

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Notice to contributors.—Any letters or MSS. received by the Editors of the NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC will be immediately acknowledged in this column.

MR RICHMOND DUNN.—I have not your story at hand, but will look for it. You do not give the title in your letter. This should always be done, as a change in the Editorial Department makes it awkward just at first to put authors and their works into the proper category.

N. R. Hardy.—Poems received. Will read and consider them as soon as possible.

F. D. Boyd.—I hope you will see this. For the future we intend to reply immediately. Your sketch shall be attended to and commented on.

'Stefan.' Rarotonga.—Many thanks for notes. Would be glad of more if you can send them.

'Soitfe.'—Your verses will appear in our paper at an early date.

F. Rollett.—Your paper under consideration.

'F.R.'—Your two poems received. They will be read shortly. Thanks for them.

E. J. Hodren.—Will look for music M.S. and return.

Louisa Blake.—Your poem, 'Golden West,' under consideration. Please look in this column for further notice.

R. A. Bullen.—Poem, 'The Blind King,' received with thanks.

Miss Bain.—Will see what answer can be returned.

Miss Lester.—Will see about your poem.

'H.R.R.'—Poems under consideration.

'G.R.'—Your article, 'Hurry Skurry,' under consideration.

F. E. Fox.—Very many thanks for riddles and games.

Miss M. Orr-Hunter.—Music received. Will look it over, but have a good many musical items already in hand.

M. C. Frederick.—Your notes on 'Ranching for Feathers' to hand. They will probably be of use, but I will let you know later on.

Pemberton Pembroke.—Your story will receive due attention as early as possible.

## EVERYDAY RHYMES.

## THE 'CYCLIST AND THE MAGISTRATE.

AT the Auckland Police Court the other day a 'cyclist was fined 20s and costs for riding his machine on the footpath. His Worship, in imposing the fine, said he was determined to put a stop to bicycle riding along the footpath. 'Cyclists used the footpaths to prevent the tyres of their machines from wearing out, by avoiding the rough roads, and evidently considered it was better to be fined 20s once in a while than to have to pay £3 for a new tyre. It was a question of tyre versus fine, and if a 20s fine would not have any effect, he would increase the fine until it would.

## THE 'CYCLIST SPEAKS.

Dear Mr Northcroft, tell me, sir,  
Why you so harshly treat  
Those bicyclists who much prefer  
The pavement to the street!

Along the sidewalks of the town  
Their hoops the youngsters spin,  
And though they run the people down,  
You never run them in.

The nursery maids monopolise  
The pavement with their 'prams';  
Why are they sacred in your eyes?  
Why don't they use the tram?

And ladies with impunity  
Drag trains of strange creation;  
Has justice no machinery  
To drag them to the station?

Why do you look with partial eye  
On hoop, and 'pram' and train?  
And grant them privileges,  
I would beg from you in vain.

The 'Cyclists, like the Christians, may  
Desire to save their souls;  
Why turn them from the 'narrow way'  
To where destruction rolls?

Were not the lion of your wrath  
By city law withered,  
The rider on the tarry path  
Would soon be tarred and feathered.

As 'tis in fines you vent your ire—  
Your zeal is past admiring—  
And those discourses on the tyre  
To me are somewhat tiring.

Grant that I trespassed as I did,  
I think that I could show  
That costs when added to the 'quid  
Is more than "quid pro quo."

But, knowing what strong views you hold  
About this modern craze,  
I think no man, however bold,  
Could win you from your ways.

Unless you first had learned to fly  
Upon a 'cycle's wings;  
Then you would never more deny  
What joy the pavement brings.

## WELLINGTON JOTTINGS.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THERE was a large attendance at Thomas' Hall on Wednesday evening last, the occasion being a complimentary concert tendered to Miss Marion Sampson prior to her departure for England, with the object of studying for the operatic stage. Miss Sampson's rendering of the various numbers she was set down for gave evident satisfaction. She was assisted by Madame Eveleen Carlton, Miss Gage, Messrs H. Wright, Dyer, Mackintosh, etc., and altogether the concert was a very enjoyable one.

Members of the Wellington Bowling Club have under consideration an invitation from the Nelson and Blenheim Bowling Clubs to send a team to those places at Easter in order to play a series of matches.

Very general regret was felt in Wellington that during the recent visit of the Squadron the Municipal Council did not rise to the occasion, and, as the representatives of the citizens generally, entertain the Admiral and officers. This want of courtesy practically amounted to an open act of discourtesy, and the sole cause appears to have been a lack of unity between the Mayor and the members of the Council. It is for many other reasons, unfortunate that the Mayor and Council of the Empire City are not a happy family. There is so much urgent need for reform and improvement in connection with many public matters under the jurisdiction of the City Council, that all personal feeling should, as a matter of duty, be suppressed. As evidence of the state of affairs at present existing, the following notices of motion were lately given:—Councillor Smith to move 'That the statements of the Mayor re Councillors be reviewed'; while the Mayor tabled a notice that he would move, 'That the statements of Councillors Harris, Harcourt, Devine, Myers, and Smith re the Mayor be reviewed.'

The recklessly overcrowded manner in which the tramcars have been allowed to travel through the city daily hitherto has been truly disgraceful, and the wonder is, not that an accident has occurred, but that there has been such immunity from accidents. Various efforts have been made to have the evil stopped. The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has on several occasions had the matter under consideration, and have sought to get the City Council to interfere with a view to its suppression. The City Council, it is scarcely needful to state, have ample powers to put an end to this overcrowding evil if they would only enforce them.

