

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE, JANUARY 29.

The weather was simply perfect for the SECOND DAY'S RACING, which was last Friday. There was a better attendance than I have ever seen before on the Hutt racecourse. Among the ladies present I noticed Mrs H. D. Bell, who was wearing a dove grey silk gown veiled in grass lawn to match; the bodice was made in Empire style, and had deep revers of white corded silk edged with a ruching of chiffon; with this costume she wore a small green straw toque trimmed with pink roses; Mrs C. Johnston was wearing a neat grey lustre jacket and skirt, and front of yellow chiffon and lace, small black hat trimmed with black and white striped ribbon; Miss Zoe Johnston, green canvas gown, and large white hat with feathers and black velvet ribbon; Mrs Maxwell wore a handsome black and white costume; Mrs W. Johnston, black corded silk with panels of white satin veiled with black chiffon and trimmed with jet, large black bonnet with tips; Miss Johnston wore a white duck costume and sailor hat; Miss E. Johnston, white gown, white straw hat trimmed with quills and ribbon; Mrs Duncan, black silk gown, handsome jetted cape, black bonnet trimmed with mauve velvet and flowers; Mrs L. Pharasyn, pretty white muslin gown trimmed with lace and insertion, white hat with feathers; Mrs W. Bidwell (Wairarapa), black silk gown with fichu of cream chiffon, violet straw hat trimmed with ribbon and quills to match; Mrs Coleman (Napier), handsome green shot brocade gown, black bonnet with sprays of sweet pea and black tips; Miss Watt (Napier), black and green figured silk crepon, feather boa, green straw hat with black tips; Miss G. Watt wore a white costume, the bodice prettily tucked with yellow, large white hat trimmed with yellow ribbon and white aigrettes; Mrs Alec Crawford, pale grey poplin prettily piped with white satin, black toque trimmed with magenta roses and black tips; Mrs F. Pearce (Featherston), pale fawn cloth gown trimmed with salmon pink brocade, black velvet hat with feathers; Mrs W. Moorhouse, black watered silk costume trimmed with jet, white hat trimmed with black feathers; Mrs Clifford (Christchurch), pretty white costume; Mrs G. Pearce, brown jacket and skirt, brocade blouse, burnt straw hat trimmed with black and pink ribbon; Mrs Purdy, green canvas made over silk and trimmed with brocade to match and sequins, pink bonnet trimmed with poppies and black quills; Mrs G. Hutchison handsome green silk crepon gown, black hat trimmed with feathers; Miss Hutchison, moss green figured silk crepon dress, with front of white accordion pleated silk, large white hat trimmed with high tips and pink roses; Mrs Dan Riddiford, white costume; Mrs Beddard, green tailor-made costume, white sailor hat; Mrs Waldergrave, fawn jacket and skirt, pink silk blouse, black and pink hat; Mrs Harris, black silk skirt, stylish blouse of pink silk crepon, toque of black lace and pink roses; Mrs Gilmer, handsome black brocade gown, black bonnet trimmed with tips and pink flowers; Miss Gilmer, becoming blue flowered muslin dress daintily trimmed with fine lace frills, large white feathered hat; Mrs K. MacDonald was wearing a rich black brocade gown, the bodice handsomely trimmed with white satin and lace, white tulle bonnet with pink roses and high tips; Miss Grace wore a pretty white muslin dress spotted with green, and flounced with white lace, white sailor hat; Miss L. Krull (Wanganui) looked nice in a pink muslin gown prettily trimmed with pink satin ribbon and white chiffon, white hat with pink flowers and chiffon; Miss Heywood wore a cool white muslin dress decked with frills of lace and finished with white satin collar and belt, toque of cerise poppies and white ospreys; Miss Buller, neat black cloth costume, white sailor hat; also the Misses Bennett, Kebbell, Gore, Riddiford, Williams, Gibson (Dunedin), Moeller, Burnett, Fitzherbert, Ormond (Napier), Cohen, and Scully. Among the many gentlemen I noticed Mr H. D. Bell (President), the Captains and officers of H.M. ships 'Wallaroo' and 'Lizard,' Colonel Pole Penton, Major Madocks, Messrs Werry, Pearce, Crawford, Johnston, Williams, Gore, Duncan, Buller, Coates, E. Johnston, Fitzherbert, etc., etc.

