In the first play Miss Grace was splendidly got up in a black silk gown with a white fichu, and of course grey hair and a cap. In the same act Miss Burnett looked exceedingly well in a pretty soft grey gown, with full sleeves and a bow across the corsage, a yoke and epaulettes of coffee lace. In Pinero's play, Mrs Willford wore a beautiful white silk gown spotted with black, and made with large puffed sleeves. At about ten o'clock the theatricals were over, so the floor was cleared for dancing, which was kept up until half-past twelve o'clock, at which hour the special train conveyed its passengers back to town again.

It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening, and both Dr. and Mrs Purdy are to be congratulated. Amongst the guests were Lady Buckley, wearing a very handsome sage green mervelleux brocaded with pink flowers, the long train being prettily made in Watteau style; Lady Hector, a dull, copper-coloured silk train and bodice, over a petticoat of pink silk veiled with white lace; Miss Hector wore cream with broad lace falling over the shoulders; Mrs R. J. Riddiford, a handsome black gown, trained; Mrs Newman, a brown silk and velvet gown with a petticoat of pink and fawn; Mrs (Dr.) Grace, a handsome black silk gown trimmed with gold fringe; Miss Grace, black silk; Miss Alice Grace, a pretty yellow accordion gown; Mrs Molineaux, black, trained; Mrs Sladden, black; Mrs C. Kirk a handsome salmon pink brocade; Mrs Jackson, black; Miss Jackson, a pretty black and yellow gown; Mrs Bray, white silk; Miss Ida Johnston, pink brocade trimmed with lace and fur; Miss Hilda Johnston, a black and white gown; Miss — Johnston, white brocade; Miss M. Gore, white silk and lace; her sister, black satin and lace; Miss Baker (Napier), black net; Miss (Sidney) Johnston (Hawke's Bay), black silk with pink lapels covered with white lace; Mrs G. Pearce, white silk and lace; Mrs (Dr.) Coates, black; Miss Holmes, black and yellow; Mrs Field, ruby velvet trimmed with jet; Mrs Mowbray, black; Mrs Stansfield, blue silk, and a gold butterfly in her hair; Mrs Howden, mauve watered silk and diamonds; Miss Burnett, pale blue silk; Miss M. Burnett, mauve; and her sister, green striped gauze; Miss Bodmin, cream gauze; Miss Wilford, bright pink silk; Miss K. Wilford, white, prettily veiled with gold and white gauze, yellow sash; and her sister, white; the Misses Johnston were cream; Miss Fairchild, black and red; and her sister, black and yellow; Miss Lee, pretty yellow silk; the Rev. Mr and Mrs Jones, Mr and Mrs Lee, Mr and Mrs Seaton, Miss Clinton, in pale blue and black velvet. I think these are all I can remember.

The hall was prettily decorated with wattle, camellias, and greenery of various kinds, and the stage looked very pretty, but it required, at times, a little more light to show up the dresses, etc. The music was good, and the supper excellent, the latter being decorated with lovely camellias. The floor was good, and everyone enjoyed winding up with dancing. Several familiar faces were missing—Dr. and Mrs Whitehead's, for instance; they have gone on a visit to England.

Dr. and Mrs Lamb have settled down among us, and also Dr. Scanlon, and some two years ago Dr. and Mrs Coates and family.

We have been kept alive with progressive euchre parties lately, Mrs Riddiford entertaining a good deal in one way and another.

We have lost Lady Buckley for a while, for she and Sir Patrick are living in town for the session.

GONERIL.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE, JULY 14.

For some days past we have had a sample of very wintry weather, the surrounding hills being all capped with snow. Unless there is some great inducement one does not care to go out, especially as our streets are a sea of mud.

A SMALL AFTERNOON TEA

was given by Mrs Tower for her sister, Miss Backhouse. The table was artistically decorated with Scotch heather and yellow daisies. A bountiful supply of sweets and cakes added to its appearance.

THE DRESSES.