The Salvation Army have now in course of erection in Vivian street a fine new Barracks, to cost over £2,000, whilst the site involved an outlay of £900. The memorial blocks (three) in connection therewith were laid at the beginning of the month by Messrs J. Duthie, one of the Wellington Ms H.R., C. Luke, ex-Mayor, and Brigadier Hoskins. The Army are doing a grand work in this city, apart altogether from street and other preaching, by seeking out and relieving the sick and needy. In rescue work also they are doing an amount of good that comparatively few are aware of, or at all realise, and as they are ever ready to extend a helping hand, irrespective of nationality, creed, or past career, they well deserve hearty support from all sections of the community.

## CYCLING FOR WOMEN.

MR E. B. TURNER, in the *Humanitarian* for January, discusses cycling for women. He deals both with cycling riding and racing. He holds very strong views adverse to cycle racing. Women, he thinks, by their sex, are disqualified from keeping up the continuous training which is absolutely necessary for success. He sums up what he has to say to wheelwomen as follows:—

'That the rational use of the cycle is one of the very best forms of exercise which can be obtained; that for many functional ailments it is a cure, for some organic a palliative; that if abused when the rider is in an unfit state, it can do as much harm as over-walking, over-riding, over-climbing; that over-fatigue is always bad, but much worse when the rider is out of condition; that girls and women unaccustomed to bodily exertion require a longer time to become habituated to it than a young man or boy of the same age. That condition will come by constant practice, and cannot be hurried or forced by overwork. That as condition improves, so longer distances and a greater speed may be safely attempted. That it is not worth while to strain up a very steep hill. That for women racing cannot be good, and the feminine motto should be moderation—and yet again moderation, and loose clothing.'

## Footlight Flashes.

BY THE PROMPTER.

A CROWDED house was drawn to the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, on the 19th of February by the announcement that the much-talked 'Land of the Moa,' which has made a reputation for itself in New Zealand, Sydney, Brisbane, was to be produced. It was also announced, in defiance of Mr Leitch's protests, that there would be *haka*s, war dances, *tangis*, and by real Maoris, and that new and great effects would be introduced. Mr Leitch, being announced as the author of this new arrangement of his work, which had cost him the labour of years, protested against the production, but in defiance of this the play was given. The Melbourne *Press*, commenting upon the production, gives it anything but commendation. The introduced dialogue, and re-arrangement of scenes, the absence of the real Maoris and the introduction and pretensions of imitation ones, did not only confuse the story, but provoked ridicule and disappointment. Apologies had to be made for the absence of the greatly advertised sensational effect—a jumping horse—which could not be induced to jump. It had not jumped when the Wednesday's mail left. Mr Leitch, whose contract with the Wellington syndicate ended in Sydney, has issued proceedings against the management for introducing a mutilated edition of his work under his name and as the original production.

PROFESSOR W. A. AND MADAME STELLA DAVIS have just toured Southland and the Otago goldfields, good business following them right through. Their Dunedin season (six nights) began on Wednesday last. Afterwards they visit North Otago and South Canterbury en route to Christchurch and the North.

## LAWNS &amp; LINKS.

NOW that the heat of midsummer has passed, people seem to be roused to fresh energy and go in strongly for outdoor games. Tennis and croquet claim equal honours, and are played in tournament fashion all round. The croquet tournament in Wellington, as being the first for so many years, is creating great interest. It is played in sides, Hutt versus Town, twelve players on each side. The Hutt contingent includes Mr Burnett, Mr E. Bunny, Mr and Mrs Fitzherbert, Miss Fitzherbert, Mrs Howden, Mr Mowbray, Mr Rees, Mr and Mrs Scales, and Mrs Williams, while the players for town are Mr Brown, Mr Goring, Mr Hadfield, Mr and Mrs Maxwell, Mr and Mrs Moorhouse, Mr and Mrs C. Johnston, Mrs Newman, Miss Williams, and Miss H. Williams. The games are played partly on the Hutt lawns and partly in town, and the eighteen games will probably all be played off some time next week. So far the town is winning easily, but the crisis is not passed yet, and it must not begin to crow too soon.

The Wellington Golf Club still lives and enjoys life in spite of an overwhelming number of resignations from last year's members. Of course many others have joined, and as new members pay the entrance fee as well as the subscription, the change of members is good for the finances, and should be encouraged.

At Miramar last Saturday the monthly competition for the Boyle Medal was played, Miss Ethel Cooper being the successful player. The medal has now undergone six combats, and changed hands as many times, though one winner—Miss Siddie Johnston—has been successful on two occasions.

## AN INTERNATIONAL FLIRTATION.

THE Kaiser smiles at Russia, while England smiles at France;  
The Spaniard treats with England, while Cuba looks askance;  
Your Uncle Sam is 'guessing,' and keeps others 'guessing' too;  
For not a single nation knows what the next may do.

The Czar speaks well of England, but Wilhelm gets a smile,  
And France sits on the fence post and watches them the while;  
Your Uncle Sam is thoughtful, and wonders now if he  
Should cast his lot with Cuba or make Armenia free.

There's turmoil in the Transvaal, and Kruger flirts with all;  
There's sport in Venezuela, from Turkey comes a call;  
The warships are made ready to go at once to sea,  
But Uncle Sam's uncertain just where they ought to be.  
*Exchange.*