Millard), Miss C. Rush; 'The last muster,' Mr. P. Lomas; solo, 'Star of Bethlehem' (Gounod), Mr. Arthur Bennett; solo, 'Nazareth' (Gounod), Mr. T. Rodgers; clarinet solo, 'The better land,' Mr. Brunette; National Anthem, choir.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration was begun in St. Patrick's Church this morning after Mass, and will continue till Tuesday morning, terminating with High Mass at 8 a.m.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

The business of the Christchurch poultry depot has grown so rapidly lately that it has been found necessary to increase the accommodation so as to make it four times greater than it is at present.

Speaking at St. Patrick's College on Thursday evening, the Premier stated that as a result of his visit to the Cork Exhibition he was going to introduce into New Zealand certain improvements in fruit-growing, which, he believed, would be of great service to the Colony.

At the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society there was a large attendance of members, when Mr. D. Crow, of Tinwald, gave the members an enjoyable evening's entertainment. Mr. Crow has recently imported an Edison phonograph with a large selection of records, and his kindness was much appreciated. The selections by Edison's peerless orchestra were well worth hearing.

Mr. Withford, M.H.R., of Auckland, has received the following wire from the Premier:—'The settlement of the people on the land is still the alpha and omega of the Government policy, and it will be achieved in a satisfactory degree. The public notification of the fact that land is open for selection will, to some extent, alleviate the situation. Settlement and partial surveys are arranged for. Every bona fide application for land will be met.'

In the course of an interview with a northern journalist, the Hon. James Carroll, Native Minister, said, provided the Maoris fell in with the idea, and were prepared to co-operate with him, he would use his best endeavors to have Maori hospitals erected in various parts of the Colony. Mr. Carroll considers the establishment of such hospitals of paramount importance to the Maoris, as the mortality amongst the various tribes has been serious to the point of threatened extinction.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes (writes our Timaru correspondent) is to be present at the distribution of prizes at the Convent of the Sacred Heart on Thursday next.—The Rev. Father O'Connell is paying a visit to Waimate, where his many friends are pleased to see him.—In both the Timaru and Temuka churches on Sunday the congregations were asked to pray for the repose of the soul of the late Father Malone. In Temuka, where the deceased priest was curate for some time, Father Fauvel paid a most graceful tribute to his memory.

The 'Journal' of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (Messrs. Guy and Co., Cork) is always full of interest for Irish antiquarians, and more especially for those who are natives of Munster. The last quarterly issue is especially good, containing, among other matters, a continuation of the history of the Barry clan by the Rev. Father Barry; sketches of Cork (illustrated) by W. Roe, 1838, edited by 'R.D.'; 'Regnum Corkagiense, or description of the Kingdom of Cork,' edited by Robert Day, F.S.A.; 'Some Notes of the Irish Judiciary in the reign of Charles II., 1666-1685,' by F. E. Ball, M.R.I.A.; and in addition the usual notes. This publication is one of the most interesting and useful of its kind, and should receive generous support from all Corkmen.

A very successful land ballot for a large area of land in various parts of the Taranaki land district, mostly in the north, took place at New Plymouth on Thursday. The total area under offer was about 7500 acres. In the present lot there were 585 applications for 51 sections balloted for, comprising 32,420 acres. About 60 applicants were present. Messrs W. T. Jennings, M.H.R., and McLuggage, J.P., of Whangamomoo, were elected by

the selectors to act as scrutineers. Before the ballot, Mr. James McKenzie, Commissioner, stated the conditions of settlement, and said any attempt to secure sections for speculative purposes would be sternly dealt with by the Land Board, but to those who showed the spirit of bona fide settlers every consideration and assistance would be given. The sections balloted for are situated in the Ohura, Opaku, Omona, Ware, Aria, and Pouatu survey districts. Those in Ohura are keenly sought for, there being as many as 77 applications for one section. As a result of the ballot sections were secured by persons from all parts of the Colony. Those present were well satisfied with the conduct of the ballot. Twenty improved farm sections in Ohura balloted on the 28th November were also secured by persons from different parts of the Colony.

