

An enjoyable musical and elocutionary programme, under the direction of Mr. A. P. De La Cour, was heartily appreciated by the large audience. Mrs. Frank O'Brien, Misses E. McDavitt and M. Riordan, and Messrs. W. Brittenden, A. Macdonald, R. Lafferty, and Master Bert Upjohn contributed songs, and Mr. Allan Young recitations. Misses A. Lawlor, K. O'Connor, and C. O'Brien played the accompaniments. An energetic committee of ladies handed round supper. Docherty's Band supplied the music for the subsequent social, Mr. E. Daly being M.C. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" terminated the evening's proceedings.

IRISH HISTORY COMPETITIONS

We had two busy days examining the essays which came to us in great numbers in response to our invitation to our young readers. We certainly did not grudge the labor entailed in sorting out the winners, and it was no easy task. Many of the essays were very good. After the first two in each section it was hard to decide which should be placed next. Some fine attempts were disqualified for various reasons. There were some sent in without any name attached to them. Others were carelessly written, and had misspelled words. Others, again, were written by pupils who were too old for competition in the junior division. Finally, with great reluctance that we could not include many more in the prize list, we made the following awards:— Senior section: 1st, Isobel M. Quilter, St. Catherine's College, Invercargill; 2nd, Louise Harris, St. Dominic's College, Dunedin; 3rd, J. L. Hjorring, Christian Brothers' School, Dunedin. Junior section: 1st, William Herlihy, St. Joseph's School, Dannevirke; 2nd, Mary Noel O'Kane, Convent School, Alexandra; 3rd, Mary Hussey, St. Dominic's College, Dunedin. The first and second prize-winners in the junior division were 11 years old, the third was only nine. The following are highly commended, and deserve prizes, even if they do not get them for this time:—Bryan Lynsky, Nancy Rice, Katie Bourke, Walter Campbell, James Moore, Mary Phelan, Molly Cullen, Charles Devlin, Mary Rohan, Thomas Murcadha, and William Montgomery.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, CHRISTCHURCH

LECTURE BY DEAN REGNAULT, S.M.

The fortnightly meeting of St. Mary's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Monday evening, June 9, at Ozanam Lodge. In the absence of the president (Bro. F. A. Roche), who is in hospital, Bro. Gardiner, V.P., occupied the chair. There was a good attendance of members.

At the close of the meeting Very Rev. Dean Regnault delivered a lecture on the "Present State of Ireland" to the members and their friends. The lecture, as is characteristic of the Dean's platform speeches, was full of interest and instruction, and the story was so nicely linked up that the hour and a-half slipped by all too quickly. The Very Rev. lecturer after showed the possibilities of Ireland by reason of her geographical position and natural advantages, spacious harbors, waterways, scenic attractions, rich soil and mineral deposits. The Very Rev. Dean was frequently applauded during the course of his lecture. A song typifying a Sinn Fein lover's fidelity and sacrifice, entitled "The Three-Colored Riband," was very tastefully sung by Miss Ford.

Mr. H. Johnston, in moving a vote of thanks to Dean Regnault, expressed the hearty appreciation of those present for the treat that had been given. Mr. Gallagher, in seconding the motion, expressed the hope that the interesting and instructive lecture would be the forerunner of others of a similar nature. Father Roche, S.M., as chaplain of the society, related incidents that proved the Dean's devotion to Ireland and to the cause of Hibernianism. The singing of "God Save Ireland" brought the proceedings to a close.

THE NEW SIGNIFICANCE GIVEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

In St. Louis, as throughout America, St. Patrick's Day this year was marked by a celebration extraordinary. And when detailed reports are returned from other distant centres, no doubt we shall have an amplification of the statement (says *Church Progress*).

Everywhere that Irishmen dwell—which is everywhere that God set land into the seas and where civilisation has ensued—the cause of Ireland's freedom has fanned Irish enthusiasm and unity of purpose into a conflagration. The justice of that cause is flaming the convictions of all men who love freedom. And this is the thing which made St. Patrick's Day this year a celebration extraordinary.

Throughout the land, as the accounts are assembled, thousands of eloquent voices pleaded self-determination for Ireland, and millions of people applauded. And not all the voices, nor all the applauding people were of Irish birth or Irish ancestry. Both groups had their proportions of other races. But the common bond uniting them was the love of freedom—the conviction that it is the inherent right of all peoples to fashion their own form of government.

They have witnessed the silence of official America at the Peace Conference on this great principle, insofar as it applies to Ireland. They feel that peace, with Ireland an English vassal, is a falsification of American principle and American declaration. As the friends of freedom, therefore, they have joined with American Irishmen to secure freedom for Ireland.

The cause of Ireland never before in this country had such championship. And as the declaration of assistance found its most forceful expression on the feast day of Ireland's patron saint, the civic observance of that day was given a new significance.

Will Mr. Wilson heed the new alignment? Will he measure the force that is behind it? Will he explain to the Peace Conference what it means? Will he bring home to the reconstructors of a new world that the principles he enumerated and which they accepted must not preclude Ireland alone? Will he tell England that the American people are overwhelmingly and intensely for Ireland's nationhood, and that there can be and will be no compromising the matter?

This is the new significance given to St. Patrick's Day in America. How it is going to be transmitted in Paris remains to be seen.

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP O'SHEA'S MOTHER

A telegram, received in Dunedin on Wednesday morning, announced the death, at her residence, Hawera, of Mrs. O'Shea, mother of his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, S.M., Coadjutor-Archbishop of Wellington. The funeral is to take place on Friday morning.—R.I.P.

St. Augustine remarks that, while the Church celebrates the feasts of other saints on the day of their death, as being that of their entrance into eternal life, she keeps as a festival the day of St. John the Baptist's birth, because he came into the world, not as a sinner, but as a saint, having been sanctified in his mother's womb by Our Blessed Lord. Of St. John the angel foretold, "He shall be great before the Lord, and shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb. And he shall convert many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. And he shall go before them in the spirit and power of Elias . . . to prepare unto the Lord a perfect people." The Son of God, speaking of St. John the Baptist, says:—"There hath not risen among them that are born of women a greater than John the Baptist."