

The matron who was appointed to the Westport Hospital, Miss Payne, of Wellington, complains that certain conditions which she desired have not been fulfilled. She therefore resigned, and Miss McCarthy has been appointed in her place.

Among the recent arrivals by the Australian mail is Mr W. Allan Lloyd, of Auckland, who has just completed a five years' tour of the world. Mr Lloyd left some five years ago, and has since visited England, Scotland, France, Spain, Egypt, India, Ceylon, Afghanistan, United States, Mexico, Hawaiian Islands, and the whole of the Australian colonies. Mr Lloyd was present in France at the time of the assassination of the late President Carnot, and describes the scene in Paris as something beyond the power of words to express; a whole city prostrated with grief at the murder of its idol. India was the last country visited, and Mr Lloyd regards the present trouble in that land of 'plague, pestilence and famine' as being largely the result of a too lax censorship over the native press, which, when not engaged writing about something startling and original, such as the 'Peace (?) of Europe,' is generally engaged in stirring up strife against their British rulers. Altogether, a most enjoyable time has been spent in the different countries, but as even travelling is rather apt to become tiresome when one has five years of it, Mr Lloyd is very glad to once more sight the shores of New Zealand, than which no fairer land exists, so he says, and he ought to know.

Much praise was given to Mrs Thornes and Mrs McKean for their indefatigable labours at the Children's Flower Show last week.

The Auckland working party for the New Hebrides Mission had a good meeting this month, and it was resolved to ask the various friends to send in all contributions of clothing as soon as possible, as the Missionary Box is to be packed immediately.

Mr F. W. Carey, of Wellington, is spending a fortnight in Blenheim.

Miss Campbell (Hawera) is at present in New Plymouth.

Miss Ella Waddy, who left on a visit to Wellington and Christchurch, was recalled from Wellington and met her brothers funeral in Picton. She stayed with Mrs Fell for the night.

Miss G. Fell (Nelson) has returned to her home after a delightful trip to Sydney.

Miss Edith Hubbard, of Komata, receiving the highest number of marks in the district at the first examination held in New Zealand under the London College of Music, has been given a special prize by that august body. Mr H. L. Harston should be very proud of his promising pupil.

Mrs Knight (Sydney) is the guest of Mrs C. P. Knight in Wellington.

Mrs H. Godfrey, of Picton, who has been staying with the Misses Eyes in Blenheim for a week, returned home yesterday.

Colonel Newell is on a visit to New Plymouth for the purpose of inspecting the Taranaki Volunteers.

The new battery manager of the Mounatairi Gold Mining Company at the Thames is Mr C. Malstrom, who arrived there last week, coming over from 'Frisco by the Moana.

Miss Trix Atkinson (Nelson) has gone to Christchurch to visit friends.

Mrs MacKenzie (Picton), who has been ill for some time past with blood poisoning, is now recovering, and able to see her friends.

Mr and Mrs J. B. Thomson, of Dunedin, passed through Auckland en route for Rotorua, where they intend to try the baths for the sake of Mrs Thomson, who is in delicate health. Mr Thomson is rather an important southerner. He has been Mayor of Dunedin, Chairman of the Otago Harbour Board, and for many years a City Councillor.

Mr James Russell, of Auckland, has gone to Wellington.

A great many Wellingtonians have left for the Christchurch Carnival week, among the number being the Misses Johnston, Buller, Grace, and Tolhurst, and Mr Edward Pearce.

Mrs Daubeny (Sydney), with her infant daughter, returned to Nelson with her sister, Miss Fell, where her many friends are delighted to see her again.

Mrs J. J. Dixon, Mount Albert, left Auckland last Monday on a visit to her married daughter, Mrs Charles Taylor, B.N.Z., Te Awamutu.

Mr J. B. Godkin, of Ngaire (Taranaki), who has been on a visit to the Old Country, has returned to his home.

Miss Haselden, from Huntersville, is on a visit to New Plymouth.

