join the ranks of spectators, and I have no hesitation in predicting an enjoyable gathering this year.

Night after night we take up the paper and read locals about concerts held somewhere in the town or suburbs, always in aid of, or in connection with, some charitable object or church, and we wonder how they pay, or if they really do pay at all. Yet on they go, and ever will do so I suppose. Smoke concerts appear to be always 'crowded,' which proves that the love of music is strongly developed in man, or is it perhaps the love of tobacco also which fills those halls so frequently? We find, however, that the much-discussed depression and bad times do not affect our purses where amusement claims a 'bob' or two, and prudence and economy are not our fellow passengers when we go to the Opera House or the concert room.

We were both pleased and proud to see that Mr H. B. Vogel who till recently was well known amongst us, has been appointed to such a splendid position as that of editor of 'Hood's Annual,' and is also well up in the staff of the *Weekly Dispatch*. Mr Vogel has always been of a literary turn of mind, and even while here had written several short stories, and, also tried his skill at plays, which, however, were never published here.

The holiday to celebrate the Prince of Wales' Birthday came and passed like a meteor flash under bright sunshine and clear blue sky. There were picnics by land and picnics by sea, croquet, tennis, and garden parties, driving, riding and bicycling parties, each to his own fancy, and each in his own way taking full advantage of the day. In the evening there was an excellent concert in the Exchange Hall, while in the Opera House the

BLAND HOLT COMPANY

opened their season by a performance of 'The Span of Life,' a most powerfully acted and realistic play, and has drawn crowded houses all the week. There is no doubt that Bland Holt is second to none in the public favour of Wellington. In spite of the marked patronage shown to the Brough-Boucicault Company, Bland Holt meets with a universal popularity which is seldom shown to any other Company. We are therefore looking forward with pleasant expectancy to a prolonged and successful season.

We expect the Italian warship, the Christifero Columbus, here shortly, which carries, I believe, some distinguished visitors, who are to receive a patriotic welcome from their fellow countrymen now resident in Wellington.

The *finale* of the Ladies' Bracelet Competition in golf was played off at the Hutt Links on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Miss M. Bodmin, who is to be heartily congratulated on her well-deserved victory.

MEVE.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER 15.

After such a whirl of excitement and pleasure as our Carnival week has produced this year, it is most difficult to come back to ordinary things, but the tired feeling giving the sense of want of rest makes one glad of the opportunity of discussing the happy past. That powerful factor, the weather was most gracious, and our visitors will think Christchurch climate perfect, and so it was for the whole week.

On Wednesday there was a

POLO MATCH

on the grounds, Hagley Park, when a large number of spectators were present, including many strangers, who were all charmed with our ground. Mrs R. H. Rhodes provided afternoon tea, and among the ladies were the Hon. Mrs Parker, Mrs Rhind, Mrs Maxwell (Wellington), Mrs J. Deans, Mrs A. Rhodes, Mrs Wharton, Mrs and Miss Elworthy, Mrs G. Gould, Mrs Lane, Misses Buller, Tabart, etc.

In the evening a

DELIGHTFUL DANCE

was given by Mrs Malet, Merivale. The house was beautifully decorated, fairy lamps gleaming from every nook and corner embedded in lovely flowers. Mrs Malet looked well in a sweet gown of brown brocade over pink silk front, with revers of lovely cream lace; her daughter, in black satin and chiffon, deep white lace bertha. Among the many pretty dresses worn I noticed Miss Cowlishaw, in a lovely pale blue silk, the bodice almost all cream lace; her sister, a very pretty pink silk, accordion chiffon finishing the bodice; Mrs J. D. Hall, handsome pink bengaline finished with some exquisite lace; Miss Cunningham, black satin and chiffon prettily trimmed with jet; Miss Gibson (Dunedin) looked well in pink silk, the bodice finished with jet and chiffon, black aigrette in her hair; Miss Studholme, cream silk with pink floral design; Miss Ross (*débutante*), white gauze over white silk, lovely white bouquet; Miss E. Tabart, black gown relieved with rose shot silk; Miss Williams (Wellington), black accordion chiffon over silk, and some beautiful lace; her sister, a white satin; Mrs H. Cotterill, white silk; Misses Izard, Wynn-Williams, Campbell, Maude, Haslam, Hill, Reeves, Bowen, Cox, Beswick, Turnbull, Neave, Ainger, and many more.