OBITUARY.

MR. PHILIP DUFFY, JUN., TUAPEKA.

It is with sincere regret we have to announce the death of Mr Philip Duffy, jun., only son of Mr Philip Duffy, Tuapeka Flat, and son-in-law of Mr John Roughan, Lawrence, which occurred at his residence, Ross place, on Saturday. The late Mr Duffy (says the 'Tuapeka Times') had been in delicate health for some considerable time, but so sudden an ending was in no way expected. On Friday afternoon he was about the town attending to his business. His remains were interred in the Lawrence cemetery on Monday afternoon, a very large number of people from the surrounding districts attending the funeral. The burial service was conducted by the Very Rev. Monsignor O'Leary.—R.I.P.

MR PHILIP LEENEY, WAIMATE.

It is with regret (writes our Waimate correspondent) I have to chronicle the death of Mr Philip Leeney, which took place on December 3, after a long illness. He was a very old resident of the district, having arrived here in 1879, and was most respected. In his illness he was attended to by the Rev. Father Regnault, and died fortified by the rites of Holy Church. On Thursday the remains were taken to St. Patrick's Church, and on Friday morning a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated. The funeral took place in the afternoon, and was largely attended. The R.v. Fathers Regnault and Aubry officiated at the graveside. The deceased leaves a grown-up family of three daughters and two sons, one of the latter being a Marist Brother in Sydney.—R.I.P.

REV. FATHER MALONE, S.M., HOKITIKA.

The Rev. Father Malone (writes our Hokitika correspondent) died in the Westland Hospital on Wednesday evening of last week. He had been ailing for some time and had only returned a week ago from Otira, where he had gone to recuperate his health. Finding that his health was not improving, he entered the hospital on Sunday. Father Malone, who was only 34 years of age, was educated at St. Patrick's College, Wellington, and at Meane Seminary, and was amongst the first of the College students to receive Holy Orders. He was very popular with all classes, and was especially esteemed by the Catholics of this district, who feel keenly his death. The deceased was born in Wanganui on August 12, 1868, and was brought up in Hawera, where his father, Mr. John Malone, who died some time ago, was a highly respected settler. After his ordination Father Malone labored in Christchurch, Temuka, and other parts of Canterbury. He had charge of the Grevmouth parish during the absence in Europe of the Very Rev. Dean Carew, and about twelve months ago was transferred to Hokitika. At the request of his mother the remains were sent to Hawera for interment.—R.I.P.

We have to thank Messrs. Brophy and Co land, insurance, and financial agents, Palmerston North, for a copy of their 'Land and Investment Gazette.' Persons intending to settle in the North Island would do well to put themselves in communication with the firm.—***

The annual retreat for ladies at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Timaru, will begin on Monday, January 5, and end on the following Saturday morning. The retreat will be preached by a Jesuit Father, and ladies who wish to attend should apply as soon as possible to the Rev. Mother.—***

Visitors to Wellington will find first-class accommodation at that old-established hostelry, Barrett's Hotel, Lambton Quay. The new proprietors, Messrs. Estall and Paterson, have made extensive alterations and improvements, and have refurnished it throughout, so that it is now all that the travelling public need desire. The accommodation for boarders and travellers is complete in every detail, and as it is centrally situated, being close to the wharf and the banks, it is sure to become one of the most popular hotels in the Empire City.—***

Mr. Alex. Sligo, bookseller and stationer, George street, Dunedin, calls attention to his superior stock of goods suitable for Christmas and New Year presents such as cards, purses, pocket-books, letter and cigar-cases, albums, etc. He has also a fine selection of Catholic prayer books at prices to suit all patrons. He makes a special offer for December and January to stamp free of cost, in gold letters, the initials or name of patron on all prayer books or leather goods when the purchase money amounts to 10s or over.—***