PLIMMERTON.

This charming spot has been well patronised this season by the residents of Wellington and other parts. The beach presents a very lively appearance at all times of the day, and at evening the adjacent hills are peopled with lovers of scenery and exercise. We are very gay, too, afternoon teas and progressive euchre parties being the favourite forms of dissipation. Mrs Whitcombe and Mrs L. Blundell entertained their friends at the former. Both were most enjoyable afternoons. Mrs Whitcombe also gave a euchre party. Mrs Miles and Mrs L. Blundell gave a very large euchre party last week, and the most recent festivity was given by Mrs D. T. Stuart, and was in the form of progressive euchre. Mr Plimmer's comfortable hotel is full. There are several new houses going up, and indeed they are wanted, for this place is bound to grow in favour as a most desirable retreat from the city—a place which both old and young can and do thoroughly appreciate.

OPHELIA.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE, JANUARY 26. Once more I have to tell you of some very nice afternoons that have been given lately. On Saturday Mrs W. Reynolds gave a LARGE GARDEN PARTY at her residence. 'Montecillo.' There was a large number of guests present. Croquet was the order of the day, and I am sure those who played must have spent a very pleasant afternoon. Tea was laid under the trees in the garden, and most delicious cakes were partaken of. Mrs Reynolds received in a very handsome black brocade, which was most elaborately trimmed with jet; Miss Reynolds wore yellow flowered silk, bodice lavishly

trimmed with accordion pleated chiffon, large black lace hat with black ostrich tips; Miss R. Reynolds was gowned in a blue and pink crepon, stylish little toque of pink chiffon; Miss M. Reynolds, shot silk blouse; Miss M. Coleridge (Wellington), who is at present staying at 'Montecillo,' wore a neat white serge costume, with toque en suite. The costumes which took my fancy most were worn by Mrs Selby (Melbourne), large patterned figured brocade tastefully trimmed with Maltese lace, stylish bonnet with heliotrope silk bows; Mrs Adam, handsome black satin cape let in with insertion, dainty pink and black bonnet; Mrs Batchelor, handsome cigar brown satin, bodice trimmed with pale yellow satin and black chiffon, black and yellow bonnet to match; Mrs K. C. Reynolds, gray cloth costume; Mrs Jones, black lace mantle, stylish black bonnet with white lilac; Mrs Leslie Reynolds, black satin, green toque; Mrs Mills, black lustre coat and skirt, with white satin facings, large green straw hat; Miss Russel (Wanganui), blue serge jacket and skirt, neat black toque; Miss Wright, pale green crepon trimmed with white satin, large green hat with white ribbons; Miss Affley (Sydney), bright blue crepon, hat en suite trimmed with blue cornflowers; Miss Graham, navy blue serge jacket and skirt, heliotrope silk waistcoat, most becoming green straw hat; her sister wore a black and pink costume; Misses Farquhar, black and white striped silk blouses, large white picture hats; Miss Stephenson, gray crepon trimmed with cerise satin, large white hat; Miss R. Stephenson, green tweed with pretty cream waistcoat, large black hat; Miss Ulrich, green striped silk blouse prettily made with an emerald collar, large yellow straw hat with yellow roses; Miss Georgie Webster, stylish black and white striped silk blouse trimmed with white pleated chiffon, large white Leghorn hat with trimmings of ostrich feathers and black velvet ribbon; Miss Sise, tailor-made tweed, large hat with pink; Miss L. Sise, blue and white blouse, large white hat; Messrs Reynolds, Adams, MacLean, Roberts, Chaffey, Selby (Melbourne), Neill, MacDonald (Christchurch), Webster, Williams, Boyd, Mills, Thomson, Graham, and Ulrich, were also present.

On Tuesday afternoon Mrs E. C. Reynolds gave a SMALL AFTERNOON TEA for her sister, who is just now paying her a visit. Those I recollect present were Misses Reynolds, Hill (Wellington), Hodgkins, Fitchett, D. Fitchett, and MacKerras. The 'Tarawera' returned on Sunday, after having had good weather for her first trip to the Sounds. Numbers of strangers from all parts seem to be going the trips this year.

