

have drawn crowded houses since their appearance in Wellington. Miss Alina Stanley's dresses have caused great admiration, and her diamonds are beautiful. During the season I have noticed the following ladies in the dress circle:—Miss Pearce, Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. and Miss Graw, Mrs. and Miss Johnston, Mrs. Napier Bell, Mrs. Pymont, Mrs. Goring, Mrs. (Dr.) Rawson, Mrs. and Miss Simpson, Mrs. and Miss Hutchison, Mrs. and Miss N. Reid, Mrs. Rhind, Mrs. Hudson, etc.

PHYLIA.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, November 9th.
Great was our disappointment when Wednesday, the day fixed for the FLORAL FETE,

dawned dull and doubtful. Towards noon, however, it looked finer, and our spirits rose, but only to be drowned later on in torrents of rain. In spite of the downpour, we all wended our way as best we could to Trafalgar Park, where a large crowd of umbrellas and mackintoshes were to be seen, but little else. The management decided to hold the fete, so shortly after three p.m. amidst pouring rain, was witnessed, what in favourable weather would have been one of the prettiest sights ever seen in Nelson. As it was, one could only feel sorry for those taking part, as their pretty dresses were visibly getting spoilt. The small but convenient-covered stand, which has lately been erected was, of course, quickly filled with spectators, whilst others who were not so lucky, had to content themselves with the hopes that they were seeing more, though knowing all the time they were getting dreadfully wet. Now I must try and describe some of the exhibits, but, owing to the rain and crowd (including umbrellas), it was impossible to see everything. The decorated bicycles were of course the chief feature, and very beautiful they looked. The judges must have had a difficult task to decide upon the prize winners. Miss Huddleston's bicycle took the first prize; it was charmingly decorated with lilacs of the valley and white azaleas, and ridden by Miss Elsie Booth, who was much admired in a pretty white frock, lavishly trimmed with lilacs of the valley and green ribbons, large white hat to match. The second prize was won by Miss Madge Mackay, whose bicycle looked lovely, being a bower of pansies. She rode it herself in an exceedingly pretty dress of heliotrope muslin, with hat, gloves, shoes, and stockings to match exactly. Miss Gibson's bicycle gained third prize. Here again white and green were the colours chosen, white azaleas and arum lilies being the flowers. A dear little niece (Miss Daisy Peacock) rode this bicycle; she looked sweet in a dainty white frock with green ribbons, and small cap of green silk. Miss Rayner's bicycle was so much admired that it has since won a special prize; it was decorated with buttercups and daisies, which were most effective. Miss Rayner wore a pretty gown of buttercup muslin with hat to match. Miss Bunny's bicycle looked very pretty with wistaria and white azaleas. She rode in a white muslin dress with heliotrope ribbons, sailor hat. Two bicycles looked very effectively decorated with deep pink roses, they were ridden by Miss L. Ledger and Miss K. Fell, the latter wearing a white drill dress and sailor hat; the former a dark skirt and muslin blouse. Mrs. Melluish also chose pink roses of a lighter shade with a cleverly carried out design of a bell; she wore white drill, sailor hat. Miss Perrin decorated her bicycle with buttercups and daisies; she wore a pretty cream dress, sailor hat with green band. Miss G. Perrin's bicycle looked artistic with white stock, she wore a dress to match. Other pretty exhibits were those of Miss P. Fell (red gladiolus), Mrs. Topliss (white and red butterfly design), Mrs. Mercer (Dick Whittington and his cat), Miss Gannaway (effective with white flowers), Miss Balfour (white and red), Miss Ivy Moore, Miss Stewart Forbes (white and heliotrope). There were only three entries for the men's decorated bicycles. Mr. E. Mackay's bicycle decorated with lovely roses gained the first award, though it was expressed by many that Mr. C. Bedford's bicycle, splendidly and elaborately dressed as a yacht (in outline) was the best exhibit. The judges, however, thought otherwise, and gave this one the second place. Mr. A. S. Arrowsmith's bicycle was also nicely decorated. The exhibition of go-carts containing mere infants and drawn by children, had to be hurried through as quickly as possible on account of the rain; that decorated by Miss Campbell gained the first prize, the occupant being little Miss Kenyon, who was drawn by her sister a few years older; the cart was most artistically decorated with yellow and white, the children looked very pretty in white with yellow ribbons. Miss Poole gained second prize, but am sorry to say I did not see this exhibit. Only three of five entered for the best decorated vehicle put in an

