Secretan, Mrs and Miss Russell, Miss Meeson, Miss Henry, Mrs Julius and her daughters, Mrs Eimbling, Miss Ronalds, and many others.

On Friday evening there was

A CONCERT AND LECTURE

at Fendalton in aid of the Vicarage Repairs' Funds. Mr G. Harris gave some interesting information about the West Coast, Mr Hurst Seager some good limelight views. Misses Davie, E. Helmore, and Lingard, Messrs Sinims and Merton contributed several pleasing musical items.

A very successful

ENTERTAINMENT

was given at Christ's College on Wednesday for the games' fund. The room was artistically decorated and the stage particularly so. The first part consisted of songs by Messrs Hugh Reeves, A. Merton, G. March and Master Bainz, Lake and Vincent. In the second part some scenes from 'The Rivals' were well given by the boys, and some selections by the school band were very well played under the direction of Mr A. Merton.

The North Canterbury Jockey Club held the

ANNUAL BALL

at Amberley on Thursday evening after the races. A number of Christchurch residents journeyed up as usual—Mr and Mrs Pyne, Mr and Mrs G. Gould, the Hon. E. W. Parker, Mr and Mrs Campbell, and others. Among those who attended the races were Mr and Mrs Scott, Mr and Mrs Wilder, Mr and Miss Crossley, Miss M. Greenwood, Mr and Mrs Thomson, Mr and Mrs A. McFarlane, Mrs and the Misses Courage, Misses Wilson, Mr and Mrs Chapman, Mr and Mrs Starkey, Mr and Mrs L. Lane, the Messrs F. and H. Lance, both driving four-in-hands, Mrs Lance, Mrs Greenwood, etc.

During the week the Rev. Mr and Mrs Parker have been holding services in the Congregational Church, giving some interesting details of the missionary's life in China, doubly interesting just now since the dreadful massacre at Kucheng.

PERSONAL.

Mr G. G. Stead and his eldest son left for Sydney by the Talune to be present at the races there.

Mr and Miss Cowlishaw have also gone by the same boat for a trip.

Miss K. Gray left by the Tainui for a trip to England. It will be rather a dull voyage—there were so few passengers. The most important, at any rate the most valuable being Mr Gollan's race horses, our old friend 'Norton' being I believe amongst the number.

Mrs H. H. Pitman and family returned to Wellington by the Gothic, where Mr Pitman met them, and came on to Christchurch the following day.

Mrs Meeson, of Fendalton, returned from Melbourne last week after several months' holiday. Miss Dora Mreson remains behind with her sister.

Mrs Alan Scott returns to England by the Gothic, having received bad news of a favourite relative's health at home.

OBITUARY.

Another of our old colonists has passed away this week, and numbers will read with regret of the death of Mrs Robert Struthers, of Lichfield-street. Probably many of those to whom she has been a friend in need may not have even heard of her illness, which, though severe, has only been of a few weeks' duration. Mrs Struthers has resided in the colony over thirty years, and has ever been a vigorous worker in connection with St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and in any good cause. Many have reason to bless the day their misfortune came to the knowledge of Mrs Struthers, who without undue sentiment always had a ready heart and hand for the relief of the suffering. Her death will cause a great blank, and universal sympathy has been expressed for Mr Struthers in his sad bereavement. Next Sunday a special memorial service will be held in St. Paul's Church.

DOLLY VALE.

NELSON.

DEAR BEE, AUGUST 21.

Last Saturday the second evening in connection with the

GIRLS' CLUB

was held at the Girls' College. On this occasion we were entertained by the past pupils of the College, otherwise called the Old Girls, and a very jolly time we spent. The entertainment took the form of a short and most amusing play entitled, 'The New Woman,' those taking part being Misses Fell (two), Misses Atkinson (two), and Misses Hunter-Brown (two). Three of the actresses were gowned in the much talked-of dress reform costume, two appeared as gentlemen, and only one was dressed as is usual with her sex. The whole plot of the play was to show what man would come to were the emancipation of woman to take place. The performance was well acted, and was most amusing, the audience being kept in roars of laughter from beginning to end of the play. After the performance refreshments were partaken of interspersed with the usual amount of gossiping we girls meet, and altogether we had a very pleasant couple of hours. This being a kind of extra night several ladies other than past pupils had been invited by Miss Gibson, and so the lecture-room was well filled, some of those present being Miss Gibson, Miss Gribben, Miss Watt, Miss Higgins, Misses Catley (two), Miss Huddlestone, Miss Stace, Misses Glasgow (two), Miss Sealy, Miss Broad, Miss Webb-Bowen, Mrs Blackett, Mrs Harris, Mrs Paterson, Misses Bell (two), Miss Dugdale, Misses Heaps, Wood, Turner, Gibbs, Mabin (two), Rockfort, Preshaw, Cuthberson, Atkinson, M. Cock, Pitt, Hubbard, Gannaway, and Miss Olivier.

