

CHRISTCHURCH CATHOLIC CLUB

(From our own correspondent.)

The new rooms secured by the Christchurch Catholic Club, in Victoria Chambers, Victoria Square, were formally opened on Wednesday evening, February 25. The club's energetic president (Mr. J. R. Hayward) conducted the evening's proceedings, and there were present his Lordship Dr. Brodie, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., Rev. Brother Phelan, and about 50 members, amongst them such staunch supporters of the club as Messrs. J. Dickson, E. L. McKeon, G. Dobbs, E. Cordery, W. Hayward, and the club secretary (Mr. D. Dugay). The clubrooms, though not spacious, are very neat and well furnished, and with the good piano and billiard table should appeal to members as a place for evening resort. The president read an apology from Sir George Clifford, who was unable to attend, but forwarded a donation of £5. The balance sheet for the year ended August 31, 1919, was submitted, discussed, and adopted. This showed receipts to have been (including balance forward), £107 10s 6d; expenditure, £94 18s 10d; credit balance, £12 11s 8d; excess of assets over liabilities, £101 14s 11d. His Lordship the Bishop, who was received with applause, said that to be present that evening and witness renewed interest in the Catholic Club was to him a source of very great pleasure. He wished to impress on members the need for all of them to be enthusiastic in the club's welfare, so that the great benefits to be derived should be fully enjoyed. Referring to the honors gained by the club in debating and literary work, the Bishop said he wanted to see these successes repeated in the near future. In order to show his own practical interest, he would make his year's donation £10 and guarantee another £20 if needed. Speaking of tennis Bishop Brodie said that a new court was about to be laid in the Cathedral grounds, so that the club could count on having two courts at its disposal, and therefore cater for a greater number of players than heretofore. His Lordship concluded by wishing the session just opened every success and the club every prosperity. Mr. E. L. McKeon, on behalf of the executive and members, expressed hearty appreciation of the presence of his Lordship Dr. Brodie that evening. Since his advent to the diocese his Lordship had shown a lively interest in the club's welfare. He trusted that members would so rally round the club that there would be no necessity for availing of Bishop Brodie's guarantee offer. Mr. McKeon then spoke of the departure of Mr. J. R. Hayward to the Old Country. Mr. Hayward's work as president of the club could never be excelled, and the executive felt it incumbent to give him some small token of its appreciation. He trusted that Mr. Hayward's trip would be enjoyable and profitable, and in asking him to accept a fine set of gold studs wished him a safe return. Mr. Hayward, who was taken by surprise, said he felt it difficult to express his feelings. He had been given credit for his interest in the club. If he had been active in this respect it had been firstly because he was a Catholic—proud of his religion—and secondly because he realised the necessity for young men as Catholics to meet and hold intercourse in a place with a Catholic atmosphere. His ideals regarding the proper constitution and far-reaching claims of the club were not yet realised, but he trusted that some day they would be. Mr. Hayward thanked the executive for their handsome gift, which he valued especially for the spirit of good feeling that accompanied it. Concluding, Mr. Hayward announced to members that Mr. Dickson had generously placed at the disposal of the club for social functions the top floor of Carlton Cafe. The offer was enthusiastically received. Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy moved a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers—Messrs. J. R. Hayward and W. Harrington. Mr. E. L. McKeon donated £5 towards the expenses of the coming session. The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—Patrons, His Lordship the Bishop and Sir George Clifford; president, Mr. P. J. Amodeo; hon. vice-presidents, Drs. Morkane, O'Brien, Ardagh, Messrs. C. Ward, B. P. Darby, P. Burke, E. L. McKeon, Dr. Hight, J. S. Barrett, C. S. Harper, H. H. Lombman, A. J. Mallev, M. O'Reilly; active vice-presidents, E. L. McKeon, W. Dobbs, P. McNamara; committee, Messrs. P. Nelson, C. Barnett, J. Flannelly, B. Riordan, and F. Healy. Cheers for his Lordship the Bishop and the retiring president concluded the proceedings.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' CARNIVAL

HIBERNIAN STALL.—WINNING NUMBERS.

