

ST. MARY'S COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH NORTH

The annual break-up of the infants of St. Mary's Collegiate High School, Colombo street, took the form of a matinee performance on Tuesday, December 12. The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., presided. A large number of parents and friends of the children were present. The schoolroom was very prettily decorated for the occasion. The following programme was gone through, the little ones making a favorable impression by the very clever manner in which they carried through their little performances:—Opening speech, Master Kim Kearne; pianoforte duet, 'Mother Hubbard,' Misses D. O'Brien, M. O'Brien, M. Darby, B. Holly, P. Smith, J. Carter, C. Costelloe, M. Bown; chorus, 'Chatterbox,' pupils; ribbon march, pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Good Night,' Misses Q. Mulheisen, J. Ferguson, M. McGill, G. Merfield, S. O'Brien, J. Prendergast, A. Holley, K. Keane; recitation, 'Grandma's Angel,' M. Bown; rose dance, Misses A. McCombe, M. Hardie, A. Barrett, C. Costelloe; chorus, 'Merry Maidens,' pupils; instrumental selection, 'Alpine's Farewell,' 1st violins—C. O'Malley, N. Middleton; violins—E. Neate, J. Carter, M. Hardie, R. Young, W. Barnard, W. Foster; piano—M. Neate, A. Young; chorus, 'You'd Better Stay at Home, My Lad,' pupils; dance, 'Merry Maidens,' Misses M. Bown, I. Haigh, B. Holly, M. Dailey, V. Martin, E. Ewing, M. Darby, E. Nutt; action song, 'Our Khaki Daddy,' pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Reverie,' Misses M. Rodgers, E. Nutt, B. Holly, I. Haigh, A. McCombe, Q. Mulheisen, M. Buckridge, D. Middleton; the gunners' march, pupils; dance, 'The Cachuca,' Miss C. Costelloe; chorus, 'Off for the Holidays,' pupils; 'God Save the King.'

At the conclusion the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., thanked the Sisters and their small pupils for their very enjoyable and meritorious entertainment. He wished them all the joys and blessings of a holy and happy Christmas, and spoke of the self-sacrifice and noble work of the Sisters, to whom we should be eternally grateful for the sound training, both socially and morally, they impart to those placed under their charge. He drew a vivid picture of the ideal home life, and asked the parents for their co-operation with the Sisters to obtain this end.

SENIOR SCHOOL.

On Wednesday afternoon the senior pupils of the same school gave their matinee performance, at which his Lordship Bishop Brodie presided. Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Rev. Father Cooney (Lyttelton), Rev. Father Gonderinger, S.M., (St. Patrick's College, Wellington), Rev. Father Aubry, S.M. (Waimate), Rev. Father Cronin (Darfield), Rev. Fathers O'Hare, Baurahan, Murphy, and Long (Cathedral), Rev. Fathers Hoare, S.M., and Seymour, S.M. (St. Mary's), were also present. The children have this year again given up their prizes to the Red Cross and Belgian funds, and this, with the sale of sweets and contributions following the singing of the Belgian children's song, realised the amount of £20 6s. The programme submitted was most enjoyable, and evidenced careful training. It was as follows:—Chorus, 'Song of Welcome,' pupils; prologue, Miss M. Buckridge; pianoforte duet (4 pianos), 'Salut d'Amour,' Misses V. Dwyer, K. Cassidy, M. Leigh, C. O'Malley, N. Middleton, M. McManaway, K. Corrigan, M. Neate; Irish reel, pupils; recitation, 'The Land of my Birth,' Miss Thelma Turner; pianoforte solo, 'Tarentella,' Misses N. and D. Middleton, M. O'Brien, J. Carter; action song, 'We Red Cross Nurses,' pupils; pianoforte duet, 'Valse' (Moskowski), Misses L. Timbrell, T. Cosgrove, M. Hartle, B. Hoare, E. Couzins, V. Haigh, D. Carter, E. Carter; chorus, 'Belgian Children's Song'; pianoforte trio, 'Echo de Montagnes,' Misses E. Malaney, M. McManaway, D. Kiver, M. Austin, A. Young, E. Moore, D. Hardie, K. Cassidy, N. Burns, F. Spray, V. Nutt, R. Nutt; glee, 'Hail Smiling Morn' (orchestral accompaniment), senior pupils; march and drill, 'Summer Garlands,' pupils; pianoforte solo, 'Romance,' Misses V. Haigh, N. Kelly, C. White, V. Dwyer; action song, 'Knit, Knit, Knit,' pupils; epilogue, Miss M. Delany; chorus, 'Let Erin Remember,' pupils; 'God Save the King.'

