

Obituary

MR. RICHARD JOSEPH COTTER, TE KUITI.

There passed peacefully away at Te Kuiti recently, after a short illness, Mr. Richard Joseph Cotter, third son of the late R. Cotter, of Te Kuiti (writes our own correspondent). The deceased was a native of Co. Cork, Ireland, and came to New Zealand with his parents at the age of five years. He received his early education at Coromandel, and on leaving school was apprenticed to the butchery business. Fifteen years ago, in company with his brother, he came to Te Kuiti and opened a butchers' shop in the main street—a business which is still successfully carried on. The late Mr. Cotter was a devout and staunch Catholic, ever ready in the defence of his holy faith, and an enthusiastic student of Irish affairs. He was a kindly gentleman with a native generosity that compelled his practical sympathy with every appeal in connection with the Church, while, as a member of the parish committee, he has rendered unbroken service. As a citizen of the town he was always prominently associated with every progressive movement, and for a number of years was a member of the Te Kuiti racing club. Deceased leaves a wife and ten children to mourn their loss to whom the sympathies of the parishioners are extended. The funeral, which left the church on Sunday, February 18, was very largely attended, testifying to the esteem in which deceased was held by a very wide circle of friends. Rev. Father O'Flynn, who attended deceased during his illness, officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.



MISS LUCY MCGAHAN, TUAKAU.

Quite a gloom was cast over Tuakau at the sudden death of Miss Lucy McGahan, who passed away at her mother's residence, Tuakau, on Saturday, February 10, at the early age of 24 years. Deceased, who had been engaged with her pupils all the afternoon, was found on the floor in an unconscious condition shortly after 5 o'clock. Medical aid was summoned, but Miss McGahan never rallied and passed away about 10 p.m., fortified by the last rites of Holy Church. The late Miss McGahan was born in Tuakau, and educated at Pukekohe Convent, receiving her musical education there also. She was a brilliant musician, and for the past nine years had devoted herself to music teaching with marked success, preparing quite a large number of pupils for their examinations, without having a single failure. She obtained her A.T.C.L. degree six years ago. The deceased had long been a public favorite, having won a warm place in the hearts of all when, as a girl in her teens, she treated her audiences to such rare gems in classical music, her appearance for an item at public functions being the signal for rounds of applause. The deceased was ever foremost in all matters connected with the Church. In the recent Catholic queen carnival she had the honor of being runner-up to the winning queen—Mrs. W. J. Taylor. Although standing as a candidate for the much-coveted crown she gave freely of her time and talent to each of the entertainments that helped to make the carnival such a success, and in assisting to teach the children the dances, which were the outstanding feature of each entertainment. Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew's Church on Monday, February 12, and was largely attended. The boys' choir of the Marist Brothers' Novitiate, Tuakau, under Brother Anselm, rendered appropriate music. Master J. Scott, as organist, played the "Dead March." The funeral, which took place in the afternoon, was one of the largest ever seen in the district, residents and friends from outside parts and of all denominations joining in paying respect to the memory of deceased. Rev. Father O'Malley officiated at the church and graveside, and in appropriate terms paid a glowing tribute to the piety and noble character of the deceased, whose whole life was a preparation for death. He eulogised the valuable work performed by Miss McGahan for the welfare of the Catholic Church in Tuakau. That the heartfelt sympathy of a wide circle of friends is extended to the bereaved relatives in their sad loss is evidenced in numerous messages of condolence from all parts of the Dominion. Miss Lucy McGahan's cheery face and smile will be greatly missed, but her friends—and they are many—will ever treasure her memory with sincere affection.—R.I.P.

GARDENING NOTES

(By Mr. J. JOYCE, Landscape Gardener, Christchurch.)
WORK FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH.

The Vegetable Garden.—As summer vegetables will now be maturing all waste matter (dead leaves, etc.) should be removed to the manure heap. If, after clearing away the dead leaves of cabbages when cut for use, the stumps are left in the ground, a crop of good tender greens will be available for winter use; these very often succeeding better than young plants placed out now. The ground should be hoed and cleaned to encourage hearty growth. Plant out cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce, and sow winter spinach and turnips. Mould up celery when the weather is dry. Leeks require to be moulded up also. Onions will now be fit to lift and store away after allowing them to lie on the ground to season. Store early seed potatoes away in boxes placed in a dry situation. Keep the cultivator going constantly among the crops; the soil should never be allowed to become baked and hard. The cultivator is a great help to the gardener, as it keeps the soil in good order for the healthy growth of plants.

The Flower Garden.—With the cooler days now setting in blooms will remain longer on the plants, and, as a consequence, gardens should be looking at their best. Unless the seed is required cut away all spent blooms and thus prolong the flowering season; this also, together with the removal of over-growth, will give the plots an attractive and tidy appearance. Cuttings of tender bedding plants such as geraniums, heliotrope, salvias, verbena, and petunia, may be inserted now. Soil well mixed with sand and with a good layer of sand on top, should be prepared for cuttings. Boxes containing the cuttings require to be placed in a cool situation, and the latter given a good watering at the outset. Lawns will need constant attention, and should be rolled after each mowing; rolling is the best preventative of the inroads of the grass grub. Bare patches require to be loosened, re-sown, top-dressed, and rolled. Now is the time to plant bulbs; see that the soil is well dug, and manured if poor, but it is necessary to keep the manure away from the bulbs.

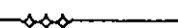
The Fruit Garden.—Continue gathering apples and pears as they ripen, taking care not to store away any that may be bruised. Fruit requires to be picked before becoming dead ripe, and must be free from wetness before being stored. As early pears will not keep, these should be disposed of as soon as possible. Allow plenty of air to penetrate the viney and keep a watch for diseased berries.



Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand

The 18th annual shield competitions and conference will be held at Wellington on Easter Saturday, at 10 a.m. The Christchurch club will defend the shield.

Following is the agenda for the conference:—President's address; address by spiritual director; affiliation of new clubs; minutes; correspondence; report and balance sheet; remit M.B.O.B. Club to move—"That Hibernian and other Catholic societies be allowed to compete in shield competitions." The following are the events to be contested:—Elocution (own choice), comic excepted; oratory (about any man of note in history), time 16 minutes; impromptu debate—one speaker from each club, time: first speaker allowed two speeches of nine and six minutes duration, second speaker two speeches of six minutes duration each; first speaker allowed two minutes for preparation. Billiards—One player from each club; tennis—one player from each club; essay competition—impromptu, time allowance one hour. Religious competition on seven selected headings. The club scoring the highest aggregate number of points to be awarded the shield. Each individual winner will be awarded a handsome colored diploma. Delegates are asked to wear a badge of light blue and dark blue ribbon, and to meet at the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' clubrooms, 185 Vivian Street. Any Catholic society or club not affiliated to the Federated Catholic Clubs may be admitted to membership on the morning of the conference and thereby be eligible to compete for the shield.



We talk of "great national problems." But, in the last analysis, the home is the greatest national problem.