£25 Gold Nugget, No. 5138; Oak Cheval, 2284; Ladies' Costume, 813; Steel Engraving (£5), 654; Overmantel, 1109; Wristlet Watch, 852; Kodak Camera, 756; Three Fat Sheep, 613; Doll's House, 601; Twin Baby Dolls, 74; Ton of Coal, 867; Silk Kimona, 10.

MILTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL PICNIC.

The pupils of St. Joseph's Convent School, Milton, were treated to their annual picnic by the congregation on Saturday, February 29. The outing was at Taieri Mouth, and the weather being favorable there was a full muster of school children as well as about 80 adults. The train and boat facilities allowed the 170 picnickers to spend a fairly full day, and thoroughly enjoyable time in the trip on Mr. J. Knarston's motor launches from Titri down the picturesque reaches of the Taieri. The train and boat fares for the children were paid for out of the picnic fund, which previously had been liberally subscribed to by members of the congregation, and there was a sufficient amount also available to allow of the committee dispensing fruit and cordials on a liberal scale. Pleasure was added to the trips up and down the river by vocal items, and choruses rendered by the children added zest to the holiday spirit prevailing. On the launches arriving at Taieri Mouth landing shortly before 11 a.m., the committee had a welcome surprise in finding that Mr. Knarston had the coppers boiling and a sufficient supply of firewood on hand. There were keen appetites after the morning's trip, and the first tea, followed by an interval of games on the beach, another call was made to the boilers and baskets, then competitions for children and adults were held on the beach, cash prizes being given. There were good entries in all events, and several adults made their maiden performances on the running track. After the last cups of tea had been served round, the picnic party gathered at the landing, and before setting off on the return journey hearty cheers were given for Mr. Knarston and Mrs. Sinclair, in appreciation of their assistance and kindnesses. The committee, which comprised Rev. Father Howard, Mesdames J. Plover, J. Powley, J. Coleman, H. Stewart, C. Martin, Miss Grealish, Miss Dowdall, Messrs. J. Fox, R. Grealish, J. Powley, F. Dolan, P. Curran, E. Fahey, and W. Kirby, deserve to be commended on the excellent manner in which they carried out all arrangements, not a hitch or accident occurring all day.

MGR. ROBERT HUGH BENSON'S LOVE FOR IRELAND.

The late Right Rev. Mgr. Robert Hugh Benson's warmly-expressed love for the Irish was such as would indicate that this convert son of an Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury must almost have wished that he had been born in Erin.

The faithful and loving Catholic novelist saw in the mighty faith and sufferings of the Irish a section of the kingdom of God upon earth which sent him almost into raptures. Indeed, an Irishman might almost regret that he did not write an Irish novel or two, though that, perhaps, was beyond what he felt to be his province, if he ever thought of it.

In his life of the Monsignor, Father Martindale mentions a visit which the novelist paid to Killarney House in 1904, at the invitation of the late Countess of Kenmare. From it he wrote an enthusiastic letter which included the following passages:—

"The whole place breathes faith.

"I went round to see some poor people this morning with Lady Castlerosse, and saw such amazing things—people in the most hopeless habitations, cobbled stones on the floor, real saints lying on the beds, with all their supernatural friends' portraits on the shelf—crucifix, Our Lady, St. Patrick, and so on. One woman was dying of cancer, heaving. Another dying of some other awful thing—calling everyone 'darling,' myself included, and absolutely serene with happiness. They don't mind death or pain at all. It is as natural to suffer and die as to live, and has the advantage of being supernatural too. I wish I had the thousandth part of their chance of heaven. They seem like the real Royal Family of heaven."

Again, in another connection, he showed that he was most at home in Ireland:—

"Don't mind what they say," he wrote. "Go to Ireland and see for yourself. It does me more good than any country in the world. The air throbs with grace and faith. That's why the Briton doesn't like it. The rest is LIES. Don't bother at all about it."

And, says Father Martindale, "the essentially Irish spirit was to him like oxygen for the soul."

Our Lord has for us a love so unsearchable, so tender, that He wishes us to share in all He does. The Creator of the universe awaits the prayer of a poor soul to save a multitude of other souls, ransomed, like her, at the price of His Blood.—The Little Flower.