Thursday,

'DERBY DAY,'

attracted a large number of ladies out to the races again. Many of the same costumes were worn, but there were some fresh ones, also a fresh supply of visitors. Mrs Rhind looked well in black crepon skirt and silk bodice of pink *chine*, dainty bonnet with pink flowers, and parasol lined with chiffon to match. Mrs Parker, who decorated the winner of the Derby, looked extremely well in cream *chine* silk trimmed with pale blue veiled in lace; Mrs G. G. Stead, black silk crepon with cream *chiné* silk, full bodice, small cream bonnet trimmed with flowers and bright blue tulle strings, cream broche parasol; Mrs Heaton Rhodes, shot pink and blue silk, the bodice finished with pink chiffon; Miss Stephenson (Dunedin) electric blue crepon, cream satin bodice covered with lace, picture hat with forget-me-nots; Mrs W. Thomson (Balmoral), pretty grey costume; Mesdames Boyle, G. Rhodes (Timaru), Graham, A. Rhodes, and Misses Cunningham (two) Helmore, Tabart (two), wore their pretty gowns of Tuesday; Miss Tolhurst (Wellington), pale heliotrope trimmed with velvet to match; Miss Friend (Wellington), white frock with pink sash, black picture hat with pink flowers; Mesdames W. Ollivier, Bennington, H. Wood, H. Buchanan, and Lascelles were some others present.

THE 'PEOPLE'S DAY' AT THE AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL ASSOCIATION'S SHOW

on their grounds, Addington, on Friday, was a memorable one, the weather again being perfect, and the large grandstand, recently erected by Mr R. Macdonald, was a great boon, not only to the weary, but for obtaining an excellent and uninterrupted view of the jumping. The crowd seemed larger than ever. The trams alone conveyed 7,000, and there must have been considerably over three times that number. The exhibits were splendid of all kinds, some magnificent horses being shown. The attraction of the Flower Show added to the enjoyment of the afternoon, with a really good cup of tea, and delicious cakes at the marquee of the Women's Christian Temperance Union close by. Among the many visitors were the Hon. R. J. and Miss Seddon, the Hon J. G. and Mrs Ward, the Hon. J. M'Kenzie, Mr Scales (Wellington), etc.

