gem; Mrs (Dr.) Hooper, neat-fitting black gown, purple velvet bonnet profusely trimmed with jet; Miss Hooper, navy serge, white lace bow, black boat shaped hat with grey tartan ribbons; Mrs Isidor Alexander, brown plaid.

Now is the season when the young people begin to look forward to those fancy dress balls and dances which are always the swan song of the dancing season. Mrs Hay's dancing class is one of the most popular in Auckland, and has been a weekly treat for quite a host of children during the winter. The teaching is good, and the arrangements have been excellent. On the 11th of October Mrs Hay holds her fancy dress ball. If it is anything like it was last year it will prove one of the most enjoyable events of the season on the children's side, and one of the prettiest sights of the season from the spectacular point of view of 'grown-ups.' And we hear it is to be better than ever. There are rumours of a grand new butterfly dance, brought over from Sydney by Mrs Hay's assistant, Miss Lusk. This is reported to be specially pretty, and there is certain to be a big crowd of onlookers.

The handsome new stone building in Symonds street, which is to take the place of the old St. Paul's Church, is progressing rapidly, and will be a great ecclesiastical improvement to Auckland. A conversazione in aid of the building fund was successfully held in the Choral Hall last week. An interested number of visitors enjoyed music, light refreshments, conversation, and various side shows.

PHYLLIS BROUNE.

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 28.

Of course

LADY GLASGOW'S RECEPTION

at Government House last Monday night was very largely attended, about two hundred invitations having been issued for it. It was a very pleasant affair, and was given so that we might all have an opportunity of seeing Lady Glasgow again after the trip to England. Everyone was delighted to welcome our charming hostess back. The rooms were, as usual, elaborately decorated and looked very pretty. One end of the ballroom was completely banked with tall bamboo plants and ferns intermingled with flowers, pot plants, and fairy lights of pink, yellow, and blue. The drawing-room was also beautiful with quantities of camellias, violets, daffodils, etc., and King's Band stood near the piano, and discoursed sweet music during the evening. In the dining-room, which was also appropriately decorated, a light supper of tea, coffee, ices, oysters, etc., was dispensed. The long corridor was banked on either side with greenery, and the alcoves near the staircase and the staircase itself were beautifully decorated.

The Countess wore a lovely gown of cream satin with a long train, and trimmed with turquoise blue velvet and quantities of forget-me-nots, and the sleeves were covered with black chiffon embroidered with bright sequins and hanging loosely; she also wore her diamond tiara and necklet, and looked extremely well; Mrs Stewart, her sister, wore a beautiful white watered silk gown with deep white lace and epaulettes, and a deep flounce round the hem; Lady Augusta Boyle wore pink satin trimmed with écru lace, and Lady Alice Boyle wore cream striped gauze; Miss Thurston, who is staying at Government House, wore trimmed white lace. Other guests were Lady Hector, who wore a handsome grey merveilleux gown with epaulettes covered with white lace; Lady Buckley wore a lovely brocade gown, trained; Miss Jervois, a copper-coloured corded silk striped with satin, and prettily trimmed with pale blue silk and lace; Mrs Richmond, black; Miss Richmond, a handsome light Pompadour silk with sleeves of moss green velvet and trimmed with lace; Mrs J. G. Ward, white silk; Miss Seddon, white silk and lace; Mrs Ogle (Christchurch), black with white satin sleeves edged with jet, and a yellow chiffon sash; Mrs Pynsent, black and grey brocade; Mrs Maxwell, deep chocolate brocade; Mrs Izard, black; Miss Izard, white silk; Mrs C. Izard, lemon-coloured silk; Mrs Medley, black; Miss Medley, pale blue trimmed with white gauze; Mrs Acland, black; Miss H. Acland, pale yellow; Miss Stowe, pink satin and gauze; Mrs Adams, cream brocade and silver passementerie; Miss Moorhouse, black and yellow silk; Mrs Cooper, black; Miss H. Williams, cream brocade and lace; Miss Lily Williams, white satin with flowers and lace; Mrs Stocker, cream; Mrs Menzies, black velvet; Miss Menzies, blue silk and biege lace; Miss F. Menzies, gold and blue brocade; Miss Gore, old rose silk flounced with black chiffon and jet; Miss M. Gore, pale blue satin with black velvet and jet; Mrs W. Johnston, black velvet and diamonds; Miss Johnston, black moire; Mrs Grace, black velvet and chiffon; the Misses Grace, white satin; Miss Hadfield, old rose shot silk trimmed with black velvet and black lace; Mrs Sprott, green velvet; Miss Dransfield, white moire and lace; Mrs Barron, black velvet and lace; Mrs Barclay, black; Miss Barclay, cream; Miss Coleridge, pink velling with satin sleeves; Mrs Pharazyn, a combination of cream and silver brocade and sage green satin; Miss Buller, cream; Mrs Duncan black; Miss Duncan, grey satin with flowers; Mrs Tregear, cream; Mrs Quick, black; Miss Quick, pale blue satin with beetle's wing embroidery; Miss Gardiner, cream brocade trimmed with lace; Miss Pearce, cream satin; Mrs A. Pearce, pink silk embroidered with black and white flowers; Miss Gibson (Dunedin), pink silk and lace; Miss Mills (Dunedin), white brocade; Mrs Bell, white silk trimmed with lovely embroidery of pink blue and green, and trimmed also with pink velvet and green silk; Mrs Edwin, black; Miss Edwin, white; Miss Fairchild, yellow brocade; Miss N. Fairchild, blue silk; Mrs Weary, black; Miss Brandon, blue silk over a petticoat of white lace; Miss A. Brandon, yellow; Mrs Van Staveren, black; Mrs Fancourt, black; Miss Fancourt, white; Mrs Butts, black; Mrs Patterson, black; Miss Reynolds (Dunedin) brown and terra cotta silk; Mrs Parfitt, black brocade; Miss Grierson (Dunedin), cream trimmed with mauve insertion; Miss Newall, cream; Mrs O'Rorke (Auckland), black trimmed with jet; Mrs Mantell, black; Miss Douglas, white; Mrs Larnach (Dunedin), lemon-coloured satin with peacock silk bodice, and trimmed with chiffon; Mrs A. Crawford, pale blue silk; Mrs Friend, black; Miss Friend, blue silk; Miss O'Connor, white; Miss Gibson, pink; Mrs Fitzherbert, black; Miss Richardson, cream; also Mrs Whittall; the Premier (Mr Seddon), the Hons J. G. Ward, W. P. Reeves, Sir James Hector, Sir W. Buller, Dr. Adams, etc. Lord Kelburne, who is visiting his people, was there, and also Captain Preston, Major Elliott, Captain Stewart, Captain Clayton, and the Hon. James Boyle.

