

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE, AUGUST 13.

THE FANCY DRESS BALL

given by the ladies of the Hutt is the first item on my list for you this week. It was a most delightful dance. The hall was beautifully decorated with nikan palms and flags, while on the stage was erected a tree fern, this having a very cooling effect from the heated ballroom. Besides this there were screens, pot plants, easy chairs, etc., which made things very comfortable. The supper, which was supplied by the ladies, was all that anyone could desire, and the artistic floral decoration on the supper-table were masses of primroses, violets, and jonquils. Cimeno's string band supplied the excellent music. A number of the ladies and gentlemen drove out from town in breaks, and were fortunate enough to have a still moonlight night, as the drive is a long one. The guests were received by Mrs E. J. Kiddiford, who wore a becoming Grecian costume, made of white soft material caught with gold straps. She wore her hair to suit the costume. Other costumes I noticed were Mrs (Dr.) Purdy as the 'Queen of Hearts,' this being very handsome, and designed in white and crimson satin; Mrs Jackson represented Hama; Miss Krull (Wanganui), Black Witch; the short skirt and bodice was of black satin with panels let in of white, on which reclined small and large cats, and on either shoulder were perched an owl and a cat; she also wore a tall black pointed hat (this costume was very much admired); Mrs G. Pearce looked well as a gypsy; Miss Coleridge also looked well, but I do not quite know what character she represented; she wore a black velvet gown with white lace fichu; and large black hat with white feathers; and her hair powdered; Miss Burnett wore a similar costume; the pretty costume, Pierrette, was well carried out by Miss M. Burnett; Miss Atkinson, Sweet Girl Graduate; Miss Sydney Johnston, Fish Wife; Miss McLean looked as though she had stepped out of one of Marcus Stone's pictures, and wore a pretty white muslin dress with fichu, and becoming large white hat with long white feathers; Miss Wardell, black velvet gown, with white lace fichu, and wore her hair powdered; Miss Hislop, as Kate Greenaway, wore white muslin finished with blue ribbons; Miss V. Johnson, Flower Girl; Miss Bodman wore Grecian costume, so also did Miss Foster; Miss Hector looked very well as a Swiss Peasant. Among the gentlemen I noticed Messrs A. Duncan, H. Gore, and W. Johnston in Old English dress. Dr. Purdy as Mephistophels; Mr H. Fitzherbert, Court Dress; Mr Kirk, Clown; Mr W. Higginson, Peasant; Mr F. Harcourt, Torador. I also saw Colonel Pole-Penton, Major Maddocks, Lieutenant Ward, and the Hon. Mr Hill-Trevor.

THE ART GALLERY

was packed last night, when Mr Robert Parker gave his sixth Chamber concert. Miss Joan Parker was wearing a pretty soft dress of white muslin with satin belt and collar; Miss Williams, black silk skirt, and becoming sky blue silk blouse veiled with cream chiffon; Miss Stewart, white silk and lace; Mrs Quick, handsome black silk gown trimmed with lace; Miss Hamerton, black silk skirt and shot silk blouse; Miss Upham, black skirt and white silk blouse; Miss Campbell, black silk, with bertha of black lace. Among the audience I noticed Lady Stout, in a black silk gown and handsome velvet cape bound with black and white feather trimming; Mrs Henry Fitzherbert (Palmerston North), black satin skirt, pink silk blouse; Miss Quick, black silk skirt, pale pink blouse with coffee lace collar; Miss Harcourt, long grey cloak trimmed with fur to match; Miss Matland (Dunedin) wore a pale blue silk gown, the bodice finished with ruches of chiffon to match; Mrs Butt, black silk gown trimmed with white silk under black lace; Mrs Butt, dark skirt, and red blouse trimmed with coffee lace; Mrs Barron, black and yellow evening gown; Mrs Biss, black silk skirt, shot silk blouse trimmed with lace; Lady Douglas, black and mauve figured gown trimmed with mauve silk; Mrs Joseph, handsome black silk gown trimmed with jet, white cloak bound with fur; Mrs Ashcroft; Miss Ashcroft, black silk skirt, blue silk blouse under coffee lace; Mrs Travers, long electric blue evening cloak trimmed with brown fur; Miss Coleridge, black silk skirt, silk blouse, white cloak trimmed with beaver; Miss Chaytor (Picton), black skirt, pretty white evening blouse; Miss Henry, black and white gown. Also Mrs Parry, the Misses Burnett, Miss Montgomery, Mrs and Miss Parker, Mrs and Miss Powles, the Misses Gore, Mrs Fell, Miss Taylor (Rangitikei), the Misses Davy, Miss E. Richmond, Mrs and Miss Palmer, Mrs and the Misses Prouse, Mrs and the Misses Stowe, Mrs and Miss Pharyn, the Misses Hamerton, Miss Watkins, Miss Spratt, Mrs and Miss Martin, Mrs Wardell, the Misses Tolhurst, Mrs G. Tolhurst, Mrs and the Misses Rose, Mrs and Miss Stewart, Mrs and Miss Barbor, and others.

