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MARKING INK FOR LINEN.

DUNEDIN.

(Delayed.)

JUNE 2.

DEAR BEE,
Miss Gwen Roberts gave a large, and MOST ENJOYABLE MUSICAL AFTERNOON

for Miss Mabel Gould (Christchurch) at her residence, Manor Place. The table was decorated with brownish coloured chrysanthemums. Music was kept going all the afternoon in one room, and tea in the other. Miss K. Mills sang two very pretty songs, one entitled 'Ideals,' and the other 'There Van to Tell 'Thee all I Feel.' Miss Nellie sang 'Pierrot,' Miss R. Reynolds, 'Don't Quite Forget,' Miss Greenwood (Christchurch), 'Thou Art My Life,' and Miss Dale (England) gave a very delightful piano solo, and the two ladies played one of two piano solos; also, Miss Hawkins, recited a very touching piece called, 'Our Folks,' in her usual charming manner.

THE DRESSES.

Miss Gwen Roberts, black skirt, pretty peacock blue blouse, and wide black satin belt; Miss M. Gould (Christchurch), stylish brown jacket braided with black, and very charming hat of pale blue velvet trimmed with green silk and steel ornaments; Miss Reynolds, black jacket, stylish look; Miss K. Mills, navy blue serge, braided bodice; Miss Nellie, pretty blue vicuña cloth trimmed with black silk and jet, large black velvet hat trimmed with feathers; Miss H. Nellie, grey checked tweed, brown jacket, large fawn hat trimmed with green and brown velvet; Miss K. Roberts, stylish black serge with long bosque, feather bon, and large feather hat; Miss Greenwood (Christchurch), navy blue hosiery jacket trimmed with black watered silk and jet, smart hat with bright red wings; Miss H. Nellie, black jacket, heavily trimmed with fur, large black felt hat; Miss Gibson, stylish toque, very long jacket; Miss Garret, stylish brown check costume trimmed with brown wavy braid; Miss Williams, long fawn cape, small blue felt hat; Miss Alice Stephenson, black jelled jacket; Miss Spence, fawn; Miss Webster, black braided jacket, fur bos, and small black toque; Miss Siso, fawn serge costume, fawn velvet hat with steel ornaments; Miss Siso, stylish brown jacket trimmed with fur; Miss MacLarnon, black; Miss Ethel Nell, black coat, smart green felt hat; Miss E. Ulrich, long brown jacket, black straw hat; Miss Bartleman, pretty green costume, stylish straw hat with heliotrope aster. Others I noticed there were the Misses Nellie, Williams, Shand, Gilkinson, Bathgate, Batchelor, and Scott.

On the same day Mrs Sale (University Buildings), gave an

'AT HOME.'

as a farewell to her sister, Mrs Cunningham Smith, who left for her new home at Invercargill for a fortnight morning. Owing to the weather being so bad, a great many of Mrs Smith's friends, were prevented from saying goodbye to her. The table was tastefully decorated with amber chrysanthemums, and bright sweets which were put about it gave it a most charming, and bright appearance. Among the guests I noticed were Mesdames Cunningham Smith, Oliver, Mills, MacKenzie, Sinclair, Thomson, Ulrich, Joachim, Haggitt, Cullen, Webster, MacLarnon, Allan Shand, Scott, Ockton, Lindo-Ferguson, Bathgate, Gibson, Turton, Roberts, Toura, Hoeking, and the Misses Wimpiria, Shand, Macassar, Kenyon, Cullen, and many others.

The Thornton Arnold Company are still here. They seem to continue having as

HUMPER HOUSES

as ever. I went to all the plays they played here, and for my part I enjoyed 'Captain Fritz' much. The songs were no taking in it, and Mr Arnold makes them even more so by the excellent way he renders them. No doubt you know the plot so I will not make any comments upon it. The song 'Private Tommy' which is all the rage in London just now, was encored four or five times the night I was there. The scenery was very pretty, and the dresses worn by both sexes were most becoming. Amongst the faces I know there I noticed Mrs Lido-Ferguson, the booby, which is all the rage, lined with pale blue silk; Mrs Colquhoun, stylish black dress; Mrs Ogden very becoming grey; Mrs Lintott, handsome red silk opera cloak; Mrs Aufrère, bewick very pretty; Mrs Webster, opera cloak to match and red-lined with white silk; Mrs Webster, black; Miss Webster, heliotrope blouse and stylish green opera cloak; Miss G. Webster, lovely cloak of pale grey trimmed with white feather trimming; Miss Driver, black and brown opera cloak; Mr. Driver, black; Miss Stephenson, green satin blouse; Miss K. Stephenson, very pretty cream opera cloak trimmed with coarse cream lace.