Lord Glasgow received with the Countess, and afterwards chatted with as many guests as possible, and the whole family made an effort to cause the affair to pass off pleasantly.

Mrs T. C. Williams gave

A SMALL DANCE

last night to about sixty guests. They first had a dinner party, and then the dance for young people afterwards, and among those present were Lady Augusta Boyle, Lord Kelburne, and the Misses Buller, Johnston, Grace, Thurston, Gore, Izard, and Duncan. The Misses Williams were helping, and it was a very merry little party.

Last Saturday night Miss Buller gave a very

ENJOYABLE 'AT HOME,'

about eighty guests arriving at nine o'clock and dancing until midnight. The whole house was most beautifully decorated, and the supper was prettily laid out in the dining-room. The billiard-room was used for dancing, and King's band supplied the programme music, several of the guests playing extras. Among those present were Captain and Mrs Stewart, Lord Kelburne, Lady Augusta Boyle, Mr and Mrs W. Johnston, Mrs Newman, the Misses Grace, Mills (Dunedin), Medley, Williams, Johnston, Izard, Gore, Coleridge, Harding and Douglas. Sir Walter Buller was helping to entertain.

Lady Glasgow is to give a small dance to-night at Government House as a farewell to Captain and Mrs Stewart.

Mrs G. Hutchison is to give an 'At Home' next Monday night, and of course every night next week is taken up with the Musical Festival, which begins on Monday next at the Opera House. I believe the rehearsals are most satisfactory, and the soloists from Melbourne appear to delight all who have heard them.

The

NAVAL BALL

last Friday night was given as a farewell to Captain and Mrs John Duncan and their family. Captain Duncan has resigned his position, and this was given as a 'send off.' It was a splendid ball, and was given in the Drillshed, there being about two hundred guests present. Mrs Duncan, who was presented with a lovely bouquet, wore a beautiful grey watered silk gown trimmed with lace and a long Watteau bow from the shoulders; Miss Duncan wore black satin jetted. Others present were Mr and Mrs Bell, Mr and Mrs A. Pearce, Miss Gibson, Mrs Ogle and the Misses Richmond, K. Hadfield, Grace, Johnston, Harding, Cooper, Williams, Coleridge, and many others. The decorations were beautiful, and were much admired. The band played from the centre of the room, and the extras were played by the Misses Ida Cooper and May Gore. The ball did not break up until about 2 a.m.

