

HASTINGS.

DEAR BEN, Society here is at a standstill. Hastings does not seem keen on any entertainment unless it be given on a grand scale, while, if people would only give small dances more often, and be content with a simple supper instead of a banquet, much more enjoyment might be got out of life than is at present possible.

JULY 30.

Captain Russell's eldest son, Mr Harold Russell, and his cousin, Miss Gertrude, have left for England on Monday for a two-week dinner party was given to them at 'Plaxmere,' and on Tuesday they took their departure for Wellington, where they took the Gothic. Miss Russell wore a plainly made tweed frock, with a black feather bon, and brown hat. Mr Harold Russell's travelling suit was of light brown, and he wore an electric blue tie. Everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing Miss Gertrude Russell, during her stay here was sorry to bid good-bye to one of so bright and genial a disposition.

I am glad to say that our Mayor, Mr Fitz-Roy, is so far recovered that he was able to go with Mrs Fitz-Roy to Waipukurau, where they are staying with Mr and Mrs Sydney Johnston. The sad news of Mr Charles Naim's death, when they were expecting to hear of his return to New Zealand, must have been a great shock to his relations and friends. Much sympathy is felt for them.

Miss Williams and Miss E. Williams are staying in Wellington.

STREET DRESSES.

Mrs Croese is looking very stylish in a costume of sienna brown, made with a long jacket, brown hat; Miss Barker, fawn tweed, toque to match with pale pink trimming; Miss McHardy is wearing a very nice, simple, and elegant costume, consisting of a straw hat with silk to match; Mrs Brathwaite, well-fitting gown of brown hosiack, shot silk waistcoat, brown boat-shaped hat; Miss Nelson, dress of brown and yellow beaucher mixture, long black jacket, small black velvet hat, and a pair of black shoes; Miss King (Tomomua), black costume, toque trimmed with cornflowers; Miss Oglvie Green, spuff brown jacket and skirt, pale blue waistcoat, brown hat with feathers.

DOLLY.

WANGANUI NAVAL ARTILLERY BALL.

When the Wanganui Naval Artillery give a ball they believe in doing the thing well. Their annual function, held in the Drill Hall on the evening of Friday, the 27th July, was more than a success—it was a triumph, and has been the grandest given to those who toiled in making the arrangements necessary, as their efforts had not been wasted. The large and lofty hall was appropriately decorated. The banners aloft testified to the flourishing industry of P.O. Keane (Manager) and the officers who together were answerable for the effective and appropriate decorations. In addition to the flags aloft the walls were garnished with circular trophies, cut out of celluloid, bayonets, and other lethal furniture of proper naval type. A large mirror reflected the passing dandy to check the errors of his white tie and quiz the ladies without deliberately staring at them; here a cosy room for reading and happy couples did duty for 'the milkwhite thorn' of Burns' poem. A special and central feature of

THE DECORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

was the ice grotto, which, nicely upholstered and decked out with fern and other greenery, was one more hiding place for those who desired to see yet be themselves unseen. In the grotto, and to justify its name, were two columns of clear ice, four feet high and about a foot thick. Lighted from behind, the translucence of the columns was striking. The floor of the grotto was obtained from the Wanganui Freezing Works. The approach from the floor to the stage was by means of a stairway as wide as the stage itself, and firmer than is usual with most such temporary contrivances. A great number of the guests were seated in a sitting room, and when, at intervals during the evening, it was crowded with fair women and brave men, made a pleasing feature not to be forgotten. For this useful stairway and such other work, carried out by the Wanganui Gunner Maclean was responsible. The interludes for refreshments had been well provided for by C. P. O. Dustin, chief of the catering department; those who had not lost their appetites as well as their hearts had reason to be grateful to him. For the organ, grand feast for the eye as well as for the inner man and woman. The table decorations included an Eiffel tower and a model of the Bombay (India) fountain in trifles, hams and cakes, with the delicacies proper to the Naval Artillery, and the floral ornaments, plants and flowers for table decoration. Soup—very grateful on such a cold night—coffee and tea, and some anti-prohibition fluids, with the registration posters and sandwiches, filled out the bill of fare first and the guests afterwards.

THE ILLUMINATION WAS UNCOMMONLY GOOD.