But I am getting on too fast. The

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB BALL

held on Thursday night in the Provincial Council Chamber was a very successful and brilliant affair. The building was lit with electric light for the occasion, and so made it much cooler—a great consideration in such a crowd. A marquee was erected for the supper-room, and all the arrangements were very complete. The decorations were beautiful, carried out by Nairn and Sons. Each year a larger number of strangers are noticeable at this ball, bringing their lovely gowns to fill us with envy, and some, I'm sure, hail from very distant climes, but there will be an end of that, now, thanks to Mr Ward. The Hon. Mrs Parker wore a pretty pearl grey silk with chiffon to match; Mrs G. Rhodes (Meadowbank), lovely gown of heliotrope silk brocaded with pink, diamond necklet and ornaments; Mrs G. Buckley, handsome ivory satin gown with gold passementerie sequin trimming; Mrs Stead, black satin handsomely trimmed with jet, diamond ornaments; Mrs Heaton Rhodes, deep geranium satin with garlands of flowers, diamond ornaments and necklace; Mrs G. Gould, black satin skirt with bodice and sleeves of primrose silk and chiffon, and wreaths of chrysanthemums; Mrs Sydney Johnston (Napier), very handsome gown of pink brocade with long train, sleeves and bodice finished with lovely lace; Miss Reid (Elderslie), white satin trimmed with exquisite lace; Miss Buller (Wellington), pale pink brocade, bodice finished with chiffon and wreaths of roses; Miss Ross (Wellington), black satin slip covered with net worked with yellow wattles, yellow bengaline bodice trimmed with lace (a lovely gown); Misses Williams (Wellington), lovely pale blue silk gowns, bodices lace trimmed; Mrs G. Rhodes (Timaru), rich white satin, the bodice and sleeves trimmed with sable; Mrs Pitman, white brocade, with falling sleeves caught with straps at the top; Mrs Pat. Campbell, lovely grey brocade, worked bands of white trimming the bodice, chiffon puff with rose; Mrs F. Dalgety, perfect-fitting pale yellow brocade slightly trained; Miss Cunningham, black satin and jet; Miss Friend (Wellington), white satin; Miss Stephenson (Dunedin), pink and white brocade garlanded with roses; Miss Cowlishaw, pale blue satin with lace bodice; Miss Wynn-Williams, pale green silk, bodice trimmed with very fine lace; Miss F. Wynn-Williams, cream satin, chiffon-covered bodice and sleeves; Miss Elworthy, ivory silk crepon with heliotrope stripe, bodice of velvet to match; Mrs Baber, an exquisite confection of white brocade with touches of pink and yellow; Mrs Elworthy, green brocade in two shades trimmed with velvet and lovely lace, diamond ornaments. There were numbers more handsome gowns, but in such a crowd one's memory fails.

Saturday was again a delightful day, tempting numbers of the fair sex to again sally forth to indulge in a little mild but fascinating gambling. Eurocleydon, a Dunedin horse, travels home quite a hero. He has beaten the record, gaining the treble prize—New Zealand Cup, Derby, and Canterbury Cup.

THE THEATRE ROYAL

has been crowded nightly through the week, and Mr and Mrs Bland Holt will take away pleasant enough recollections, no doubt to tempt them to return at no distant date; while the Rev. Haskett Smith has promised to visit us again, and bring along some more of his interesting lectures. The photographic slides and his easy way of talking about them are quite fascinating.

On Tuesday afternoon Mrs Andrews (Springfield Road) gave a

GIRLS' LAWN PARTY,

when croquet, chat, with delicious tea and cakes wiled away the time most pleasantly. The Misses Andrews wore cool-looking gowns of cream and buttercup crepon, making most untiring hostesses. The Misses Tripp, Ainger (two), Maitland (Dunedin), Fulton, Stack, Turton, Tolhurst (Wellington), Cowlishaw, Black, Hennah, and many others were present.

On Tuesday evening Mrs Malet gave another

DANCE,

this time for all young people. Mr and Misses Cotterill, Dr. Gaine, Mr and Miss Ainger, Mr and Miss Ross, the Misses Nedwill and Beswick were some of those present. Mrs Malet wore a handsome gown of black merveilleux trimmed with jet and lace, and her daughter a soft white silk.

On Wednesday afternoon Mrs Barkas gave a

CHARMING LITTLE MUSICALE,

when the singing of Mr Barkas and Mr Day delighted her guests, as well as the finished playing of Miss Martin (Dunedin), Mrs Merton, Mrs and Miss Ronalds, Mrs Fereday and her daughter, Messrs Corbett and Mannering were there, the two latter also contributing to the afternoon's enjoyment.

On Wednesday evening Mrs Henderson gave a very enjoyable

EUCHRE PARTY,

it passing off with great spirit. Among the guests were Mr and Mrs H. Sims, Mrs and Miss Graham, Misses Thomas, Bullock, Kinsey, Wood, Messrs Webb, Hargreaves, Laurie, etc.

Among the tennis players who intend going to Wellington for the Christmas Tournament are Misses C. Lean, Marchant, K. Van Asch, and Black, Messrs H. Seager, Grossman, Garsia, and Ross.

DOLLY VALE.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER 15.