Miss Pitt, of Nelson, is paying a visit to Blenheim, where she is the guest of Mrs Cleghorn.

The foundation stone of the new Wesleyan Church in New Plymouth is to be laid by His Excellency the Governor on December 9th. His Excellency will also open the 'Industrial, Art, and Curio Exhibition,' which is to be held at the same time, to raise funds for the building of the church.

Mr Alfred Nathan, who has been on a brief visit to the West Coast of the South Island, in connection with mining matters, returned to Auckland in the s.s. Mahinapua.

Amongst the specially welcome visitors to Auckland for the Wesleyan Conference, is the Rev. R. Ravin. He is one of the General Conference delegates, and has recently returned from a visit to England. He worked well in New Zealand for some years.

At Kaukapakapa a pretty present was made by the district school children last week to their head teacher, Mr G. W. Murray, on his birthday. The gift was a choice pair of gold sleeve links bearing his initials.

Miss Fitzroy, who has been the guest of Mrs T. C. Williams in Wellington, has returned to Hawke's Bay.

The name of Miss Bessie Doyle will recall pleasant memories of her winsome face and skill with the bow. The young violinist is now in Auckland under the semi-professional name of Miss Eileen O'Moore. She will probably give some concerts in this colony. Mr Reginald Coke, who with Mrs Coke, is shortly to arrive in Auckland, will probably assist Miss O'Moore.

SOCIETY ON DITS.

That very peculiar weather has prevailed in the neighbourhood of Picton lately. At Te Awaite, Tory Channel, the hailstones broke nine windows in the school, besides denuding the fruit trees of their leaves. Large hailstones also fell at Koromiko, and the cold in Picton has been intense.

That the weather has been very unpropitious in New Plymouth during the early part of the week ending November 6th. On some days it rained incessantly from morning till evening, and often through the night. All the rivers were much swollen. The Waitara races had to be postponed, and several social arrangements were abandoned in consequence of the wet weather.

That the Flying Jordans' Company may probably play a short season in New Plymouth on their return trip through the colony shortly.

That a brave effort was made by some ladies to induce the Auckland City Council to allow the present wooden building, St. Paul's Sunday School, to be removed to Abercrombie-street from its site in Emily Place. It will be remembered that to oblige the City authorities and general public St. Paul's Church was pulled down, and, some years later, a new one of stone built in Symonds-street. This makes the school and church too far apart; hence the earnest request of the ladies—on behalf of the parish—to the City Council. However, that important body was obdurate, no more wooden buildings could be erected within city boundaries; in fact, too many permits for wooden structures had already been given. And, vanquished but not dismayed, Mesdames Judd, Howard, etc., bowed sadly to the Council's decision, and retired. The Council heaved a relieved sigh as the last skirt rustled through the door and proceeded cheerfully to their business.

That the committee for the Whiteley Hall exhibition are working very hard to make it attractive and a success.

That Mr S. Percy Smith, the surveyor-general, who is one of the best authorities in New Zealand on Maori names, says that the correct name of Lake Manapouri is 'Manawapopore' ('anxious heart'), and that Lake Hauroto is correctly 'Hauoko' (the Southern equivalent of 'Hau-rogo'), which means 'the wind of fate' or the 'wind which brings tidings.'

That an At Home is being given this (Wednesday) afternoon in the Social Hall, Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Auckland, by the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

That a gentleman writing from Kimberley says, 'All the New Zealanders I know of mean to get back to New Zealand as soon as they can. All hopes of making fortunes here are evaporated. We wouldn't take advice or believe what we were told; we wanted to see, hear, and do for ourselves, and we've done it, and now we can but look forward to getting back by hook or by crook.'

That a splendid lunar rainbow was visible in Picton on Monday. The phenomenon completely surrounded the moon and was of the most brilliant colours.