AILEEN.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, JANUARY 28.

Though Christchurch itself must be simply puffed with pride and scarcely know how to contain itself in having TWO GOVERNORS WITH THEIR SUITES residing here for a week, things have been very quiet. Lord and Lady Glasgow were present at the Polo match on Saturday, as also were Lord and Lady Brassey, but Lord Brassey has spent a good many of our hot days on board his own comfortable yacht. Mr and Mrs A. E. G. Rhodes entertained them to dinner one evening, making in all a very large party at their residence, Merivale.

POLO MATCH

At the on Saturday some hard play took place between a team from Wellington, consisting of Messrs Cooper, Tripp, Skerrett, and Baldwin, and a team of the Christchurch Club, who were far and away the stronger. Mrs A. E. G. Rhodes provided a bounteous tea for all present, and it was a very large gathering. Lady Glasgow, whom everyone was pleased to see looking so well, wore black lustre gown with black and white striped muslin vest; the Ladies Boyle were in white with black sashes, white bats with black trimming; Lady Brassey looked extremely well in a stylish coat and skirt of dark green; the Hon. Mrs Parker, black and white check trimmed with heliotrope, hat to match; Mrs A. E. G. Rhodes, grey figured coat and skirt with pale yellow vest; Mrs Heaton Rhodes, grey cloth coat and skirt with pink vest; Mrs Boyle, black costume; Mr and Mrs I. Gibbs, Mr and Mrs Barclay, Messdames C. Gould, Otterson, J. D. Hall, Cowlishaw, Scott, Ogle, Wardrop, Weston, Lane, Mathias, Misses Gerard, Turton, Cowlishaw, Bowen, Hill, Mathias, etc., Captain Gathorne Hardy, Captain Preston, Captain Feilden, and the Hon. Boyle (three) were among the numerous visitors. The visiting polo team were the guests of Mr Heaton Rhodes at Otahuna, and Captains Preston and Feilden stayed at the Christchurch Club.

Mrs I. Gibbs, Merivale, entertained a number of her young friends at

AFTERNOON TEA

on Tuesday, in honour principally of her two visitors, Miss Turton and Miss Randal. Tennis was played on the beautifully sheltered lawn until after 4 p.m., when an adjournment was made to the dining-room, where a most dainty and sumptuous afternoon tea was enjoyed, and afterwards the musical talent of the guest was much appreciated in the drawing-room. Mrs Gibbs wore a handsome gown of black brocade, and succeeded, as she always does in sending everyone away thoroughly pleased with themselves and the afternoon, the former being a special gift of the ideal hostess. Among those present were Messdames H. Mesres and H. Wood, the Misses Meares, Lean, Henderson, Webb, Tabart, Lingard, Deamer, Thomson, Fulton, Nott, Graham, Anderson, and a few others.

On Saturday a most

ENJOYABLE DRIVING PARTY

left Mrs F. Graham's, Gloucester-street, about four o'clock in a four-in-hand, driving round the foot of the hills to Sumner, where a stay of a few hours was made, a charm-tea being partaken of on the good old Cave Rock, and a stroll along the sand. On returning to town Mrs Graham entertained the party at supper, finishing with

music, recitations, etc. The party included Mr and Mrs Graham, Miss and Mr Frank Graham, Misses Hargreaves, J. Anderson, N. Way, Messrs P. Wood, Donald, and F. Ross.

Mrs H. D. Carter gave a

CHILDREN'S PARTY

on Saturday afternoon, when the young people had a very merry time, the girls playing croquet and many other games at ball, skipping, etc., marshalled by Mesdames Carter and Garrard and Miss Freda Maraden, while the boys, under the care of Messrs Carter and Percy Stuart, indulged in cricket. Refreshments were served outside on the lawn, the whole finishing in the drawing-room with those pretty songs so suitable for children.

Mrs (Dr.) Thomas gave a most enjoyable

MUSICAL EVENING

on Wednesday. Among the guests were Dr. and Mrs Manning, the latter wearing a handsome satin gown with yellow chiffon drawn bodice; Dr. and Mrs Fox, the latter in black satin with pale pink chiffon drawn vest, the bodice cut slightly square at the neck; Mrs G. Roberts, dull green brocade; Mrs J. Matson, black silk relieved with white flowers; Dr. and Mrs R. Anderson, Miss Kinsey, Mr F. Anderson and a few others. Mrs Thomas wore a handsome black satin relieved with white and trimmed with jet.

