

There was a large attendance at the meeting, on last Tuesday evening, of the Christchurch Celtic Club, on the occasion of an interesting lecture, delivered by Father Fogarty on "Charles Kickham." At a later date, Father Fogarty intends to make an extended reference to the same subject, when he will treat of the works of Kickham. On the motion of the president of the club (Mr. J. Curry), a vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer. A short musical programme was rendered during the evening.

An enjoyable entertainment, organised by the Christchurch Celtic Club, was given in the Hibernian Hall on Wednesday evening, July 2, in the interests of the Hibernian Stall in connection with the Victory Fair. There was a good attendance, and an excellent programme of varied items was presented, the following contributing:—Misses M. and K. Crowe and Mr. A. Gillies (songs), Miss B. Whelan (recitation), Mr. J. Reeves (clog dance), Messrs. Marsden, Lammess, and Skinner (musical trio, banjo and mandolin), and Mr. F. Healey (humorous song). A ventriloquial act by Mr. C. Parsons proved very entertaining. Miss K. O'Connor efficiently filled the duties of accompanist, and also contributed a piano solo. The Irish comedy, "Nabochlish," was staged in the second part, the characters being excellently filled by Miss Cronin, Messrs. J. Curry, T. P. O'Rourke, P. Greenlees, D. McCormick, E. Fitzgerald, and J. Flannelly.

The members of St. Mary's Sodality of Children of Mary met in the schoolroom after the evening devotions on the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul to offer felicitations to the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., it being also his feast day. An address appreciative of the interest the Dean has taken in the sodality, was read by the president (Miss K. Cosgrove). On behalf of the members, Miss K. Molloy asked the Dean's acceptance of a small gift as an earnest of their sincere regard, and accompanied by every good wish for many happy returns of his feast day. The Very Rev. Dean replied in appropriate terms.

On a recent afternoon the ladies of St. Mary's Altar Society held a very enjoyable "At Home" in Ozanam Lodge for the purpose of welcoming back two of their members, Mrs. P. A. Ardagh, who has been on duty at the Front for the past two years, and Mrs. Walter Clifford, recently returned from England, where she assisted in many war charities. The lodge was tastefully furnished in reception room style. The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., and Father Roche, S.M., were present. An artistic musical recital was given by Mrs. Reginald Hill, assisted by Miss Mina Ward, at the conclusion of which Dean Regnault delivered a happy welcome-home address. Afternoon tea was served, after which three hearty cheers were given for the guests of honor.

Bro. J. M. Coffey, B.P., presided at the quarterly meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, held on Monday evening, June 30. Fathers Long and Fogarty were present, as were all the officers and a good percentage of members. Sick allowances totalling £3 14s 2d, and accounts amounting to £107 6s 6d, were passed for payment. The principal items included in the latter were: Medical attendants' fees £48 10s 9d, maternity allowances £8, dispensary dues £22 3s, funeral allowance (late Bro. Sellars) £20, hospital bed scheme £6 8s 6d. The president referred to the loss sustained by the society in New Zealand by the death of Bro. G. J. Sellars, who was so intimately and formerly so energetically connected with Hibernianism in Christchurch. He was (said Bro. Coffey) perhaps the best authority in New Zealand on matters connected with Friendly Societies generally. The regalia was draped out of respect to the memory of Bro. Sellars, who was exceedingly popular with members, and whose genial personality and gentlemanly attitude in the conduct of meetings is remembered with pleasure. A motion of condolence with the bereaved family was carried. Three new members were initiated, and two nominations received. Bro. Coffey, on behalf of the members, extended a cordial welcome to Bro. Ford King-

don, recently returned from active service, eulogising his activity in the branch prior to his departure from New Zealand. Bro. Kingdon thanked the brothers for the warmth of the welcome extended, and expressed his pleasure at being amongst his kith and kin once more in the Hibernian Hall.

The half-yearly meeting of St. Matthew's (ladies) branch of the Hibernian Society was held in the Hibernian Hall on Monday evening, July 7, Sister E. Jacques presiding over a full roll of officers and a good attendance of members. Sick allowance £2 was passed for payment, and two nominations for membership were received. The names of three candidates nominated for the position of District Deputy, rendered vacant through the resignation of Bro. R. P. O'Shaughnessy, were submitted, and a ballot was taken, which will be dealt with at a future meeting of St. Patrick's branch, when all the branches concerned will have forwarded their sealed papers. The following officers were elected for the ensuing half-year:—President, Sister E. Jacques; vice-president, Sister S. Greenlees; secretary, Sister B. M. Sloan; treasurer, Sister M. Smyth; warden, Sister M. Kirwan; guardian, Sister C. Tasker; sick visitors, Sisters Blackaby, Duggan, and Gleeson; assistant secretary, Sister K. Bridgman; auditors, Bros. Wall and Garty; U.F.S. Dispensary delegate, Sister E. Rodgers; Catholic Federation delegates, Sisters Morgan and Ryan. Bro. J. Jacques was elected to the office of trustee in place of the late Bro. Jas. Power. Sister E. Brophy, P.P., officiated at the installation ceremony, assisted by Father Long and Bro. M. Grimes. Father Long addressed the sisters on the duties of their respective offices, and congratulated the branch on the fine spirit existing amongst members, and also on the great progress made. His remarks were endorsed and supplemented by Bro. Grimes. Supper was afterwards served.

FOCH AND CLEMENCEAU.

The *Lutheran*, which cannot be accused of Catholic bias, says:—"No two men could stand further apart than Foch the marshal and Clemenceau the statesman. The one is a devout Catholic; the other a freethinker, if not a downright unbeliever. Politically the one belongs to the Clerical Party—and the other to the Anti-Clerical Party—the two parties were like fire and water, they would not mix. Everybody knows of the bitter feuds between these two parties, and of how the freethinking Government of France harassed and humiliated the Catholic Church and unseated it as a power in political affairs. But the war has wrought a great change. It was this same Clemenceau who despised the Church that called Foch to the head of the army. When Foch said to him, 'I propose to consecrate my armies to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,' Clemenceau gave the characteristic answer: 'Consecrate them to whatsoever you will so long as you win.' When the political barriers had broken down and the people fought and suffered as one, and when it was discovered that the soldiers who had a religion and a conscience were man for man the best in the army, 'Old Tiger' lost his claws and teeth and changed his whole attitude towards the Church (which France is of course predominantly Catholic). On the day the Armistice was signed, he spoke of General Foch in the Chamber of Deputies as 'the soldier of God.' While we as Protestants could wish that the evangelical Christianity were more in evidence in France than it is, we may well rejoice that the attitude of the Government towards the Church has undergone a radical change. Carlyle was wont to say that so long as there was a soul of good left in any religion or institution, it would not die, and Protestants will wish the Catholic Church well in that country; for as between unbelief and a Protestant liberalism which knows not what it believes, on the one hand, and Catholicism on the other, it would not be hard to choose."