AILEEN.

PICTON.

(Delayed.)

JUNE 5.

DEAR BEE,
An epidemic of sore throats, and general depression in consequence, accounts for the lack of news this week. It appears to be in the grip of a different dress, who has come to pay us another call. Some people call it quinsy, and some diphtheric throat. In a less healthy place, no doubt, it would turn to diphtheria, but here it has simply put a stopper on all the little ebullitions of fun which our merry young folks indulge in. The only fun during the week was a

EUCHE RE PARTY

at Mrs Allen's, and if noise was any criterion of enjoyment, the party did indeed give the name. As usual, gentlemen were scarce, but some of the ladies volunteered to act in that capacity, and, curious to relate, won both the gentlemen's prizes, Miss Hay winning the first, and Miss Millington the booby, which is all the rage. And Miss H. Greenall the booby. As the Misses Nellie and Grace Allen were leaving for school in Wellington by the Gratton, the whole party adjourned to the wharf to escort them on board, and afterwards returned to finish the evening, which they did till three a.m., keeping the fun going all the time. Among the ladies who were present to escort them on board, were Misses Millington, party were Mrs H. C. Seymour, the Misses Duncan, Scott, Millington, Seymour, and Misses Nellie, Dobson (Hilshelm), Hay, and Messrs Greenall, Fox, Dodd, etc.

ONDS AND ENDS.

The bans of marriage have been published for the second time between Mr Harry Howard, now residing in the Wanganui district, and Miss Sybil Greenall, second daughter of Mr J. A. R. Greenall, of Pictou, and niece of Captain and Mrs. H. H. H. The young couple are greatly esteemed here, and their marriage will be looked upon as an event to be made much of by young and old. Mr and Mrs Rutherford, with their little daughter Jean, have returned from a pleasant and interesting tour to Kotorua. They travelled overland from Wellington, seeing as much of the country and the lions by the way as it was possible to see, and enjoyed themselves very much. Mrs and Miss Mollish intend leaving Pictou to take up their

abode in Napier. The two ladies have so identified themselves with all social and parochial matters that the loss will be a severe one to the town, and it is not likely that they will be allowed to go without some demonstration on the part of their friends here.

JEAN.

THAMES.

(Delayed.)

JUNE 8.

DEAR BEE,
We have been unusually quiet lately, but the very ENJOYABLE QUINDELLE DANCE,

which took place in the Oddfellows, Hall, on Friday evening, made a nice break. Great praise is due to the following ladies and gentlemen who carried out the arrangements:—Mesdames Regd. Smith and Clendon, Misses Price, Walker, and Hall, Messrs Regd. Smith and Clendon, also Mr H. P. Stark (Hon. Sec.). The hall was prettily decorated with flags and the floor perfect. Amongst the large number of very pretty dresses worn, I noticed Miss Walker, who was very much admired in a stylish combination of old gold and bronze plush; Miss Stryak looked exceedingly well wearing white satin and tulle; Miss Price, black, red poppie; Miss L. Price, black and cream; Miss Hall, black, pale green sleeves; Miss Phillips, cream and old gold; her sister, cream, trimmed with lace; Miss Wilson, pale green; her cousin, Miss Horne, looked lovely in cream and pink bowers; Miss N. Walker, relieved with heliotrope chiffon; Miss Edith Walker looked charming in scarlet; Mrs Edwin Clendon, cream, ruby plush sleeves; Mrs Reginald Smith, cream satin; Miss Bertha, white, old gold dress, frill and sleeves of cream satin; Miss F. Hall, stylish primrose, the bodice trimmed with striped mulin and olive green plush; Miss Perry, pink; Miss Adams, cream, and pretty heliotrope flowers; Mrs Wright, cream, caroline trimming; Mrs Harris, black velvet, pink silk sleeves; Miss Brothier, cream; Mrs Dodd, black; Miss Banks, cream dress, sleeves and frill on bodice of red silk, and small red flowers in the hair; Miss Peacock, pale green. Among the gentlemen were Messrs Stryak, Allen, Clendon, Reginald Smith, Gibbons, Walker, Christie, Purdie, Dodd, Jordan, Watson, Wilson, Kenrick, Wright, Steadman, Hazard, Lawlor, Mason, etc.

