

time, the Federation cannot hope to cope with them, and even if it could, the benefits conferred, owing to the short time the men are in camp, are not commensurate with the time and trouble entailed. There is no doubt real good and lasting work can be done among large assemblies of Catholic men, such as occur at Trentham, and we should thus, in the opinion of your executive, direct all our energies and resources there. It is with much pleasure that your executive receive periodical reports from Mr. Archey, director of the Burnham Industrial School, concerning the welfare and placing out of Catholic boys. At our request, Mr. Archey places our boys, when sent out to service, in Catholic homes, and always, as far as practicable, within easy distance of a Catholic church. Your executive accepted the Dominion Council's levy of £40 towards the cost of erecting and equipping the Catholic institute at Trentham, and in turn asked for a contribution of £1 from all branches of the Federation in this diocese towards this worthy object. As the treasurer's statement will show, many have not responded, and, although a sum of £26 has been advanced, a great proportion of this amount has been drawn from our all too slender resources. The zeal and activity of the Timaru branch has been several times in evidence in reporting upon objectionable picture films, and anti-Catholic literature, and we have rendered what assistance we could in these matters, the results of which will no doubt be disclosed by the delegates to this meeting from that branch. A very cordial reply was received from his Lordship Bishop Cleary to resolutions passed at the last half-yearly meeting, eulogising his Lordship's wonderfully successful efforts in the interests of the Catholics in this Dominion. An itinerary was framed, covering the organiser and general secretary's tour of the diocese. This was adhered to as far as possible, and the results are best known to the committees of the various parishes visited. Generally as a result of Mr. Girling-Butcher's tour, the branches of the Federation have been increased to 33, several being now located in some scattered parishes. Practically the whole of Canterbury and Westland has now been organised. Your executive take this opportunity of expressing gratitude to the priests of the diocese for the hospitality and greatly appreciated help extended to the organising secretary during his tour.

Catholic Girls' Club and Hostel.

Perhaps the most important step the Federation of this diocese has taken since the last half-yearly meeting is the opening of the Catholic Girls' Club, at 34 Cranmer square, and, as this very important work has been the innocent cause of much adverse criticism, we must claim your indulgence for a few minutes while we as shortly as possible give the history of this movement up to its present stage. The Diocesan Council executive in the early part of last year called a meeting of ladies of the Cathedral, St. Mary's, and Lyttelton parishes together, and at that meeting a committee was set up to work in conjunction with the Immigration Committee in Wellington, and to be known as the Christchurch Immigration Committee. The president of the Diocesan Council was appointed temporary chairman, and Miss Johnston secretary—a position she has filled ever since. This committee soon recognised the urgent necessity of establishing a suitable Catholic home for girls on arrival here, and also a room where they, and other Catholic girls, might meet on their free afternoons and evenings. This necessity suggested the next step, and the Immigration Committee invited several Christchurch Catholic ladies to meet them and discuss the advisability of renting a room which had been offered at a very nominal rent, and setting up a Catholic girls' club. The result was that a much larger committee was formed, some of whom accepted the financial responsibility of the venture. The first move of this committee was to approach our late Bishop, and ask his advice before starting the club. His Lordship expressed himself as very pleased with the movement, gave it his blessing, and promised a subscription. They also called on the Very Rev. Dean Hills, who also

gave his consent to the work, and a subscription towards the funds. So the movement began with the blessing and consent of the Church, and was simply a branch of the Federation activities. The room was soon after taken, and a club, where Catholic girls were made welcome, was launched, under the able presidency of Mrs. George Harper. At the annual meeting last year, the council decided, by resolution, that the funds of Federation were not available for immigration committee work, so if that branch of the Federation work was to develop, it was, in some way, to finance itself, from what source, was not stated. This decision was most illogical, as we were practically asking a committee of ladies to carry on an important branch of Federation work, and telling them at the same time, not to look to us for financial support. This resolution of the council had a very far-reaching effect, as it threw the whole financial responsibility on the shoulders of the enlarged immigration committee, and practically cut the movement off from the Federation. The position to-day is that no financial assistance is required or asked for; recognition is their only request. After occupying the clubroom for three months it was quite evident that a girls' hostel or boarding-house, in addition to the clubroom, was much needed. Suitable premises were found, and, after giving the matter much thought, three of the ladies of the committee signed a lease for one year, and thereby became financially responsible for the rent. The next and most important step was the selection of a suitable matron for the club. In connection with this matter, Miss Johnston (the secretary of the committee) was approached, and, with her sister, consented to leave their comfortable home, and move all their furniture, etc., and take charge of the Catholic Girls' Club. The Misses Johnston have means of their own, and were in no way in need of the appointment, and, in accepting the position, Miss Johnston was merely continuing the active, useful, St. Vincent de Paul life, which she has carried out in St. Mary's parish for very many years. No other consideration had any weight with her but the good of the cause, and the carrying out of this branch of the Catholic Federation work. The club was formally opened on the afternoon of April 10 (but had actually been in operation since March 19), quite a large gathering being present. The president, Mrs. Harper, made a nice little speech, and Lady Clifford, who, with Sir George Clifford, had given a very generous donation to the funds, declared the club open, and wished it success. The ladies' committee still take an active part in the policy and management of the club, and have regular meetings at which the matron furnishes full reports. In addition an advisory committee of gentlemen, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Harper, has been set up, who visit the club, examine the accounts and books. The president of the Diocesan Council has a seat on this committee to form the connecting link between the club and the Federation. The many inseparable difficulties in connection with the bringing into existence of such an institution have been overcome, and the club is now running smoothly along true Catholic lines. There is a home for the immigrants on their arrival, whether they are in a position to pay or not, and for Catholic girls out of work, and a comfortable Catholic home for girls visiting Christchurch from the country and other centres. The Rosary is recited each evening after dinner, and an edifying sight it is to see the club so well represented at the altar rails, not only on Sundays but also on week days. We say all honor to the ladies who have brought the club to its present stage in the face of many difficulties. We, as members of the Catholic Federation, owe them a deep debt of gratitude for facing what we were afraid to face—viz., the financing of a girls' Catholic club and hostel. Much more could be said on the subject, but the foregoing will suffice to define the position of the institution. We have to thank Mr. Wall (secretary of St. Mary's parish committee) for opening the books and setting them out in correct method. In the capable hands of the manageress every care will be taken that accounts will be kept in every detail on the lines laid down by that gentleman.