

song, 'Garden of roses,' Miss M. McKenna; song, 'A song of sleep,' Miss McIsen; vocal duet, Misses M. and F. Cassin. Miss J. Rist and Miss E. Nicholson acted as accompanists, and Miss M. Simpson and Miss M. Gussy won the book prizes.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

December 11.

The annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the convent schools takes place on Wednesday morning.

The annual meeting of the Irish Athletic Society will take place to-night. The following report will be submitted:—In presenting the 26th annual report and balance sheet, your directors regret that owing to adverse weather conditions the attendance at the annual sports was not so large as was expected. The Society is very unfortunate in having had bad weather for the last two sports meetings, but we trust that 1912 will provide us with a fine day. Once again the Society has enhanced its reputation with the public by providing an exciting day's sport, and also by the promptness with which events were got off up to the advertised time. As usual, the Sheffield was the star attraction, thirty runners taking part in this event, and almost every heat provided a race in itself. Large fields and close finishes were the order of the day in all the running events. The amateur events were fairly well patronised, but there is reason to believe that if trophies instead of medals were given for these events, there would be a substantial increase in the number of amateurs competing. The dancing attracted larger entries than in previous years, and the schools' relay race has now become one of the star attractions of our programme. During the past year the society has lost the services of some useful directors, viz., Mr. H. Crawford and Mr. J. A. Sheridan, and we wish to place on record our appreciation of their services. We have also suffered a loss through Mr. J. S. Murphy having left this district. Mr. Murphy has acted as sole judge of the Sheffield Handicap for years, and has always given the utmost satisfaction both to the competitors and the public, and we regret very much his having had to sever his connection with the society, and we wish him every success in his new sphere of life. Referring to the balance sheet, it will be noticed that, though the weather was unfavorable, we have netted a profit of £51 3s 2d over the meeting. We started the year with a credit balance of £27 5s 6d, and this has now been increased to £78 8s 8d, a most satisfactory result, and one that has been brought about a good deal through the efforts of the directors. In conclusion, we must place on record our appreciation of the services rendered by the Hibernian Band and also the Southland Pipe Band, both of which turned out voluntarily to give us a helping hand.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Friday evening, Mr. H. S. Searle, the popular conductor of St. Mary's choir, was the recipient of a handsome baton, the gift of the members. Very Rev. Dean Burke, in making the presentation, eulogised Mr. Searle's efforts in connection with the choir, and congratulated him on the able and painstaking manner in which he carries out his duties. Mr. Searle suitably replied.

The steamer Morayshire, which arrived at Auckland from Liverpool on Monday morning, brought 170 immigrants for various New Zealand ports, and a large cargo, including some fine pedigree cattle in first-class condition.

Chemical analysis has shown that five tons of common farmyard manure contain about 40lb of nitrogen, and that during fermentation in the first period 5lb of nitrogen are dissipated in the form of volatile ammonia; in the second period 10lb, and in the third 20lb. Completely decomposed common manure has thus lost about one-half of its most valuable constituent.

NAZARETH HOUSE, CHRISTCHURCH

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

His Excellency the Governor, Lord Islington, accompanied by Captain Shannon, A.D.C. (writes our Christchurch correspondent), visited Nazareth House on last Saturday morning. He was met on arrival by his Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., and members of the community. Meeting first the old men, who accorded him a hearty welcome, his Excellency spoke to them in cheerful terms. He next met the little orphan children, who received him by singing the National Anthem, followed by a song of welcome. Little Kitty O'Shea, in clear and perfect tones, recited the following address to Lord Islington: 'May it please your Excellency, in the name of the Sisters and aged people, we, the Children of Nazareth House, fail to express in words the mingled feelings of gratitude and joy, with which we hail your Excellency's visit to our midst. Since the first intimation of that pleasure, we have been eagerly looking forward to this happy day, and now that our hopes are realised, and we enjoy the privilege of meeting your Excellency, our happiness is complete. We would gladly thank your Excellency in the most fitting manner possible, but as our best efforts to do so fall so far short of expressing our gratitude, we ask your Excellency to accept as a small token of the respect with which we welcome you to-day this bouquet of flowers. Happy should we be if we could offer your Excellency a gift more valuable, but though these flowers may lose their bloom and fragrance, be assured the respectful affection with which they are given, together with the pleasing remembrance of this event will remain unchanged. In conclusion, we fervently pray God to bless and prosper your Excellency, to grant you in fullest measure strength, health, and length of days, and to enrich you while life lasts with every happiness.

'We have the honor to be, your Excellency's most obedient and respectful Children of Nazareth.'

In graciously accepting the address his Excellency said the delivery of the text by the little girl was the best thing he had ever listened to. He had visited schools, and many at that, but nowhere had he experienced such a surprising example of native talent and brilliant teaching. The feat was all the more remarkable as his visit was a hurriedly arranged one, and but a few hours were available to make preparations. The address was, therefore, written, beautifully illuminated, and the text committed to memory practically in the course of one day. His Excellency, who was evidently greatly delighted, expressed his deep appreciation of all that had been done in his honor. He urged the children from the oldest to the youngest to do their utmost to respond to the very excellent training they were receiving at the hands of the devoted Sisters. A bouquet was presented to the Governor for Lady Islington, who was unable to be present, and little Mary O'Shea, a sister of the previous performer, recited 'The curfew' most perfectly, and was highly complimented by his Excellency. After his Lordship the Bishop had spoken in terms of welcome and appreciation of the Governor's visit, his Excellency spoke of his acquaintance with the mother house of the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth at Hammersmith, London, one of the greatest works of Cardinal Wiseman, a great power of the Church. He congratulated New Zealand on the establishment of a branch of the famous Order. After meeting the old women, his Excellency inspected the whole institution, expressing himself as charmed with all he had seen, but greatly pained when told that heavy rates and taxes were exacted from the institution, although wholly and entirely supported by charity and doing such a noble work for humanity.

Before taking his departure his Excellency gave the children a holiday to be remembered as the Governor's day.

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