His Lordship addressed the children and the large audience present. In his address Bishop Brodie said:—I do not think it would be fair on our part to allow this occasion to pass without expressing our thanks to the young performers for their very delightful programme. In the commencement of the programme we had a little recitation expressing the wish that the various items would bring applause and give us pleasure. They have certainly given the greatest pleasure. The items were indeed most enjoyable and delightful. If I were to say which item I liked best I would have to say a word or two on each; each item was excellent, and the programme certainly deserved the praise which it got. I am very thankful to the children and to those who have assisted them. Now, I see you have a second page to your programme; it is called 'Synopsis of work done during 1916 in the schools conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, Christchurch,' and we find in all the schools conducted by the Sisters that the work has merited the highest praise, and I am sure this is a source of gratification to your good priests and also to the good Sisters for the great work they are doing in the sphere of education. You will notice on this third page that words of

praise come from our Government School Inspectors. They are non-party gentlemen who are interested in the work of education, who are ever ready to acknowledge good work wherever it is done, and you see here the words of praise meted out to our different schools. Regarding St. Mary's Collegiate School, Mr. J. B. Mayne, Government Inspector, says: 'A very satisfactory measure of success has attended the efforts of the staff, and the good progress made in the various classes indicates efficient instruction and supervision. The tone and discipline are excellent, and the pleasing attitude of the pupils towards their work is the result of the stimulating and inspiring influence of the teachers.' Now you really could not have words of higher eulogy than you have expressed here, and it is certainly a compliment to the schools and to our zealous teachers that you have a Government School Inspector using such high words of eulogy. And we find the primary school gets an equally good report. This is the eulogy and praise given by the Inspectors of the Government School System, and we have reason to feel pleased that the work is being attended with such a measure of success. And now I notice the last page—there is no writing at all on it—but I think there is something more to be said regarding our work of education. What we have seen so far practically equips our young people for the battle of life, but Archbishop Carr said on one occasion in connection with the secular system that if we were created for this life only the work of the secular school would be very fitting for us, but there was something higher to be considered—that for the next world, the great life to come, it is necessary that the work of education should have associated with it the work of preparation for the next world, that is that religious influence should be associated with the secular. Now I think in connection with this last page it is my duty as Bishop to say that we find this work—the work of religious instruction—equally well done. I have on various occasions visited the parish; and your worthy pastor, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, has often told me of the pupils' efficiency in religious knowledge. Recently, too, I paid my official visitation to the parish, when I administered Confirmation, and the answers given on that occasion were I think ample evidence of the thorough teaching of religious knowledge. I think it my duty to express my appreciation of the important work done by your devoted priests and the good Sisters in this parish. I can only say in connection with this last page that the work has been exceedingly well done. In conclusion his Lordship asked the children to remember the sacred lessons instilled into their minds by the good Sisters, and trusted they would enjoy all the blessings of a holy and happy Christmas and a glad and joyful New Year.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, AUCKLAND

The Concert Chamber of the Town Hall was crowded by the parents and friends of the students at the Sacred Heart College, when a very attractive musical and dramatic programme was presented as a preliminary to the annual distribution of prizes. The selections rendered by the college choir and the scenes from Shakespeare were particularly good. The scenes chosen were the trial scene from 'Much Ado About Nothing,' the recruiting scene from 'Henry IV.,' and the scene between Lady Anne and the Duke of Gloucester from 'Richard III.' All the passages were well rendered and enthusiastically received.

The records of the year's work and play were embodied in a very attractive book of 120 pages, which included essays by students, letters from old boys at the front, an account of Bishop Cleary's journey abroad, the very favorable report of Mr T. H. Gill and Mr E. K. Mulgan, Government Inspectors, and other interesting information. The illustrations contained in this well-edited 'Students' Magazine are excellent. Besides pictures of school life, there are included portraits of the Apostolic Delegate and the New Zealand bishops.

The annual report of the director, Brother Benignus, showed that there are 175 students on the roll. Ten candidates passed the matriculation examination, and 25 the Civil Service examinations; one of the ten scholarships open to New Zealand candidates for the Royal Military College was won by M. Reddington, a student at the Sacred Heart College. It provides £200 a year for four years, with a lieutenantancy in the New Zealand Staff Corps at the completion of the course. In the Civil Service examination one student was first in science, dictation, and handwriting out of 1500 New Zealand candidates; and another student was second in arithmetic. The director spoke strongly of the disabilities under which the Catholic secondary schools suffered in relation to scholarships, and urged continual agitation to obtain an amendment of the law so that these scholarships may be held in Catholic schools.

The prizes, which included many handsome gold medals, were presented by the Right Rev. Monsignor Mahoney, Vicar-General, who congratulated the director and the Marist Brothers on the success which had attended their work. He said, in reference to the Shakespearian work presented by the students, that he was of opinion that the work of Masters J. Mackie and M. Reddington com-

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