OPHELIA.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 27.

You know all about the old story of 'making bricks without straw,' etc., and one feels just as stranded to give you news when there is nothing going on. The high festival of 'spring cleaning' is occupying the attention of most households, and some lucky ones depart for Summer or other holiday resort and escape the horrors of it, but at the same time everything is given up to it, and there is no inclination to entertain in any shape with one or two exceptions.

One day last week Mrs Wilding, Fownhope, had

AN AFTERNOON

to welcome back Mrs and Miss Wilson, formerly of Compton, who have just returned from a trip to England. Mrs Wilson is in splendid health and spirits, and looking forward to again taking up her residence with us. It is very pleasant to find people who are satisfied to come back and enjoy New Zealand after the superiority of so much to be found in the mother country. At present they are only on a visit, and looking for a suitable residence. I hear 'Ilam' has been 'interviewed' and we hope they may take it; it is too lovely to be in charge of a caretaker only. But I must return to Mrs Wilding's, where we had some very good songs from Mrs Burns, Mrs Wilson, and Mrs Westmacott. Mrs Wilding played several times in her charming way. Some of those present were Lady Clifford, Mrs and Miss Studholme, Mrs Heaton Rhodes, Mrs and Miss Cowlishaw, the Hon. Mrs Parker, Mrs P. Campbell, Mrs Banks, Mrs Wallace, Mrs Marciel, and others.

Another

GOLF MATCH

was played off last week on Hagley Park among our own lady players. Mrs Denniston's prize for the second best player of the Club, consisting of a pretty gold bangle, fell to Mrs Arthur Reeves, Mrs O'Rorke coming second. Mrs Denniston presided over afternoon tea for a large number of visitors interested in the game. Mrs E. C. J. Stevens very kindly gave a prize for girls only. This was a gold brooch of golf sticks pattern, and was played for on Friday and won by Miss Ida Cowlishaw, her sister coming second. The champion match came off on Saturday with a greater number of players than usual, when a splendid game was fought, Mrs A. Boyle being eventually the winner, with Miss Ida Cowlishaw only one hole behind. Mrs P. Campbell presented the winner with a medal, and dispensed afternoon tea, which was most acceptable.

At the last meeting of the

ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE

committee it was decided to send a letter of sympathy to the Hon. J. T. Peacock in his bereavement on the death of his wife and their late Vice-President, acknowledging the great good Mrs Peacock had done for the Association, and her never abating efforts in its behalf. In replying the Hon. J. T. Peacock enclosed a cheque for £25 as a contribution towards an ambulance carriage, a late wish of Mrs Peacock's being that it should be obtained, as it was so necessary in the work of the Association.

OUR PEOPLE.

Mr and Mrs J. Gibbs have gone to Invercargill in the Aorangi. Miss E. Black accompanies them, and if the weather is favourable a very pleasant time will be spent.

Mr Philip Newbury, while out boating with a companion yesterday, was upset in the Avon, the boat colliding against a pile of one of the bridges. He was soon in a cab on his way home, but it was a dangerous proceeding with a delicate throat and the 'Messiah' fixed for next week. But the Mottet Society seem to have an unlucky star or patron saint for their guardian angel, so perhaps will not be surprised at fresh trouble.

DOLLY VALE.

NELSON.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 26.

There is only very little to tell you about this week, in fact, the whole time has been given up to

WALTER BENTLEY.

You will doubtless like to know some of those who were at the theatre during the season. Mr and Mrs A. Glasgow, the latter in a pretty red and green shot silk blouse; Mr and Mrs Pitt, the latter wearing steel grey silk with black lace epaulettes; Mr and Mrs Trask, the latter in rich black satin with handsome opera cloak; Mrs Renwick, lovely rich grey silk trimmed with black lace; Mr and Mrs Booth, the latter in a pretty blue evening blouse with jet trimming; Mrs Perrin, Mrs Lightfoot, Mrs Levien, Mrs Broad, all wore black; Mrs J. Sharp, pretty opera cloak of plum coloured plush and fur; Mr and Mrs T. Glasgow, the latter wearing a handsome and becoming Pompadour gown; Mrs Bunny, in a bright scarlet blouse with black lace; Mr and Mrs R. Kingdon, the latter wearing a very becoming sea-green silk evening blouse; Miss Fell, white evening blouse, her hair becomingly arranged with a gold band round the head; her sister, Miss K. Fell, wore a very pretty pink evening blouse, pink band in her hair; Miss Levien, white crepon with black lace and insertion; Miss Pitt, black velvet with knot of Maltese lace; Miss Robinson, pretty white evening dress; Miss Broad, pink evening blouse trimmed with lace and jet; Miss Trask and Miss Seddon both wore stylish cream broché opera cloaks; Miss Lightfoot, black evening gown; Mrs and Miss Atkinson, Miss Boyle in pretty blue evening cloak.

