

## OUR NEW GYMNASIUM

Although the New Christian Brothers School has been accommodating between three hundred fifty and four hundred students since its erection in September 1924, the lack of a department for indoor sports together with an auditorium for the social activities of the students, has been a much felt want.

The omission was not due to any oversight on the part of the Brothers in charge, who were most anxious to establish a complete plant for the use of the pupils, but rather due to lack of funds at the time of building. For the time being it was thought advisable to complete the building for academic facilities, housing, etc. The expenditure for that outfit alone amounted to upwards of \$240,000.

However, the urgent need of a gymnasium was not lost sight of, but rather became more and more imperative each succeeding year as the number of students continued to increase with rapid strides. The energetic principal, Brother Lewis, realized that active measures had to be taken that the project of a gymnasium might become an actuality. He accordingly met the prominent business men of the city and placed before them his contemplations and plans. The proposition met with the hearty approval of the leading men of the city and they espoused the cause with the greatest of unselfish generosity.

A general campaign to secure the necessary funds, was organized and launched under the auspices of the professional and business men of Sacramento, and no sooner had this been heralded to the public, than hundreds of willing workers volunteered their services to bring the affair to a successful issue. Their magnanimous co-operation was rewarded by securing pledges to the amount of \$60,000 by the time the campaign closed. Not only the general public, but the student-body of the school showed their loyalty, aroused their enthusiasm and contributed the handsome amount of more than five thousand dollars to help put the quota over the top.

As soon as convenient after the excitement of the campaign had closed, steps were taken to have plans executed for the proposed structure. These having been completed, and all the necessary negotiations gone through, arrangements were made to begin the building. On the 24th of January, 1927, the Right Reverend Bishop Keane presided at the ceremony of the breaking of ground; this was an auspicious day for the students and all concerned. Mr. James Keating, contractor and builder, had been engaged to erect the much talked of gymnasium. Work was immediately begun, and now after a short period of five months, we have a magnificent edifice, adjoining the other handsome building, which completes the plant in its entirety.

The structure is not only a gymnasium, but also a spacious auditorium equipped with every modern facility for the students to develop in the art of public speaking, the production of plays, interclass and public debates, and other social functions that go to make up a well rounded education.

With the completion of this gymnasium, the plant of the Christian Brothers School is one of the foremost among the educational establishments of Sacramento. To carry out the full design of the architect and builder it will require considerable more money than has been pledged in the campaign, and it would not be surprising if another appeal were made to the generous public at some future time to secure adequate funds for an ideal equipment.

—ERNEST SPINETTI.