

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

March 21.

Sergt. W. J. Quirk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Quirk, Bell Street, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Lance-Corp. W. Roche, eldest son of Mrs. Roche, Keith Street, is home again safely, having come back at last week-end on the Hororata.

The annual Communion of the members of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Sunday, March 16, when the members approached the Holy Table in a body. They were present again in regalia at night, when the chaplain, Father O'Connell, preached on the life of St. Patrick. The fortnightly meeting was held on the same date, three new members being initiated. Many more are to come in later, and no parent or young man can do better than join a benefit society. Why not their own? The charges are as low as those of any other friendly society. Accounts amounting to £19, and £9 13s 4d sick pay, were passed for payment. Bro. A. McWilliams, P.P., has been elected chairman of the local board of management of the U.F.S. Dispensary. The Roll of Honor in connection with the members of this branch who served in the war is now being prepared and will be unveiled shortly, at a big re-union when the boys are home again.

The annual St. Patrick's concert was held on Wednesday night and was a great success, the proceeds being reserved for the benefit of the members of the local branch who are away on active service, and whose annual fees are being kept up to date by their friends. In addition to our own local talent, Miss Teresa McEnroe (Wellington), already a favorite here, delighted us again with her beautiful voice. Her programme songs were "Kathleen Mavourneen" and "She is Far From the Land," and in response to insistent encores, Miss McEnroe sang "Believe Me" and the very dainty "There are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden." Miss O'Leary, also of Wellington, made her first public appearance here and danced of her best. Her little golden-slipped feet twinkled through an "Irish jig"; later she danced the hornpipe and a waltz clog dance. Mr. F. Bourke (Auckland) also assisted us for the first time. His singing of the old favorite, "The Irish Emigrant," was a rare treat. Recalled, he sang "Mother Machree," and later "When Shall the Day Break in Ireland," followed by "The Mountains o' Mourne." The Wanganui Garrison Band, Miss Belle McLean, Mr. C. Wadman, a chorus of girls from the parish school, and boys from the Brothers' school, supplied the local touch, and were supported by O'Hara's Orchestra, and Miss R. Curran, A.T.C.L., L.A.B., who played the accompaniments.

Father J. M. O'Ferrall, who has been stationed here for about two years (excepting the few weeks he was loaned to St. Patrick's College), left during the week for Greenmeadows Seminary, where he is to be Procurator. Father O'Ferrall has made lots of friends here, his work having been for the most part among the sick and "sorry-for-themselves," to whom he was ever welcome as the flowers in spring. We wish him the best of good times, and assure him of our sympathy, for trying to make ends meet is almost harder than trying to keep the commandments these days. Father A. McDonald has arrived to take up the running.

Writing to friends in Wanganui, a southern soldier at present in hospital at Walton-on-Thames, makes mention of the goodness of Sister C. Lee, who tucked him in and was generally good to the sufferers. Sister Lee is a daughter of Mrs. Lee, of our congregation, and was trained at the Wanganui Hospital. She has been on military duty almost since the beginning of the war, and like so many others of our fine nurses, has done her best to alleviate the sufferings of others. A son, Private George Lee, is also on active service, and has been awarded the Military Medal.

Gisborne

(From our own correspondent.)

March 21.

There was a large audience at the Opera House on the occasion of the national entertainment in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The first part of the programme consisted of the screening of a variety of picture films. In the subsequent musical portion songs were contributed by Miss Eileen Keaney and Mr. L. Dew, an Irish jig was danced by the Misses Keaney, and a sailor's hornpipe by Miss Gladys Newry.

On Sunday, March 16, the members of the local branch (St. Patrick's) of the Hibernian Society approached the Holy Table at St. Mary's Church, in honor of the feast of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland. The numerical strength of the branch has been greatly reduced owing primarily to the war, and a visit from the district officers might be the means of infusing new life and interest in the branch.

Sunday, March 16, was observed with special solemnity in anticipation of the feast of St. Patrick, and although the weather was wet and stormy there were large congregations at both of the Masses and at evening devotions. The Shrine of St. Patrick was tastefully adorned with flowers and foliage, the effect being very pleasing, especially when illuminated in the evening. A fine panegyric on the Apostle of Ireland was preached by Father Lane at the evening devotions. Procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament then took place, followed by the congregational singing of the hymns "O, Glorious St. Patrick," and "Faith of Our Fathers."

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, GREYMOUTH.

(From our own correspondent.)

The anniversary celebrations in connection with the jubilee of St. Patrick's branch, H.A.C.B. Society, Greymouth, were commenced on Sunday, March 16, when the men of the parish approached the Holy Table in a body. There was a very large gathering of Hibernians, and Father Mangan, C.S.S.R., congratulated the society on the attainment of its jubilee. Father Mangan said that it was a most edifying sight to see such a large body of men approaching the Holy Sacrament, and it was a glowing tribute to the work which the Hibernian Society was carrying on in our midst.

The annual reunion of the members of the Hibernian Society, St. Columba Club, and men of the parish was held after Mass in the St. Columba Hall. B.P. J. Brennan presided. The toast of "The Day we Celebrate," coupled with St. Patrick's Branch, was entrusted to Bro. M. Daly, who gave a stirring address on Ireland's national day, and the pioneer Irishmen of the West Coast. Secretary Bro. N. Keating replied on behalf of St. Patrick's branch, and made a strong appeal to the young men of the parish to join the society, and thus help to carry on the great work which their forefathers started. The toast of "The Clergy" was proposed by Mr. M. Fitzgerald, and responded to by Father Aubry; "Visiting Brothers and Kindred Societies" proposed by Bro. D. Shannahan and responded to by Bros. Shine (Hokitika), O'Toole (Denniston), and Tracey (Wellington).

The spirit of faith, the spirit of God, will give you that special grace which will enable you to immolate yourself with Jesus Christ if you only ask with humility and confidence.—*Mother M. of the Sacred Heart.*

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