

## HOME OF COMPASSION, WELLINGTON

### OPENING OF THE JUBILEE WARD

(From our own correspondent.)

February 24.

Included in those present at the opening of the Jubilee Ward at the Home of Compassion on Monday afternoon by his Excellency Lord Islington, were Archbishop Redwood, Lady Ward and Miss Ward, Messrs. T. G. McCarthy, and H. S. Wardell.

Lord Islington was formally welcomed by his Grace Archbishop Redwood.

His Excellency expressed the pleasure it gave him to take part in such an interesting ceremony. He regretted that owing to an outbreak of illness in that part, the main building could not be thrown open to visitors. It was a matter for regret, as no doubt it prevented a larger gathering of people from showing to the Rev. Mother Aubert and her colleagues the deep interest in the work done in connection with the home. In outlining the jubilee movement that resulted in the new wing, his Excellency said that the sum of money collected was something like £2300, but the amount actually at disposal was something under £1800. That amount had been absorbed in the erection of this admirable building. The money was raised willingly by people of all ages and all creeds, to enable this splendid and wonderful work that had been done in this town and in New Zealand for practically fifty years to continue. The money was given to the Rev. Mother to do with as she thought fit. With that wonderful indifference to personal position that had always characterised Mother Aubert's life, she immediately devoted her mind to the allocation of this money to some public purpose in connection with the home and its work. All present would agree that the new hall would be a great addition to the future needs of the institution. From now onwards the hall would be devoted to practical and kindergarten work for children, and the various forms of recreation and education which were part and parcel of the work for children. His Excellency asked permission to dwell for a few moments on a summary of the splendid work that had been carried out by the Rev. Mother and the Sisters in connection with the Home of Compassion. Stressing the need for its maintenance, his Excellency pointed out the five branches of the institution. There were the incurables, who certainly demanded full sympathy, compassion, and careful nurture. The next might be called the children's hospital branch—children being admitted and receiving full medical attention and care when otherwise they would have no hope of this owing to a lack of accommodation in the general hospital. Mention was made of the large new ward at the general hospital. This, when completed, would materially relieve the pressure in this branch of the home. Then there was the Convalescent Home, which took children who had left the general hospital incompletely recovered in health. Under the influence of good food and close attention they were here restored completely to their former health. There was another branch of particular value known as the 'Temporaries'—which enabled children of parents of the industrial class who were unable to give full and proper attention to receive that attention at the home. This was an inestimable boon to many poor families in the city of Wellington. Another branch was devoted to foundlings. Since 1905 sixty-eight children had been admitted to this part of the home, where, rescued from a cruel and unmerited fate, they would grow up in the full enjoyment of life, and in time be of service to the State.

All must agree, added his Excellency, as to the splendid work being carried on in the home. It was charitable in the highest sense, and was carried out on practical lines. His Excellency eulogised the intimate knowledge and sympathy of Mother Aubert and the Sisters in this work of upliftment. It was in a true sense economic and of great value to the State, and had the effect in preventing in many instances what

might be described as nothing more nor less than human waste. They could not afford to allow derelicts in their midst to accumulate and multiply. His Excellency suggested that the home might in future assist in providing some amelioration of the lack of domestic help. Small children on attaining a certain age were to be taught various sorts of domestic arts. Not only was this institution altruistic in its practice and methods, but he would venture to say—and it was what appealed to him particularly—it was conducted with a true sympathy and true understanding of human frailty. Mother Aubert provided for the children that protection and encouragement they were, of all people, most in need. By means of this home they were enabled to resist the temptations of the world and overcome the frailties to which, after all, we were all in a greater or less degree prone.

In conclusion, his Excellency congratulated Mother Aubert and the Sisters on their disinterested and unostentatious work. He then formally declared the hall open.

His Grace the Archbishop suitably responded on behalf of Rev. Mother Mary.

The new wing is 60ft by 30 ft, with 10ft verandahs along each side, and is set in a large playground enclosed by an 8ft iron fence. It has been built for the use of the children as a day ward, and with the playground will provide ample room for exercise in all conditions of weather. The building which has been erected by the Rev. Mother Aubert has, at the request of her friends, been named the 'Jubilee Ward,' to commemorate her fifty years' residence and work in New Zealand.

## WELLINGTON CATHOLIC CLUB NOTES

(From the club correspondent.)

February 23.

On Wednesday, February 7, the club's dramatic branch produced a three-act comedy, entitled 'The Barrister,' in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall. The seating accommodation of the hall was taxed to its utmost capacity, there being over 500 people present. The comedy was well received by an appreciative audience. The part of the Barrister was well interpreted by Mr. Frank Eller. His acting was of a very high standard for an amateur. The delineation of Tom Price by Mr. W. B. Keany was a feature of the evening. He bids fair to become one of the leading amateurs of the city. Mr. Carl Pfaff in the part of Major Drayton was well received by the audience. The following characters were also ably sustained:—Mrs. Maxwell, by Miss M. Sullivan; Kitty Drayton, Miss Hilda Meyer; Jane, Miss M. O'Connor; Ellen Faire, Miss S. Boyle; Miss Foster, Miss M. Griffin; the waiter, Mr. L. A. Burns; Capt. Walker, Mr. Chas. McErelean; Jenkins, Mr. Lambert; Jack Rodderick, Mr. J. Webb. The comedy was produced under the stage management of Mr. Carl Pfaff.

The Tennis Club held a most enjoyable day's outing at Belmont. It was largely attended by the members and their friends.

A bulletin issued by the Commonwealth Statistician gives the total population of Australia (last April census) as 4,455,005, of whom 2,313,035 were males and 2,141,970 females. New South Wales headed the list, with a population of 1,646,734; Victoria being next, with 1,315,551; then Queensland, with 605,813; South Australia, with 408,558; Western Australia, with 282,114; and Tasmania last, with 191,211.

We don't need to tell you, you know yourself the bother, the fuss, the work and worry associated with shifting. You cannot escape it, but you can reduce it to a minimum by employing us. We send picked men, with clean, commodious vehicles and good horses, and they pack up and remove your things with a fraction of the trouble incidental to old methods.—The N.Z. EXPRESS CO., LTD.