

DUNEDIN.

DEAR REE, MARCH 13.
On Wednesday evening Mr and Mrs J. M. Ritchie gave a

LARGE DINNER PARTY at their pretty residence, 'Balvraid,' for Miss Ethel Elworthy (Timaru), who is staying with them. The table was artistically arranged with monbreta tritons and brown tiger lilies. The vases were placed on a handsome piece of bevelled glass down the centre of the table. Mrs Ritchie wore a handsome yellow brocade, the bodice daintily trimmed with cream lace. Those present were Mrs Turnbull, beautiful pink brocade with bunches of pink roses on the shoulders; Miss Elworthy, white corded silk simply trimmed with white Brussels lace; Miss Webster, mignonette green velvet bodice, with sleeves and skirt of silk to match, the bodice was trimmed with poppies; Miss Mills, handsome white brocade made perfectly plain; Miss G. Mills, white surah silk, fichu of white chiffon; Miss Batchelor, heliotrope brocade, frill of lace round the neck of the bodice; Miss Stogdin (England), pale blue corded silk blouse, saash of black satin, skirt to match; Miss L. MacLaren, white silk with chiffon trimmings; Miss E. MacLaren, pale blue corded silk, the bodice trimmed with jet; the Misses Ritchie, G. Ritchie, Webster, Tapley, C. Morris, H. Kettle, Campbell, Turnbull, J. C. Marshall, etc., were also there.

The same evening Captain and Mrs Boyd gave a

SMALL DINNER PARTY at their residence in Stafford-street. The table was prettily arranged, and the evening passed off merrily.

On Thursday, Mrs Galloway (Anderson's Bay) gave a

LUNCHEON PARTY for Mrs Catten. The other guests were Mesdames Turnbull, Haggitt, Williams, Ritchie, Batchelor, Napier-Bell, Sise, and Rattray.

On Thursday evening Mrs (Dr) Roberts gave a small evening for Dr. Hay, the new medical man who has lately come to Ashburn Hall. Just a few were present.

On Friday afternoon, Mrs Ogston (High-street) gave an enormous

'AT HOME'

as a farewell to Mrs and Miss Catten, who leave in the next trip of the 'Gothic' for a long visit to the Old Country. The drawing room looked very gay with lovely pot palms, high masses of white and brown tiger lilies. In the dining room the prevailing colour was yellow, the table being decorated with pale yellow calico, with huge bowls of sunflowers placed about the room. The cakes and sweets, which were truly works of art, and most delicious, were much appreciated. Mrs Ogston received her guests in the drawing-room, and was most becomingly gowned in gray lustre

daintily trimmed with white merveilleux and passementerie; little Miss Coreen Ogston wore a charming frock of salmon pink bengaline silk; Mrs Ridings was in black brocade trimmed with velvet. Among the numerous guests I noticed wearing smart costumes were Mrs Cutten, in a handsome figured grenadine trimmed with jet and lace; Mrs Thomson (Invercargill), black velvet brocade mantle, jet bonnet; Mrs Morris, grey figured lustre, steel trimmings, black bonnet with white roses; Mrs Hart, black costume; Mrs Napier-Bell, handsome black grenadine beautifully trimmed with pale green satin covered with spangled net, smart bonnet en suite; Mrs Fulton, black serge jacket and skirt, white pique waistcoat, black buttons; Mrs Main, mauve crepon, sleeveless bodice of shot silk, dainty toque to match; Mrs Scott, blue and black costume, large hat with upstanding blue bows; Mrs Hosking, black costume, white satin vest covered with white chiffon, large white revers covered with guipure lace; Mrs Sinclair Thomson, pale grey costume, black bonnet with pink roses; Mrs Boyd, brown crepon trimmed with accordion-pleated shot chiffon, floral bonnet to match; Mrs Scott, white Liberty silk, large white hat; Mrs MacDonald (Christchurch), black costume, black brocade mantle; Mrs Aulreux Fenwick, black and heliotrope striped silk, black velvet hat trimmed with heliotrope; Mrs Sale, blue grey lustre trimmed with silk and passementerie; Mrs Silling, brown tweed, black toque with red roses; Mesdames Haggitt, Waddy, Turnbull, Thomson, Bartlett, Ulrich, Graham, Johnson, Webster, F. Catten, MacLaren, Turnbull, (Linburn-street), Maitland, Jones, Petre, Stewart, Cargill, Fergus, Shand, Allen, Richards, Galloway, Rose, Joachim, Bathgate, Butterworth, Kattray, C. Kattray, F. Jones, Grierson, Davis, Turton, and C. Fenwick; Miss Parker, brown costume; Miss Marchant, dark blue satin blouse, black skirt; Miss Allen, black, brocade mantle, jet bonnet; Miss Sieve-wright, black jacket and skirt, black and white bonnet; Miss Gilkinson, grey lustre jacket and skirt, pink chiffon waistcoat, black toque with pink roses; Miss Elworthy (Timaru), fawn covert coating, black toque with pink flowers; Miss Webster, blue covert coating costume, floral toque; Miss Ulrich, green silk blouse, dark green skirt, large yellow chip hat; Miss Macassey, grey costume, red vest and hat; Miss LeCren, heliotrope and yellow shot striped silk, small floral toque; Miss Morris, lawn shot lustre trimmed with passementerie, large hat en suite.

AILEEN.

EVOLUTION OF THE UMBRELLA.

Forty years or so ago umbrellas were made with stretches or bows of whalebone. These bows were rather bulky in themselves, and they were apt to get a little permanent bend from long use, so that they bulged when the umbrella was rolled up, making the big, baggy umbrella, familiar to middle aged and older people, and occasionally still seen though on the stage oftener than in real life.

