

The confraternity of the Children of Mary connected with the Cathedral parish, met last Wednesday evening in the convent school, Hobson street. Rev. Father Ormond, spiritual director, presided. The election of officers for the ensuing term resulted as follows:—President, Miss Julia Rist; vice-president, Miss Spitthal; treasurer, Miss E. McGuire.

At the last meeting of the Auckland City Council the question of advancing a sum of money to improve the school grounds in the city was discussed. Since the meeting a move has been made by the Catholic authorities to obtain a grant for the purpose of improving our playgrounds, with what result remains to be seen. About the justice of the demand there can be no question.

Rev. Father O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R., commenced a retreat for the members of the Holy Family Confraternity and men of the city in the Cathedral last night. There was a large muster of men, and the missionary's opening sermon was instructive and impressive. This morning at 6 o'clock large numbers of men assisted at Mass, and there was also a large congregation in the evening. The mission will close on next Sunday evening.

Rev. Father Torney, of Ellerslie, addressed the members of the Confraternity of the Holy Family last Tuesday evening on devotion to our Blessed Lady. He instanced the many great favors bestowed on communities and nations through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin in times gone by, and in our own day at Lourdes. He finally enjoined upon all to practise this eminently Catholic devotion, and the result would be real and apparent.

St. Benedict's carnival, after a fortnight's good business, closed on Saturday night, when £300 were taken, which bring the net profit to £1000. This is a magnificent result, when all things are taken into consideration. Rev. Father Forde and his committee of ladies and gentlemen are deserving of warm congratulations. The workers were engaged finishing up until midnight, and Mass was said for their special benefit to enable them to rest after reaching their homes on Sunday.

The general monthly meeting of the Auckland Newman Society took place yesterday afternoon at St. Mary's College, Epsom. The Rev. Brother George, B.A., occupied the chair, and among the members present were Rev. Fathers Ormond, O'Sullivan, and Doyle. The programme of the meeting was an interesting lecture on 'Robert Louis Stevenson and the Catholic Church,' by Rev. Father Doyle, Remuera. An interesting discussion followed the lecture, when Father Ormond, Brother George, Mr. Kavanagh, and Miss Jacobsen threw some sidelights on the life and work of the famous novelist.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC MEN'S CLUB, HOKITIKA

(From the club correspondent.)

October 7.

On Sunday last the quarterly Communion of the members of the H.A.C.B. Society and of St. Mary's Club took place. The Rev. Father Lacroix, of Grey-mouth, who celebrated the first Mass, congratulated the members of both societies on their large attendance, and in the course of his sermon made special reference to the benefits which are derivable from membership in Catholic societies. He exhorted all the young men of the parish to become active members, and those of more matured age to become honorary members.

On Monday evening a very successful euchre tournament was held in St. Mary's Clubrooms. After an exciting contest and ladies' prizes were won by Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Keller, and the gentlemen's by Mr. M. Devaney and Mr. J. Gagliardi. A dainty supper was then partaken of, after which the function terminated.

THE CATHOLIC FEDERATION

MEETING OF THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

A meeting of the Dominion Executive of the Catholic Federation was held at the Board Room, 51 Lower Cuba street, on Wednesday, October 8, when there were present Mr. F. K. Reeves (in the chair), Rev. Father Hurley, Messrs. Hoskins, O'Kane, McCosker, Casey, Ward, Columb, Burke, and the secretary.

The secretary reported that he had interviewed Mr. Firth, principal of Wellington College, with reference to the lecture by Mr. Ray, also that he had written to the Minister of Education with regard to it, and he had received the following reply:—

'Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of 3rd inst. I have not seen Mr. Ray, or heard anything of his lectures, but I regret very much indeed that he has given offence to any of our community. So far as I can do so I will see that lectures of this sort are prevented in future.

'(Signed) J. ALLEN.'

The chairman welcomed Mr. Burke as a member of the Executive. He also referred to Mr. Casey's coming departure, and voiced the regret of the Executive at the loss they were about to sustain. He spoke of the valuable work done by Mr. Casey for the Federation. On behalf of the Executive he wished him every success and all prosperity, and promised him that he would always be remembered by his colleagues on the Executive. In order that Mr. Casey might remember the Executive he handed him a little souvenir of pleasant associations. Rev. Father Hurley also referred to the good work of Mr. Casey, and wished him, on behalf of the clergy, every prosperity and success. He trusted Mr. Casey would keep his late colleagues in Wellington posted on the doings of the Canadian Federation.

Mr. McCosker endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers.

Mr. Hoskins paid a tribute to the valuable assistance he had received from Mr. Casey in his secretarial duties.

The president moved, and Mr. Hoskins seconded—'That the Executive of the N.Z. Catholic Federation desires to place on record its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Federation, and thereby to the Catholic community of N.Z. since the inception of the new movement by Mr. Casey, and while regretting his departure, expresses a sincere hope that in his new sphere of activities he will meet with every success, happiness, and prosperity.'

This was carried unanimously.

Mr. Casey thanked the Executive and officers for their kind expressions. He said he did not deserve all the complimentary remarks which were made about him that evening. He would always take a keen interest in the Federation's welfare. He wished it every success and prosperity, which he had no doubt would eventuate under the able guidance of the president, general secretary, and Executive. In conclusion, he thanked them for their many kindnesses, and for the present made to him.

The secretary read a telegram of condolence which had been sent to Very Rev. Father Keogh.

The secretary of the Diocesan Council, Dunedin, reported on the progress of the Federation in that diocese. The report stated that 2050 members had been enrolled. This was considered very satisfactory. A communication was received from the Sacred Heart branch of the H.A.C.B. Society with reference to a bookseller displaying a notice of an objectionable book. The secretary interviewed the bookseller, who immediately withdrew the placard, and promised that he would not take any more orders. He asked the Federation to advise him with regard to offensive works, in order that he might refrain from selling any such publications. The secretary was directed to send a letter of condolence to Rev. Father Kimbell. The Rev.