

Miss Thompson, white silk with blue feathers on shoulder and in her hair; Miss Kerr-Taylor, pale blue crepon; and her sister, a cowslip grenadine; Miss — Thompson, pink or yellow silk, as those colours are generally so deceiving at night I could not decide; Mrs Keesing, white silk veiled in a black spotted net; Mrs Benjamin, black silk with pink silk round corsage; Mrs Robert Browning, black silk; Mrs Greenway Tuscan silk with ropes of pearl bead trimming; Miss Eva Firth, pink gown relieved with white lace; Mrs Blair, white silk; Miss Wilkins, black satin edged with spotted chiffon; Miss Maud Wilkins, black silk, yellow Empire belt swathed the waist, and the *decollé* was finished with black net spotted with yellow; Miss Phillips, azure blue silk, the *decollé* finished with black bead trimming; Miss Rees, pale pink with black lace round the *decollé*; Mrs Dignau was resplendent in black satin with spray of red roses on shoulder; Mrs Isidor Alexander, black silk relieved with white, diamond ornaments; Miss Hesketh, amber satin; Miss Grace Hesketh, Mexique blue satin with silver passementerie, aigrette in hair. Drs Lewis, Sharman, Parkes, Messrs Williamson (two), Fenton, Purchas, Anderson, Bloomfield (two), Morrin, Philson, Robison, Davaney, Gillies, Davis, Alexander, Duthie, Paton, Battley, Chisholm, Keating, McLaughlin, Phillips (two), Kerr-Taylor, Chambers, Greenway, Dignau, Fenwicke, Leckie, Moss-Davis, and several officers from the warships now in harbour were amongst the gentlemen.

ST. GEORGE'S ROWING CLUB BALL.

The ninth annual ball under the auspices of St. George's Rowing Club was held under favourable conditions in the Choral Hall on Wednesday evening. The presence in Auckland harbour of the 'Royalist,' and the German warship 'Falke' contributed quite a sprinkling of naval uniforms to the array of colour which brightened the scene. The committee must have worked most industriously to produce such an effect as the hall presented. Across the full length from corner to corner were strung lines of bright bunting, while around the walls crossed scrolls with flags intertwined, and a profusion of punge ferns and nikan palms furnished a brilliant and picturesque decoration. In front of the orchestra there was an effective fanlike design composed of crossed scrolls and the Club's colours (red and white). The club was indebted to the captains of H.M.S. 'Royalist,' and of the barques 'Asterion' and 'Lurthraen for a stock of flags. On some previous occasions the ladies in anticipation of a crush at this popular annual dance have not been disposed to go in for elaborate ball costumes, but the beauty and variety of the dresses on this occasion furnished the subject of general comment. The catering was entrusted to Mr Charles Canning, of the 'Mungo' Cafe. The supper was spread in the corridor on the left-hand side, while the corridor on the other side, gaily decorated, furnished a capital promenade. The leading features in the table decorations were festoons of red and white along the border of the snow-white linen cloth with bunches of autumn flowers down the centre of the table. Burke's Band discoursed an excellent selection of dance music, leading off with the initial waltz at nine o'clock. The floor was in excellent condition, having been specially prepared by Messrs Winks and Hall. Members of the Club's Committee, sitting about with distinguishing miniature flags in their button holes, did all that was possible to minister to the pleasure of their guests, and Mr W. R. Holmes, the hon. secretary, was especially energetic. Their efforts were crowned with complete success, for although dancing was prolonged till 3 a.m., the time seemed all too short. As usual, the St. George Rowing Club ball of 1897 will form in the lives of several young ladies that red-letter day which marks the crossing of the boundary line between girlhood and maturity, familiarly known as 'coming out.' Among the many charming dresses the following were especially noticeable:—Mrs Colbeck looked graceful in wisteria-coloured ottoman silk, cream silk Maltese lace deftly arranged on the corsage and caught with a spray of violets; Miss Thorne George wore a *recherché* black satin toilette, bodice trimmed with iridescent sequins; Mrs W. R. Holmes was charming in a handsome white satin gown, bodice of brocade with a garniture of pearls and crystals; Mrs Preston Stevenson, white stripe silk, full sleeves of satin; Mrs J. M. Brigham wore a satin gown *en traine*, which was a harmony of mauve and pale yellow cleverly combined; Miss Brigham was much admired in a trained gown of white silk with small chenille spots, the tight long net sleeves and Princess Maud bodice were trimmed with silver spangles; Miss — Glassford (Melbourne) wore a very rich white brocade, corsage veiled with filmy folds of white chiffon; Mrs H. R. Bloomfield, handsome white satin; Mrs Rathbone wore an elegant Nil green brocaded satin, the sleeves surmounted with square epaulettes of jewelled passementerie; Miss Lusk, white silk, roses nestling in filmy folds of chiffon on corsage; Miss Elsie Lusk, rose pink Indian muslin with white lace arranged on bodice; Miss Graves Aickin (*debutante*), white pongee silk relieved with frills of yellow silk; Miss Kissing, handsome black satin gown, black chiffon on square corsage; Mrs Uphill, white silk with pearls; Mrs Arthur Nathan, white Indian silk, deep flounce with bars of insertion lace, Victorian sleeves finished with lace; Mrs Alfred Nathan, an elegant white satin brocade with an opal green shade though it, pearl epaulettes and festoons on corsage; Miss Wilkins looked exceedingly well in a black striped silk semi-trained gown with three ruchings of black tulle at intervals on the skirt, swathed belt of yellow satin; Miss Chatfield (*debutante*), white silk with soft feather trimming on low bodice; Miss Thomas, black satin, bright yellow satin sleeve and sash; Mr Holland, black silk, bodice finished with jewelled trimming; Miss Holland looked charming in white chenille spotted tulle over white satin, spray of heliotrope heath, sleeves surmounted with frills; Mrs Devore wore an effective black gown with white satin sleeves and jabot veiled with spangled net; Miss Devore, white figured lustre, yellow silk sleeves and spray of flowers; Mrs Blair, rich black satin, cream silk Maltese lace arranged on low bodice; Mrs Jervis, white silk and lace; Miss Devereux looked

