Society Gossip.

AUCKLAND.

DEAR BEE OCTOBER 10

We have been enjoying perfect weather last week, and already there is some promise of tennis galeties, for invitations are out for the opening day of one at least of the most popular clubs. If I have the opportunity, I will tell you all about it when it comes off

I am glad to say the Ponsonby 'At Home' eventuates on Friday, so we shall have an enjoyable evening at least this week.

The fifth dance of the

REMUERA SOCIAL UNION.

took place last Thursday, and was very successful, the gentlemen having the majority by six. The hall was prettily decorated with flags, and the stage with puriri and other small shrubs in pots. The floor was polished to such an extent that it was dangerous to stand still, though perfect for dancing, and with the addition of good music and an enjoyable supper, the latter being provided by the Remuera ladies, the success of the dance was an acknowledged fact. The night was also a lovely one, being moonlight and deliciously cool and fresh. Amongst the pretty gown I noted Mrs Taylor (Tamaki) in black satin, white cape; Mr and Mrs H. Johnstone, the lady wearing Egypt red silk with velvet bebe sleeves finished with white lace, handsome opera cloak to match; Mr and Mrs Finlayson, the latter was gowned in a handsome slate grey brocaded silk edged with white lace; Mrs Johnstone (Parnell), black silk with bead trimming, e gant coquelicot red opera cape; Mrs Cottle, black moiré antique with jet ornaments, with cardinal bows on gown and in hair; Miss Bursill, dome blue mirror silk finished with white Honiton lace; Miss Fanny Johnstone, pretty combination of coral and blue silk; Miss Bailey wore a becoming gown of pink striped bengaline finished with silver spotted net and silver passementerie; Mrs (Major) Banks, very handsome electrique slate trimmed with blue brocaded in gold, blue feathers in hair; Mr and Mrs Ansenne (Penrose), the lady wearing a pretty white ivory silk with gold braid trimmings; Miss Power, a classical gown of white and gold; Miss Daisy Forbes, a dainty sky blue silk *en traine*, finished with white lace; Miss Taylor (Tamaki) looked *piquante* in a maize-coloured gown relieved with white; Mrs Bush looked remarkably well in black silk profusely trimmed with beads and jet. Nihiliste cape; Miss Bush looked very pretty in white chiffon; Miss Hesketh was very much admired in a white gauzy material, becoming necklet of daisies; Miss Davy, neat fitting Tuscan brocaded silk, and her sister was gowned in white; Miss Stevenson, old gold silk shot with brown; and her sister, white with heliotrope; Miss Jackson, orange Liberty silk; Miss Percival, white silk with red band and trimmings; Mr and Mrs Turner (Mount Eden), the lady wearing a stylish red silk with gold finishings; Misses Bull (two) were simply gowned in white silks; Miss Herrold, black lace; Mrs Thorne-George, black lace costume, coquelicot red cape; Miss Ida Thorne-George, reseda art nouveau finished with black chiffon; the Misses Taylor (Mount Albert), sultan red silks finished with white satin; Mrs Bassett, black silk; Miss Flora Thorpe looked *distinguée* in pink; Miss Lennox, striking gown of pink bengaline finished with blue; Miss Gorrie, white Liberty silk, and her sister wore a pretty cream nun's veiling; Miss Laura Baker, black lace; Miss Allie Buddle, black velvet finished with white; Miss Noakes looked lovely in white. Amongst the gentlemen were Messrs Gordon, Whewell, Anderson, Stubbs, Bell, Ford, Jackson, Purchas, Johnson, Noakes, Paton, Kissling, Elliott, Bailey, Bagnall, Smith, Professor Egerton, and a great many others whom I cannot recall at the moment.

A DELIGHTFUL COMPLIMENTARY DANCE

was given by about sixty of the young people of Ponsonby to Mrs Bach last week. Burke's band supplied the music, and a thoroughly happy evening was spent. Mrs Bach wore on this occasion a handsome black lace trimmed with primrose silk; Miss Bach, white silk; Miss B. Bach, heliotrope crepon; Miss C. Bach, white; Miss Kennedy, pink veiling; Miss Hart, cream, maroon plush sleeves; Miss Anderson, black lace; Miss J. Anderson, cream and gold; Miss Symons pale blue; Miss B. Devore, white; Miss Oldham, pink; Miss Oaldwell, white; Miss Butters, black lace; Miss Cousins, pale green; Miss Adams, black lace relieved with green; Miss Macindoe, pale blue; Miss Campbell, cream silk; Miss S. Campbell, white; Miss Gittos, cream with old gold sash; Miss Hughes looked very pretty in white; Miss Patterson, black and scarlet; Miss Greenhough, white; Miss McVickers, pink silk.