appearance, and the judges awarded Miss Louison's handsomely decorated rustic cart first, and Mr. T. F. Dee second. Both vehicles were much admired as also was the third exhibit, Mr. H. Duncan's sulky decorated with arum lilies. After the judging was concluded sports were held, but here again the weather interfered greatly with the enjoyment. It must have been hard work for those taking part, and the ladies are to be especially congratulated upon the way in which they went through with their events in spite of rain and wind. Miss K. Fell won the highest number of points for the different events and Mrs. Topliss came second. Other ladies who took part were the Misses Perrin, Gannaway, Ledger and Balfour. Amongst the spectators I noticed Mesdames Booth, Webb-Bowen, Robinson, Trask, Mackay, Campbell, Danahay (Sydney), Fell, Bain, Batchelor (Dunedin), Richardson, Spaul, Burnes, Kemphorne, the Misses Fell (3), Ledger (2), Edwards (3), Watt, Catley (2), Sealy (2), Gilrhen, Webb-Bowen (2), Richmond, Batchelor (2), Lightfoot, Gibson, Melluish, Huddleston, Hayter, Campbell, Tomlinson, Leggatt, Anderson, Fillue, Harris, Browning, Hunter-Brown, Mackay, Pearce, Heaps, Atkinson, Moore, and many others whose names I do not remember. The judges for the decorative events were Mesdames Robinson, Trask, Topliss, Lucas, Miss Gascoigne, Referee, Miss Bell.

THE BOATING SEASON

was opened on Saturday afternoon, when the weather was hardly as favourable as it might have been, there being a fresh south-west wind blowing with occasional squalls of rain. There was the usual procession of rowing boats, headed by the Naval Brigade's "Aurora," but very few of the Rowing Club's boats put in an appearance, owing, no doubt, to the sea being rather lumpy. There was a capital number of sailing boats, however, and very pretty they looked with their snow-white sails. Mrs. and the Misses Fell kindly dispensed afternoon tea in the Yacht Club's shed, but the attendance was not nearly so large as usual. Mrs. Fell wore a brown and fawn costume; Miss Fell, blue and white striped blouse, black skirt, white sailor hat; Miss K. Fell, pink and white blouse, black skirt, sailor hat; Mrs. Daubney (Sydney) looked well in black, with large hat to match; Miss Atkinson, black; Miss Huddleston, yellow blouse, dark skirt; Mrs. Pitt, black, bonnet trimmed with heliotrope; Miss Broad (England), stylish mode grey costume, large black hat with pink flowers; Mrs. Webb-Bowen; Miss Webb-Bowen, black coat and skirt, black hat with petunia trimmings; Miss Heaps, blue cloth costume; Miss Sealy, navy serge, sailor hat; Mrs. Mules; Miss Mules, brown, white chip hat with forget-me-nots; Miss Gribben; Miss Pearce, grey costume; Miss Lightfoot, light blouse, black skirt, sailor hat; Miss Perrin, black coat and skirt, pink silk vest, sailor hat; Miss Evans, smart costume of grass cloth over green, hat en suite; Miss Jackson, bright electric blue, black hat.

PHYLIA.

BLENHEIM.

Dear Bee, November 8.

The first day of the SPRING HACK RACE MEETING was very disagreeable on account of the boisterous wind, but in other respects was fine, though at one time rain seemed imminent. Fortunately, it soon cleared off, for as not only the races but several monster picnics took place that day the consequences would have been disastrous. The races were successful in everything but attendance, which was remarkably small; but the Spring Meeting is never so well attended as the Autumn one, and the reason is, I suppose, that shearing and farming operations demand the attention of many who cannot get away. Moreover, money is more plentiful after shearing and harvest. Some of the ladies present were Mrs. Cleghorn, who wore a black dress, with white lace vest, grey felt hat; Mrs. McIntyre, handsomely dressed in black, becoming bonnet; Mrs. McIntosh, grey dress, with tiny pattern of pale green, shaded green ribbons, and smart bonnet; Mrs. Arthur Green, black dress with deep rose pink spots, cream insertion over ribbon of the same shade, and stylish hat with up-standing loops of rich green ribbon and roses of pale and deep pink; Mrs. Felix Ward wore black, with violet silk front, black bonnet, trimmed with knots of violets; Mrs. Hubbard, black skirt, pale purple velvet blouse, ornamented with jet; Mrs. Griffiths, navy dress, white front, and pretty black bonnet with pale pink roses and mignonette; Mrs. Macalister, b black; Mrs. Salmon, fawn, golden brown bonnet; Mrs. H. Dodson, black; Mrs. Jackson, black dress, black bon-

