

'When shall the day break in Erin,' in excellent voice, the tableau representing Erin leaning on the harp in an expectant attitude, being greeted with rounds of applause. The junior pupils sang two very fine and amusing choruses, 'The members of the force,' and 'A cricket song.' These items were very well received, being somewhat above the standard of the usual junior choruses. Several recitations were given in a first-class manner, the best being 'At Tel-el-Kebir,' by Master H. Patchet, and 'Selected,' by little Victor Courtney; while Master Jaspar McMahon excelled himself in a comic piece, entitled 'A trifle mixed.' The class recitation, 'Barbara Freitchie,' was somewhat of an innovation, but its value was proved by the applause which greeted it. Displays of dumb-bells by the junior pupils, and Indian clubs by the seniors were done in a wonderfully clever way. The time was perfect, and not a single mistake was made. A duet, 'Shepherd of souls,' was sung by Masters E. O'Donohue and H. Righton, while Master Leo Sayers sang 'Good old New Zealand' in fine style. The whole was brought to a close by an extremely bright and laughable farce, entitled 'Cherry bounce,' in which the performers—Masters Righton, Cooke, Smith, Ryan, Stevenson, and Driffin—acquitted themselves admirably. It should be very gratifying and encouraging to the Brothers to know that the unanimous opinion is that this concert was the best ever given by school children in Auckland, and when we consider that the Brothers confine the items to the pupils of the school, without any outside help, it is all the more reason that they should be proud of the excellent standard reached on this, as well as on other occasions.

The Right Rev. Dr. Brodie presided. A presentation was to have been made to Dr. Brodie at the concert, but owing to the late hour, it was deferred to a later and more suitable date. Mr. Harry Hiscocks, the Cathedral organist, accompanied the boys on the piano, in his usual able manner.

It may be here remarked that only two weeks were available in which to prepare this concert, as previous to this the Brothers were kept busy preparing the lads to take their part in the combined schools concert, given in the Town Hall, at which the boys, besides joining in all the choruses, also staged statue and maze drill, which everybody admitted to be easily the best item of the evening. On Saturday evening the boys of the school, under the charge of Brother Emilian, gave the inmates of the Costley Home a fine entertainment, which the old people enjoyed immensely.

SACRED HEART CONVENT, ISLAND BAY.

The distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Sacred Heart Convent, Island Bay, took place on December 16. The following is the list:—

Decorations.—The first medallion and ribbon of merit have been given by the votes of the pupils, ratified by the Religious, to M. O'Donovan; the fourth ribbon to F. Fitzgerald, 5th to M. Uniacke, 6th to N. Kilsby. The first green ribbon to E. Sykes, 3rd to M. Evatt, 4th to V. Ross; next in merit, A. Sykes. The pink ribbon to—E. Sheridan, B. Loughnan, H. Mills, A. Mills, E. Dallow, M. Dallow, I. Meadows, G. Griffiths, C. Johnston, S. Kennedy, L. Saunders.

General Good Conduct.—M. O'Donovan; accessit, F. Fitzgerald, M. Uniacke.

Christian Doctrine.—2nd Division—B. Fitzgerald; accessit, I. Dunne, I. Duncan. 3rd Division—Z. Sheridan; accessit, E. Barry, H. Mills. 4th Division—C. Johnston; accessit, A. Mills. First Class—M. O'Donovan.

English Subjects.—2nd Class—I. Dunne; accessit, B. Fitzgerald. 4th Class—Z. Sheridan; accessit, E. Sykes. 6th Class—M. Johnston; accessit, G. Griffiths.

Science Subjects.—2nd Class—I. Duncan; accessit, N. Kilsby. 4th Class—E. Sykes; accessit, M. Kennedy. 6th Class—M. O'Donnell; accessit, E. D'Ath. 7th Class—A. Mills; accessit, C. Johnston. Elementary Class—E. Dallow; accessit, L. Saunders.

Languages (French).—3rd Division—B. Fitzgerald; accessit, I. Duncan. 4th Division—E. Sykes; accessit, M. Morgan.

Diligence.—Supplementary Division—N. Kilsby; accessit, E. Barry. 6th Division—A. Sykes; accessit, E. Sheridan. Elementary Division—C. Johnston; accessit, S. Kennedy.

Needlework.—2nd Division—B. Fitzgerald; accessit, I. Dunne. 3rd Division—E. Sykes; accessit, E. D'Ath. 4th Division—A. Mills; accessit, E. Dallow.

Order.—1st Division—M. Morgan; accessit, M. O'Donovan, N. Kilsby. 2nd Division—A. Sykes; accessit, M. Johnston, G. Griffiths.

Domestic Economy.—K. Cornish.

Cookery.—M. O'Donovan; accessit, G. Cullinane.

Certificates for Good Conduct and Diligence.—M. Uniacke, E. Sykes, N. Kilsby. Certificates for good conduct—F. Fitzgerald, M. Evatt, V. Ross. Certificates for diligence—B. Fitzgerald, E. Barry, I. Duncan, Z. Sheridan.

Classes will re-open on Tuesday, February 15.

MARIST BROTHERS' SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

The closing of the year's studies by the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School, Christchurch, was marked, as on previous similar occasions, by a public entertainment. This eventuated in the Choral Hall on Monday evening, December 13, when there was a large audience. Among those present were the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., and a number of the clergy. This annual fixture of the Marist School boys has always proved very popular, and the present was certainly no exception to the well-established rule. The entertainment was thoroughly enjoyable, and the whole-hearted manner in which all performed their allotted parts, evidenced the careful and unremitting training imparted by the Brothers, and the talent and industry of the boys. The following was the programme:—Part I.—Overture, 'Battle of Gallipoli,' Miss H. Woodward; prologue, Master Gordon Daly; chorus, 'Minstrel boy,' pupils; physical drill, junior pupils; violin solo, 'The harp that once,' Master Frank Banfield; Duet, 'Night of stars and night of love,' Masters Roy Summer and Fred Main; statue drill, senior pupils; recitation, 'The blacksmith of Limerick,' Master Fred Main; chorus, 'Zealandia,' pupils. Part II.—Chorus, 'O'Donnell Aboo,' senior pupils; parallel bars, senior pupils; dumb-bells, junior pupils; play, 'The brigand's son,' cast of characters—Corporal Nicolo Gamba, Master L. Ryan; Matteo Falcone and Gianetto, Master R. Dobbs; Brozzo, Master F. Main; Fortunato Falcone, Master W. Maloney. Chorus, 'God defend New Zealand,' pupils. Miss H. Woodward was accompanist.

Before presenting the awards, the Very Rev. Father Price, in eulogistic terms, referred to the good record of the school for the year just closed, and expressed warm appreciation of the efforts of the principal (Brother Calixtus) and his assistant teachers for the excellent results attained. He urged the pupils to renewed efforts during the coming years, and thus maintain the high standard the school has attained. Father Price then presented the prizes, after which the following report was read by Brother Calixtus:—

This year, the progress noted in previous reports, has been well maintained in all branches of the school work. The conduct of the pupils, both within and outside school hours, has been very good. In the report sent in by the director of the Technical College, on the woodwork class, no boy had less than 'very good' for conduct. The Christian doctrine examination was conducted by the Rev. Father Murphy, who expressed himself as being very well satisfied with the progress made. The rev. examiner very kindly donated the prizes for that subject. The inspector's report was very satisfactory. In Standard VI., 24 were presented, 22 securing proficiency and one competency.

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