One reads with envy accounts of all the various social entertainments given in other towns when there is so little going on in our own, except, of course, public concerts, drawing-room entertainments, etc. An excellent

ENTERTAINMENT,

which was got up by Mrs Napier Bell for the guilds of the three principal English churches, was held in the City Hall on Friday evening. The first part of the programme was a variety entertainment. The second part a special musical comedy entitled 'Our Toys.' The evening was opened by Messrs Combs, Naumann, Gray and A. Finch, who rendered Bocherinis Minuet (string quartette) in a most finished manner. A song by Madame Venosta, 'Vashti,' came next, and was most enthusiastically received. For an encore she sang the favourite song, 'Il Baccio.' Mr Burns Walter sang, 'Lend me Your Aid,' in his usual splendid style, and Mrs Logan then finished the musical part of the programme by singing 'Tell Me My Heart,' in a charming manner. The *tableaux*, entitled 'Strolling Players,' were most effective, those who took part being Misses S. Webster, E. E. Ulrich, L. Roberts, S. Graham, A. Shand, E. Napier Bell, B. Elleston, Messrs Macfarlane, Harris, Hapley, Sale, and Cameron. During the *tableaux* Miss E. Bell took the part of a dancing girl, and performed a graceful skirt dance to a band accompanied by Messrs Macfarlane and Harris and Miss E. E. Ulrich on banjo and castinets. During the second part of the *tableaux* Miss Bell danced a cachuca accompanied by the piano, two violins, and a singing chorus, at the close of which Miss Bell was fairly showered with bouquets and baskets. The play, 'Our Toys,' was opened by a fairy dance, which ceased as the clock was striking midnight. Four tiny children, namely, Misses Mill (two), Macpherson, and Murphy acted as fairies, performing their steps beautifully. Miss Nina Gibson acted as queen fairy, and performed two excellent skirt dances, and explained the play in a short dialogue. The success of the dances was entirely due to Mrs Macgregor. The characters in the play were Miss McLean, Lady Doll; Miss Shand, Little Bo-Peep; Miss Graham, As the Cockie Hood; Mr P. Hume, Lord Jennings; Mr D. McLean, Wooden Soldier; Mr J. Branson, Noah. The play proved most successful, as all the characters were splendidly taken. The songs throughout the play were very much appreciated, and many were the encores they received. The accompanists during the evening were Misses Branson, Rogers, Messrs Burns, Walker, and Grieton. Miss Mosely and Master Ulrich performed on the violin. At the conclusion of the performance Mrs Napier Bell was called for, and was brought forward by Lord Jennings, Wooden Soldier, Noah, etc. The reception she received was quite enough to show how successful the evening had been. A most fashionable audience crowded the hall, and I hope the success will be as great financially as otherwise.

AILEEN.

PICTON.

DEAR BEE. NOVEMBER 12

THE PICNIC SEASON,

which opened last week by the children, was continued this week by the grown-ups. Mr and Mrs Sedgwick took a small but jolly party to Waikawa. Mr Macdonald's lovely garden being the attraction. The party, after feasting esthetically on the flowers, which make the garden a blaze of beauty, feasted more practically afterwards on the beach. The rest of the party were Miss Ruth Seely (Bay of Islands), Mrs Seely and family, Misses Linton (two), Mrs and Miss Howard, and Miss Young (Wellington.)

