

## St. Benedict's Club, Auckland

LECTURE BY FATHER ECCLETON, S.M.

In common with many other clubs and societies the Men's Club at St. Benedict's, Auckland, suffered severely as a result of the war and the war's aftermath (writes a correspondent). It has kept alive up to the present, and it was decided at the beginning of this year to rejuvenate it and set it once more on the road of success. On the evening of Wednesday, April 25, the vice-president (Mr. T. Tracy) in the chair, Bishop Liston and Father Shore, and a large number of members and intending members being present, a lecture on "The Objects and Aims of a Catholic Men's Club" was delivered by Rev. Father Eccleton, one of the Marist Missionary staff now engaged in work in the diocese. Prior to the lecture a musical and elocutionary programme was given by Messrs. Rogers, Cook, Owens, Coleman, and O'Donoghue. Miss Cook, L.T.C.L., was the accompanist.

The lecturer spoke of a club as an association of people banded together for a definite aim, and of a Catholic men's club as an association of Catholic men for their spiritual, mental, and physical betterment. The idea underlying association is that of companionship, and in the case of Catholic men of companionship founded on equality as a result of their right to and use of the Sacraments, especially of Holy Communion. The first requisite in the natural order is that a member be a man. Manhood in all its import, connoting virility with its root idea of strength; strength of mind, of will, of character, is radically essential. The alternative is that an alleged man is a weakling, a prig, a snob, a cad, a boaster, or a blackguard. When one has a real man—even though such a man may have occasional falls, perhaps serious falls, that may not be condoned and yet understood—one has the marble that may be chiselled by sacrifice and suffering, borne for supernatural motives, into the noble being, the lord of creation and the glory of God's visible world: a man and a Catholic man. With the "quitter" or the "rotter" nothing may be done. There is no marble, no granite, of manhood. There is poor clay, or putty, or ice-cream. The quitter is quick to give what he calls excuses—but what are really explanations—for his condition. He is quick, too, to pay toll to the manhood, to the virility of others, and he does this, not by noble and open emulation but by the covert sneer, by "damning with faint praise," by envy, jealousy, and the littleness that is the fruit of his own "peanut" mind. When once a man, then, is given, we may expect to rear the superstructure of the supernatural. We may expect to have a Catholic man possessed of the noblest of ideals for the next world and for this, a man who appreciates to the full the supernatural and who lives ever in its atmosphere. If a man attempts to live without religion he finds a religion in spite of himself and straightway becomes an idolator. A Catholic man, who is really a man and not a sneaking weakling, and who is really a Catholic and not a lip-Catholic, should be the soul of honor and of right dealing with God and with men and women. The intellectual advancement of the members of a Catholic club should be kept in the forefront. In such a club the aim should be to store the mind by one's own effort and to add by constant contact with the well-stored minds of others information that should assist in the climb towards success in this world and towards the essential success in the next. Nobility of ideal should breed nobility of effort and splendor of attainment. The physical side of a club, especially for the young, is important but subsidiary. It must never thrust the highest aims aside but it must be made to minister unto them. A sound mind needs a healthy body. Physical exercise in common may assist in keeping health of body, in strengthening character, and in drawing men closer together in the bonds of friendship and esteem.

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. Fernandez, seconded by Mr. J. J. Butler, supported by Bishop Liston, Father Shore, and the chairman, and carried by acclamation.

The run is on "NO-RUBBING" Laundry Help, price 1/-; "KEEP SMILING" Floor Polish, 8d; "KEEP SMILING" Boot Polish, 6d; "GOLDEN RULE" Candles, 11d. Exceptional merit, that's the reason why.

## WEST COAST NOTES

(From our own correspondent.)

Greymouth, May 3.

Which is the most generous parish in New Zealand? This is a question which will perhaps go unanswered, but for the present Greymouth seems to be in a position to reasonably claim the honor. Quite recently the Rev. Father McLean made an appeal on behalf of the Irish Mission to China. No less than £270 was collected in one day—which constitutes a record for the Diocese of Christchurch. That is an honor of which any congregation might well be proud, but no novelty for Greymouth. Last year Rev. Father O'Sullivan's appeal on behalf of the West African Missions netted a sum exceeding the New Zealand record. Father McLean also succeeded in forming a strong Mission League to which he has entrusted the task of carrying on the good work. Included in the Greymouth total are amounts collected in Runanga and Brunner, and in addition to this amount no less than £60 was collected at Hokitika. Whatever the strictures of the Julian Grandes on their shortcomings it cannot be said of the West Coasters that the traditional generosity of the province shows any falling-off.

Thanks to a remarkable spell of fine weather extending over some weeks the erection of the Dean Carew Memorial School is proceeding with a rapidity that is truly wonderful. Already the structure has begun to take form, and judged by present appearances is likely to prove a handsome addition to the architecture of the town and a distinct credit to the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church. Every hope is entertained that the school will be ready for occupation during the year which, from the viewpoint of the Marist Brothers and their pupils, is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

St. Columba Club, it is pleasing to report, has taken on a new lease of life. The attendances of the young men are now much more satisfactory, no doubt due to the fact that the programmes lately have been of a most interesting nature. For instance, the idea of a "mock court," which was given a trial last evening, proved so palatable to the popular taste that great difficulty was experienced in accommodating members and their friends in the hall. Several attractive programmes for the coming months have been arranged, and while the literary and debating aspect of the club's activities has been by no means lost sight of, the functions of the club have been widened to give plenty of scope for the social element. An endeavor is being made to keep the club open every night for the recreation of the members, and games have been organised on a proper footing with this end in view. Other activities into which the club is branching out are drama and music.

Mass is now celebrated at Otira on the fourth Sunday of each month. Arrangements have also been made whereby Mass will in future be celebrated in Cobden every Sunday.

In view of the projected visit of his Lordship Bishop Brodie, several candidates, including a few adults, are being prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Bishop will be at Hokitika on May 13, and at Greymouth and Kumara on May 20.

Good attendances signalled the opening of the May devotions in the various parishes throughout the Coast. If the Blessed Virgin sends forth her graces to her clients on the West Coast with the same profusion that her Son has sent the sunshine lately, it will be for them a happy month.

The three speakers at the laying of the foundation stone of the War Memorial Cenotaph on Anzac Day at Greymouth were all parishioners of St. Patrick's Church. There was the Mayor (Mr. J. D. Lynch) who laid the stone, Mr. J. O'Brien, M.P., and Mr. W. Hannan, chairman of the Grey County Council. Apart from the fact that they held the three leading positions in the town, their presence was appropriate in that the Catholics of this district responded more liberally than most other sections of the community to the call to arms. Surely there could not have been a more complete answer to the oft-repeated charges of disloyalty!

Messrs. Jago, Biggs, Limited, the leading cycle and motor mail merchants in Dunedin, have an important announcement on page 34 of this issue.

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