

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

LYTTELTON CONVENT.

The following are the results of the examination in practical music conducted by Mr. Myerscough at the convent, Lyttelton, on October 21:—

Intermediate.—Aunio Foley.

Junior.—Stanley Bamford, Evelyn McCormack, Ada Gardiner (violin), Grace Robinson, Alexander Law.

Preparatory.—Mona Small, Elma Hock, Lena Johnston, Una Sinclair (violin).

Akaroa Convent.—Intermediate, Ida Withers, Vinetta Giddens. Preparatory.—Beryl Narbey.

CONVENT OF MERCY, WESTPORT.

The results of the theory examinations held last June came to hand recently, as follows:—

Intermediate.—M. O'Sullivan, 60.

Junior.—M. Scott, 91 (honors); M. Organ, 77.

Preparatory.—M. Darby, 92; E. Darby, 85; M. Griffen, 83; A. Darby, 82.

The examinations under the auspices of Trinity College, London, were conducted by Mr. Myerscough, Mus. Bac., who expressed himself highly pleased with the work of the candidates. All the pupils presented passed. Following are the results:—

Diploma Examinations.—I.T.C.L., Mary Parsons, 90. A.T.C.L.—Bride Doyle (singing), 93; Ina Sunley, 77.

Senior Division.—M. O'Sullivan, 85 (honors); L. McKeena, 82 (honors); M. Parsons (singing), 81; F. Morley, 77.

Preparatory.—M. Hagedorn (singing), 89 (honors); B. Hansby, 80 (honors).

Bluff

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The children of the convent school are busily preparing a box for the poor Belgian children. They have made and collected a large number of useful presents for those far-off little sufferers, who, during our summer months, will be enduring all the rigors of a Home winter.

On Wednesday, the 15th ult., a pretty wedding was celebrated in the Catholic church, when Miss Alice Gillooly, daughter of Mrs. Esther and the late Michael Gillooly, and sister of Mrs. Tulloch, was married to Mr. George Cameron, son of Mrs. Huginia and the late Alex. Cameron, of Invercargill. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F., and the bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Michael Gillooly. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated by Mrs. Murphy, and the church was crowded by friends and gay with the festive dresses of the bridal party. The bride wore a handsome travelling costume of navy blue cloth, with a white picture hat wreathed with marguerites. She carried an ivory-bound prayer-book. Mr. Norman McGoorlicked was best man. As the bridal party left the church Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March' was played by Mrs. Wheeler. The guests were entertained at breakfast by Mrs. Gillooly, the Very Rev. Dean Burke making a beautiful address to the newly married couple, who soon after left for the north by motor. The presents were handsome and numerous, including a number of cheques and charming souvenirs from friends far and near.

On the day previous to her marriage Miss Alice Gillooly was entertained at an afternoon 'Kitchen-tea,' when a large and recherche gathering of friends and well-wishers of the bride assembled in the convent school. The central hall was charmingly arranged as a reception room, decorated with arum lilies and stag-horn moss. The guests were welcomed by Mrs. Wheeler, who may be congratulated on the complete success of the afternoon. Miss Gillooly received a large number of extremely useful utensils. Vocal items were given by many of the ladies present. Mrs. McPherson, on behalf of Miss Gillooly, thanked the guests for their valuable and useful gifts, and especially for all the kind wishes expressed.

SILVER JUBILEE OF SACRED HEART NUNS


Last week (writes our Wanganui correspondent, under date October 31) at the Sacred Heart Convent, St. John's Hill, a re-union was organised by the girls past and present of the Sisters to celebrate in a fitting manner the silver jubilee of the Rev. Mother and Sister Gertrude. For weeks past arrangements were in preparation for the social gathering, at which the present pupils were to give an entertainment, and the past girls were to express by their presence and felicitations their abiding gratitude for the training they received from the Rev. Mother and her devoted Sisters during the years they spent at the Convent. In addition to the large attendance of the 'Old Girls,' some of whom have now daughters to take their places, there were present the Very Rev. Deans Holley and Power, the Rev. Fathers O'Dwyer, Cashman, Mahoney, Vibaud, and Dignan, and the Marist Brothers.

Clad in quaint dresses, the students opened the entertainment by a procession, at the back of which were arranged in raised order, a series of benches. On to these the girls filed in such a fashion that when all had occupied their allotted positions they formed an imposing tableau, ingenious in design and striking in effect. It constituted a kind of animated Mosaic from which at intervals walked forth those who had parts to play in addressing spoken words of welcome to the visitors, or congratulating in felicitous terms the jubilarians, or dancing jigs and hornpipes, or joining the numerous choruses, or, not last nor least, crowning with great pomp and eclat the convent carnival queen, Miss R. Dennis. Not only was the stage decorated with the flags of all the Allied nations now at war, but groups of girls, dressed in the fashion of each of the friendly belligerent countries gave an exhibition of their several national dances, starting with the nimble heel and toe of Bonnie Scotland, and finishing with the graceful salaams but less lively pirouetting of the Japs. An orchestra, led by Mr. Beck, played through the performance; and Miss Rubie Curran, who acted as pianiste, showed that she can sing or warble as well as play by an artistic rendering of the vocal solo, 'Bid me discourse.'

At the close of the entertainment, Very Rev. Dean Holley said that to him fell the difficult but pleasant duty of thanking, on behalf of the jubilarians, the girls for the good wishes expressed towards them, and for the trouble they must have taken to prepare such a fine concert in their honor as they were all delighted and privileged to witness. The display they were after giving of singing, dancing, and tableaux effects spoke eloquently of the training they were receiving from the good Sisters, who were devoting themselves gratuitously to their development, moral, mental, and physical. Language failed him to adequately express the praise due to those who spent themselves in the meritorious work of the noble calling to which the Rev. Mother and her companion had devoted their time, talents, and energies for the past 25 years. They did incalculable good quietly, receiving no earthly recompense for their labors, no rewards for the act of self-sacrifice, and self-denial that continued teaching imposes, save the complacent consciousness that follows in the wake of good deeds done, acts of love performed, and the service rendered to God in teaching children to know, love, and serve Him. The moral and religious training of the Catholic girls of the Dominion would be very defective were it not that the Catholic Church had women like their jubilarians, who abandoned all that worldlings seek after, in order that, being free from family responsibilities, they would be in a position to devote themselves entirely to imparting religious and secular knowledge, to giving ideals of womanly virtue and examples of modesty now so lacking, but so needful and befitting and indispensable in those who in the days to come are destined to be the mainspring of family life and the focus of domestic well-being and happiness.

Under the direction of Sister Charles, the children of the parochial schools gave a concert of their own in honor of the occasion. Though not so grandiose as that of their elders, it was none the less meritorious and appreciated.

A. J. FERNANDEZ

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