dainty in white silk, white feather on low corsage; Miss Thorpe, white silk, spray of crimson roses gave harmonious touches of colour; Miss Florrie Thorpe, cream satin; Mrs E. Beale, Nil green brocade, rose pink silk sleeves; Miss Dixon looked pretty in black figured silk, bodice trimmed with cream Maltese lace; Miss Phillips, black, deep frill of cream chiffon on low corsage; Miss Isaca was much admired in white satin veiled with lace and relieved with rose pink velvet; Mrs Denniston, dark green silk with apple green silk V on bodice and sleeves; Miss Hay looked pretty in cream silk with a design of pink floral crescents, bodice brightened with fold of crimson velvet; Mrs Foster, pink silk; Miss Otway, white satin, clusters of lily-of-the-valley with their own foliage set in tulle on corsage; Miss Hesketh looked graceful in white ottoman silk; Miss Alice Hesketh wore a very effective amber satin trimmed with pearls; Miss E. Mahony wore a striking gown of pink areoplane over silk, corset was adorned with black ribbon velvet, trellis style; Miss Whitson, cream satin, roses on shoulders; Miss Torrance, ruby velvet, cream silk lace on bodice; Miss Dunnett, handsome peach blossom brocade; Miss Percival, white moiré, yellow silk sleeves; Mrs J. R. Hanna, rich black satin, spray of violets on bodice; Miss Bull, white silk, sleeves strapped with sprays of red roses; Miss — Bull, white satin with lilies of the valley clustering here and there; Miss Bush, rose pink silk; Mrs Lyons, white silk under white net embroidered with iridescent spangles, blue sash; Miss Aubrey, black, heliotrope drapery on bodice, and trails of roses over shoulders; Mrs Oxley, grey and white; Mrs Alfred White, handsome white brocade; Miss Witchell (*debutante*), white, lovely shower bouquet of choice white flowers; Miss Hull, white silk; Miss Olive Noakes (*debutante*) wore oyster white; Miss Kilgour, white silk, folded violet velvet straps on square-cut corsage, spray of violets; Miss Dolly Davis, shot gold lace silk; Miss Atkinson, effective yellow silk gown adorned with pearls; Miss Kennedy, pale pink lustre trimmed with pearl and sequin passementerie; Miss Hooper, white, sequined tulle over sleeves; Miss Churton, black with touches of pink; Mrs Gorrie, black satin, sleeves and yoke of yellow satin veiled with black chiffon; Miss Gorrie, blue silk and white lace; Miss M. Gorrie, heliotrope ottoman silk, cream lace bolero; Miss Mabelle Annesley's white Indian silk gown was much admired; the front of the skirt was richly embroidered in white silk; Miss Brodie, cream silk, ruching of chiffon on square-cut corsage; Miss Agatha Greenwood, striking gown of apple-green silk under skirt of white silk *mousseline de soie*, girdle of pearls; Miss Nora Greenwood, gold satin and white; Miss Peacocke looked pretty in white silk; Miss F. Peacocke (*debutante*), white; Mrs Goodwin, black and heliotrope; Miss Goodwin, white silk; Miss Winnie Goodwin, yellow silk with white ruffles; Miss Donald, pink silk; Miss Lily Gould, pretty pink silk; Miss Laird looked charming in yellow Harcourt silk trimmed with net and pearls; Miss Rees, pink silk with ruching of black chiffon and pink roses on square corsage; Miss Wylde-Browne, white silk and chiffon, bodice finished with silver trimming; Miss Preece, vieux rose arranged with cream lace; Miss F. Preece, heliotrope and white lace; Miss — Preece, pink; Miss Burns, apple green satin; Miss Wood, heliotrope silk gown; Miss Lewis, pink chiné silk; Miss Lillian Lewis (*debutante*), white lustre with frilled sleeves; Mrs Sowerby, black velvet, jet trimmings; Miss Murray, heliotrope silk; etc., etc.