One of the

MOST ENJOYABLE PRIVATE DANCES

which I have had the pleasure of attending this season was given by Mrs Adams at her residence, Collingwood-street, Ponsonby, on Wednesday last. There was a brilliant assemblage. A programme of fourteen dances and four extras was gone through. The music, supplied by Mrs Stoddart, Misses Adams and Anderson, Messrs H. Adams and A. C. McLean, being excellent, left nothing to be desired in that respect. The balcony and grounds were tastefully laid out, affording many charming sitting out spots for those who, at intervals, preferred seclusion to the mazy dance. Mrs Adams, attired in a handsome black silk gown, received the guests, and was indefatigable in her exertions to promote the enjoyment of everyone. She was assisted by her daughter, who wore a pretty gown of cream and gold. Amongst the ladies present were Mrs Stoddart, in a pretty black net with gold trimmings; Miss Bertha Devore, dainty white Liberty silk; Miss Butters, very effective cream cashmere and lace; Miss Anderson, dark skirt, green blouse; Miss J. Anderson, very neat dark skirt, blue bodice trimmed with black velvet; Miss Ponsford, pale blue veiling and gold lace; Miss Bell, pink cashmere, green velvet sleeves; Miss Sands, charming costume of black relieved with fawn; Miss Hilda Adams, tasteful dark skirt, light blouse; Miss Wright, black and crimson; Miss Merritt looked charming in a pretty white muslin with pink sash; Miss Hughes wore a handsome dress of white silk; Miss Gittos, stylish cream costume; Miss Bach looked neat in pink cashmere; Miss Leighton wore a neat blue veiling costume with silk sleeves; Miss Warnock, handsome green crepon trimmed with white lace; Miss Farrell, pretty heliotrope costume trimmed with lace of lighter shade. Among the gentlemen present were Messrs A. C. McLean, J. A. Peacock, G. W. Owen, M. A. Carr, W. Sands, W. Airey, P. H. Harris, Shortt (two), F. Diddams, G. Merritt, C. Bach, H. Gittos, D. Woollams, and J. A. Warnock.

PHYLLIS BROUNE.

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE, OCTOBER 4.

Mrs George Hutchison gave another of her

ENJOYABLE 'AT HOMES'

last Monday night, there being about one hundred guests, and dancing was kept up from nine until about two a.m. The rooms were beautifully decorated, the mantelpieces being filled with flowers and greenery. The champagne supper was an excellent one, and was prettily served amid a profusion of flowers and drapery. Kings's band supplied the music, and several of the guests played extras at supper time. Mr and Mrs Hutchison received together, and made excellent entertainers. Mrs Hutchison wore a beautiful frock of cream brocade, slightly trained and trimmed with pearl embroidery and lace; Miss Hutchison wore black velvet with a pink sash; Miss Hutchison, of Dunedin, wore cream, and her sister, a black gown; Lady Augusta Boyle wore black trimmed with feather; Mrs Duncan, handsome grey brocade and white lace; Lady Huckley, a beautiful sage green silk gown with violet velvet sleeves and trimming; Mrs J. C. Martin, white; Mrs Gavin, black; Miss Grace, white; Mrs Parfitt, black; Mrs Werry, black; Miss Shirley Baker (Auckland), cream silk trimmed with cream gauze; and there were also present the Misses Pearce, Johnston, Grierson (Dunedin), Reynolds (Dunedin), Acland, Coleridge, Gore, Worsp (Auckland), and many others.

OPHELIA.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 29.

For almost a fortnight the weather down here has been simply perfect. Most of the gardens are just a blaze of bulbs and spring flowers.

On Wednesday Mrs Sargood (Romanoff) gave a most successfu

MUSICAL EVENING.