Mrs Tower wore a becoming black dress; Miss Backhouse, black silk trimmed with green velvet; Mrs Lindo Ferguson red velvet shot with black, very pretty three-cornered jet bonnet with osprey and yellow rosettes; Mrs Henry MaKenzie, stylish brown diagonal cloth, smart brown felt hat to match; Miss Cargill, neat brown tweed, with an electric blue waistcoat, skirt and body trimmed with braid, very becoming bear fur boa; Miss Neill, pretty peacock blue hopsack lavishly trimmed with jet, large black velvet hat trimmed with ostrich feathers; Miss Rattray, black costume, fashionable moiré bow with handsome lace ends; Miss G. Rattray, sugar brown serge braided with black, hat to match, pretty black silk bow; Miss Lily MacLaren, beautifully-fitting green tweed, black hat turned up at the sides and trimmed with a large black silk bow; Miss Sise, smart fawn vicuna cloth, fawn beaver hat trimmed with wings and velvet; Miss Fanny Sise, brown serge trimmed with velvet, pretty pale blue silk waistcoat, large brown hat trimmed with velvet; Miss Driver, stylish grey tweed, black velvet hat and feather boa; Miss N. Driver, black costume, pretty white felt hat trimmed with black velvet and jet; Miss Bell MacLean, black costume, green straw hat, very liberally trimmed with pink and red roses; Miss Lily Turton, smart blue serge costume; Miss Grierson looked very neat in a fawn tweed, sealskin jacket, black sailor hat; Miss S. Rattray, green and fawn costume, stylish black straw hat trimmed with watered silk ribbon and quills; Miss Webster, pretty myrtle green costume trimmed with grey astrachan, smart black hat trimmed with green feathers and velvet, becoming fur boa; Miss Rachel Reynolds, brown tweed trimmed with fur, brown hat to match; Miss Mary Williams, pale grey tweed costume, fur boa, black velvet hat with feathers; Miss Gibson, most becoming brown cloth dress trimmed with sable, sealskin cape, smart brown hat trimmed with feathers; Miss Gilkison, brown cloth jacket trimmed with braid, red Amazon felt hat with black cock's tail feathers; Miss Nora Gilkison, black astrachan jacket, smart black felt hat; Miss Spence, smart brown serge, black braided jacket, stylish brown felt hat trimmed with grey rosettes and wings; Miss Gwen Roberts, becoming dark green tweed trimmed with fur, large picture hat of black velvet trimmed with grey ostrich feathers; Miss Lily Roberts, simple black serge costume, stylish black sailor hat trimmed with black and white ribbon, and relieved with a quill; Miss Elsie Bathgate, brown costume trimmed with peacock blue silk, brown straw hat turned up at one side.

THE KAIHANGA CLUB

met at Mrs Rattray's on Monday evening. Miss Annie Cargill made a most efficient chairwoman. A fair number of members were present to listen to the delightful programme that had been arranged for the evening. There was not quite as much music as usual, but the recitations and dialogues quite made up for that. The first item was a pianoforte solo by Miss Norna Rattray, which she played with great taste and style, everybody enjoying it thoroughly; Miss Reynolds and her sister sang 'Scenes That are Brightest' from 'Maritana,' which afforded everybody a great deal of pleasure, both possessing very sweet voices. Miss Cargill and Miss Gertrude Rattray gave an amusing dialogue on 'The Scarcity of Men'—a fact which is very much in evidence, at every gathering in this town. This clever and original sketch was written by Miss Cargill. Both Miss Cargill and Miss Rattray knew their parts to perfection. Mrs Petre gave a very interesting and short account of Beethoven's life. This is a sort of thing very seldom given in our Savage Club. Mrs Petre has the gift of articulating beautifully, which makes a lecture so much more interesting to listeners. She also played one of Beethoven's sonatas, in her usual pleasing manner. Miss Gilkison and her sister gave a short dialogue from 'The School for Scandal.' Miss Gilkison, who took the part of Sir Peter Teazle, was dressed in a black tail coat with steel buttons, and a large white wig; her sister, Miss Effie Gilkison, as Lady Teazle, was suitably attired in a scarlet cape trimmed with white fur, large black hat trimmed with steel buckles, and black ostrich feathers. Both took their parts splendidly, and caused a good deal of laughter. Miss Lily Roberts sang a very pretty little song, well suited to her true and sweet voice. Miss Fanny Sise recited a poem entitled, 'Absence makes the Heart Grow Fonder.' One or two other items were also performed, but I do not remember them. Amongst those present were Mrs Henry Mackenzie, Mrs Lindo Ferguson, Mrs Sise, Mrs Thomson, Mrs James Cargill, Mrs Rattray, Mrs Petre, and the Misses Cargill, Bartleman, Sise, Webster, Hodgkins, Stilling, Kenyon, Maclaren, Turton, Bathgate, De Salamos, Maitland, Backhouse, Rattray, Roberts, Reynolds, Batchelor, Neill, Grierson, Hawkins, Gilkison, and others.