With the introduction of petroleum oil into general use as an illuminating oil and the consequent very general abandonment of the use of whale oil came the decline of the whaling industry. Fewer and fewer vessels went after whales, because there was less and less demand for the oil. Of course, the supply of whalebone decreased with the supply of oil, but the price did not, nor yet the demand. There are still some uses for which whalebone is considered most desirable, and with constant demand and decreasing supply, the price of whalebone steadily advanced, as it has continued to do. Whalebone soon became too costly to permit of its further use for umbrella spreaders, and substitutes for it were sought for this use, as there were for other uses in which whalebone had been employed. Steel was the substitute generally used in umbrella stretchers. At first a slender, round, tapered steel rod. With these slender rods the umbrella could be more snugly rolled and the old baggy umbrellas began to disappear and the modern tight roller to take its place. Then came the umbrella bows of light steel rolled in Y shape, and then in the quest for a still tighter roller umbrella handles were made of metal. The first tubing handles were made of brass. Steel would have been cheaper, but there had been discovered no satisfactory method of brazing steel tubes such as are used as umbrella handles. There is such a method now, however, and umbrella handles of steel tubing are now made in great numbers. And nowadays many spreaders are made of steel roller channel-shaped. In cross section this spreader is shaped something like a capital letter E without a tongue, and the ribs of the umbrella—the steel rods that run from the sliding ferrule, or runner, as it is called, on the handle of the umbrella to the spreaders—are attached and adjusted to the spreaders, so that they slide into the channels when the umbrella is closed.

NEW ZEALAND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

An echo comes from New Zealand telling how the Female Suffrage Bill came to pass through the New Zealand Parliament. The Government promoted the Bill, in accordance with electoral pledges, and supported it with every show of enthusiasm in the Assembly. But they did not want it to pass, and relied upon the Upper House to throw it out. The majority of life senators are in the red and yellow leaf, some of

them having sat since the colony obtained self-government, and have to be trundled down to the House in bath chairs when occasion arises. Unfortunately, the Female Suffrage Bill came on at an hour when the veterans, on whom Ministers relied for rejecting it, had hobbled off to bed. Before they could be brought back to the house in blankets the matter had gone too far, and the Bill for female suffrage became law—the consternation of those who had only made a show of desiring it.

WEIGHTY WORDS
FOR
Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

The above are indeed weighty words, of great import and value to thousands of pale-faced, languid men and women, now tired and worn out with worry, overwork, and disease, and who would be made well and strong by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Read also the following interesting testimony of a prominent athlete:

627 BOURKE ST., SURREY HILLS, SYDNEY,
NEW SOUTH WALES, June 21, 1886.

"After being a victim to Typhoid, Brain, and Rheumatic fevers, in 1882, my system was left in a terrible condition. Besides being very weak, I had numerous abscesses on the lower part of my back and spine, from which a great number of pieces of bone were taken. As fast as an abscess would appear and was lanced another would form. I was treated at two different hospitals without success. The surgeons in attendance informed me that I was suffering from blood poison. The abscesses continued to appear, and I was never without pain, till six months ago I was induced to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. When I had taken the first bottle I found an improvement, and after finishing twelve bottles to-day I feel as well as ever I did in my life; the abscesses have ceased to come, the old ones are all healed, and my health is splendid. Before I used the Sarsaparilla I weighed 134 lbs., and now, after using a dozen bottles, my weight is 200 lbs., which is a sure sign that I have been taking the Champion Blood-Purifier of the world."—GEORGE W. WALKER, "Jumbo," Champion Foot-baller of New So. Wales.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla,
The Strength-Giver and Blood-Purifier.

MASON'S
EXTRACT OF HERBS

Makes the
Finest Beverage
in the World.



FOR MAKING
NON-INTOXICATING
BEER
IMITATED BUT NOT EQUALLED.

One Tablespoonful of Mason's Extract of Herbs makes One Gallon of splendid Non-Intoxicating Beer.

The Most Refreshing and Pleasantest Beverage obtainable.

Mason's Wine Essences

for making NON-INTOXICATING WINE, produced in a few minutes a delicious Temperature Wine or Cordial-Ginger, Orange, Raspberry, Black Currant, etc.

NEWBALL & MASON, Nottingham, England.

AGENTS Messrs. Chrystall & Co., Christchurch, N.Z.

ANSWERS

TO

CORRESPONDENTS.

A.B.—Consult a lawyer. We do not advise on legal points.

FANNY X.—Your father should ask the young man's intentions.

X.—If the young lady insists upon having SURATURA TEA it is evidence of thrift.

TAXPAYER.—It is a simple calculation. If 1 lb of SURATURA TEA at 1s 10d per lb lasts you four weeks, a whole lb of tea you mention at 1s 10d was used in a week, it stands to reason that you per in four weeks for the tea you have been using—4 lb at 1s 10d, 7s 4d; as against 10d, a saving of 6s 4d in a month by using SURATURA.

WAGER.—You win, SURATURA is not prepared by hand, but by machinery.

ENQUIRER.—Eight hours from the time it is growing, it has been packed in boxes and packets. Quite right; there is no more necessity to blend tea than there is to blend butter or jam. SURATURA TEA is sold to the public as pure and as fresh as if it were grown in your own garden.

ABOUT BE MARRIED.—It's a good suggestion, and will be considered.

NEED.—A written guarantee that SURATURA is not blended with China or India can be obtained if necessary.