On Sunday evening the Theatre was again full to hear Bentley's interesting lecture on

'THE CHURCH AND STAGE.'

Your 'Autocratic Idler' has already given you an excellent sketch of this lecture, so I will only say that it was listened to with great pleasure by the large audience, who accorded Bentley a hearty vote of thanks at its conclusion.

OUR PEOPLE.

Mr Richmond, of Richmond Brook, is in Nelson, staying at the Cliffs' with his mother.

Mrs Higgie, of Wanganui, is at present a guest of Miss Sealy. All her old schoolchums are very glad to see her once again.

The Mayor, Mr Trask, returned from Wellington on Monday, where he had been to see if he could not get Nelson fairly treated with regard to the Midland Railway. Mr Pitt is in Wellington and interesting himself about the same matter.

Mr and Mrs Cock left last week for England, where they have gone to see Mrs Cock's mother. They intend being away about six months.

Mr Young and Mr C. Hodson, of Blenheim, are the guests of Renwick at present, and seem to like our pretty town.

PHYLLIS.

PICTON.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 25

Our dissipations this week consist mainly of

EUCHRE PARTIES,

which have 'froze on' profusely here. On Thursday last Lieut. and Mrs Baillie gave a very jolly one in honour of Mr T. Baillie's twentieth birthday. There is no need to say how immensely everybody enjoyed it; we always do that. Miss Isabel Seymour and Mr Fox carried off first prizes, whilst Miss Ethel Greensill and Mr J. Greensill won the boobies. Mrs Baillie wore black with a pretty lace cap, and with Lieut. Baillie and Messrs W. and T. Baillie were most devoted to their visitors' pleasure and amusement. Mrs Allen wore black cashmere with facings of black moire; Mrs Rutherford, pink silk with cream lace fichu and frills; Mrs Andrews, brown cashmere corded with white; Miss Bessie Greensill, brown costume; Miss Fell, red with black lace; Miss Mildred Fell, pale blue with white lace; Miss Allen, black lace with gold coloured chiffon frills and ribbons to match; Miss Nora Allen, black skirt, pink blouse; Miss Mary Seymour, dark skirt, pink blouse relieved with white lace; Miss I. Seymour, dark skirt, red blouse; Miss Scott, black skirt, pink blouse; Miss Ethel Greensill, dark skirt and cream blouse; Miss Sophie Philpotts and her sister, Miss M. Philpotts, both in black. The gentlemen were in addition to the family party, Messrs Rutherford, Andrews, Fox, Greensill, Seale, and Fenwick. Supper was laid out in the dining room, to which the party adjourned at 11 p.m., returning to the fascinating and fashionable progression round the drawing-room till 1 a.m., when 'many happy returns' were wished, and the party broke up.

On Friday the

WALTER BENTLEY COMPANY

played 'Friends' to a fairly good audience, that is to say the back seats, which were few and uncomfortable, were crowded, and the front seats, which were many, were sparsely occupied.

On Saturday evening Mrs Speed gave a

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE PARTY

at her residence. Miss Evelyn Linton and Mr T. Baillie came out victors for the first prizes, while Miss McIntyre and Mr Seale were the lucky recipients of the boobies. Mrs Speed was very handsomely gowned in black satin and lace; Miss Speed, brown skirt and cardinal velvet bodice; Mrs Mellish, black silk; Mrs Rutherford, terra cotta silk and cream Maltese lace; Mrs H. C. Seymour, dark costume; Miss Duncan, dark skirt, with pale blue silk blouse; Miss Mellish, dark skirt and red blouse; Miss Mary Seymour, brown skirt and red blouse; Miss Evelyn Linton, red skirt and white blouse; Miss Mary Allen, cream veiling and lace; Miss McIntyre, navy skirt and red blouse; Miss Nora Allen, pink zephyr frilled frock; Miss May Greensill, navy blue costume; Miss Scott, navy skirt and pink blouse; Miss Fell, red dress trimmed with black lace. The gentlemen were Messrs Rutherford, H. C. Seymour, Fenwick, Arrowsmith, J. Duncan, Fox, Baillie (two), Linton, and Seale. A lovely supper was artistically laid out in the dining-room, to which all the players did full justice, and fought their euchre battles over again over trifles light as air and goodies too numerous to mention. May the shadow of the inventor of progressive euchre never grow less.