Mrs Cantrell gave a very

ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON TEA.

Also the same evening Mrs Ogston gave a small musical evening. Mrs Ogston was prettily dressed in black velvet and lace; Mrs Cutten, black; Mrs Murray, hand-some black silk; Mrs Ridings, black silk; Miss Busck, black corded silk; Miss Rachel Reynolds, canary coloured cashmere trimmed with white chiffon; Miss Payne (Thames), grey silk with blonde lace; Miss Roberts, black crepon over old rose silk, epaulettes of rose silk edged with jet, and long bangles of silk from the wrist; Miss Ulrich, red velvet; Miss Murray, white silk blouse; Miss Cutten, black costume; and others. A few of the gentlemen present were Dr. Ogston, Mr Murray, Professor Gibbons, Mr Ridings, Mr Cutten, Dr. Smith, Mr Galley, Mr Reynolds, Mr Dymock, Dr. Keehn, Mr Morris.

A SMALL DINNER PARTY

was given by Mr Coates at the Fernhill Club on Thursday to his particular friends, before his departure for the North.

PERSONAL.

Mrs Graham (Kaurori, Wellington), is at present staying with Mrs Webster.

Messrs Coates, Stevens, and Dymock, leave us on Saturday for Wellington. A great many of our bachelors have left us of late.

Mrs John Stephenson and her daughter are leaving for Melbourne on Wednesday, and Mrs and Miss Ziele on the same day for Sydney. I think a great many people are taking advantage of the cheap trips there are at present.

Miss Nellie Moffat is at present staying with Mrs Perston.

Miss Agnes Todd (Oamaru) is still staying with Mrs Moodie (Royal Terrace.)

STREET DRESSES.

I noticed Mrs Harry LeCren (senior) in the street the other day, she was wearing a very stylish fawn cape and a lovely bearskin boa, very pretty hat trimmed with green and brown completed the costume. Miss Reid (England), who came out in the Gothic, wore a very handsome long fawn cloak trimmed with sable, muff to match, and a most becoming picture hat.

AILEEN.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, JULY 19.

For public entertainment we have had a little change from the round of concert-going in listening to the famous

DR. DE WITT TALMAGE,

whose straight way of telling plain truths was most wholesome for us—more wholesome than palatable perhaps, but that is good for one sometimes. It is a dangerous thing to have a great reputation, and, as usual, many of Dr. Talmage's hearers were disappointed. He has not, perhaps, the quite 'up-to-date' way of expressing himself, and his accent made it a little difficult to catch all he said, but a visit from such a man is like a plough in a very weedy garden.

Talking of concerts reminds one of the dreadful trouble that has befallen Mdme Montague-Turner. All New Zealand will sympathise with her in her sorrow, and all who have heard the splendid rending of the leading tenor part in several operas as given by Mr Turner during their tours, will regret greatly his death. The anticipation of once more hearing them together in 'Trovatore,' 'Maritana,' etc., has been very pleasant, and the news of his death was received in Christchurch with deep regret.