Another of Miss Broad's

ASSEMBLY DANCES

eventuated last Wednesday, and was as usual a great success, all present seeming to enjoy themselves. Some there were Mrs Broad, in black lace and silk, with pretty silk corsage; Miss Broad, pink surah and olive green velvet sleeves and butterfly bow; Miss Sealy, pretty black gown of silk and lace; Miss Mackay, pale heliotrope with gauze sleeves; Miss Curtis, black net and silk with yellow silk veiled with jet on the corsage; Miss Glasgow, pretty pink silk with darker velvet on the corsage and skirt; Miss R. Glasgow, becoming black gown; Miss G. Jones, pink and black gown; Miss B. Atkinson, bright green gown relieved with black; Miss Heaps, white brocaded gown; Miss Gannaway, pretty pale blue relieved with black lace; Miss McRae, pink and black gown; Miss Gribben looked extremely well in black with white hands veiled with jet on the corsage; Miss Wright, becoming white crepon; Miss Hubbard, white and yellow gown; Miss Ledger, black lace and cream velvet, and jet on the corsage; Miss Trent, white with pink velvet sleeves; Miss A. Trolove, pretty blue gown; Messrs Duncan, Levien, Mackay, Broad (two), Glasgow, Robison, O'Beirne (two), Tomlinson, Green, Washbourne, Sealy, Corrigan, etc.

On Saturday evening Mrs Houiker gave a very enjoyable

LITTLE DANCE

to the younger members of the community, at which it is hardly necessary to say they had a very good time. The floor, music, and last, but by no means least in their eyes, supper all being excellent. I think that in Nelson our young brothers and sisters have a very merry time of it, their dances are of greater numbers in the year than those of their elders.

Perhaps you will hardly credit it at this time of the year, but in the country people are actually

SHORT OF WATER,

and, in fact, some have none at all, but have to go to those more fortunate neighbours with small streams running through their property. And it is a fact that the people from the Lighthouse have to come over every day to the port for water. It seems almost incredible that such a state of things should be in the middle of winter, or to be more correct I suppose I ought to say the end of winter. We have certainly had a perfect season, two months of continued fine and sunny days, with cold frosty nights. We ought to be all in excellent health and spirits after such a winter, and prepared to face the heat of the coming summer, which all predict will be very great this year.

PHYLLIS

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BLENHEIM.

DEAR BEE, AUGUST 21.

Last Wednesday Miss Horton had a

SOCIAL DANCE

in the Good Templar's Hall as a wind-up to her winter dancing class. The floor was in splendid order, and dancing was a pleasure. The supper table was very tastefully decorated with sea green pongee and vases of scarlet japonicas, erica, jonquils, daffodils and foliage, and the dainty cakes, jellies, and fruit were evidently much enjoyed. Miss Horton looked very well in a becoming pink veiling; Miss A. Horton wore white; Miss J. Horton, pale blue blouse with lace, dark skirt; Miss Amy Fiven was the belle in a pretty buttercup yellow dress with yellow velveteen sleeves; Miss Emma Carey looked very nice in a fresh sea green dress; Miss Bertha Farmer was pretty in white with white silk sleeves; Miss May Ewart looked well in yellow, and so did Miss L. Nosworthy in red; Miss Maud Carey also looked well in red; Mrs C. Earp, Misses Williams, Baber, F. Nosworthy, Walsh (two), Horrigan, Clayton, and R. Barnett, who looked pretty in a simple white frock with scarlet, were the other ladies present. Misses Horton, M. Ewart, and McCabe and Mr Corrie played during the evening, and their performance was much appreciated. Among the partners were Messrs H. Horton, Dunn, Wytchell, Ryrie, Corrie, McClean, W. Ewart, G. Blick, Cawte, Nosworthy, Horrigan, Walsh, and E. Conolly.