Mrs MacGregor gave

A LARGE JUVENILE DANCE

last Friday night at the Masonic Hall in Bulcouth-street. Mrs MacGregor received in a handsome black silk gown trimmed with jet and lace; Miss MacGregor wore pink silk and white chiffon; Miss Sybil MacGregor looked nice in pale blue crepon; Miss M. MacGregor was wearing a soft white gown trimmed with lace. Among the guests were Lady Stout, and the Misses Tuckey, Tripe, Stafford, Rawson (two), Burke, Coleridge, Douglas (two), Miles, Smith, Blandell, Harcourt, Harding, Rdwin, Miles, Gilmer, Seddon, Hanna, Haselden, and many others.

OPHELIA.

DEAR BEE, AUGUST 13.

I have sent you a long description of the arrival of Lord and Lady Ranfurly, which leaves me little news for my letter.

THE ANNUAL BALL

given by the D Battery of Artillery took place last week, and proved a great success. The hall (St. Thomas) was charmingly decorated, and a delicious supper provided

by Mr Godber. Amongst those present were Lieut-Colonel Newall, Major Collins, and Captains Warren, Moorhouse, and Paterson, Surgeon-Major and Mrs Collins, the latter looking lovely in yellow brocade. Lieutenants Biss, F. Hume, and Roe, and many others were also present. Mrs Moorhouse wore black velvet, and Miss Dransfield was also in black.

It is good to get away sometimes from routine, even if one's groove lies in pleasant places, and I have come to the conclusion that a

BICYCLE LUNCHEON,

with a long ride, on a good road, as a forerunner is the best way of doing so. A very pleasant ride of this description took place on Wednesday last, among those who took part in it being Mrs Adams, Mrs Travers, Mrs Purdy, and the Misses Coleridge, Chaytor, and Turrell (Christchurch), Lieutenant Garrett and Dr. Andrews, of the 'Pyliades,' and Dr. Purdy, being among the gentlemen riders. When the Upper Hutt was reached a delightful luncheon was partaken of at the hotel there, and on the return journey to town the party stopped at the Lower Hutt at Dr. Purdy's for tea, which was thoroughly enjoyed, the run back to town being a most pleasant one.

Several

AFTERNOON TEAS

have been given on the 'Pyliades' by the Captain and officers since they arrived in Wellington last week. Among the guests present at a very pleasant one given yesterday afternoon were Mrs Matland and her daughter, Mrs Lees, Mrs Travers, and the Misses Coleridge, Turrell, Moorhouse, and Barclay.

CLARISSE.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE, AUGUST 10.