net, trimmed with violets; Mrs. Browne, pale green dress, made with bolero fronts of dark green, faintly patterned with red silk, the same silk forming the trimming on back and sleeves, becoming hat, with mossy green trimming, on which rested most lovely and natural roses; Mrs. Fuller, black; Mrs. Compton, black dress, green silk trimmings; Mrs. Hiley, a smart and becoming grey costume, the revers and epaulettes of dark red and green shot silk, veiled with cream lace, very stylish toque; Mrs. Lucas, grey tweed; Mrs. Carey, black; Mrs. Neville, black, touches of violet in small black bonnet; Miss Pitt (Nelson), navy dress and chic hat; Miss Ferguson, black skirt, very stylish blouse bodice of black with gold, and white satin stripe, and violet floral design, jet and sequin bolero fronts over violet silk, the same colour brightening a black hat; Miss Johnston wore a cornflower blue dress with white revers and epaulettes, white hat with soft filmy frill and sprays of forget-me-nots; Miss Cotterell, brown dress, peacock blue front; Miss Lillian Horne, navy dress, pale pink front; Miss Rees, dark green dress and floral toque; Miss M. Rees, white dress and hat, amber tie and hat band; Miss Compton, pretty pale green skirt and jacket; Miss Kate Sinclair, grey skirt and coat; Miss Martin, dark skirt and shot red and cream silk blouse; Miss Harding, green dress, white silk front; Miss L. Harding, grey flecked tweed, with green silk front; Miss A. Harding, navy; Mrs. A. Mowat, Mrs. Mills, the Misses Mills, Miss Neville, Miss Rayner, the Misses Ward, Bell, Carey, etc. The second day was a delightful one, but the number present was no larger than on the previous day. Mrs. Black wore a smart tailor-made navy coat and skirt and sailor hat; Mrs. Mouro, dark skirt and jacket, small black bonnet; Mrs. Carry wore a very tasteful dress of black silk, enriched with jet, and bewitching little bonnet, in which were inserted some purple violets; Mrs. Horton, bluish grey dress and jetted bonnet; Mrs. A. Farmer, navy skirt and coat, white jacket and skirt, white front, and sailor hat; Miss A. Williams, dark skirt, petunia blouse trimmed with white insertion, white sailor hat with black band; Miss Horton, dark skirt, cardinal blouse; Miss Pitt (Nelson), cream silk, patterned in pale brown, dark brown silk sleeves and ceinture, fashionable toque of brilliant pink; Mrs. A. Green, black dress with trimmings of green striped black silk, green hat and pink and crimson roses; Mrs. Carey, fawn dress, white bolero jacket, collar, cuffs and pointed belt of brown velvet, black bonnet, cream lace and primroses; Miss M. Rees (Wellington), navy coat and skirt, yellow silk front, covered with black lace; Mrs. Macalister, black.

FRIDA.

A very enjoyable PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE PARTY was given by Mrs. Temperly last Thursday evening. The first ladies' prize was won by Miss A. Player, and first gentleman's prize by Mr. L. Bartlett, while the booby honours were taken by Mrs. Riely and Mr. Robinson. We played until ten o'clock and then had supper. The supper-table was tastefully decorated with pale green and pink silk and white flowers. After supper songs were sung by Mrs. Mullins, Misses Walsh and Wemyss, Messrs Goldsmith, W. Green and Bartlett. Mrs. Mullins wore a black silk dress; Mrs. James, pretty blouse and dark skirt; Miss Elbick, Robinson and Player, pale blue blouses and dark skirts; Miss Walsh, red blouse and black skirt; Miss Wemyss, pink silk blouse trimmed with white lace; Miss Mullins, fawn dress; Miss Cullen, black and pink striped blouse and black skirt; Miss Bartlett, pink blouse and dark skirt; Miss Walsh, white blouse and black skirt. Among the gentlemen present were Messrs James, Mullins, McHattie, Neworthy, Green, McAlpine, Robinson, Riely and Bartlett.