Mrs Waddy's

FOURTH ASSEMBLY DANCE

was held last Friday, and was as usual very enjoyable. Flowers are very scarce just now in Blenheim, so the bright spring flowers so tastefully arranged about the rooms were much admired. The supper table was sweet with bunches of violets and pink camellias arranged in low vases amid ad green silk. The floor was perfect, and Miss May Redwood's playing was as usual excellent. Mrs Kellas played several delightful dances, and Mrs Hiley and Miss Seymour played capital extras. Miss Maud Carey was the belle in white crepon, ribbons and lace, a fresh and becoming frock; Miss Cawte was pretty in cream silk; Miss Monro was admired in pale blue silk and black lace; Mrs Kellas was also much admired in a stylish and handsome gown of terra cotta silk and brocade, with the fashionable bows at the back, box-pleated vest and neck frill of ruched tulle; Miss Ferguson was handsome in black with white flowers, and so was Miss Seymour in pale pink silk with black lace shoulder frill, jet, and sprays of pink fairy roses. The three Misses Ward were much admired, Miss A. Ward wore black and coral pink silk; Miss D. Ward, pure white veiling and silk; Miss F. Ward white with deep yellow dash; Miss Clare was pretty in black velveteen with pale blue silk sleeves and berthe; Miss Emma Carey, sea-green crepon; Mesdames McIntosh, Hiley, Thompson, C. Earp, Misses Chaytor (three), Rees, M. Redwood, Barnett, Waddy (two), and Messrs Thompson, Herbert Robinson, J. Black, Shoreland, Dunn, D'Arcy Chaytor, L. Redwood, E. Pasley, S. Hodson, Griffiths (two), Barnett, and G. Waddy were also present, and dancing was kept up with great spirit till a late hour.

OBITUARY.

On Saturday we were all saddened by the news of the death of Mr Charles Watts, at Landsdowne, about 10.30 a.m. Although many of us knew that Mr Watts had been taken much worse on Friday, he had rallied so often that his death came as a shock. His long illness was borne with marvellous patience and pluck, and his death at the early age of 43 is regretted by the whole district. Never was a man better liked, or more universally esteemed and respected than Mr Charles Watts, and his death is a great loss to Marlborough. If there were only more men like him in the world, it would be a better place. He was taken to Nelson for burial, and his sorrowing family have the heartfelt sympathy of all in their sad trial, for if we outside miss him, how great must be the blank his death has left in their lives.

The Hunt Club

POINT TO POINT STEEPLECHASE

was held last Wednesday afternoon at Spring Creek, on the land of the Misses Mr Thomas Gregory. The day was fine, and there was a large attendance of the public, and the afternoon's outing was most enjoyable. Mrs Burns' Kohai won the steeplechase, and the mare jumped grandly and went in splendid style. Ormonde got his hind legs caught in one of the fences and so lost somewhat, but the end was a grand race between Kohai and Ormonde, and though the whip was out on Ormonde, Kohai won. Cupid jumped grandly and well to the greater part of the way, but I think his rider held him a bit too hard, although Kohai and Ormonde had perhaps 'too much foot' for him. Kohai also won the last scratch steeplechase, shooting past Kangaroo on the post. I think Ormonde would have won, only he fell at the last jump but one and broke Sweeney's collar bone, which was, however, cleverly set by Dr. Ellis, who fortunately was on the ground. Afternoon tea and delicious cakes and sandwiches were provided by ladies interested in the Hunt Club and their friends, presided over by Mesdames Ballard, P. Douslin and Jackson, assisted by Mesdames Crawshaw, Reid Dodson, and Howard Dodson. This refreshment was greatly appreciated, because though the afternoon was fine and sunny the wind was very cold. Mrs Richardson looked well in a handsome long brown coat with wide beaver revers and edgings, black hat; Miss Maud Carey was admired in brown, with fawn and brown hat; Miss Ella Waddy was pretty in black and white, becoming black and white hat; Mrs Kellas, brown tweed, black velvet and moire cape, black velvet hat with feathers; Mrs McIntosh, pretty tweed gown with peacock velvet and jet, black and peacock velvet hat with jet and feathers; Mesdames Gregory, Griffiths, Clouston, Thompson, J. Redwood, P. Douslin, Ballard, Jackson, Dodson, Crawshaw, C. Earp, Hubbard, F. Litchfield, Lambert, Temperley, Soper, Matthews, Burns, Weir, Cheeseman, Arnold, etc. Misses Ward (three), Waddy, Clouston, L. Horne, Ferguson, Beauchamp, Temperley, Cullen, Muir, Leahy, Arnold, Gordon, Pritchard, Matthews (two), Gregory (two), Dickens, Dodson, Lambert, Squires, Soper, Royerson, etc., and Messrs T. Gregory, P. Douslin, J. B. Green (two), Griffiths (three), Snodgrass, McIntosh, Crawshaw, Greenfield, Black, Jackson, Howard, Sharp, Bright, G. Seymour, C. Teschemacher, Drs. Stack and Ellis, Captain Harris (Picton), Messrs J. Redwood, Cyril Gregory, Wynn-Williams, Shoreland, Wytchell, Ryrie, Bunting, G. Waddy, S. Hodson, Temperley, J. Clouston, Green, Burns, Matthews, Maccalister, Soper (three), etc., etc.