On Wednesday a very amusing

WALKING EXPEDITION

eventuated, Mr Macdonald's garden being once more the goal towards which a merry party of ladies had set their faces. At the Waikawa river they found the little stream swollen into a big one by recent rain, but, nothing daunted, they proceeded to make a bridge of 'steppin' stones' whilst the 'billy' was boiling for lunch. During lunch the inevitable rain came on, and half the party returned to Picton. The rest went on, defying the elements, though thunder and lightning protested, and everybody was wet through before the Maori Pah was reached. It was a real case of 'astonishing the natives,' who came out to offer hospitality. The party saw and admired the beautiful garden, which is quite a show place, and were rewarded for their pluck, and started for home laden with their spoils, but alas! the road was now a sea of mud, through which they had to wade laboriously, and several of them wished they belonged to the order of the 'New Woman.' They sang, 'Home Boys Home, and It's Home We Ought To Be,' and they planned a terrible revenge on the Government for not making a road in the new 'Garden of Eden.' During the next visit of the 'Members' to Picton they will be invegled into walking out to the Maori Pah, and made to wade knee deep through mud, etc. How glad they were when they saw a carriage and pair coming along that unaccustomed road I leave you, dear Bee, to imagine, and how cheerfully they hid their diminished heads under cover, and how they praised the thoughtful man, who sent sisters and wives for the party. I must leave for others to a like plight to imagine. None of them, I am pleased to say, are any the worse for the drenching they got. The party were Mrs and the Misses Seymour (four), Mrs and Miss Nora Allen, Miss B. Greensill, Miss May Greensill, Mrs Herbert Dobson, Miss Howard, and Miss Scott.

THE READING SOCIETY

met at the Institute on Friday evening. Mrs McIntyre finished reading 'The Lady of the Lake,' and Mrs Allen contributed one of Thomas Bracken's poems, 'God's Own Country.' The reading-room was well filled, though Mr Cheek's 'Messiah' practice kept many away. Among those present were Mesdames Sedgwick, Duncan, Howard, J. H. Howard, H. C. Seymour, A. Duncan, Linton, Seely, Greensill, Macshane, and the Misses Greensill, Seely (two), Williams, etc., etc.

THE HOLIDAY

for the 9th was kept up right royally on the 11th. The Blenheim Friendly Societies held their annual sports here, and the trains brought in crowds of excursionists. The sports were well conducted, and went off all through the day without the slightest friction, sobriety and pleasant good humour being a special feature of the occasion. The boats swings and aerial slides raked in all the threepenny bits available in the town, so that the churches are likely to come off second best for some time.

A CRICKET MATCH

between the Wairau and Picton second elevens, played on Nelson Square, resulted in a very easy victory for the Wairau's. Much interest was displayed in the match, and as the sports were held close by, the spectators fluctuated between the two places.

In the evening the Roman Catholics held

A SOCIAL

in the Public Hall, which was well attended and capitally managed. Dancing, songs, and recitations were on the programme, Miss Mary Seymour's song, 'Say au revoir but not Good-bye,' being quite the gem of the evening. Mr Cribb received an enthusiastic encore for 'The Midshipmite;' Mrs Atkinson's 'Dear Little Shamrock' was also well received, and won an encore. Others who sang were Mrs Millington, Miss Philpotts, Miss Keenan (Queen Charlotte Sound) who gave much pleasure with her sympathetic rendering of 'Farewell,' Mr Riddell, and Mr James. Of the readings, etc., Mr C. C. Howard brought down the house with 'Uncle Podgers.' Mr J. Fisk and Master Pirani recited. The decorations were decidedly unique. The flags were quilted, as it were, to the ceiling with bands of lycopodium, and the walls were panelled with white bordered with lycopodium, and bouquets of flowers to represent pictures. The floor was in splendid condition, and Mr Kane made a delightful M.C. The dresses were *chic*; Mrs Stowe, black velvet and lace; Mrs Duncan, dark dress with jet and yellow silk; Mrs Allen, black lace, large white lace collar; Mrs Seely, black skirt and cream blouse; Mrs H. C. Seymour, black merveilleux and lace; Mrs Oxley, in black lace and pretty bouquet of pink roses, looked very nice; Mrs C. C. Howard, black lace, with white lace frills; Mrs Millington wore a pretty frock of heliotrope and red, with red roses; Mrs James, fawn; Mrs Cragg, black lace; Mrs F. Godfrey, black; Mrs I. Fisk, black lace with yellow; Mrs Atkinson, black with white sleeves and vest; Mrs Love, black; Mrs Hart, black lace over yellow; Miss Fuller looked very nice in heliotrope, and her sister, Miss Lilly Fuller, looked very nice in pale blue; Miss Fredricks was very much admired in all black, with puffed sleeves and frills; Miss Thompson (Nelson) wore a pretty frock of black velvet and pale blue silk; Miss Lloyd also looked well in black with white frills; two other sisters wore black, and one white; Miss M. Webster was in pink; Miss Dobson, in pink and white; Miss Jeffries in white; Miss E. Fisk, in cream; Miss McConnack, white; Miss Bartlett, heliotrope; Miss Johnston, white and pink; Miss Biddie, brown and white; Miss Love, black skirt, pink blouse, and pink ribbons in her hair; Miss Mascted, pale blue with white lace frills; Miss Thompson, white; Miss Williams, white; Miss Simmonds, salmon pink and green; Miss M. Seymour, black lace with white lace fichu; Miss Howard, fawn skirt and white blouse; Miss Nora Allen, black lace, with white lace frills; Miss M. Philpotts, pink crepon; Miss Philpotts, black lace; Miss E. Greensill, cream veiling; Miss Scott, black velvet skirt and pink blouse, with cream lace; Miss K. Seymour, red silk; Miss S. Seymour, black crepon blouse; Miss Nora Kenny, fawn silk and black lace; Miss M. Linton, dark skirt and red blouse. There was a crowd on the stage, but it was impossible to find out who everybody was, or what they wore. Among the sterner sex I noticed Messrs Duncan, Stowe, H. C. Seymour, Riddell, Gerald Allen, Hurethouse (Nelson), Beauchamp, Cribb, Kenny (two), Greensill, Marshall, Kane, Oxley, Howard, Jeffries (two), Card (two), Fisk (three), Pirani (two), Lewis, Bartlett, Cragg (two), Godfrey, Western (two), James, Miles, Father Dogherty, and hosts of others. Dancing was kept up merrily till 3 a.m.