Mrs Sargood received in the drawing-room. She was most beautifully gowned in rich mauve corded silk with sleeves and trimmings of blue silk. Lace and passementerie gave a very stylish finish to it. The hall looked very pretty with rugs, comfortable chairs, tables, pot plants, etc., all about it. A most tempting supper was laid in the dining-room on a table most tastefully decorated. The decoration consisted of a large mirror placed crossways on the centre of the table. Round this mirror were arranged bunches of single yellow primroses mixed with grass and forget me nots. Large bows of primrose and pale green ribbon were pinned here and there on the cloth. Shades of crépon paper to match were placed over all the lights. The effect was extremely pretty. Miss Rachel Reynolds Miss Greenwood, and Mr Gully contributed songs. Miss Busack gave two violin solos, and Miss Ulrich played two pianoforte pieces. Mr Phil Wright played a very pretty violin obligato to one of Miss Greenwood's songs. Before the evening came to a close a number of small tables were brought in. Everybody thought that they were going to turn it into a euchre party, but nothing of the kind happened. Numbers were drawn for places and partners, but instead of progressive euchre we found that a different game was to be played at every table, such as Napoleon, Vingt-et-un, Tiddledy Winks, euchre, etc. Miss Aggie Roberts was the fortunate winner of the top prize, which was a very pretty basket filled with primroses. Those pre-ent were Mrs Maclean, black silk with lace, and white, chiffon trimmings; Miss Busack, black and white striped silk trimmed with black lace; Miss Rachel Reynolds, pale yellow nun's veiling lavishly trimmed with wide white chiffon; Miss F. Maclean, white surah silk and lace; Miss Aggie Roberts, green silk, skirt and body prettily trimmed with white lace; Miss Susie Webster, black satin heavily trimmed with jet and lace; Miss Mary Wright, pale blush, with body of pale green; Miss Greenwood, white; Miss Ulrich, cream surah silk, with sleeves and bands of blue velvet; Miss E. Ulrich, yellow silk; Miss Clapp (Melbourne), black brocade; Miss MacCulloch (Melbourne), pale green merveilleux trimmed with green velvet; Miss Sise, green crépon trimmed with silk of a darker shade; and a few others whom I do not remember. The gentlemen present were Messrs Sargood, MacLean, Gully, Reynolds, Rattray, Robinson, Henry, Webster, Wright, Cheeseman, Kettle, Richardson, Mason Sievewright, George Sievewright, and Haggitt.

On Wednesday evening Miss Jessie Moodie gave a

SMALL EUCHRE PARTY

for Miss Jean Anderson (Christchurch). There were six tables, and the prizes were won by Miss Bartleman and Miss Graham, Mr Frank MacLean and Mr Wilson. The table was prettily decorated with primroses and daffodils.

THE GUESTS.

Miss Moodie, black silk dress covered with black net, large sleeves of salmon pink satin; Miss Bartleman, simple white silk trimmed with white chiffon; Miss Graham, black satin trimmed with jet and black lace; Miss Shand, heliotrope silk covered with black net, large sleeves and revers of black watered silk; Miss Edith Shand, yellow silk trimmed with olive green velvet; Miss Ramsay, black silk covered with black net, terra cotta silk sleeves; Miss Scott, black satin; Miss Mabel Kempthorne, pretty white nun's veiling trimmed with lavender silk and ribbon; Miss Jean Anderson (Christchurch), lovely blue silk tarlatan, with white lace; Miss Morris, black cashmere, large epaulettes of surah silk edged with jet; Miss Ella Morris, red nun's veiling lavishly trimmed with Edelweisz lace; Miss Smith, pink trimmed with black; Miss Macassey, pale blue silk. Amongst the gentlemen present were the Messrs Moodie, Wilson, Graham, Morris, Macassey, Sleigh, Hendry, Ramsay, Herdman, and others.

On Saturday evening Mrs Sinclair Thomson gave

A SMALL DINNER PARTY

at her residence, Willow Bank, for Mrs Robert Turnbull. Those present were Mr and Mrs Thomson, Mr and Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Mills, Mr and Miss Webster, and Mr James Reid. The dinner was a very jolly one, and passed off most successfully.

AILEEN.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, OCTOBER 3.

I long to have something to tell you

BUT PEOPLE SIMPLY WILL NOT 'FRIVOL.'

I never thought the spring time made people so serious-minded before. Christchurch is in such low water as regards amusements that the Switchback Railway, which is to be opened on Thursday by His Worship the Mayor, ought to enjoy a great popularity. A dashing ride attended with sweet music and electric light at night will be sure to prove a great attraction to many. But can you imagine a fine Saturday afternoon wasted on a 'Merry-go-round' to the tune of 'Love's old sweet song,' played at the rate of a galop? That is how I saw two most charming bachelor hours away last Saturday. Far better would it have been for their constitutions had they taken part in the

CROSS COUNTRY RACE,

which took place at Sumner on the hills at the back of Mr Monck's. The course was a stiff one. There was a stiff hill to mount twice, which few faced the second time. The distance was about three miles, which the winner, Mr J. W. Jones, accomplished in something less than twenty-three minutes. A number of people turned out to see it—fully a thousand, where from the surrounding hills a good view was obtained of the whole course, also of the sailing races which took place on the Estuary and inaugurated the New Brighton Sailing Club season. The afternoon was far from pleasant, a cold wind blowing all the time,

THE CALEDONIAN SOCIETY WOUND UP ITS SEASON

by a dance in Hobbs' buildings on Wednesday evening, which was well attended by members and their friends, and a very pleasant time spent,

THE SAVAGE CLUB

held its final *korero* on Monday evening, when the braves and savages were rejoiced to give welcome to Savage G. P. Williams, who has just returned from a trip to England. Amongst other songs and stories he gave some interesting items of his travels and friendly greetings from other clubs he had visited.