After more than two months' perfect weather, frosts at night, cold mornings and evenings, and warm sunny days, the much-needed rain came last night, and if we don't get too much will do great good, but we fear we shall get a flood before the snow on the hills melts.

SINCERITY.

NAPIER.

DEAR BEE, AUGUST 21.

As so many of the Napier boys are sent to the Wanganui College to receive education, great interest was taken in the

FOOTBALL MATCHES

between the third fifteen of the College and the local High School and Mr Monckton's Grammar School. The visiting team by their excellent passing and superior scientific play won both events, but the games proved highly interesting to the parents and friends, amongst whom were Mesdames Hovell, Hoadley, Sainsbury, Hindmarsh, Kettle, Gilbertson, Jago, Clarke, Milne, Thompson, Wood, Jervis, Rutherford, the Misses Hindmarsh, McGowan, Baker, Margolionth, Kennedy, McFarlane, etc.

Never in the annals of dancing people have the ladies exceeded so largely in numbers over the sterner sex than at the last

ASSEMBLY

held in the Athenæum Hall on Friday evening, consequently the affair was not so successful as was predicted. Great trouble had been bestowed on the decorations, and bare walls were made beautiful with foliage and bunting and large mirrors. While dresses predominated, and the following names and dresses were told me, Miss Dymock, pale pink with fine lace, her sister in cream; Misses Watts, cream pompadour silks with velvet shoulder straps; Miss Fulton, white and yellow; Mrs R. H. Smith, black; Mrs Arthur Gore, black; Mrs G. Norman, black silk *a la* watteau; Miss Macfarlane, cream satin; Miss Nelson, black, and brown sleeves; Miss — Nelson, cream; Mrs Dewes, black; Miss Chapman, pale pink; Mrs Hamlin, violet silk; Miss Horton, white; Mrs Thompson (Christchurch), pretty white silk and chiffon; Mrs Jervis, black; Miss Dickey (Auckland), green and pink chiffon; Miss Hall looked elegant in white satin; Miss H. Hitchings, handsome embroidered silk and chiffon; Mrs Tabuteau, black with cardinal; Mrs W. E. Griffin (Wairoa), pink Liberty silk; Miss Adair (Gisborne), white; Miss Campbell, white satin; Mrs Milne-Thomson, white and green velvet; Miss Shaw, white; Miss Kennedy, white silk; Miss Rhodes, white; Miss Balfour looked well in black; her cousin wore her *debutante* dress of white silk; Miss Anderson, white with trails of pink roses; Mrs Von Haslezen, black; Mrs Dixon, white silk and black velvet; Miss Twigg, white with blue velvet sleeves; Mrs Jarvis, black; Miss Ethel Gurr, blue; the Misses Spencer, cream; Mrs Hamlin, violet surah; Mrs Davidson, black silk; Lady Whitmore, handsome beetle wing embroidered on black silk; Mrs H. Smith (Petane), black.

HITHER AND THITHER.

Mr Herman Van Haast is on a visit from Christchurch.

Mr Spencer H. Gollan is in town looking none the worse for his fall off Norton at the Christchurch Meeting.

Mrs W. F. Anderson is on a visit to Mrs Ackman, Christchurch.

Miss Eva Smith (Dunedin) is visiting Mr and Mrs R. H. Smith, of Bank of Australasia.

Miss Stock (Invercargill) is on a visit to her brother.

Miss Cornford has returned from a trip to Auckland.

GLADYS.

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