

NEW CONVENT AND SCHOOL, KILBIRNIE

Standing on one of the most prominent sites in South Kilbirnie and in the locality known as Childers terrace, where the tramlines from the city via the tunnel and Constable street junction, is a large and commodious two-storey building, formerly the residence of Mr. M. F. Bourke. This property, nearly an acre in extent, and possessing a fine panoramic view of Cook Strait, Evans Bay, Lyall Bay, and the surrounding locality, has been acquired by the Sisters of Mercy to serve the dual purpose of a high school and musical academy, and also as a residence for the teaching staff of Sisters engaged in the local school at St. Patrick's School Chapel across the road.

The residence has been renovated and converted into a convent and school, and last Sunday afternoon (writes our Wellington correspondent, under date January 29) the ceremony of blessing and formally opening the new institution, which is to be known as St. Catherine's Convent, was performed by his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, assisted by the Venerable Archdeacon Devoy, the Rev. Fathers Piquet, S.M. (Sydney), Hurley, S.M., O'Connell, S.M., O'Leary, S.M., D. Campbell, S.M., and C. Outtrim, S.M., and the Very Rev. Father Roche, C.S.S.R. There was a large number of people present at the opening, and at the conclusion of the ceremony of blessing the new convent the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, as rector of the district, briefly addressed the gathering before calling upon his Grace the Coadjutor Archbishop to perform the opening ceremony. Archdeacon Devoy stated that in 1908 there was neither a Catholic school nor a Catholic church at Kilbirnie. In that year a mission for the Catholics of Kilbirnie was given by the Redemptorist Fathers at O'Donnell's Hall. The success of the mission was responsible for a movement to erect a Catholic Church at Kilbirnie, and in the meantime Mass was celebrated every Sunday at O'Donnell's Hall. Originally it was intended to erect a church of the value of £6000. In fact the foundations were laid for a building of that value, but in view of the urgent necessity of a Catholic school in the district and the inability of the people to complete the scheme within a reasonable time it was decided to leave the erection of the church to a later period and to erect immediately a building that would serve both as a school and a church. A fine substantial building was erected on the same section at a cost of £1000, and since then additions and improvements to the building made necessary through the growth of the Catholic population brought the total cost to £1700. Now they were present that day to witness the installation of the Sisters in the beautiful convent that his Grace had just blessed. He wished particularly to thank the Bourke family for the benefactions they have made to the Church, and it was through the generosity of that family that they were in the happy position of opening the convent that day. He wished the good Sisters every success.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea, in declaring the convent open, said that it gave him much pleasure to bless and open such a beautiful convent. He congratulated the people of Kilbirnie, and said this was only the beginning of great things in that district. It marked a new era in the progress of the Church, for it had added another house of prayer to the Church, another place where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass could be offered up. The Sisters belonging to the great teaching Order of the Sisters of Mercy had done, and were doing, marvellous work for Catholic education in this Dominion, and they were to be located in their midst. The Sisters of Mercy not only imparted secular knowledge to the children under their care, but they also imparted a thorough knowledge of their holy religion; and in doing this they were conferring a great boon on the whole community. Those who thought that the teaching of religion and morals should be separated from the training in secular knowledge made a very great mistake, and although they might not know it, they were impeding the progress of this young country.

As long as God gave him health and strength to do so, he would voice the objection of the Church to such a system. In conclusion, he congratulated the Sisters of Mercy on acquiring such a fine property, and he also wished to voice his appreciation of the generosity of the Bourke family and the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy for his energy in helping the Sisters to acquire the property. He formally declared the convent open.

Those present were then invited to the convent chapel, where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by his Grace the Archbishop, assisted by the clergy present. The nuns' choir rendered the music, and at the conclusion afternoon tea was served by the Sisters, who conducted the visitors through the building and grounds.

The Rev. Sister Mary Chanel will be in charge of the new convent, and she will have associated with her in her work five other Sisters.

A collection was taken up, and resulted in the sum of £60 being handed the Rev. Sister Chanel, who desires to thank all friends and donors for their kindness. The new high school, as well as the parish school, were opened on Wednesday morning.

The opening of St. Catherine's Convent in the parish of Wellington South under the charge of the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy adds another to the many Catholic institutions in his extensive parish, and it is interesting to note the following:—Sacred Heart Convent, Home of Compassion, St. Francis' Church and the parish school, Island Bay; Sisters of Mercy Preparatory College for boys, and St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church and School, Seatoun; St. Patrick's Church and School and St. Catherine's Convent, Kilbirnie; St. Anne's Church, St. Anne's School, St. Anne's Hall, and St. Joseph's Convent, Green and Daniel streets, Wellington South.

SYMPATHY.

If there is one person who deserves sympathy it is surely he who suffers from chronic colds. A sudden change in the weather or going out into the night air from a heated room, is quite enough to bring on the trouble. Usually the tendency to catch cold is due to a generally run-down condition, and the treatment should take the form of a tonic like BAXTER'S LUNG PRESERVER. It is pleasant to take, gives sure results, and is quite harmless; for children and adults you cannot find a better cough or cold remedy. 1/10 a bottle from all chemists and stores, or by post direct. J. BAXTER & CO.—CHRISTCHURCH.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[By arrangement with Mrs. ROLLESTON, Hair Physician and Face Specialist, qualified London and Paris.]

J.J., Masterton.—As your hair is very thin, I would advise a braiding made of either your combings or hair to match your own. They are made to hook round the head and your hair is dressed over them as pads were used, and give the appearance of a luxuriant growth. All shades can be matched, in best quality hair, wavy or straight. Price, £2 2s; of combings, 17/6.

SYDNEY.—For the cleansing of the hair and scalp one of the best washes I can recommend is made of Calvo Shampoo Powders. They are also very stimulating. Directions for mixing on each. Price, 6d, or 5/- per dozen.

Further replies by letter.

Private Rooms for All Treatments.
Transformations and Switches a Speciality.

DOMINION BUILDINGS, Cathedral Sq., CHRISTCHURCH,
and 256 Lambton Quay, WELLINGTON.—ADV.T.

S. F. ABURN

PAINTER, PAPERHANGER, GLAZIER, Etc., 245 PRINCES ST., DUNEDIN,
Importer of Paints, Oils, Colors, Varnishes, Brushware, Paperhangings, Picture
and Room Mouldings, Sheet and Colored Glass, Etc.—TELEPHONE 1950.