I am so sorry that last week I was not able to go to Mrs Archer-Burton's

PLEASANT MUSICAL PARTY

at Park Road east, but I had a bad cold, and trusted to one of the guests. She, it seems, got very much mixed, and gave me incorrect information, which I now put right. Our hostess wore a pretty blue dress relieved with white. Amongst the guests were Mrs E. H. Lyons, in cream satin blouse, dark skirt; Mrs A. E. Gilmore, old gold silk and roses; Mrs Keogh, black brocade; Mrs T. Mahoney, electric blue; Miss Wallnut, pink muslin; Miss Aubrey, white silk; Miss Rita Tole, flowered blue muslin; Miss Smales, shot silk blouse, skirt to match; Miss Griffiths (Wellington), canary-coloured satin; Miss Mulvaney, pale green velvet; and her sister wore a pale blue gown; Miss Percival, cream silk lustre; Miss Atkinson, cream muslin; Miss Newett, pink silk blouse, dark skirt; Miss Lindon, *cau de Nil* green. Amongst the gentlemen were Messrs Lyons, Gilmore, Outwaite, Mahoney, Percival, Carr, Kallender, Smales, Connell, Gordon, Gilbert, Francis, Palmer, R. Archer-Burton (Sydney), and Dr. Pabst.

PHYLLIS BROUNE.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE, On Saturday afternoon MAY 8.

A WALKING-PARTY

was given by Messrs Campbell and Sergeant in the Flagstaff. The party started for their walk at about two in the afternoon, returning back to town at half-past six. They then had high tea in the 'Kiora' tea-room, afterwards adjourning to the opera, where a most delightful evening was spent. 'Bocaccio' was the opera which was being performed. The music was most catching, the opera was exceedingly well staged, and all the company seemed in good acting form. The party consisted of Misses Wright, G. Wright, Neill, Williams, Wm. Williams, D. Williams, Izard (Wellington), Rattray, Gibson, H. Gibson, Messrs Campbell, Sergeant, Macpherson, Ritchie, P. Wright, Maitland, Black, Gibson, Tapley and Sievwright.

RRRL PARTIES

are quite the rage in Dunedin at present. A number of people have been going in for them lately. On Tuesday evening, Mrs (Judge) Williams gave a small one at her residence (Anderson's Bay). Reels were danced nearly

the whole evening. Needless to say time passed a ) to quickly for the tastes of the young folks.

On Wednesday

TWO DINNER PARTIES

were given, one by Mrs J. M. Ritchie, at her residence, 'Balvriad,' and the other by Mrs Sievwright, at her residence in High-street. The tables were prettily arranged with autumn-tinted leaves and chrysanthemums. Music wiled away the evening in a pleasant way.

The same afternoon Mrs Ritchie gave a small afternoon tea, there being mostly married ladies present. No very striking costumes were worn.

On Friday evening, Mrs W. G. Neill (Melville-street), gave a large

HIGH TEA.

A few I recollect present were Mrs Neill, Misses Neill, K. Neill, H. Neill, Macassey, Bartleman, Sise, Batchelor, Butterworth, Haggitt, M. Reynolds, Rattray, Williams, Gilkinson, Messrs Neill, Tapley, Sievwright, Macpherson, Haggitt, T. Haggitt, Chaffey, Cheeseman, Black, Ritchie, Sise, etc.

