

for the purpose of defraying the cost of the building erected at Kilbirnie some time ago for the accommodation of the Sisters of Mercy.

The first meeting of the St. Patrick's Day celebration committee took place at St. Patrick's Hall last Friday evening, Mr. J. P. McGowan presiding. The following officers were appointed:—Patron, his Grace Archbishop Redwood; president, his Grace Archbishop O'Shea; chairman, Rev. Father Hickson; vice-chairmen, Messrs. J. P. McGowan and J. O'Brien; treasurer, Mr. J. J. L. Burke; general and concert secretary, Mr. P. D. Hoskins, sports secretary, Mr. H. McKeown.

The Wellington Catholic Education Board met last Wednesday evening in the Catholic Federation rooms under the presidency of the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M. The Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., and the Rev. Father Tymons, S.M., Adm., were also present. Accounts totalling £150 were passed for payment. Correspondence was read from the Public Trustee, as administrator in the estate of the late Mr. T. G. Macarthy, intimating that the Board of Trustees was unable to entertain the application made by the board for a grant out of the estate. A sub-committee, consisting of the Very Rev. Father O'Connell and Messrs. Doherty and Hoskins, was set up to go into the question of deficiencies in school fees and other matters, and submit a report to the next meeting of the board.

At the half-yearly meeting of the St. Aloysius' branch of the Hibernian Society, the following officers were elected:—President, Bro. Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M.; vice-president, Bro. T. Murphy; secretary, Bro. W. H. Giles; treasurer, Bro. J. Stratford; warden, Bro. J. Redican; guardian, Bro. Dibley; sick visitors, Bros. Fagan and Pender; auditors, Bros. J. L. Murphy and Redican; delegate to Friendly Societies' Dispensary, Bro. T. Pender. The annual report disclosed a very satisfactory state of affairs. The report stated that eight members were absent on active service with the Expeditionary Forces. It regretted the departure from Wellington of a very active member, in the person of Bro. C. J. McErlain, who had been transferred to Christchurch. Occasion had been taken of his recent visit to Wellington to present him with a past president's collar in recognition of the many services he had rendered the branch, which now ranks the sixth in the Dominion in point of membership. After the installation, which was carried out by Bro. T. Gill, P.P., assisted by Bro. J. L. Murphy, P.P., an enjoyable social evening was spent.

St. Joseph's Boys' Choir, which was inaugurated at the beginning of last year, is composed of the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School, under the able conductorship of the Rev. Brother Fidelis, who has done good work in training the boys for various concerts, especially the St. Patrick's Day concerts. During the past year the devotional singing of the boys' choir at St. Joseph's Church has been greatly admired. As a mark of appreciation the clergy of the parish (Rev. Fathers Hurley, S.M., Adm., and Barra, S.M.) entertained the boys at the Tasman Street School. The Rev. Fathers Hurley and Barra and the Brothers complimented the boys, and presented the following prizes: General merit (gold medal, presented by the priests of the parish), Frank Griffen. Good conduct (medal, presented by past pupils), Joseph Pope. Singing (Signor Gaetano Fama's medals)—James Ryan, Frank Griffen: (medal, presented by Mr. F. A. Henry), Leo O'Brien. Singing class (medals, awarded by Mr. F. J. Oakes)—James Ryan 1, John McLean 2. Punctuality—J. Reid 1, R. Harrison 2, W. Gavin 3. Attendance—F. J. Gamble (prize, presented by Mr. B. Whitaker), R. Dennis, W. B. Gamble, J. Ward, T. Dunn, F. B. Gamble, E. Quill, F. Ledger, E. Warren, J. Sandbrook, C. Kershaw, R. Grant, J. Barnes, J. Cavanagh, Geo. Bezar, L. Gamble, C. Nash, E. McParland, V. Ward. Readiness to oblige—K. Harrison, W. Corby, Oscar Johnson. Special prizes for singing—Ben O'Brien, F. McParland, H. Trehey, T. O'Brien, E. Gornuley, Gregory Barrett, J. Dennis. A very pleasant evening was concluded with an excellent musical programme.

There are 400 Catholic men in training at the military camp at Trentham. Their spiritual needs are looked after by the Rev. Father Daly, parish priest of the Upper Hutt. He has to work under very trying conditions, as he has no place in which to hear confessions, or celebrate the week-day Mass, which is attended by approximately 100 of the men. This matter was the subject of discussion at the meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation. It was pointed out that Catholics had no provision for their spiritual or social needs. All the other denominations had the necessary accommodation erected, in which their services are held, and when the buildings are not in use for that purpose they are set aside for the recreation of the men, many of the Catholics availing themselves of the facilities so afforded. Provision is made for the Sunday Mass in the lecture hall at which 400 attend, but this does not give our men the same opportunities as the other denominations. The delegates assembled voted the sum of £25, and passed a resolution to the effect that as the camp is to last until the war is over, the Dominion Executive be requested to suggest to the Diocesan Councils of Christchurch, Dunedin, and Auckland, that each parish committee donate the sum of £1 for the purpose of erecting a building suitable for the need of our men. Such a building could be erected for £150, the site, of course, being given by the military authorities. As there are 122 parish committees in the Dominion, a donation from each of £1, together with the £25 donated by the Diocesan Council, should cover the expenditure.

### Christchurch North

January 25.

St. Mary's Collegiate High School re-opened to-day (Monday) after the holidays. Owing to alterations being unfinished, the primary school will not re-open until Monday, February 1.

The Very Rev. Dean Carew, S.M., Very Rev. Dean Holley, S.M., Rev. Father Chaney, S.M., Rev. Dr. Geaney, S.M., and Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M., were visitors at St. Mary's Presbytery during last week.

On Friday morning at 9 o'clock a Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, for the fallen soldiers in the war. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., was celebrant. In addressing the very large congregation, Dean Hills referred to the awful conditions brought about by the war, and to the sufferings of the soldiers on the field of battle. He spoke of the hardships inflicted on the people of Belgium, and expressed his gratification at the temporal assistance given to them.

On Sunday evening, the 17th inst., after Devotions, the Children of Mary assembled in Ozanam Lodge to bid farewell to Miss Imelda Young and Miss Hannah Ryan, who are about to enter the Order of the Sisters of Mercy. The Rev. Father Hoare, S.M. (spiritual director), in presenting them on behalf of the members with suitable books, spoke of the good example the young ladies had always given as members of the sodality, and said the gifts would serve as a memento of their many friends among the Children of Mary.

A very enjoyable musical evening was given by the committee of the Catholic Girls' Club, at the clubrooms, to the members and their friends on Saturday evening. It proved most successful in the object sought after—the bringing of Catholic young people together in social intercourse. During the evening the president (Mrs. Harper) explained the object of the club, and asked all present to popularise it as far as possible, and make known the benefits derived from becoming a member. Eight new members were then enrolled. The following programme was gone through:—Trio (violin, mandolin, and piano), Misses M. Cassin, Latapie, and Hayward; piano solo, Mr. Auguarde; duet, Miss F. Gardiner and Mr. Rennel; songs, Misses Gavan and Grundy. Miss Hayward acted as accompanist. After supper, the proceedings terminated by all singing 'Hail, Holy Queen.'