

ANNUAL REPORT, 1915-16

THE Loreto Past Pupils' Free Kindergarten has just completed its fourth year with 63 children on the roll. Some children have left recently for SS. Peter and Paul's School, but we hope to fill their places soon and bring the number up to 80 or 90 by the beginning of spring.

In September the children gave a very interesting display, at which were present, members of the Loreto Pupils' Association and other friends of the Kindergarten. We were sorry that, owing to the pressure of other work, Miss Elliget felt herself obliged to resign the secretaryship. Her resignation was accepted with great regret, and we were much pleased that she was able to remain a member of the Committee.

In December Mrs. Alston again gave proof of her kindness to the mothers and children by giving them a happy day on the beach. Later in the month, we had one of the most successful meetings of the year, at which the fathers and mothers were almost all present. From a gaily-adorned Christmas tree the little ones distributed gifts, of their own making, to their parents. Then Santa Claus took the opportunity to bring his presents, and as Mrs. Alston had filled his bag with just those toys which each child liked best, all were very happy that night. The Reverend Father Collins addressed the meeting.

Miss Watson, much to the regret of the mothers, was forced to leave us, owing to the long distance between her home and the Kindergarten.

After Christmas the school opened with Miss Fawcett as Director. She has done very excellent

work, and her training must leave a marked influence on the lives of the children.

To enable the mothers to procure warm clothing a jumble sale was held in the beginning of winter. At a nominal price, new and second-hand articles were sold, and the mothers have, since frequently expressed their gratitude. The Committee takes this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the Loreto Ladies' Sodality, also to Mrs. Alston, Mrs. O'Brien, Miss Elliget, Miss Feehan, Miss Hourigan, Mrs. J. P. Dwyer, Mrs. G. P. Newman, Miss Williams, and Miss Sara Byrne for their gifts for this and for earlier sales.

Last month a pleasant and successful fete in aid of the Kindergarten was opened by His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne at Loreto Convent, Albert Park. The financial returns, while not yet complete, are most promising. We are much indebted to Mrs. Alston and her workers, to Mrs. O'Brien, to the Past Pupils' Committee, to the Present Loreto Pupils for taking charge of the stalls, and for their untiring efforts to make the fete a success.

The Committee desire to thank many kind friends, Mrs. Alston especially, for her continuous assistance, Mrs. O'Brien and Miss Elliget for their interest in our sales, Dr. Edith Barrett (Hon. Medical Officer), Mr. Fitzgerald (Hon. Auditor). They also gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following:—Messrs. Swallow and Ariel, quarterly supply of biscuits; Messrs. Hoadley and Co., jams; the Mayoress of South Melbourne, biscuits; the mothers of our Kindergarten children for organising an entertainment, and for gifts for the fete.

And, finally, we sincerely thank the voluntary helpers, without whom it would be impossible to carry on the work. We appreciate fully their self-sacrifice and devotedness, and their constant attendance, often at much personal inconvenience.

AGNES NOONAN, Hon. Sec.