

COMMONWEALTH NOTES

NEW SOUTH WALES.

At the General Chapter of the Sisters of Charity, held recently at the Mother House of the Order, St. Vincent's Convent, Potts Point, Sydney, it was unanimously agreed that boarding schools should no longer form part of the work of the Sisters of Charity. The Sisters had nearly 250 boarders under their care. The Order will, therefore, suffer a very severe financial loss, but the general desire to maintain the primitive spirit of the Congregation was so unanimous that, in spite of the sacrifice entailed, the decision to close the boarding schools was upheld. A wider sphere of usefulness is thus opened, because many highly-trained teachers will be available for the work of primary and secondary education in colleges, primary schools, orphanages, and poor schools. Religious instruction and formation of character, as in the past, will form the solid groundwork, and in a very special manner be made the outstanding feature of the schools of the Sisters of Charity in Australia.

VICTORIA.

His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Mannix, the Archbishop of Melbourne, celebrated the Holy Sacrifice in the Church of the Good Shepherd Convent, Abbotsford, on Sunday, January 18, and afterwards received the final or perpetual vows of 20 young religious, four of whom had come to the Provincial House of the Order from its branch convent at Ashfield, N.S.W., for the solemn ceremony. A retreat of eight days, conducted by Rev. Matthew Egan, S.J., had prepared the happy Sisters for the final consecration of their lives to the Good Shepherd's works of charity which comprise their vocation.

On Sunday, January 18, his Lordship the Bishop of Maitland blessed the new Dominican Convent of San Clemente, at Mayfield. This fine property was recently acquired by the Dominican Sisters, who, a few years ago, opened a school in this locality. The first purchase has already proved too small, and the present site will not only give the required increased accommodation, but will be much more central for the children attending, and in a short time a very fine boarding and day school should result in this rapidly-growing suburb.

Very Rev. Lawrence Martin, P.P., of St. Patrick's, Kilmore, has been appointed by Archbishop Mannix parish priest of St. Mary's, Kyneton, in succession to Very Rev. J. L. Hegarty, P.P. of St. George's, Carlton. Father Martin has been appointed Dean and Vicar-Forane and a member of the Diocesan Council. He is one of the Diocesan Examiners. The new parish priest of Kyneton has had charge of Kilmore for many years, succeeding the late Very Rev. M. Farrelly. He is a contributor to Catholic magazines, and is director of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood Society. Dean Martin was educated at the Propaganda College, Rome.

The Rev. Father Fabian Dwyer, who was recently given charge of the Rydalmere parish, has been appointed chaplain of the Australian Navy, and will take up permanent residence on board the H.M.A.S. Australia. The genial young Australian priest is very popular among all classes. He spent three and a half years on active service as chaplain, and endeared himself to his fellow-Australians by a cheerful disregard of danger where the soldiers' welfare was concerned. He was in action at Bullecourt, the terrible Passchendaele, and many other severe engagements. He was educated at St. Patrick's College, Manly, and was ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral in 1912. A gifted writer and musician as well as an eloquent speaker, the new chaplain to the navy will become very popular in the fleet.

QUEENSLAND.

Scholarships to the University of Queensland have been awarded to 20 candidates, and once again the Christian Brothers' colleges have scored, as exactly 50 per cent. of the passes go to their credit (says a Catholic contemporary). The scholarships are tenable for three years, and entitle the holders to free tuition at the University, and (a) an allowance of £26 per annum to each holder who can live at home and attend the University, and (b) an allowance of £58 per annum to each holder who must live away from home and attend the University. The awards are based upon the results of the Queensland University Public Examination.

TASMANIA.

Arrangements have been made to organise throughout Tasmania, with a view to the island State contributing a substantial sum towards the Australasian-Irish Fund,

which was opened at the Irish Race Convention in Melbourne, in order to enable the Irish people to push to a successful issue their legitimate claims to self-determination. At a meeting held in St. Peter's Hall, on the night of the 24th ult., presided over by his Grace Dr. Barry (the Coadjutor-Archbishop), a central treasurer and secretary were appointed for the fund. It is safe to predict that Tasmania will again befriend the Irish with practical help, and that in this new movement to help the old land, Tasmania will be, as forecasted by John Mitchel, one of the brightest of the Australian stars, although it was to him, as he said, in bidding adieu, "a beauteous island, full of sorrow and gnashing teeth, an island of fragrant forests and bright rivers, and fair women, and an island of chains and scourges and blind, brutal rage and passion."

Archbishop Delany, in an article in the *Monitor*, administered a severe rebuke to the spineless Catholics who voted in favor of the recent Divorce Bill when it was before the Legislative Assembly. "If," his Grace says, "any one thinks he belongs to the Catholic Church, or is a Catholic in the real and true sense of the word, and yet believes that it is within the power of Parliament or any other body, civil or ecclesiastical, to sever the marriage bond once perfected between baptised persons, that person deceives himself. He has by his own act cut himself away from communion with the Catholic Church and the Catholic people. And, of course, Catholics one and all who know their religion know this as well as I know it. If the majority of Tasmanians held this belief, of course no Tasmanian legislative body would venture to put divorce laws on our Statute Book. And I am glad to know that of the members in both Houses a few at all events, while not belonging to our Church, voted our sentiments in regard to the sacred and inviolable nature of the married state. May God bless them for it!"

REV. FATHER KERLEY, S.M., FAREWELLED.

Rev. Father Kerley, S.M., who for the past 19 years has been associated with the parish of Temuka, left here on Thursday week to take up his new duties at St. Bede's College, Christchurch (writes a correspondent). Previous to the opening of the half-yearly meeting of the Christchurch Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation on Tuesday evening week he was met and farewelled by the parishioners. The Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., Christchurch (who presided) mentioned that he had been asked, and gladly consented, to stay the proceedings of the evening to allow of a local function taking place. Mr. T. Knight, on behalf of the subscribers, thanked the Very Rev. chairman for his consideration, and stated that the committee considered it very appropriate to farewell their departing priest that evening, when the Diocesan Council meeting was to take place. First, because Father Kerley had at all times taken a great interest in Federation matters, and was wholly responsible for the honor conferred on the local branch by having the present council meeting held in Temuka; and secondly, Father Kerley had represented the local parish at all previous meetings at Christchurch, and the Diocesan Council in attending the Dominion Council meetings at Wellington. The speaker thanked Father Kerley for his good work during the many years he had labored in the parish, and in presenting him with a well-filled wallet of notes congratulated him on being appointed to such a responsible position as that which he would in future occupy in the interests of Catholic education. He wished the departing priest good health and every success in his new sphere of activity. Father Kerley in reply thanked the parishioners for their expressions of esteem and their kindly feelings towards him, and assured them that he felt the parting very much. He had heard of the movement which resulted in the presentation to him that evening, and had endeavored to prevent it, but as pressure had been brought to bear on him he had bowed to the inevitable. He again thanked Mr. Knight and his fellow-parishioners for their loyal support in the past and for their good wishes for the future.

RESURRECTION.

Sobbing, I threw myself upon the ground.
In grief and bitterness
I dug a grave and laid away the thoughts
My life could not express.

When Spring returned with laughter to the hills,
I sought the woods anew—
Lo! where I buried my poor thoughts
A snow-white lily grew!

—HELEN FRAZEE-BOWER, in the *Literary Digest*.

FIRE
ACCIDENT
MARINE

The **Phoenix**

(Established 1782)

Funds, £17,000,000.

Claims Paid, £98,000,000.