The second

'AT HOME'

of the Liederkranzchen was given on Thursday afternoon at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, when a very large gathering greeted them, the large room being full to overflowing. Musically they have become much more ambitious. The first part of the programme consisted of a cantata, 'The song of the Norns,' which like all Norwegian music is weird and grand, but wants the support of an orchestra, and accompanied only by the piano as this was, though admirably played by Miss C. Lingard, was thin and wanting in body, ladies voices only always having a tendency that way. The solo was taken by Miss Bonnington, who wants a little dramatic fire to make her a success. The part-songs were much more successful, and very prettily rendered. Two songs by Miss H. Inglis, and Miss C. Lovegrove, of Timaru, were most enjoyable, the latter being heartily encored. A duet from Miss Wood (pianiste to the Society) and Miss C. Lingard was splendidly played. Miss Nora Gard'ner conducted with her usual decision. The interval was devoted to the 'modern nectar, tea,' and customary delicacies, but the subscribers have increased so much we have to adjourn to another room; it is impossible to hand it round. Among the many present were Mrs Julius (President) and two daughters, Mrs Embling, Miss Birch, Mrs (Dr.) Jennings, Mrs (Dr.) Anderson, the Misses Wilson and Miss Fitz-Henry, Mrs and Miss Hargreaves, Mrs F. Graham, Mrs G. Roberts, Mrs and Misses Mearns, Mrs and Misses Cunningham, Mrs Robison, Mrs Broham, Mrs A. Cuff, the Misses Cuff, Mrs C. Cook, Mrs H. Murray-Aynsley, Mrs J. R. Campbell, Mrs Hawkins, Mrs R. Steele, Mrs Thomas, Miss Povey, Mrs Mannering, Mrs R. Wood, etc.

A sort of

FAREWELL WALKING PARTY

was given to Miss Maggie Stoddart on Saturday. The afternoon was perfect, although bitterly cold. We drove four-in-hand to Sumner, and then walked over Taylor's Mistake to the lighthouse, reaching our destination in an hour and ten minutes, rather sharp walking but suitable for the time of year. Miss Stoddart leaves for Melbourne on Friday next, where she intends staying for some time, and taking up her painting with more energy than usual.

The

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

is progressing, but the matches played on Saturday were not very interesting. Mr Dick Harman was in great form, playing in his set almost single handed. Mr Mannering and Miss Dora Harman were beaten by Mr Maxwell and Miss Turton. Mr Wilding and Miss Black were beaten by Mr Harman and Mrs Harris.

Lately the various meets of the Christchurch hounds have been so far away as to be quite out of our reach. Socially there is nothing doing. The Empire City has it all just now. To-night Mr Wallace's third Chamber Concert takes place.

On dit, Mrs Rhodes (Elmwood) is going to England shortly for a visit.

DOLLY VALE.

NAPIER.

DEAR BEE, JULY 18.

'Charley's Aunt' has been

DRAWING TREMENDOUS HOUSES,

but I think I preferred 'Captain Fritz.' The scenery is so pretty in it, and the members of the company have more scope. Our little Theatre Royal was hardly recognisable, thanks to Mr Leitch's decorations. The walls are hung with beautiful pictures and photographs. There are gentlemen's cloak and smoking rooms lighted with Egyptian lamps. The ladies' cloak room has been entirely renovated. In the circle I noticed Mrs G. P. Donnelly, in black, with cardinal cloak; Miss Shaw, white; Miss Knowles, pale blue cloak; Mrs A. Kennedy, black; Miss Rhodes, Mrs Margolionth, Miss Bower, Mrs Hamlin, Miss Hamlin, Mrs Logan, Dr. and Mrs Reed, Mrs and Miss Lawrence, the latter wearing a rich cardinal cloak; Mr and Mrs Tabuteau, Miss Hughes, Miss Simcox, the Misses Lowry, Miss Inglis, in white; Mrs Fulton, Mr and Mrs Carlile, Mr and Mrs P. S. Molesan, etc.

THE HAWKE'S BAY HOUNDS

met at Poukawa, Mr Campbell's residence, last meet. Although it was so wet over twenty put in an appearance, which shows how popular this sport is. Miss Campbell kindly provided an excellent lunch, which all did full justice to.

PRESENTATION.

Mr Sturrock, who for many years has been second master to the district school, was presented by the teachers with a very handsome dressing case and bag, while the pupils of his class, the Sixth Standard, gave him a lovely pair of gold sleeve links, suitably engraved. Mr Sturrock left for his new home in Blenheim last Saturday, a great crowd assembling to wish him good-bye.

