

"Irish music may be divided into the dynamic and the pensive or quiescent. The first kind here is represented by dance music and quick singing tunes, with a strong pendulum beat. In all those the accent dominates the tonality, and the intervals or note places are easy. Hence they can usually be fairly well imitated by modern singers. But the pensive kind are different. They are never attempted by moderns. They are slow singing airs with all the wealth of Irish ornament and composed on broken rhythm. The last characteristic frees the tonality, and reveals the true, the ineffable artistry of Irish music. I wish I could express in words some of the qualities of this music. The difficulties are great; some inherent to the subject, others to my own dumbness, while still others arise from a want of the receptive faculty in my auditory. I am sadly encumbered, too, by a prejudice, springing from a habit of vulgar boasting in which my countrymen too often indulge, by reason of which things that make for their pride and are capable of scientific proof are discounted as if they also had only reckless assertion for their support. If it be objected to me that I know only Irish music, I can reply that though I enjoy a vernacular acquaintance with that system, still I have for years been listening to the best modern music that the world could furnish. I would especially mention the number of times I heard Herr Joachim fiddle to the accompaniment of Sir Charles Halle's great orchestra at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, during the years 1892-6, not to speak of other experiences in the capitals of Europe and the United States of America during the years 1896-1903; and I have seen in literature and art many of the things that people regard as the noblest achievements of the race. All those things I have seen and heard unmoved, but to the slow singing Irish airs with broken rhythm I pay the homage of my mortal dread. There I am held by a power stronger than death; I am borne to heights that pierce the veil, and I hear, as nowhere else, immortal man with a clear cry proclaim himself commensurable with the measureless. This I cannot understand. There is something in the tone, something in the interval system, something in the ineffable tenderness assumed by men's voices, and all the rest doubtless in the thrilling vision of a primal soul, revealed by the patent majesty of the subjective state of the singer. He sits abashed in a dark corner, often with his hat before his face, but he is sanctified for the time, the flame of perfect humanity has touched his lips and burned up the dross in him, and the old message that may not be told gushes again from the Keltic or pre-Keltic heart, and calls to us across the void of ages. And we burst our shackles at the cry and say, 'I come.' I speak to those that know, the vulgar will not understand me. But human endeavor attained to its most glorious level in producing our slow singing airs with broken rhythm, it will never reach that height again.

"I stand between the musics and can show you the contrasting picture. Regard the modern woman concert singer in the garish light with her low-cut dress and her carefully-adjusted smile. Her tone has been whitened by the voice producer, and she is filled to the neck with artificiality. Her throat and sense of tune are in protest against the 'scale' she is forced to sing, and she maintains a sort of pitch by a *tour de force*. Her technique exhausts all the artificial tricks of the modern singing master, soul is entirely wanting, all-pervading pretence is her subjective state, and God's dearest gift of song is unspeakably coinquinated. When will the Philistine horde recognise that art is truth and that lying kills it before it can get out of the double?

"Our slow singing airs with broken rhythm constitute the highest cultural asset in the world. Our teachers of music in the Technical School at Cork, Ireland, have plainly shown that they are completely unaware of the very existence of such a music. This highest class that has been considered here is only obtainable now where Irish is spoken. I leave my readers to imagine from that how circumscribed is its area. It should be collected on the phonograph and taught

directly to children. The fact that the powers of darkness who administer our education are not conscious of its existence, is not an adequate reason for consigning it to eternal oblivion."

VICTORY WAR LOAN

We call the attention of our readers to the announcement concerning the Victory War Loan in our advertising columns. The object of the loan will appeal to every member of the community, and a prompt response ought to be forthcoming. Those who hesitate about investing must remember that the loan is compulsory and that those to whom compulsion is applied will come in on far worse terms than the willing investors. As a matter of prudence, therefore, all who have the money to spare ought to get in early. The response of the Dominion in the past has been so generous and spontaneous that there is little doubt that for this, which we trust will be the final loan, no compulsory measures need be applied in order to make the loan a success:

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

The Christian Brothers' School reopened on Tuesday last at the conclusion of the term holidays.

A successful and enjoyable euchre social was held on last Tuesday evening in St. Joseph's Hall, in aid of the Christian Brothers' Football Club.

The Brothers' Choir will hold their annual concert in St. Joseph's Hall on the evening of Wednesday, September 17. Many distinguished local artists have promised to contribute, and a large attendance is expected.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 11 o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on last Sunday. After Compline and sermon in the evening there was the usual procession, followed by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The annual retreat of the Children of Mary will be opened in the Convent Chapel, South Dunedin, on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. All members and intending members are invited to attend. The exercises will be conducted by Rev. Father O'Leary, S.M.

The fine new church just completed at Roxburgh will be solemnly blessed and dedicated to Our Lady Queen of Peace on next Sunday, by the Very Rev. Father Coffey, Diocesan Administrator. High Mass will be sung by Father Collins, commencing at 11 o'clock, and the dedication sermon is to be preached by Father Morkane. The Very Rev. Father O'Donnell (pastor of Gore) will preach at the evening devotions.

St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish Committee of the Catholic Federation met after devotions on last Sunday evening. The Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, and there was a large attendance. Among those present were representatives of the suburban portions of the parochial district—North-East Valley, Mornington, and Kaikorai. To complete, as early as possible, the enrolment of members for the year, canvassers were appointed for the various subdivisions of the city as mapped out last year. The Very Rev. president intimated that the various congregations attending the Cathedral would be notified of the enrolling arrangements made, and asked to make the work of the canvassers as easy and pleasant as possible by cheerfully responding to their request to renew membership or to join the Federation.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

Corn must quickly yield to BAXTER'S RUBY CORN CURE. Once this remedy is applied there is no escape for the corn—it must give in. Price, 1/-, post free, from Baxter's Pharmacy, Theatre Buildings, Timaru.

B. WINGFIELD, Dentist

(Late) King Edward Street, South Dunedin

Has OPENED NEW ROOMS in SCURR'S BUILDINGS (opposite Herbert, Haynes).