On Saturday last a party of gentlemen, including Messrs Ollivier, Mannering, Bickerton, Fisher, H. D. Carter, Kinsey, Rollit, Andrews, and C. W. Hill took a trip to Springfield, and made an early start on Sunday morning to

ASCEND MOUNT TORLESSE.

The weather was beautiful, and after a hard climb, the snow being very soft, the whole party reached the top. A full account is ritten by one of them and some splendid photographs will reach you in due course. They returned to town on Monday morning by the early train, having thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

On Wednesday Mrs C. W. Hill, Turihaua, Merivale, gave a

MOST ENJOYABLE LITTLE LUNCHEON PARTY.

Among the guests were Mrs J. Gibbs, Mrs Croxton, Mrs E. Deacon, Mrs Walcot Wood, Miss Brett (Auckland), Mrs Chynoweth, and others. The only regret was having to leave such pleasant company to attend meetings or other social duties as some of us had to do, but we managed to get a little music, and a splendidly given recitation from Mrs Chynoweth, one of Sims' many pathetic pieces, 'The Street Tumblers.'

On Saturday next the opening of the boating season on the Avon takes place. The usual number of invitations have been issued for afternoon tea from residents of Avonside, and weather permitting there should be some spring costumes out.

DOLLY VALE.

NAPIER.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 29.

I have just arrived home drenched with rain, but fully repaid for having ventured out to attend

MR MAUGHAN BARNETT'S FIRST OF THE SERIES OF HIS FAREWELL CONCERTS.

Mr Pope sang two songs composed by Mr Barnett, and 'Absent yet Present.' Mrs Margolionth, Mrs and Miss Ormond, Mrs Kettle, Mrs Logan, Mrs White, the Misses Cotterill, Locke, Rhodes, Page, etc., were there. Messrs Dicken and Humphries also assisted.

THE HUNT CLUB

races and sports were fashionably attended. Mrs George Donnelly with a large party drove there, also, I noticed, Mrs Russell and Miss Cara Russell, Mrs J. Rhodes and her daughter Madge, Miss Groome, Mi-s Nelson, Miss M. Nelson, Miss Maud Donnelly, the Misses Lowry, Mrs Lovell, Mrs Kinross White, Mrs Reed, Mrs Kettle, and Mrs Logan. The 'beaux' of the Hawke's Bay district also mustered in good force.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs Provis in the loss they sustained in their house being burnt to the ground. Nothing was saved, and everything was destroyed by the foul fiend fire, including a sum of money in notes.

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE

seems by no means to be on the wane. A number of players spent a pleasant evening at Miss Page's studio, amongst whom were Mr C. D. Kennedy and Miss Maud Kennedy, Miss Hill, Miss Rhodes, Mrs Von Dadelsen. Mr and Mrs Courtenay Bowen, Misses Rhodes, Nocke, and Hughes, and Messrs Parker, Jack Hughes, Von Haast, Roberts, etc.

STREET DRESSES.

Mrs Tabuteau is much admired in a cardinal and black costume; Miss Dora Heywood looks remarkably well in brown skirt, neat Norfolk blouse of brown velveteen, *chic* sailor hat with black and green band; Miss Ada Vautier, black velveteen handsomely trimmed with jet, black hat *en suite*; Mrs Maughan Barnett, light summer tweed of fawn colour; her two dear little girls look bonny in all white costumes with quaint Puritan bonnets; Mrs Hamlin, black serge with jet.

JOTTINGS ABOUT OUR PEOPLE.

Mr Spencer Gollan has gone to Sydney.

Miss Marchmont, from Wellington, is visiting the Misses Hughes.

Mr and Mrs Kimbell (*née* Miss Gurr) are staying in Wellington.

Mr Jimmy Wilson's departure to Wellington has been unavoidably postponed for some weeks.

Mr, Mrs, and Miss Beatrice Lascelles purpose leaving for the new home in India at the end of October.