On Monday evening the monthly open evening of the

LADIES' SAVAGE CLUB

was held at Mrs W. G. Neill's, Stafford-street. Mrs Hockin was chairwoman for the evening, and the items on her programme were all very enjoyable. The programme itself was painted by the chairwoman, and was very quaint, being coloured representations of Maori gods. The first item was a song by Miss Ethel Neill; second, a dialogue in Scotch between Mrs Shand and Miss Fanny Cargill; third, piano solo by Miss M. Boyd, and fourth, a reading by Miss Stewart Bartleman. After this all adjourned to the dining-room, where delicious tea, coffee, and cakes were partaken of. The first item on the second half was Miss Olive Turton's Indian Clubs; next, a song entitled 'Sing Sing,' which was charmingly rendered by Miss Lily Shand, who received an encore. The last item was a very clever dialogue between Miss Robinson, Miss Ruby Neill, and an unseen Bridget. The next evening will be held at Mrs Batchelor's, Mrs Charlie Turnbull in the chair. Mrs Sale wore black silk gown trimmed with lace; Mrs Shand, black lustre, full waistcoat of heliotrope brocade; Mrs Hockin, black silk, lace bodice trimmed with white satin; Mrs C. Turabull, black satin gown trimmed with jet; Mrs G. Kilson (Clyde), pale blue satin blouse, black skirt; Mrs Sim, yellow flowered silk; Mrs Denniston, black velvet and silk costume; Mrs Martin, black corded silk, white muslin fichu with accordion-pleated frills; Mrs Driver, figured cloth, full front of white satin and jet; Mrs Stilling, heliotrope sarah silk blouse, full ruffle round neck; Mrs Woodhouse, canary-coloured silk blouse trimmed with jet; Mrs Melland, black and white gown; Mrs Bathgate, black; Mrs Stock, blue silk blouse, black crepon skirt; Miss Cargill, white silk blouse trimmed with passementerie; Miss F. Cargill, red flowered silk blouse, crepon skirt; Miss Ulrich, yellow silk blouse, white chiffon fichu; Miss Driver, blue shot silk blouse, black crepon skirt; Miss Turton, blue flowered silk blouse, black skirt; Miss O. Turton, cream crepon blouse, black skirt; Miss E. Batchelor, blue and fawn striped silk blouse, long blue chiffon sleeves; Miss G. Webster, moss green velvet blouse prettily trimmed with cream lace, black silk skirt; Miss Rattray, yellow shot silk blouse, black crepon skirt; Miss Neill, blue crepon blouse trimmed with spangles, black crepon skirt; Miss F. Mills, blue and white striped silk blouse; Miss G. Mills, white dress; Miss Boyd, pink flowered silk, full frill of lace, black skirt; Miss Shand, black velvet trimmed with white chiffon; Miss Lily Shand, pale blue flowered silk trimmed with blue chiffon; Miss Sale, black velvet blouse; Miss M. Cargill, grey crepon blouse.

On Wednesday evening, Mrs G. A. Denniston gave a large

MUSICAL 'AT HOME'

at her residence, Lees-street. The music naturally was quite the feature of the evening. Mesdames Rose and Brown (England), Miss Reynolds and Neill all sang most delightfully; Mrs E. C. Reynolds and Miss Roberts played piano solos, and Mr Hunter also sang. Mrs Denniston received her guests in the hall, and wore a handsome black velvet trimmed with flowered brocade; Miss Denniston, handsome white brocade, the bodice trimmed with frills edged with white chiffon. Those I noticed present who wore pretty dresses were Mrs Thomson, in handsome pink brocade trimmed with pearl passementerie, and white chiffon; Mrs Reynolds, black satin with bunches of scarlet roses on the bodice; Mrs Brown, pink corded silk blouse edged with jet, black satin skirt; Mrs Rose, black lace and jet; Mrs Oliver, handsome brocade; Mrs Martin, black satin trimmed with white pleated chiffon; Mrs Woodhouse, white silk trimmed with black satin ribbon and flowers; Mrs Melland, bright scarlet sarah silk trimmed with black sarah silk, spray of red at her throat; Mrs Gilkinson, pink and white silk gown; Miss Reynolds, pale blue satin, the bodice prettily trimmed with red velvet ribbon; Miss R. Reynolds, blue gauze trimmed with lace and bunches of pink flowers on the shoulders; Miss M. Reynolds, yellow gauze, frilled

sleeves, bunches of buttercups on the bodice; Miss Ulrich, heliotrope crepon, the bodice trimmed with green satin edged with passementerie; Miss G. Webster, blue satin bodice, sleeves and skirt of black sarah silk; Miss Neill, pink sarah silk, white lace frills; Miss Morris, white brocade, the bodice lavishly trimmed with white chiffon and Brussels lace; Miss Wright, green and pink Empire costume; Miss Roberts, pink sarah silk, the bodice trimmed with black lace banded with black satin ribbon; Miss Shand, salmon pink sarah silk, the bodice edged with passementerie; Miss Royle, white satin blouse, frill of black lace, black satin skirt; Miss Bathgate, salmon pink muslin, white chiffon fichu; Miss Joachim, black satin trimmed with lace and bows of scarlet ribbon; Miss Robinson, black satin gown; Miss Neill, white brocade skirt and white crepon bodice; Miss Macassey, white striped silk; Miss Ford, heliotrope crepon trimmed with prune velvet and cream lace; Miss Stephenson, black; Miss Turton, flowered pink lustre banded with spangles, etc.

