

he was at Coromandel and Thames, and 53 years ago, before the district was opened, he came to Ohinemuri prospecting for gold. When Ohinemuri was officially opened by the late James Mackay, Mr. Marrison was one of the first to go to Waitekauri, and was one of the original shareholders in the old Waitekauri claim. Of late years he suffered from heart disease, brought on by miner's complaint, and about four months ago he had to take to his bed. He had been secretary of the Karangahake Miners' Union for many years, and a member of the Ohinemuri County Council for 14 years past. The funeral took place on Thursday, when the mines at Karangahake were suspended to enable the employees to attend. The service at the graveside was impressively conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Hackett, who made touching reference to the good qualities of the deceased, more particularly referring to the patience with which he had borne his sufferings.—R.I.P.

CONVENT OF MERCY, PONSONBY

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the profession of five Sisters of Mercy took place at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, on Monday, October 27. The names of the jubilarians are—Sister M. Evangelist Roche, Sister M. Francis McCarthy, Sister M. Assisi O'Reilly, Sister M. Bernardette Power, and Sister M. Placida Flanagan, all of whom came from Erin's Isle to spread the faith of their native land and advance the cause of education in this distant colony of New Zealand. His Lordship Bishop Cleary celebrated Mass in the convent chapel at 7 a.m., and Monsignor Brodie at 7.30 a.m. The convent choir was very successful in their rendering of the music of the different parts of the Mass, and the appropriate Offertory piece, 'Jubilate in Aeternum.' In the afternoon the Sisters and pupils were accorded a rare musical treat, when Miss Ruby McDonald, the gifted Australian violinist, who is health seeking in New Zealand, tendered a violin recital in compliment to the Sisters, who were celebrating their jubilee.

At the conclusion of the programme, which consisted of examples from the great masters and modern compositions, including an 'Ave Maria' by the clever violinist herself, his Lordship the Bishop made a most felicitous speech in which he said, that, whilst congratulating the jubilarians, to whom he had that morning presented medals, he wished to add to whatever others had said in the past, more eloquently, though not more adequately, of the good work done by the Sisters of Mercy in Auckland. For more than sixty years this Community had been the mainstay of the Church in Auckland, and this recalled a famous vision to his mind. When Pope Innocent had been consulted about the Order of Friars Minor he had a vision in which he saw the Lateran Basilica supported by one poor bare-footed Franciscan friar, Francis of Assisi. In like manner had the Order of Mercy proved the principal buttress of the Church in New Zealand. When coming to this diocese in 1850, they had set out to do in the spiritual Order what our pioneer colonists did in the material. In the heart of the virgin forest they blazed the trail, and hewed a pathway that was to become the high road for thousands in later years. Every priest in New Zealand knew the obligations they lay under to the community, and he would yield to no one in his appreciation of their worth and work in the diocese. He wished the jubilarians themselves the happiness of laboring yet another twenty-five years in this vineyard, though many now present might be resting beneath the daisies. Then he hoped they would be spared to continue the noble traditions of the sisterhood. On looking at the jubilarians now, he found it difficult to realise from their youthful appearance that they had spent a quarter of a century in the arduous work of the Order, and he was forced to the conclusion

that the religious life by insuring perfect happiness was also a preservative of youth. Time in his flight seemed to ignore the Sisters, or at least to leave no mark of his flight, so that to anyone who wished to escape time's ravages the religious life was a sure means.

Monsignor Brodie also addressed a few congratulatory words, first thanking Miss McDonald, on behalf of the Sisters and clergy, for the delightful music, and congratulating Miss Amodeo, as an old pupil of St. Mary's, on her skill as an accompanist. The jubilarians were all known to him, as indeed were all the Sisters from his childhood as their pupil to the time when as pastor of Waihi he found them such devoted co-workers in his parish. No one had more intimate knowledge than he of the Order and its work, and he could never sufficiently voice his appreciation of the same. He was glad that what seemed a melancholy accident—viz., the destruction of their orphanage by fire this year—had proved providential in enabling them to secure with a new site for the orphanage, lands for the building of a Mother House and schools at the beautiful Pah Farm, Epsom. There he hoped a stately pile would be raised, wherein the Sisters could efficiently pursue the avocations of the Order, and minister to the needs of their flock. He hoped to see there the noblest traditions of the Order fulfilled that by whole-souled devotion to the interests of the Church in Auckland, the Sisters would sanctify their own souls and those of all with whom they came in contact.

At the conclusion, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by his Lordship the Bishop, assisted by Rev. Father O'Doherty, Fathers Furlong, Ormond, Peters (Maitland), Golden, Kirrane, Clarke, and Skinner being also present. Rev. Fathers Creagh, C.S.S.R., Murphy (Cambridge), and Forde also visited the convent to convey their good wishes.

Hamilton

(From our own correspondent.)

October 31.

On Thursday night last St. Mary's Catholic Choir gave a concert in the parish hall. Although the weather was inclement, the hall was well filled, and those who braved the elements spent a most enjoyable evening. The choir are to be congratulated on the musical treat which they provided. Mrs. Watson, Miss Fleming, Mr. Jordan, members of the church choir, and the convent children all participated in the evening's entertainment.

During the interval Very Rev. Dean Darby took the opportunity, on behalf of himself and the congregation, to return thanks to the choir and its conductor, Mr. Thomas Simpson. In the conductor they had a gentleman of great musical ability. He not only knew the theory and practice of music, but nature had given him a musical soul, by reason of which he was able to delve into the hidden treasures of the great composers, and to make those under his baton understand something of these treasures also. The young people of the parish had a rare opportunity given them to acquire an insight into music under the able tuition of the conductor. All that was required of them was to allow Mr. Simpson to test their voices, and if found up to the mark, to be willing to be taught. Turning to the choir, the Dean told them that the ablest general was unable to lead unless the soldiers would follow, and such was the co-operation of the choir that within twelve months it had risen to high flights of music. Continue in this grand spirit, he told them, and soon the music of the Catholic Church at Hamilton would be known not only in Hamilton but further afield.

A public celebration of the silver jubilee of the ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. J. Walsh of the Liverpool parish was held recently, congratulatory speeches being made by Dr. Beattie, Fathers Rohan and Kelly, Alderman L. Ashcroft, and Mr. Bell (Fairfield). Several presentations were made, including a purse of sovereigns.

Didn't it Occur to You Before?

Away from home at Xmas? It will be as dull for them as it is for you if they don't get your photograph in time. It should be a really good one of you so you must go to **GAZE & Co. Hamilton**