That foul fiend,

INFLUENZA,

has been amongst one and all, rich and poor. Nearly every one you meet is armed with a bottle of eucalyptus, which is, I suppose, a mild preventive.

PERSONALITIES.

Miss Baker has gone to Wellington for the session's festivities. Mrs and Miss Carnell, our M.H.R.'s wife and daughter, are also in that city.

THE MONTAGUE-TURNER COMPANY

are coming here next week. Unfortunately, their dates clash with the Vere-Sapio Concert Company, so both our concert rooms are engaged.

A few pretty

STREET GOWNS

I have noticed lately. Miss Bryson in particular I admired in a stylish shot green serge trimmed with black braid; Miss Lascelles, stylish three-quarter cape, hat with scarlet wing; Miss Guy, who is visiting Napier, pretty dark costume; Mrs George Marshall, Gobelin blue, pretty coque feather boa; Mrs H. Tylee, silver grey costume; Miss Ella McVay, stylish jacket with braid, Amazon hat; Miss Henderson, green dress, brown jacket; Miss Fulton, black with tan waistcoat; Miss Fernandez, brown velvet; Mrs A. Eccles, black serge, stylish cloak; Miss Garstin, blue serge; Miss Troutbeck, grey; Miss Spencer, black serge, pretty black hat; Miss Miller, a striking costume of brown check; Miss Ringwood, rough brown tweed.

GLADYS.

PICTON.

DEAR BEE, JULY 17.

Mrs Scott gave a

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE PARTY

on Monday last. Owing to the dreadful weather, which kept many away, and our preparations for the exhibition, I was unable to obtain particulars in time for last week, but I am told by those who braved the elements to go that the affair was simply lovely. Dr., Mrs and Miss Scott enjoying the fun immensely. It was to have been the largest we have had as yet, but the fates willed otherwise for once, though we all hope they will be more propitious on a future occasion.

OUR ART AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

was opened on Tuesday afternoon with a few short speeches made by Mr Sedgewick, Mr Philpotts (the Mayor), and Mr Howard. Mrs Philpotts (the Mayor's wife) then declared the exhibition open, and all present joined in singing the National Anthem. Amongst the exhibits are all sorts and conditions of things, full lists of which have been published from day to day in the local papers. There are things scientific and curious things from all parts of the world, dresses, weapons, fossils, jewellery, old lace from all countries, personal effects belonging to great men and women of past generations, as well as the products of our 'ain countrie' in gold, silver, iron, antimony, flax, etc., etc. Pictures almost without end from one end of New Zealand to another. The only wonder is how the committee managed to get so many curious and wonderful things together and display them to such advantage in so limited a space as the Borough School. The general committee consisted of Mr and Mrs Sedgewick, Mrs Allen, Mrs Sealy, Mr and Mrs H. C. Seymour, Mr and Mrs Baillie, Mr and Mrs Philpotts, Mr White, Mr Andrews, Mr and Mrs Fredericks, and the Misses N. Allen, K. Seymour, E. Dart, E. Webster, etc., and it is needless to say that each and all did their very best, when such a perfect little show was the result, kudos unlimited have been offered up to them.

THE JUVENILE INDUSTRIAL

part of the show was also a success, the committee—Mesdames Allen, Sealy, Sedgewick, and H. C. Seymour—carrying the affair through triumphantly. Everybody was pleased with the exhibition of industry, and the judging gave general satisfaction. Mesdames Rutherford, W. J. Baillie, Waddy, A. P. Seymour, and Messrs White and S. C. Allen acted as judges in the various classes. Among the prize-takers were the Misses Violet Fuller 1 prize, Grace Allen 1, Belle Allen 5, Lily Bragg 2, Jean Rutherford 2, May Horne 1, Florence Hart 2, Edith Eden 2, Edith Waddy 1, Edith Bragg 1, Emma Hart 1, May Young 1, Ethel Bragg 1, Robina Wilson 1, May Bragg 1, Louise Miles 1, Jeannie Seymour 1, Eileen Sealy 1, Ruby Nelson 1, Maud Bright 1, Mary Cragg 1, Olive Cragg 1, Elsie Nicklose 1, Emily Philpotts 3, Lily Greensill 1, George Nordstrum 1, Christopher Sealy 2, Anthony Fell 1, Gavan Jackson 3, Charlie Waddy 1, Harrison Solvander 1, Albert Bush 2. The competitions comprised almost everything, plain and fancy needlework, bread and confectionery—in this class the judges declared every item worthy of a first prize—original stories, water-colours, drawing of all kinds, doll-dressing, rustic baskets, bouquets, etc., etc.

