

## HANMER AND HEALTH

## THE SANATORIUM IN WINTER

Most people think of Hanmer Springs only as a pretty and popular summer resort; but those who, taking their courage in both hands, brave the cold and the rough weather and make their visit in the winter season will find themselves amply rewarded, and will begin to think that there is a good deal in De Quincey's dictum that happiness, like ice-cream, requires a low temperature, and is in season only in the winter months. At Hanmer, as elsewhere throughout the Dominion, the winter this year has been quite exceptional; and the snow

Out of the bosom of the air,  
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,

has fallen to a depth and over an area altogether unprecedented in the history of the locality. The result is that the plains and township and surrounding hills present a scene of surpassing beauty. From the Waiau Ferry to Hanmer—a short, safe, and comfortable run, in a well-protected motor—the journey is practically through a huge snow-field; and the heavily-laden, drooping trees, the long level stretches—broken only by the streams running through them like silver threads,—and the towering mountains, gleaming in an occasional glimpse of sun, furnish every variety of snowscape. At Hanmer itself, the scene, viewed from the spacious verandah of the Sanatorium, is eminently restful; and the beholder can fully enter into the spirit of Coventry Patmore's lines:—

'I, singularly moved  
To love the lovely that are not beloved,  
Of all the seasons, most  
Love Winter, and to trace  
The sense of the Trophonian pallor on her face.  
It is not death, but plenitude of peace.'

But the 'plenitude of peace' is not allowed to pall on the visitor; for the Sanatorium provides ample recreations, some of which are quite other than peaceful. When weather permits, there are golf, tennis, croquet, bowls, etc., and at the present time skiing and tobogganing are in full swing, the frequent and fearsome 'spills' of the amateurs giving rise to endless merriment. All and sundry take part in the sport; and the way in which some of the ladies, on ejection from the toboggan, throw their arms around the snow evokes many a quip as to their evident long practice in the clinging art.

Apart from its winter aspect and activities there is no doubt that, under its present successful management, Hanmer, as a health resort is coming to the front by leaps and bounds. In Dr. Duncan, who is at present in charge, the Government have an officer of rare tact, sound judgment, thorough all-round knowledge and exceptional skill in his profession, and high administrative capacity. To these desirable qualities he adds an unfailing courtesy and genial bonhomie; and his constant cheerfulness and good spirits are contagious. He is assisted by an able and courteous staff; and the matron, Miss Rennell, a lady of wide experience, great natural gifts, and altogether unusual attainments in her profession, is not only respected, but is very deservedly beloved by all the patients. In respect to the number of patients admitted, to the number and variety of the cures, and to financial results, the past year has been the best in the history of the institution. Some of the cures have been more than ordinarily notable—as, for example, the case of a little girl who came with an eczema that had baffled all the specialists, and under the healing influence of the waters and the skilled treatment of Dr. Duncan departed perfectly cured. Dr. Duncan is arranging for radical and extensive alterations to the baths, and for the introduction of all the latest things in 'hydro' equipment. Wherefore we conclude as we began—that, given a continuance of the present progressive management, there are great things in store for Hanmer.

## DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

July 29.

Rev. Father O'Hare has been appointed to the pastorate of Ahaura, and leaves for Westland on Tuesday, replacing Rev. Father Gilbert, M.S.H., who returns to Sydney.

At the Catholic Club rooms on last Tuesday evening a valedictory social was tendered to the Misses Payne by the Cathedral Tennis Club, prior to their leaving for Greymouth, where Mr. Payne, who was stationmaster at Christchurch, has been promoted to traffic manager. An enjoyable musical and elocutionary programme was contributed to by Mrs. Massey, Misses Payne (2), Foley, McKendry, and Keily, Messrs. P. McNamara, R. Keily, and Gregan. Mr. F. O'Connell (secretary), on behalf of the members of the Tennis Club, expressed regret at the departure of the Misses Payne, and appreciation of their services in connection with the club, and assured them that they had the best wishes of the members in their future home. Mr. P. McNamara also spoke in eulogistic terms of the young ladies, who would be much missed in club circles and on the playing courts, where they had made many friends. Feeling acknowledgment was made by the Misses Payne of the compliment paid them, and the enjoyable social evening organised as a 'send-off' in their honor. They were sorry to leave Christchurch and to sever their connection with the club, but would retain happy recollections of their residence in this city, and the kindness of the many friends they had made. Several officers of the Christchurch Catholic Club sent apologies for unavoidable absence.

The annual general meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul under the Particular Council of Christchurch, in honor of the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, was held on last Monday evening at St. Mary's, Christchurch North. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., presided, and spoke at length on subjects of interest to the members, assuring them of the deep interest he felt in the society and his fixed intention to advance its interests in every way. Excellent reports were given of the work of the conferences, and also by the confraternity of Ladies of Charity of St. Mary's. Bro. F. C. Delany (president of St. Mary's Conference) and other Brothers outlined several good suggestions for increased activity, tending to the spiritual and temporal advancement of members of the society and its clients, and also advocating expansion to populous centres within the extensive parish. Bro. P. J. Nelson (guild patronage secretary) reported as the result of active efforts by the conference, aided by the Very Rev. Dean Hills (spiritual director), the formation in the parish of a boys' guild with a membership of two hundred. The president said that this time next year would mark the silver jubilee or twenty-five years' existence in this city of the society as at present constituted. As it was the first time in the history of the society in the Dominion or throughout Australasia that so important an event had occurred in its annals, it was fitting that an effort should be made to signalise it in a special manner.

## Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

July 25.

The fortnightly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Tuesday night, there being a fair attendance of members. The meeting was a short one on account of a social evening that was held in Cuttelli's Rooms immediately afterwards. The first part of the evening was devoted to games of euchre. After refreshments were handed round, the toasts of the various officers were honored, and they suitably responded. Songs were given by Very Rev. Dean Holley and Rev. Father Moloney, and a recitation by Bro. T. Tomas and past president Bro. A. McWilliams. Among the guests was the Rev. Father Venning, S.M., of Wellington.

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