

ST JOHN'S NEW TEMPERANCE HALL.

Opened by Most Rev. Dr. Keane.

The Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Keane, opened St. John's Temperance Society new hall last Sunday afternoon in the presence of a large attendance. The hall, which is built on the site of the old Ordnance Barracks, Mulgrave Street, covers an extensive area, and is equipped with spacious rooms for reading, billiards, cards, and a splendid pavilion—suitable for musical entertainments, dance, etc.

His Lordship, who was very cordially greeted by the audience, was accompanied by Very Rev. Canon O'Dwyer, P.P., V.F., St. Munchin's; Rev. Fr. Murray, C.S.S.R., Spiritual Director of the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Family; Rev. T. MacNamara, Adm., St. John's; Rev. Fr. Brassil, C.C., do.; Rev. Fr. Kelly, C.C., do.; Rev. Fr. Hannan, P.P., St. Mary's; Rev. Fr. Rice, C.C., President St. John's Temperance Association.

Rev. Father MacNamara, who presided, briefly introduced his Lordship.

Most Rev. Dr. Keane expressed the great pleasure and satisfaction he felt in declaring the new hall for St. John's Temperance Society opened, and the hope that the splendid premises which they now occupied would be typical of the great advancement which the Society's work foreshadowed. Inquiring into its past history, he found that the Society was founded by a few men under, he thought, Father Sheehy, sixty years ago, who subsequently took the premises in St. John's Square, until now the Society had grown in numbers sufficiently to acquire the present handsome premises. His Lordship sketched the history of the temperance movement under Father Mathew, which completely changed the face of the country. The Maynooth Synod of 1875, by its Pastoral, again combated the evils caused by intemperance. New societies, like that of St. John's, had been formed in every diocese, so that no town in Ireland was without its temperance circle, and he was glad to say that but comparatively few of their young men of to-day were addicted to the scandal of taking strong drink. He felt the highest admiration for the grit and determination of the St. John's Temperance Society in overcoming the formidable difficulties that faced them in providing and constructing their new building with all the amenities of a first-class temperance club, and was sure God would bless both the members and their families in their good work.

His Lordship having blessed the members and the new premises, the Rev. Fr. Rice, C.C., proposed a vote of thanks to the Bishop, which was seconded by Mr. J. Dalton, and passed with hearty acclamation.

The St. John's Brass Band played several hymns during the proceedings.

CITY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the City Vocational Education Committee was held in the Technical Institute on Thursday night. The Mayor presided. Also present—Rev. Fr. Hurley, Ald. O'Flynn, Mr. J. Anglev. B.C.; Mr. J. Casey. B.C.; Mr. M. O'Connell.

DERBY "SWEEP."

Time-Limit of Ticket Sales.

Despite the limited time available for organising the Derby sweepstakes, the promoters have been so successful that subscriptions are arriving in thousands from all parts of the world. The promoters are confident that the prize money will mount to a great total, although it cannot be stated at this period whether the final distribution will exceed the total of the Grand National prize fund—£1,182,415.

Intending subscribers are again requested to send in their applications without delay. Less than a month remains before the closing day—May 23. When filling in counterfoils subscribers should give their correct name; a non-de-plume alone is not sufficient.

The public are requested to note that no tickets will be sold over the counter at any of the Hospitals' Trust offices, either in Dame street or elsewhere, after 16th May. From 16th to 23rd May these offices will be used solely for receiving money and counterfoils of tickets previously issued.

Persons who desire to purchase tickets in Dublin after 16th May are advised to get them from local trades-people. Enterprising traders who have heard of this decision have already proceeded to lay in additional stocks of tickets to meet the public demand.

This rule is absolutely essential in the interests of efficiency. Experience of previous sweepstakes has shown that a great part of the staff's time in the various receiving depots during the final week for subscribing was spent in attending to subscribers who required small quantities of tickets immediately, and had left their subscriptions until the last moment. The consequence was that considerable difficulty was experienced in dealing with the huge volume of subscriptions from overseas. The new procedure will facilitate both the general public and the organisation, and the Hospitals' Committee are sure that it will receive generous co-operation all round.

PREMISES AND STAFF.

In addition to the premises recently announced as having been acquired for the accommodation of the staff, the Hospitals' Sweepstakes authorities have also acquired the use of the Plaza Ballroom, one of the most commodious places in Dublin. Further, the usual rooms of the Mansion House will be taken over when the present exhibition has finished its course. The premises then in the occupation of the Sweepstakes authorities will be 13 Earlsfort Terrace, 33 and 38 Dame-street, 40 Upper O'Connell-street, the Plaza Ballroom, and the Mansion House.

The staff already approximates to the total number engaged at the close of the Grand National "Sweep," and the accommodation now available in the Trust premises will enable more than twice that number to be set to work, if necessary.

Mr. John Keating, R.H.A., the eminent Irish artist, has undertaken to execute a special design for the cover of the souvenir programme which will be used at the Derby draw. Mr. Keating already has made a rough sketch of the design, and it is thoroughly in keeping with his reputation as an artist.

LIMERICK GAELIC WORKS

Memorial to Late Mr Pat O'Griffin Unveiled.

On Sunday last the Rev. Dr. C.C., President of the Gaelic League, unveiled at Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery a memorial to the late Mr. Patrick O'Griffin who died two years ago. He was a enthusiastic member of the Gaelic League and was one of the pioneers of the Limerick Branch, when the late Rev. Timothy P.P., was President. It was due in a great degree to Mr. O'Griffin's efforts that the Limerick Branch was initiated. Mr. O'Griffin was for some years Secretary of the Limerick Branch.

The memorial, which took the form of a book in Carlow stone surmounted by a cross with a chaste bordering, was unveiled by the Limerick branch and supported by the Irish language. It is of artistic beauty and is beautifully executed, and a tribute to the taste displayed by the committee of the Limerick branch and to the craftsmanship of the sculptors.

The unveiling ceremony, although announced to be confined to the members of the branch committee, was largely attended.

Rev. Dr. Cowper, who spoke in Irish, paid a graceful tribute to the life work of Mr. O'Griffin on behalf of the language. He said he gave his time to the cause of the Irish language, which he was a practical supporter of. He was earnest, indefatigable, and enthusiastic, and the position the Irish language occupies now in the city could, in considerable measure, be ascribed to his labours. Mr. O'Griffin was a man of great character, and as well as being an enthusiastic Gaelic Leaguer, his knowledge of the history of the language was extensive. He was a wide reader, with a cultured mind.

He then unveiled the memorial in respectful silence, and before the assembly dispersed a prayer was recited for the soul of the deceased.

NEWCASTLE WEST TOWN COMMISSIONERS.

Proposed Purchase of Town.

At a special meeting of the Newcastle West Town Commissioners, Mr. Brouder, M.C.C., chairman, presided. The other members present were—Wm. Phelan, M. Culhane, M. McCauley, M. Lynch, D. McAuliffe, T. O'Connor, J. Clifford.

Mr. P. O'Mahony, Town Clerk, was present.

The Chairman said the meeting had been called specially to consider counsel's report on the question of the proposed purchase of the town. The tolls of fairs and markets at Newcastle West and the market buildings from the Earl of. They were dealing with a matter of great importance, because the purchase of the town would be submitted to the Commissioners and their successors but on the ratepayers of the town. Since their last meeting on the question a situation which they did not then anticipate had arisen, as he understood one of the tenancies in the market yard had ceased, and as they counted on