ALLRKN.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, MAY 6. The port of Lyttelton was all excitement on Thursday afternoon last when the 'Ruahine' was expected to sail from the wharf at 2 o'clock with the

NEW ZEALAND CONTINGENT

on board and a number of prominent citizens, who, in comparison, sank into insignificance. Our corps of volunteers with the Maoris attached made a brave show, the Maoris being a really fine lot of fellows. After going through some drilling, and numerous groups being taken by the irrepressible photographer, the company marched on board, an immense crowd having gathered on the wharf. The scene was most animated and gay, so much bunting being displayed on all the shipping, and bands playing; then came the final cheering on both sides, and it was found, owing to an unperceived 'low' high tide, the steamer could not float out. There was a good deal of disappointment at not being able to see them away, but no help for it. Many of the passengers came up to town again for a few hours, but the 'Ruahine' sailed at 2 a.m., so the delay was only 12 hours.

MUSICAL UNION CONCERT

in the Tuam-street Hall last week, which was crowded in every part, we enjoyed a great treat when they gave us 'Cavalleria Rusticana' in concert form. If the committee of management could only understand how the majority of their subscribers appreciate this style of music instead of three hours' heavy oratorio the innovation would be repeated much oftener. Miss Corrick took the soprano part, and wore a vivid green velvet with white satin sash ends, bows and lace on the bodice, and white flowers in the hair. Miss Moir made her *debut* at the Society's concert, and did so remarkably well, and wore a simple white dress; Miss Graham, whom one is always pleased to hear, was in all black. Among the very large audience were Mr and Mrs W. D. Meares and daughters, Mrs Denniston, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Wilding, Mrs and Miss Reeves and Miss Mills (Dunedin), Mr and Mrs C. W. Hill and Mrs and Miss Ching (Auckland), Mrs Robison, Mrs Embling and Miss Julius, Mrs J. and Miss Matson, Mr and Misses Hargreaves (two), Mr and Mrs F. Graham, Mrs R. D. Thomas, Mrs Barkas, Mrs F. M. Wallace, Miss Fairhurst, and numbers more. At the repeat on Thursday for the Napier Relief Fund many came again, and I also saw Mr and Mrs G. Kettlewell, Mrs Aiken and Mrs T. R. Fisher (Dunedin), Mr and Miss Connal, and Miss Godfrey, etc.

The Ladies' Golf Club opened on Monday in Hagley Park, when Mrs Wigram provided tea in the 'Hutt,' but we are having a spell of warm summer weather, which is not conducive to the energy of a good drive even by our most enthusiastic players.

The Savage Club opened its new season on Monday night with Savage E. W. Roper at the head of his tribe. The popularity of this club seems to continue.

Mrs H. Cotterill's dance last week was a great success. The floral decorations of chrysanthemums and autumn foliage were lovely, music and supper both of the best, and every one enjoyed a thoroughly delightful evening.

Mrs H. W. Bishop gave a very charming

'AT HOME'

on the eve of her daughter's marriage in St. Barnabas' Schoolroom, Fendalton, which was very prettily decorated. The stage was furnished as a drawing-room with screens at the back, which were removed at supper-time, and revealed a dainty display of creature comforts. Mrs Bishop wore a handsome black satin with bunch of scarlet geraniums; Miss Bishop (the bride-elect), white China silk trimmed with chiffon; Mrs Denniston, black satin and revers of orange satin; Mrs Weetman, cream satin handsomely trimmed with Maltese lace; Mrs Broham, old gold satin and brocade; Mrs Stack, black silk and lace fichu; Mrs Tripp, black silk; Mrs Simms, black satin; Mrs H. Simms, black silk, white lace fichu; Mrs Walter Stringer, cream satin with moss green velvet and passementerie; Mrs G. Humphreys, black silk, the bodice trimmed with cardinal satin; Mrs Joshua Little, black silk, white lace fichu and red roses; Miss McPherson, black chiné silk relieved with white tulle; Miss Sellars, cream silk and red flowers; Miss Jones (Auckland), pink crepon and white lace; Miss Russell, black merveillex; Miss Nina Townsend, white surah and chiffon; Miss Stringer, cream brocade in moss green sprays, trimmed with velvet to match; Miss Walton, pink; Mrs Archer, cream brocade and cardinal velvet; Messrs Archer, Gresson, Hutchins (bridegroom-elect), Broham, Weetman, Stack, Mathias, McPherson (two), M. Denniston, Stringer, P. Wood, Joynt, and Humphreys.

DOLLY VALE.