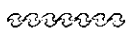


(Miss R. McCloy) read an address of welcome and then presented Father O'Connor with a stole. The guest of the afternoon, who was greeted with a round of applause, thanked the girls for their gift, and he gave an interesting outline of his travels abroad. The girls are very grateful to Reverend Mother and the Sisters for their large share in making the afternoon such a pleasant one. The office-bearers and members of the sodality wish to extend to Rev. Father Quinn their sincere thanks for the kindly interest he took in them while acting chaplain during Father O'Connor's absence.



Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

March 5.

Devotions are being held every evening during March, in honor of St. Joseph, and the Stations of the Cross made on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The national concert, usually held about St. Patrick's Day, has been postponed to a later date on account of the infantile paralysis.

The tennis carnival has been postponed till after Easter.

A local in our *Parish Magazine* mentions that "Our schools are now quite ready for opening but have perforce to remain closed in obedience to the decrees of the Health Department. Experts who have visited the new boys' school pronounce the lighting and ventilation to be perfect, and there are two very essential features in a school. The heating apparatus has been tested and found quite satisfactory, so that conditions in the school should be ideal. The desks embody the latest improvements, and the blackboards attached to three sides of each room are composed of a specially prepared linoleum and are practically everlasting." The opening ceremony will probably take place just before the schools re-open.

The members of the executive of the Catholic Club were present at the church doors last Sunday to accept the annual subscriptions and donations towards the club. The club deserves the support and encouragement of every person in the parish. All the parishioners should be pleased to see it flourish, and the young men should be eager to avail themselves of its facilities for recreation and mental improvement. There is much to be done in making the club-rooms at St. Patrick's Hall more attractive, and inducing our young people to spend more of their time there. The club, generally, has made splendid progress during the last three years, and it is earnestly hoped an increased interest will be shown in its welfare. Material improvements are being made, and in the near future the hall and appointments will be quite up-to-date.

The following results are supplied by Mr. P. W. V. Vine, local secretary of the examinations in theory of music, held in Timaru on December 9, 1924. The rudiments and art of teaching results are not yet to hand. Intermediate Division.—M. Evans 89, honors (teacher, Miss G. Spring); Olive Greenall 89, honors, and Mary Martin (Miss D. Mason, L.A.B.); Eileen Richardson 80

honors (Miss E. Dennehy). Advanced Junior.—Nyla Townsend 87, honors; C. Wilson 71; M. Hale 60 (Miss D. Mason); M. Baikie 60 (Miss G. Spring). Junior Division.—N. Chaplin 96, honors; M. McGrath 70 (Miss G. Spring); M. Pearce 92, honors; F. Cosgrove 66 (Miss D. Mason); P. Dewar 86, honors (Mrs M. J. Readdie); M. Russell 64 (Miss E. Dennehy). Preparatory Division.—

H. Campbell 95 (Miss B. Cain); Maurice Crowe 87 (Miss Mason); N. McIlluraith 75 (Miss E. Hoskins).

The members of the British Medical Association, to the number of 100, held their annual conference at the Hermitage, where they spent a very enjoyable and profitable week.

Educative Value of History

(By JOHN C. REVILLE, S.J., in America.)

In a well-known passage of his *Allgemeine Pädagogik*, Herbart analyses the effects produced by momentous historical movements and scenes on the formation of a vigorous character. Great moral energy (he writes) is the result of striking events and spectacles of what he calls unbroken masses of concepts and impressions. The man, he continues, who, owing to conditions peculiar to his own individual life, the life of his family or his country, finds himself, for any extended length of time, face to face with some great moral truth in action so to say before his very eyes, emerges, as a rule, with something of the hero in his mould. The impression received may be so strong as to last throughout life. In the family circle, for instance, the children brought up at a fireside where they are daily witnesses of a father's struggles with poverty and suffering of soul and body, yet never yielding, ever making new sacrifices that his children may not feel the same pang nor be the slaves of the same grinding labor, live truly in the presence of such unbroken Herbartian masses of ideas and impressions. Such masses daily recording their action on their souls ultimately leave a salutary imprint there. This is still more true if such a family has to face a great moral crisis, a tragic sorrow, some financial or social disaster, in which honor and virtue rise superior to temporal misfortune and loss. In such circumstances the children become of a sturdier mould. They face the realities and problems of life with more earnestness and moral power.

This to some extent is "acting history." The same may be said of the young man born in that happy time when his country is fighting the battles of civilisation and liberty, as Greece fought them in the sea-fight of Salamis or in the contest of the giants at Marathon during the Persian wars; or when young America rivalled the spirit of Greece, if not the actual magnitude of her achievement, at Lexington and Concord, when the call of liberty sounded over the peaceful New England farms.

History Broadens Our Horizons.

In such historic scenes when the heart throbs to the drum-beat of victory, the soul grows, the intellect and the heart expand to high ideals and heroic resolves, the whole man undergoes a glorious transformation.

Those who cannot be the fortunate actors of some great historic movement can at least read history. Unable to react to mighty masses of lofty concepts actually realised on battlefield or in the councils of the wise, they may feel the power of such movements by

pondering over them in their written record. History is a great teacher. Not in vain did Cicero, in a trite but nevertheless expressive, passage, call it *testis temporum*, the witness of the ages, *lux veritatis*, the light, the radiant torch of truth, *vita memoriae*, the soul of memory and its vivifier, *magistra vitae*, the mistress, teacher, and guide of life, *nuntia vetustatis*, the herald of the olden time, the chronicler and annalist of the past. But by history, neither Cicero nor the serious student who pores over the records of nations, understands the mere outward shell of history, its dates, its events catalogued and tabulated in lifeless chronological lists, its wars, successions of kings, presidents, or Popes, its changes of dynasties, its revolutions and restorations, its pomp, circumstance, and pageantry of war. Thus studied, history is mere information. It is only food for the memory. It does not form either the mind or the heart. To be really an educative force it must go deeper and embrace wider horizons. It will not be a science until it goes to the causes of events, appraises these causes in their just measure and depicts accurately and impartially the effects that naturally follow. It must give us knowledge not merely of facts, it must let us into the secret of the forces which contributed to the world's civilisation. There is no study more fascinating, none that gives a more philosophical cast to the mind, and lifts it to a higher range of thought. It is a salutary task thus to contemplate how in the past nations have either fulfilled God's purposes in their regard or have wandered away from their appointed destiny. Our age so easily satisfied with a superficial view of life cannot be urged too earnestly to turn to such books as those that treat of the inner meaning of history, the philosophy of that noble science. Catholics especially should be familiar with such masterpieces as T. W. Allies' *Formation of Christendom*, *The Key to the World's Progress*, by C. S. Devas, Bossuet's *Discours sur l'Histoire Universelle*, St. Augustine's *City of God*, the *European Civilisation* of James Balmes. In all these the very soul of history is laid bare by a master hand.

Stimulates Mental Powers.

We live in an age of scientific research. We too often confine the word and the studies it indicates, to research pursued in the chemical and biological laboratory. But the word in its broadest and truest sense means search after truth in all departments of life and knowledge. The noblest form which that research can take is that which deals with the investigation of man's life and man's