A PARCEL POST,

of which Mrs Allen was elected Postmaster-General, Mrs H. C. Seymour and Misses K. Seymour and Nora Allen, head clerks, caused no end of fun, and brought in piles of shillings. Everyday a fresh notice was stuck up in the window notifying the arrival of the Gothic; the Turo, from Africa or some other foreign port, with consignments of packages for everybody, the opening of which caused immense excitement and screams of laughter, so much so that the magic lantern entertainment going on in the room at the other end of the school would be deserted at times by a rush of children to see what all the fun was about in the Post Office.

THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE

was also a grand institution, under the management of Messrs S. C. Allen, Markman, and Fisk. Innocent-looking individuals would receive a message notifying them of the fact that a parcel awaited them at the Post Office, with a shilling to pay. They generally called for their parcels, all of which were addressed to the heroes of departed days. Tickets to correspond were drawn from a bag, and the drawer had to ask for a parcel addressed to 'General Tom Thumb,' etc. The operators were kept busily employed transmitting messages, and the little messengers, Masters Haseldean, Sealy, and Scott, might have been *bona fide* servants of the Government, judging by the 'airs' they put on.

THE MAGIC LANTERN

was a great draw for the little ones, under the supervision of Rev. A. H. Sedgewick and Mr Howard, and

THE MUSICAL COMMITTEE,

with Mrs Millington as a leader, kept matters lively in the large centre room. On Friday evening quite a large programme was gone through, to applause testifying to the pleasure of the audience. A quartette from 'Trial by Jury' by Mrs Millington, Miss Linton, and Messrs Rawle and Brown; 'Larboard Watch' by Messrs Rawle and Brown; 'Oh Rest in the Lord,' Mrs Millington; piano duet Mrs Millington and Miss Linton; 'Wot Cheer,' Mr Rawle; 'When Other Lips,' Mr Brown; 'Come Back to me,' Miss Linton; 'Irish Wedding,' Mr Rawle, 'I know a Bank,' Mrs Millington and Miss Linton. On Saturday evening Mr C. White played a piano solo, Misses M. Seymour and M. Philpotts and Messrs H. C. Seymour and Philpotts sang the quartette 'Sweet Chiming Bells' exceedingly well, others who sang solos were Mrs and Miss Howard, Messrs Seymour and Philpotts.

THE REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

were Mesdames Fredericks, Sedgewick and Dobson, and the Misses Dart, Webster, etc. This part too was exceedingly well managed, and only required the outside public to patronise it, but unfortunately the weather and influenza combined, kept those away who would have supported it.

THE VISITORS

at our little show comprised all whom the influenza fiend would allow out, and many who ought not to be away from their beds or cosy firesides set the fiend at defiance, and came time after time till they could no longer hold their heads up. Among the visitors I noticed Captain and Mrs Dalton, Mrs (Captain) Baillie (Parn), Mr and Mrs John Conolly (Blenheim), Mr. Mrs, and Miss Hart, the Rev. and Mrs Connor (Nelson), Mrs Beauchamp, Mrs and Miss Duncan, Mr, Mrs and the Misses Waddy, Mr and Mrs Fell, the Misses Greensill, Miss Fell, Captain and Mrs Greensill, Mr and Mrs A. P. Seymour, Mrs Scott, Dr., Mrs, and Miss Millington, etc., etc.

JEAN.

NOTICE.—Letters from Hastings, Nelson and Gisborne are held over owing to pressure on our space.