

THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH.

Amongst the passengers by the Ventura from Sydney on May 7 were two Sisters of St. Joseph—Sister Mary Anne Joseph and Sister Mary Berchmans. They will do much travelling in America (says the Sydney *Catholic Press*), as some of the bishops over there are anxious to have branches of this noble Australian community in various parts of the Republic. For some years now pressing invitations have been coming to the Mother-General of the Order; but it was not possible to take any definite steps sooner. The two Sisters now leaving have already done some travelling. When quite young they left Ireland to devote themselves to a religious life. Sister Mary Anne Joseph, who for many years was Superior of the Kincumber Orphanage for Boys, is known throughout the Commonwealth as a great organiser, and a tactful business woman, full of zeal, with the true missionary spirit. Of late she has been Superior at Bondi. Sister Mary Berchmans was these latter years in Queensland, forwarding, in her own retiring, unselfish way, the interests of religion and education. Prior to going there, she was in South Australia, where, as Mistress of Novices, she did great work for God. In Ireland the nuns hope to get many young candidates for the religious life. They will be absent for about a year. A large number of priests and other friends assembled at the wharf to bid them bon voyage.

THE LITTLE NATIONS.

The fortunes of war have transformed a noted pianist into the Premier of the ancient Polish nation (says the *Catholic Bulletin*, of St. Paul, U.S.A.). As Ignace Jan Paderewski, the new Premier of Poland, took his place, an officer of his staff, according to the report, exclaimed—"God save Poland!" The Prime Minister went to his desk, saying:—"One thing comforts me. It is that I have 95 per cent. of the people with me. Perhaps the other 5 per cent. will make trouble. In any case, we are only beginning."

This modest scene, this simple ceremony marks the beginning of a new era for one of the smaller nations. The war was fought that all peoples, large and small, might enjoy the benefit of a direct voice in their own government. The Czecho-Slovaks also have formed an independent nation, and this independence has been recognised by the United States. Thus gradually the principles that dominated the part which this country took in the war are going to be applied to the smaller nations. Whenever a people gives proof or just promise of its ability to guide itself aright, this principle of self-determination should be applied. That it will be so applied appears to be a growing conviction as the work of the Peace Conference progresses.

The question still arises, Will this principle of a free people hold good for Ireland? There is no doubt that Ireland, like Poland, has ever by protest and varied activities maintained the right to govern herself. As to the ability of her people, it were useless to argue. For it is a well-known fact that in every part of the world where Irishmen have settled they have demonstrated without a doubt their capacity for government. Scarcely a country is there where the Irish will not be found in positions where energy, cleverness, and unusual ability are required. England herself has on many occasions, both at home and throughout her colonial Empire, profited by the talents and the genius of her Irish subjects. It cannot, therefore, with truth be said that Ireland is incapable of self-government. When a man gives certain proof of his talents and ability, it is folly to chain him down to a condition of impotency, and then accuse him of lack of talent. If Belgium must be free, why not also Ireland?

We direct attention to the New Zealand Railways announcement in this week's issue of the *Tablet*, giving the time table and train arrangements in connection with the Dunedin Winter Show and Races.

THEY LIE IN FRANCE WHERE LILIES BLOOM.

They lie in France
Where lilies bloom;
Those flowers pale
That guard each tomb
Are saintly souls
That smiling stand
Close by them in
That martyred land.

And mutely there the long night shadows creep
From quiet hills to mourn for them who sleep.
While o'er them through the dusk so silently
The grieving clouds that slowly drift to sea,
And lately round them moaned the Winter wind
Whose voice, lamenting, sounds so coldly kind,
Yet in their faith those waiting hearts abide
The time when turns forever that false tide.

In France they lie
Where lilies bloom,
Those flowers fair
For them made room.
Not vainly placed
The crosses stand
Within that brave
And stricken land;
Their honor lives,
Their love endures,
Their noble death
The right assures,

For they shall have their heart's desire,
They who, unflinching, braved the fire,
Across the fields their eyes at last shall see
Through clouds and mists the hosts of victory.

PERCIVAL ALLEN, in *New York Times*.

WAR MOTHERS HONORED.

More than 1000 Catholic war mothers received the city war medal decorations at the Coliseum in Toledo, Ohio, on January 12, at the hands of Right Rev. Bishop Schrembs. Gold star medals were presented to 22 mothers whose sons had made the supreme sacrifice; and silver star medals were awarded to 1000 mothers who had given their boys to the service of their country.

Bishop Schrembs lauded the work of the women of the Catholic Red Cross and the work of the Knights of Columbus, both in America and abroad.

Mgr. J. T. O'Connell, who introduced Bishop Schrembs, paid a glowing tribute to the mothers of soldiers. He emphasised the fact that the sacrifice of a mother parting with her dear son was equally as great a sacrifice as that made by the son, who joined the army to save humanity.

Advice has been received from the Trinity College of Music, London, that the Senior Exhibition (valued at £9 9s) has been awarded to Miss Margaret Hayman, (of Kaiapoi) for pianoforte playing. This young lady also won the bronze and gold medals, 1917-1918, presented by the Local Centre. Miss Hayman is a pupil of Miss Agnes Lawlor, L.A.B., of Bishop Street, St. Albans, Christchurch.

As will be seen on reference to our advertising column in this week's issue of the *Tablet*, the winter meeting of the Dunedin Jockey Club will be held at the Wingatui Racecourse on the 3rd, 5th, and 7th June. The time table of trains to and from Wingatui on each race day is also published in this issue.

St. John's Tennis Club, Timaru, has just concluded a successful season. Although the membership was numerous, lack of sufficient court accommodation has in the past proved a serious drawback to the club. To make more satisfactory arrangements for next season, the committee has decided to prepare another court. It has been decided to augment the club's funds by promoting a social.