GLADYS.

NELSON.

DEAR BEE, OCTOBER 3.

The ladies' musical society, which is called the

LIEDERKRANZ,

gave their first concert this year in the Harmonic Hall. A great number of people were present, and all seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. The hall had been tastefully and artistically draped with flags, evergreens, and flowers, and looked exceedingly pretty. After the musical portion of the programme was concluded refreshments were handed round and duly appreciated by the large audience. The first part of the programme consisted of a cantata by Heale, called the 'Watersprites,' the solos being taken by Mrs Walker and Mrs Hoult. Mrs Houlker conducted admirably, Miss Crump playing the accompaniment. The second part opened with a duet for violin and piano by Miss Kidson and Miss Richmond, Mrs Houlker charming all by her sweet and cultivated rendering of a new song of Cowen's, 'The Promise of Life.' Another lady vocalist was Miss Hunt. This young lady has a powerful and rich voice, and will soon be among the front rank of lady singers. She sang one of Cowen's songs, 'The Song from Heaven,' splendidly, and for recall 'Sunshine and Rain.' The other ladies who took part were Mrs J. Sharp, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Gibbs, and Miss Millnish. Mrs Houlker was gowned in a becoming black silk with pink chiffon frill; Mrs Roberts wore yellow velvet with black guipure lace; Mrs Hoult wore a pretty gown of white gauze, and a lovely opera cloak of creamy velveteen with feather trimming; Mrs Walker wore pretty white crépon with black lace basque and frill; Mrs J. Sharp, black lace with large sleeves of red silk; Mrs R. Kingdon, black skirt, pretty bright green silk blouse; Miss Gibbon, becoming white gown; Miss Millnish, pale pink; Miss Richmond, pretty bright red blouse, dark skirt, Miss Gibbs and her sister both wore pretty white gowns; Mrs Burnes, becoming and stylish black evening gown; Mrs Thornton, green velveteen; Mrs Bunny, bright pink blouse; Mrs Macquarie, Mrs Robinson, and Mrs Bell all wore black evening gowns; Miss A. Bell, black skirt, bright red blouse; Miss Sealy, becoming black gown; Mrs Pitt, steel grey silk with black lace; Miss Pitt, black velveteen; Miss B. Atkinson wore a stylish red evening gown with black lace; Messrs Joynt, Macquarie, Burnes, Lunn, Thornton, Pitt, J. Sharp, Kingdon, Adams, Dr. Roberts, etc.

Efforts have been made lately to form an association of

OLD COLLEGE BOYS,

and a meeting for that purpose was held on Monday last. A committee was appointed to draft regulations, etc., Mr J. H. Harkness being appointed secretary. These associations have been found most successful wherever they have been formed in connection with other schools, and as there are past pupils of the Nelson College all over New Zealand such an association ought to prove most advantageous to all.

The winter being over, it necessarily follows that football is out and

CRICKET IS IN.

The first match of the season is to be played on the College ground on Saturday week between teams from the College and Nelson Clubs. There will be a hard fight for the championship this year.

PHYLLIS.

BLENHEIM.

DEAR BEE, OCTOBER 2.

Seeing that no letter from Blenheim has appeared in your columns for some time, I thought a few items of our doings here would not come amiss to you.

The event of last week was the coming of the

WALTER BENTLEY COMPANY,

They performed for three nights to crowded houses, opening in 'The Silver King,' followed by 'Friends,' and lastly by 'The Silence of Dean Maitland,' which drew one of the largest audiences ever seen in Blenheim, the hall being perfectly packed. Many of the country people were in for the season, and it was quite a pleasure to see the familiar faces about town again.

On Tuesday Blenheim was visited by one of its epidemics, not of a flood this time, as has been expected, but by one of the

MOST DESTRUCTIVE FIRES EVER EXPERIENCED HERE.

It started through an explosion of turpentine in a chemist's shop, and quickly spread to the adjoining buildings; the result being that in a very short space of time eight shops were doomed, either demolished, or charred and damaged to a great extent, leaving a wide gap in the heart of the town. Fortunately, no wind was blowing, or the whole block might have gone, and greater damage been sustained. As it is the loss will be considerable to the sufferers, not only through the fire, but by water on the stock and household goods.

The disturbing effects of the fire did not prevent a good audience from attending the

CONCERT IN THE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOLROOM.

The first part of the programme consisted of selections from Dr. Root's cantata, 'Faith Triumphant.' Miss Simson, as Queen of Syria, was especially successful in her part, sustaining it with feeling and effect, and the Misses Craig and Ball rendered their