In addition to thirty-six Chinese lanterns, there were three powerful Wenham lights, each of 250 candle power, and with the reflections from the sword blades on the wall and from bright eyes helped to make the hall brilliant.

The programme was a fairly heavy one—twenty-four items with extras; the floor had been got into good order, and over three hundred and fifty guests figured thereon. The dresses, sufficiently fresh and tasteful, were not particularly noticeable, nor indeed did there seem to have been much attempted in the way of grand toilettes, which perhaps accounted for there being less in the way of failure. To the passing visitor, most of those present were strangers and not readily identifiable, but the scene was

ONE WITH OF NIGHT COLOURS.

bright faces, and bright eyes, that glow brighter as the night wore on. The night was cold, and you had to dance to keep yourself warm; during the intervals cloaks and wraps were in requisition. The music, quite sufficient as it proved for so large a hall, was provided by Messrs G. W. Richardson, Gardner, and Armstrong. To notice a few of the dresses and dress-wearers, and to plead ignorance for omissions where inquiry failed: it is quite possible invidious to state nowadays who is the belle of the ball and at the Wanganui ball difficult to determine, there being a wealth of candidates. Be that as it may, Miss Cronin, in dark pink, for favourable appearance and graceful dancing could not be left out. The 'Wanganui beauties' (Miss Huddy, cream and cardinal, and Miss (Lark), cream and amber) were conspicuous by their presence, and it would be hard to choose in their class; seen apart, you preferred the one you saw seen together you liked both best. It would take the courage of Marie and the wisdom of Solomon to divide, and we remember Solomon, proved his wisdom instead of making a difference and suffering for it like poor Paris, the Hebrew King chose largely. There were many other Wanganui beauties present, and we remember, only a few because names are all to the loss of the reader and the writer. But we continue with our list of names secured: Mrs Chavanna was favoured in her choice of pale blue satin; and Mrs Foster in light brown, an excellent choice of colour. Miss Mar Durie, in blue, cream and white, with twinkling jewelled adornment, caught many an admiring eye. A little in pink and maroon; Miss J. Durie in a rich costume of light blue satin and (Gobelin velvet); Miss Higgins, in amber—were identified in the constellation. One dress, a seven-year-old high century mode, green washed and caught up with white satin, was both antiseptic and effective on the wearer, a lady whose name was not to be obtained. The M.C.s, and the committee, Dr. Saunders, Lieut. Nell, P. D. Gardner, P. D. Willie, Hon. Sec., Captain Clapham, and Gunners Love and Bell, had every reason for satisfaction at the outcome of their labours at and 'After the Ball.'

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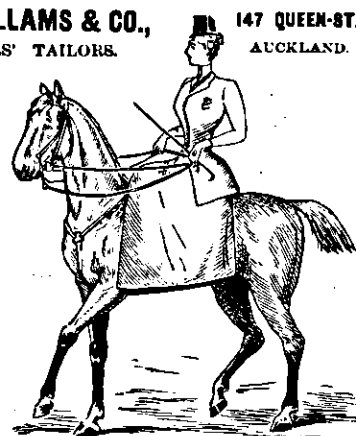
Beyond the realm of being and of pain, Upward and onward flits my charmed soul, Captive to the ineffable control Of music's wonder-worker. Every strain Of this heaven-nurtured harmony is rain To the parched thibee of memory: a rucull Whereon are given ecstasies that roll Floods of bewildering transport on the brain. In joy's whirlpool I rave as I soar, And from the ether heights whereto I climb, List the sound waves sweep back from Lethe's shore In lessening cadence toward the strand of Time, Deeply in the Circean founts I dip, And with the wild winds mix in fellowship.

A season, and throughout my spirit runs A pang of awesome desolation, lent The sombreness of some dead firmament Of cinerated worlds and buried anna. And then the presence of long-vanished ones— Soul-fellows ere youth's heritage was spent— (Glides palpably near. I am content: My grasp infinite no longer shuns! A moment, and a mighty sorrow, born Of exaltation's excess, casts a pall; Tears start, as drops of Nature's grief at morn Adown chameleon shafts of sunlight fall; My being quivers 'neath the sweet dross Of pain more joyous than earth's joyousness!

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