That the annual Children's Flower Show, held in the Drill Shed last Friday and Saturday, was a very pretty affair indeed. It was opened at three o'clock by Professor Thomas, who, it is well known, has the cause of flower cultivation by children much at heart. The entries numbered over one thousand, and the district school children sent some five hundred bouquets. The Grammar School Orchestra assisted with musical items, and, owing to the great interest taken in the show, and the hard work of the secretary (Mr Cranwell) and committee, the affair was very successful, and the promoters must be congratulated on the result of their labours.

That the following are the officers of H. M.S. Mohawk, to be commissioned for the Australian station:—Lieutenants A. Farrington, P. A. Roberts, A. C. Scott, Sub-Lieut. J. W. S. Miller, Staff-Surgeon John Moore, M. D., and Paymaster C. E. F. Webb.

That the other day Mrs Percy Adams, Nelson, gave an afternoon tea. Amongst those present were Mes-

dames Watta, Sweet, Houlker, C. Watta, R. Kingston, Harris, Burnes, Booth, Pitt, Batchelor (Dunedin), Fell, Richmond, the Misses Jones, Monro (New Plymouth), Oldham, Richmond, Batchelor, Fell, and others.

That the Floral Fete, which is to be held at Hastings next Tuesday, promises to be a great success, and that provision is being made for three thousand visitors.

That great preparations are being made for the Auckland Floral Fete, to be held at Ellerslie on Saturday, November 27th.

That this season visitors to Rotorua will be able to drive by the new Rotorua - Te Teko Road along the shores of Lakes Rototoi, Roto-ehu and Roto-ma, through very beautiful scenery, including some fine views of bush and lake. This is expected to be a very popular trip with tourists.

That the hitherto almost inaccessible extinct volcano, Rangitoto, is now opened for the public convenience as another attraction to the many pretty places of interest to be visited round Auckland. Instead of wearing out one pair—at least—of boots by climbing over rough boulders, a neat, clear path has been made to the summit. Perhaps the glory and honour of the ascent has departed, but it is now so much the proper thing to shorten all hours of labour, that it would no longer do to toil up the old volcano for four or five weary hours when the time could be diminished to a fifth of that period. Probably the ascent of the Southern Alps will speedily be made possible for invalids and cripples.

That the late heavy gale had a peculiar and disastrous effect on two fine draught horses belonging to Mr Harding, Kereru, Hawke's Bay. Last week they were ploughing, became frightened by the storm, and were actually blown over a steep cliff and killed.

That the governors' prizes (watches) presented for competition by points to the boys who took part in the annual sports of the Auckland College and Grammar School have been won by the following:—Senior: Te Paa, 34 points, 1st; Walker, 13 points, 2. Junior: Sharland, 17 points, 1; Libert, 13 points, 2. The school cups go to:—Senior: Syme, 10 points, 1; Gresham and Te Paa, each 6 points, 2. Junior: Libert, 13 points, 1; Sharland, 9 points, 2.

That there is a strong feeling amongst society people in the colony that in view of the large increase in the population since the erection of the two Government Houses, an addition of proper rooms for entertaining should be made to each building. A ball-room has been added to each, but there is a great necessity for a proper supper-room, capable of seating at least one hundred persons. Even with this addition the plan which has been lately adopted by successive Governors of admitting guests to the supper-room in detachments would still have to be carried out. With the meagre space at their disposal the present Vice-regal party have had to make most careful arrangements and go to a very great deal of trouble in order that their very numerous visitors should be able to enjoy the particularly excellent menu provided for them without receiving champagne on their clean shirt-fronts, or trifles on their new satin frocks. If His Excellency the Governor is expected—as he is—to entertain, it is absolutely necessary and right that sufficient accommodation for this purpose should be provided both in Wellington and Auckland. In the latter city Government House is a disgrace to the colony and especially to the Auckland members.

AUCKLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE FLOWER, FRUIT, AND VEGETABLE EXHIBITION OF THE SEASON. 19TH AND 20TH NOVEMBER, 1897.

ENTRIES CLOSE NEXT FRIDAY, 12TH INST. AT 4 P.M. Schedules of Secretary and all Seed-money. J. HENRY MAC KIE, Secretary.

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