

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, WELLINGTON

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The quarterly general meeting of the ladies' auxiliaries was held in the presbytery, Patterson street, on December 9. About twenty members were present, also Rev. Fathers Hurley and Venning (spiritual directors), and Rev. Father Barra. The reports for the quarter from the different conferences were as follow:—

St. Mary's (the central and largest conference).—Visiting Guild—Eighteen meetings, with an average attendance of six members, have been held; 192 visits were paid to the poor and sick; orders were given for groceries, boots, and medicines; four women and four children were sent to Mount Magdala; two babies were committed from the police court to Catholic homes. The general hospital is visited twice weekly, and the gaol and Home of Compassion were also visited, and the sum of £3 donated to the latter. Since the last quarterly meeting 20 meetings of the sewing guild have been held. The attendance has fallen off during the past month. There are at present 19 active members; 209 garments have been made; one afternoon was given to hemming sheets for the Women's Hostel (87 were done); 14 families were assisted; 120 new and 43 second-hand garments, and 23 yards of material were distributed, and £1 was spent on new material. A donation of £1 was received from Mrs. Butler (the first president), £1 from Mrs. O'Connor, and £1 16s part proceeds St. Joseph's parish poor box. This conference regrets to record the death of a member, Mrs. Brooks. The resignation of the vice-president (Miss Reichel) was received with much regret. Mrs. Lawlor was elected to fill the vacancy.

Sacred Heart Conference, Thorndon.—Meetings held 17; visits paid 40, besides visits to Home of Compassion and private hospitals, where fruit, papers, etc., were distributed. One girl was sent to Mount Magdala. Orders for coal were given during the winter; 62 articles of clothing were distributed, and 26 parcels were received. The receipts amounted to £11 13s 1d, and the expenditure to £10 1s.

St. Anne's Conference, Newtown.—Sewing and Visiting Guild—11 meetings were held; 8 visits were paid; average attendance, five; 40 new garments, six second-hand parcels, and 20½ yds of new material were given out, also one pair of boots. The receipts were £3 10s 4d, and the expenditure £3 5s 5½d.

Some of the conferences, notably St. Mary's and St. Anne's, continue the beautiful practice of having Masses offered weekly for the soldiers who have lost their lives on the battlefield.

The receipts for the quarter ended December 8 amounted to £34 11s 6d, and the expenditure £13 11s 11d, leaving a credit balance of £20 19s 7d.

After the reading of the reports by the secretary (Miss. Burke), the president (Mrs. Chamnes) read a letter from the president of the ladies' auxiliaries, Adelaide, having reference to the necessity of sending the reports of work in time to forward to Bologna for insertion in the Council General's annual report. A letter from the vice-president of St. Mary's Sewing Guild (Miss Reichel), tendering her resignation, was read. The resignation was accepted with much regret by all the members, whose best wishes are with Miss Reichel for happiness in her new state of life. The president also read a letter from the Rev. Mother Superior of the Sacred Heart Convent, Wellington, in which she invited all the members of the Ladies' Auxiliaries to be present at the next annual retreat for ladies given at the convent, Island Bay.

Rev. Father Hurléy, spiritual director, then addressed the meeting. After congratulating the members of the different conferences on the amount of good work done, he went on to express surprise at the unusually small number present. He concluded by urging the members, as far as possible, to respond to the invitation of the Rev. Mother Superior of the Sacred Heart Convent to attend the retreat.

Rev. Father Venning warmly supported Father Hurley's remarks, and concluded by wishing the members the blessings and joys of the approaching season.

A vote of condolence with Rev. Father Hurley; Mrs. O'Leary, and Miss Flannery in their recent bereavements was passed.

The conferences desire to thank all benefactors, also the men's conference for half proceeds of poor box; the U.S.S. Company for concessions, and the nuns at Mount Magdala.

New Plymouth

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A very successful entertainment was given in the Theatre Royal on Thursday afternoon, December 9, by the pupils of the convent schools, in aid of the wounded soldiers, by which the fund benefited by over £56. There was a large attendance of the public, and, considering the hour chosen for the concert, the result must be extremely gratifying to all concerned, especially to the Sisters, who so carefully trained the children, and whose efforts have been attended with such splendid results. The pupils acquitted themselves well, and went through their various parts without a hitch. The following is the programme:—Part I.—Pianoforte duet, 'March Hongroise,' Misses Bennett, Old, Connell, and J. Bennett; flag drill, girls; part song, 'The way morning,' pupils; instrumental selection, 'Airs from Mozart,' Misses Mannix, Jones, Lindstrom, Esse, Hooper, Duggan, Murray (violins), and B. Allen (piano); vocal solo, 'Roumanian night song,' Miss Gilbert; violin solo, 'Andantino,' Miss E. Mannix; chorus, 'Britain's soldier boys,' boys; song and drill, 'Lovely flowers,' girls; pianoforte duo, 'Polonaise brillante'—first piano, Misses Barry and McMahon; second piano, Misses Whittle and Allen. Part II.—Pianoforte duet, 'Hungarian dance No. 2,' Misses Bennett, Old, Connell, and J. Bennett; chorus, 'The vesper hymn,' girls; instrumental selection, 'Barcarolle' from 'Tales of Hoffman,' Misses Mannix, Jones, Lindstrom, Esse, Hooper, Duggan, Murray (violins), and B. Allen (piano); hoop drill, girls; pianoforte duet, 'Valse brillante,' Misses Bennett, Old, Connell, and J. Bennett; song, 'Invitation to the dance,' Miss Gilbert; song and drill, 'The fascinating fan,' girls; pianoforte duo, 'Soirees de Vienne'—first piano, Misses McKenzie and Fouhy; second piano, Misses Jones and Hooper; violin solo, 'Romance,' Miss E. Mannix; cantata, 'Our news,' newspapers represented; finale, 'God defend New Zealand.'

I notice the New Plymouth Borough Council is not included in the list of public bodies published in your issue of the 9th instant, as being in sympathy with the Catholic Federation in reference to censorship of cinematograph films. This no doubt was an oversight, as I understand the council is in sympathy with the object, and a letter to that effect was sent by the town clerk to the secretary of the Federation.

Lawrence

The annual social of the Children of Mary was held on Wednesday, December 8, in St. Patrick's Schoolroom. The Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary presided, and the Rev. Father Kaveney was also present. Despite the inclemency of the weather there was a very fair attendance of members. During the evening an interesting programme, consisting of songs, recitations, and instrumental music, was contributed. Refreshments were then handed round, and the gathering dispersed, after a very pleasant evening.

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