I hear this will not be the only delightful dance this winter. We need something lively inside to counteract the dismal effect on our spirits of the storms outside.

DESDEMONA.

THE VACANT CHAIR.

STEALTHILY the black-robed angel
In the shadow hovered nigh,
And a little soul has vanished
To its home beyond the sky.
Now the tender bud, transplanted,
Blooms in Heaven's purer air,
But our tears will spring, unbidden,
O'er the little vacant chair.

In the circle round the hearthstone,
There's a gap that can't be filled,
And we miss the living sweetness
Of the voice forever stilled.
Now the little form lies tranquil,
And the cheeks are waxy fair,
And we turn away in anguish
From the little vacant chair.

Brush away the sunny ringlets
From the cold and silent brow,
Close the eyes once full of sunshine,
All their light is faded now.
'Tough the baby will be safer
In the bright home 'over there,'
Still 'tis hard to lose our darling,
Hard to see the vacant chair.

Aching hearts are full of sadness,
And our eyes with tears are dim,
But we know a loving Saviour
Called the little one to Him.
In Thine arms, O Heavenly Father,
Closely hold our treasure rare,
Make us stronger, purer, better,
Through that little vacant chair.

MAR M. WIERMAN.

WALL PAPER.

'I CAN'T see,' said the woman who was having her paper papered, 'why the landlord should give me a brown and yellow paper like that when the folks on the next floor got a beautiful blue paper on their wall.'

'I can tell you, ma'am,' said the paper hanger, 'I warn't going to let on, but it's a clear case of favoritism.'

'Of course it is,' snapped the woman, 'any one with half eyes can see that, but why should he favour that slab sided, cross-eyed—'

'Tain't her, it's you he's favourin',' said the paper hanger, dropping his voice to a mysterious whisper, 'her paper's blue, ain't it? Well, don't you know why he gave her the blue colour, and you the brown? You must swear you won't say a word—there's Paris-green enough in that blue paper to kill a family.'

'Goodness, you don't say so?'

'Yesam, it's a fact. Now, this yere paper's made full o' mineral colour and won't hurt a fly, and the perfidious man hung another roll upside down, while the woman hurried out to tell the neighbours.'

VOICE CULTIVATION.

It is an essential feature in the cultivation of a young girl's voice that her lessons should not be begun too early. Her constitution must be formed, and nature herself must have announced the moment of physical maturity. Not before the age of fourteen should she begin her studies of vocalization. She should, however, be taught music as soon as her inclination and her temperament will allow. Eight years of age is by no means too early for the young student to begin to learn to play on the piano or upon the violin. The latter instrument has often been found an invaluable introducer to the study of singing. It trains the ear and develops taste and correctness of intonation. Before it was discovered, says Christine Nilsson, that I had a voice I went through in my childhood, a series of lessons on the violin, for I was originally intended to become a violinist. And I have found that early training of the greatest advantage to me in my subsequent career.

One point that cannot be too strongly impressed on the young girl student is the necessity of never singing too long at a time. This precaution it is essential for her to observe throughout the whole period of her studies. She may begin the day with a lesson of half an hour; then from two or three hours she must abstain from singing. She may practise instrumental music in the interval, she may take exercise in the house, but not in the open air, or she may interest herself in her studies of French or of Italian. Then she may sing again for another half hour, to be followed by a second period of thorough repose for the voice. A third half hour, or, at the most, a fourth, should conclude the vocal exercises of the day. One hour, sometimes, of professional singers that devote eight hours a day to their studies. This is altogether incorrect. Any voice submitted to such an ordeal would be worn out very speedily. The greatest care is necessary to avoid any relaxation of the vocal chords, a result that is sure to follow upon overfatigue of the throat. And when once it becomes chronic the mischief is irreparable. Such statements usually originate, not with the singers themselves—they know better than that—but with persons who write about the study of singing without any practical knowledge of the matter.

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MISS SQUIRE, late Wellington Hospital, Head Nurse of Napier Hospital, Extra Nurse and Assistant Night Superintendent Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
MISS WILDMAN, Nursing Sister for nine years Leeds Infirmary.

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