On Monday evening the Misses Linton gave

STILL ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE PARTY

at their residence, Wairau Road. The weather was as unpleasant as it could possibly be, but for all that everybody, with the exception of two gentlemen, braved the elements, and arrived punctually. On this occasion Miss Mary Allen carried off first honours, and Mrs Allen, playing for one of the absentees, won the gentlemen's first prize, Miss Fell and Dr. Millington taking the boobies. There was great fun and excitement over the gentleman's prize. Mrs Allen drew a seat at the top table, and remained there so long that it was feared she intended to remain there all night. An unlucky partner worked the oracle at last, and the lady walked down to the bottom amidst cheers and delighted clappings from all the gentlemen. Miss Linton wore a dark skirt and cream blouse; Miss Evelyn Linton, brown skirt and white lace blouse; the Misses Irene and Maud Linton were both in fawn-coloured frocks; Mrs H. C. Seymour, black merveilleux and lace; Mrs Fell, black trimmed with jet; Mrs Allen, black; Mrs Millington, black silk and jet; Miss (A. P.) Seymour, navy blue velvet; Miss Mellish, brown skirt and pink blouse; Miss Mary Allen, navy blue costume; Miss Duncan, black skirt, blue blouse; Miss Fell, red dress; Miss Speed, brown skirt and red blouse; Miss McIntyre, black skirt, white blouse; Miss Greensill, dark dress; Miss Scott, black skirt and pink frilled blouse; the gentlemen being Messrs Linton, Rutherford, Baillie, Fox, Seale, Duncan, and Dr. Millington.

PERSONALITIES.

Mrs and Miss Mellish, who have given up all idea of settling in the north, are staying in Picton on a short visit, ere proceeding to Christchurch. Mrs Mellish is staying with Mrs Rutherford, and Miss Mellish with Miss Speed.

Miss Mary Allen, who has taken up asylum work, and is stationed at Porirua, has been home to recruit from a rather serious illness from influenza, and leaves for Wellington to-day, looking all the better for the change to her native clime, invitations from old friends to pleasant parties, afternoon-teas, and delightful drives, being more numerous than she was able to accept.

JEAN.

NAPIER.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 28.

A fashionable

EUCHRE PARTY

was given last week for young people by Mrs Sainsbury. Amongst those who were present were Mr and Mrs Harry Tylee, and Mr and Mrs Arthur Kennedy, Mr and Miss Kennedy, Miss G. Hughes, and Messrs Wilson, Elliott, Popham, Sainsbury, Jack Hughes, etc. The first prizes were won by Mr and Mrs Arthur Kennedy, respectively, who are both always very fortunate at this fascinating game which beguiles the weary hours away.

ANOTHER ENJOYABLE EUCHRE PARTY

was that given by Mr and Mrs James Carlile. I am told there were ten tables going, and that the prizes were unusually handsome. Mrs George Morris was the envied possessor of the first prize.

The

FINAL MEET OF THE HOUNDS

held on Saturday was perhaps the most enjoyable of the season. 'Twas a fine hunting day,' and everyone turned up. It was held on Mr George Donnelly's property at Ngatarawa. Mrs George Donnelly with Mr Shaw laid the drag. Amongst the followers were many ladies and gentlemen, and Miss Maud Donnelly's riding was much admired. This young lady had a splendid mount, and was conspicuous throughout, negotiating every obstacle splendidly. Mrs and Miss Sunderland (Gisborne), Miss Maud Shaw, Miss Nelson, Miss Berkely, Messrs Kinross, White, Hovell, Shaw, Donnelly, Cooper, etc., were also present.

After a long period of lovely weather dismal rain and wind has been the order of the day, but as it refreshes mother earth I suppose we must not complain.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS.

Mrs Bendall, from Wellington, is visiting Miss Hitchings, and is wearing a pretty black dress, and jet bonnet with white lace bows.

Miss Nellie Heath is having a well-earned rest in the Empire City, where she is staying with her cousin, Mrs Sam Kennedy, for a few weeks.

A number of our promising young men left for Coolgardie last week. We hope one and all will make their fortunes.

Lady Whitmore has been seriously indisposed since her ball, and leaves shortly for Auckland.

Miss Ida Locke has returned from a lengthened stay in Gisborne.

GLADYS.

AILEEN, please call for letter.—BEE.

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