On Friday evening the

STUDENTS' ANNUAL UNIVERSITY BALL

was held in the Garrison Hall. The secretaries for this year were Misses H. Graham and G. Sale, who fulfilled their arduous tasks most efficiently. Supper, which was upstairs in the band-room, was managed by a committee of ladies. The arrangements were excellent, and the tables looked lovely, being decorated with wattle blossom and blue crepon paper, blue and yellow being the University colours. The floor was in splendid condition. A novel idea was the swinging rotunda for the musicians in the centre of the hall, which acted splendidly. The music, supplied by Messrs Yates' Band, was all that could be desired. The stage, which was charmingly arranged as a drawing-room, was furnished by Laurie and Co. Mrs Shand wore black velvet; Mrs Ulrich, black brocade; Mrs Sale, black satin; Mrs Bachelor, black satin, with revers of blue figured silk; Mrs Gray, white satin; Mrs Adam, black brocade; Mrs Black, black corded silk; Miss Churton (Auckland), maize silk; Miss Shand, white merveilleux; Miss E. Shand, pale green satin; Miss Williams, black silk; Miss M. Williams, white muslin; Miss Ulrich, yellow corded silk; Miss Webster, pink satin; Miss Brown (*debutante*), white chine silk, lily of the valley trimmings; Miss McKellar (*debutante*), white merveilleux, the bodice covered with white chiffon; Miss Turton (*debutante*), white Liberty silk; Miss Wright, white satin, blue trimmings; Miss Boyd, pale green silk; Miss Fitchett, yellow silk; Miss Black, white satin; Miss Mackerras, sea green sarah; Miss Scott looked well in white merveilleux; Miss Bartleman, pink brocade; Miss Graham, black silk; Miss Fergus, white merveilleux; Miss Reynolds, pink chine silk; Miss Gibson, white satin; Miss N. Gibson, blue corded silk; Miss Batchelor, white satin; Miss Griffiths (Melbourne), yellow silk; Miss Joachim, white merveilleux; Miss MacLean, pink chine silk; Miss MacLaren, white merveilleux; Miss K. MacLean, white satin; Miss Haggitt, sea green satin; Miss Baxter, brown corded silk; Miss Armstrong, black satin; Miss Ramsay, pale yellow silk; Miss Macassey, white broché; Miss Mills, bright pink brocade; Miss F. Mills, white brocade; Miss Orbell (Geraldine), pale green silk; Miss Bathgate, yellow corded silk; Miss Smith, heliotrope satin; Miss Morris, pale pink merveilleux. Dr. Batchelor, Prof. Ulrich, Prof. Gilroy, Messrs Wright, Gregg, Graham, Sale, Turton, Patullo, Williams, Gibson, Shand, Blewis, Dick, Law, Ramsay, Scott, Sergeant, Macpherson, Moutat, Stephens, Morris, etc., were amongst the gentlemen.

AILEEN.

PICTON.

DEAR BEE, AUGUST 9.

We are not very gay in Picton this winter, so many of our energetic young people have left us. We especially miss the Seymoung family, who were always first and foremost in all pleasant gatherings. Mrs Phillips gave an

AFTERNOON TEA

for Miss Broughton, which are very pleasant, songs and music being on the programme. Among those present were Mrs H. Howard, Mrs Stow, Misses Gard (two), Greensill, Broughton, Harris, etc.

The Waitohi Football minstrels gave an

ENTERTAINMENT

on Friday last. The affair was postponed from Wednesday because of bad weather, which probably accounted for the sparse attendance. The first part of the programme was a Christy Minstrel performance, which, under Mr Wilmot's able management, was really clever and amusing. Local conundrums and jokes created roars of laughter, and the absurdities of bones and tambo were thoroughly enjoyed. In the second part the minstrels were assisted by lady and gentlemen friends. Among the items rendered were: 'Comin' Thro' the Rye,' 'Miss Allen;' 'Oh, Barney Dear,' 'Miss Symes;' 'Marguerite,' 'Miss Instone;' 'I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen;' 'Mr Wilmot;' 'The Bogler,' 'Mr J. Price.' 'I Don't Want to Play in Your Yard,' was sung in character by Messrs Wilmot and H. Western. All the items were encored. The entertainment ended with a farce, which was very funny, and greatly enjoyed.

There are rumors in the air of a football social and a Mason's Ball.

Much sympathy is felt for Miss Evelyn Linton, who is now in the Blenheim Hospital to be under Dr. Cleghorn, and also for her mother, whose scholastic duties in Picton preclude her being with Miss Linton during her illness.

Our whalers have not met with much success this season. Though many whales have been sighted in the Straits, only one has been caught as yet, hardly enough to repay the men for their outlay, let alone to provide the staff of life for their families.

Several of our new residents go in for cycling, though the town itself is rather hilly for the sport, but once up the elevation a good long stretch of level road rewards