ODDMENTS.

Mr and Mrs Rutherford were away for three days during the week visiting Mr and Mrs George Watts at Landsdowne.

Afternoon teas have been this week at Mrs Andrews', Mrs Allen's, and Mrs H. C. Seymour's—old friends flocking round the wanderers.

On Monday Mrs Rutherford gave afternoon tea at her residence, Nelson Square, to her friends. Many were glad to rest in her pleasantly cool room and drink of the ever-refreshing beverage.

Mrs Sedgwick has been the recipient of a very handsome Hymn Book (Ancient and Modern) from her co-workers in the Sunday-school.

A resident of our town is building a merry-go-round. Already the tent ornaments a vacant section at the corner of High-street, and the rising generation are considering ways and means of raising money to spend on that fascinating amusement. It is to be ready for the New Year, and after that other enterprising residents have hired it for a peripetetic ramble round the colony. They feel sure there is money in it.

JEAN.

NAPIER.

DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER 11.

The smartest function of the week was a

MUSICAL 'AT HOME,'

given by Miss Hitchings, 'The Oaks,' when a gathering of nearly sixty ladies took place on Friday afternoon from three till six. The day was one of the best of balmy spring, and the smart costumes worn by all were *au fait* with the proceedings. This rambling, ivy-covered house is well known throughout, for many delightful hours have been spent under its roof, and to Miss Hitchings can be awarded the palm of being a *bien aimé* hostess, and on Friday last she, together with her sister, Miss Hilda, succeeded in entertaining their many guests. The special programmes printed for the occasion contained some choice musical items, Miss Hitchings contributing six pianoforte solos, and six songs, including, 'Bid Me to Love,' 'The Carnival,' 'Oft in the Stilly Night,' 'Espanita,' 'Star of Bethlehem,' 'Rosa,' and 'Beauty's Eyes,' her sweet and expressive voice making each item a musical treat. Miss Balfour was set down for two songs, 'By the Fountain,' and 'The Valley by the Sea,' and her rendering of them was greatly appreciated. Miss Birch's cultivated sweet voice did full justice to three songs, viz., 'The Old, Old Love,' 'Once,' and 'Sing a Song of Sleep.' Miss Hilda Hitchings charmed her hearers by her rendering of Jude's 'Better Land.' After the first portion of the programme, tea, coffee and