CONSTANCE.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, November 11.
As my letter was too late for the mail last week, I have one or two items to give you now which should have appeared then, besides the long description of the reception of His Excellency. Recently the Misses Buchanan, Aorangi, Hereford-street, were tendered a dance by their pupils, which took

place in Hobbs' Buildings and was greatly enjoyed by all. Those who had charge of the arrangements were the Misses E. Watkins, Phillips, and Steeda, Messrs Barry, Williams, Bassett, and Bece. Supper, floor, and music were all that could be desired, and the evening simply fled. Among those present were Mrs. Hood-Williams and her daughter, Mrs. and Miss Barry, Mrs. and Miss Brown, Misses Sanderson, Wallace, Strange (3), Bece, Bates, Calvert, Tomba, Wilkinson, Wood, Black, Wait, and others.

On the occasion of Miss Gertrude Ovenden's birthday she organised a CYCLING PARTY to New Brighton, which was a very merry affair, one or two little spills only adding zest to the outing. A few others drove, leaving town about half-past 7, and returning to Dr. Ovenden's residence, Hereford-street, for supper. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ogle, Mr. and Mrs. Wardrop, the Misses Palmer, Lee, Reeves, Cowlishaw, Cotterill, and Turrell, Messrs Turrell, Reeves, Rolleston, Allen, Wigley, and Dr. Palmer.

On Tuesday evening Miss Cox's assembly dance, in the Art Gallery, was very numerous attended and went off with great spirit. Mrs. Cox received, gowned in black with white chiffon fichu. One or two theatre parties arrived a little late, having had an enjoyable time with the Bland Holts at the Theatre Royal.

On Wednesday, Mrs. J. J. Kinsey, wife of the President of the Metropolitan Cycle Show, gave

AFTERNOON TEA

in the President's room, which was attended by about 70 ladies and gentlemen, amongst whom were Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Thomas, Miss Thomas, the Hon. J. T. and Mrs. Peacock, Dr. and Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. (Dr.) Jennings, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Embling, Mr. and Mrs. Ensor (Mount Grey), Mrs. and Misses Meares, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. F. Waymouth, Mrs. de Vries, Mr. and Mrs. Tyree, Mrs. A. Kaye, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Barns, Mrs. and Miss Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. C. W. Hill, Mrs. McLean (Gisborne), and Miss Stevenson (Auckland), Mrs. Shields (Dunedin), Dr. Martin (Wellington), Dr. Hays (Geraldine), Misses Corder, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. N. Barnes, Miss B. Cunningham, Mr. Moore (Dunedin), Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Gutrie, Mrs. and Miss G. Martin, Miss Trippe (Wellington), Mr. and Mrs. Bright (New Plymouth), Mr. Barkas, Mr. F. M. Wallace, Mrs. H. Nelson (Wellington), Mrs. J. Garrard, Misses Hall, Mrs. W. Stringer, Mrs. Levy, Mrs. Fitchett, Mrs. Stafford (Wellington), Mrs. B. Fisher, Miss Louison, and others.

METROPOLITAN CYCLE SHOW.

Has surpassed all expectations in general appearance, and it is made very attractive during the evening with limelight views and music. Many of the lantern slides shown are the competitive ones, which lends much interest to them. The photographs are not numerous, but some excellent pictures are shown, and cycling should even become more than ever popular with such a choice of really beautiful machines.

Tuesday, and Cup Day of 1897, leaves, it is said, any other Cup Day, as far as attendance and brilliance of costume goes, leagues behind. The weather, which has been more fickle than any maiden ever was, continued so on this day, finally settling down into an uncomfortably strong nor-wester, but cold instead of hot. The large Eiffel tower constructions known as hats were very roughly treated, as also the loose and shaggy coiffured ladies, and I am happy to say there were only a few. Green was very greatly worn, partly out of compliment to our Vice-Regal visitors no doubt, some daring the true Emerald green. His Excellency and Lady Ranfurly were driven past the grandstand and entered by the front gate, where the stewards received them and escorted them to their box, the band playing the National Anthem; and as the occupants of the grandstand rose en masse, it was a very pretty sight, the stand and terrace, with the beautiful lawn in front, looking like a huge flower bed. The costumes could not be seen to advantage, for walking on the lawn was out of the question for more than the necessity to go and get some luncheon or a cup of tea. Lady Ranfurly wore a rich black costume, the bodice of horizontal white bands and jet, large black hat with plumes; Mrs.