DOLLY VALE.

NELSON.

DEAR BEE, JANUARY 28.

Most of our people are still away enjoying themselves, but as this is the last week of the school holidays, we shall soon hope to see all home again to settle down to another year's hard work.

On Wednesday the Nelson School Society held its last

ANNUAL PICNIC.

For fifty-five years this Sunday-school has been in existence, it being founded by the late Mr Matthew Campbell in April, 1842. Now the trustees consider that the school has fulfilled its mission, owing to the increase of various denominational Sabbath schools, which have absorbed nearly all the children who used to attend 'Campbell's School,' so with the old year this well-known institution was closed, and yesterday the School Society held its last function, and from that time ceases to exist. The picnic was held at Thackwood, Wakapuaka, and was attended by a large number of teachers, scholars, and friends, who all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Games of all kinds were in full swing, and the beauties of the fine native bush were much appreciated. The day was a perfect one. Amongst those present were Miss Karsten, Miss Jennings, Mesdames Bisley, Epps, I. Hill and Withers, and Mr James Bick, all of whom were present at the opening of the brick school in 1844.

Everything was most quiet last week, therefore I am afraid there is very little news to give you. We have had a good deal of rain the last few days, which necessitated our staying indoors, which is not pleasant at this time of the year. One longs to be out getting as much fresh air as possible. Nearly everyone is out of town enjoying a few week's change.

CAMPING PARTIES

are still as popular as ever. The Rev. F. W. Chatterton has taken a number of young men and boys to Kaikiteri, a delightful bay not far from Motueka, where they will camp for about a fortnight. Mrs Leggett and family with Miss Wood are camping at the back of the Cable Bay station. Mrs Bleckett, Miss Pitt, and several children are at the 'Stream,' about three miles from Cable Bay. Mrs Wright and family are also in the same vicinity. On one very wet night all the camp parties in this direction had to seek shelter at the Cable Station, and were most hospitably entertained by Mr Browning.

PHYLLIS.

BLENHEIM.

DEAR BEE, JANUARY 26.

POLLARD'S OPERA COMPANY, which has established itself as a first favourite here, and is always certain of a cordial reception, opened its season last night with 'Boccaccio' to a packed house. It is a brilliant performance, and the dresses and stage accessories are of a gorgeous description, and the music of a very pleasing nature. It is very amusing, and Messrs Quayle, Percy, and Albert excited a great deal of meritment, as, indeed, they always do. Miss Maud Beatty and Miss F. Metcalfe sang exceedingly well, but Miss Marion Mitchell was hardly in her usual form. Her voice sounded thin, and when she began was decidedly sharp in tone. Miss Agnes Smith has a clear, fresh voice, which under good tuition will, no doubt, become a fine organ. 'Rip Van Winkle' is advertised for to-night, and will attract a large audience. Among those present last night were Mesdames McIntire, Waddy, Griffiths, Snodgrass, Greenfield, Black, Carey, K. Bell, Thompson, Ansenne (Auckland), MacShane, A. Duncan (Picton), Clouston, Orr, Hiley, Johnston, Furness, McIntosh, Bright, and the Misses Bell (three), Horton (four), Carey, Farmer, Waddy, Hall (two), Rees, Horne (two), Johnston, Rogers, Butt (Wellington), Butt (Gisborne), etc., and Messrs Bright, Griffiths, Black, Teschemaker, Bell (two), Thompson, Orr, Wynne-Williams, Temple, Witchell, Snodgrass, Greenfield, McIntosh, Bunting, H. Robinson, Trevor, and Mr and Mrs H. Howard.

An exceedingly

PLEASANT PICNIC

down the Opawa was given last Thursday by Mrs Bull. The majority of the party left town at four, filling three boats, and were followed at five by a number of gentlemen, whose official duties prevented them leaving at an earlier hour. After tea various games were played and a charade acted, the party returning to town by the light of the moon and the accompaniment of vocal music.

FREIDA.