

SOCIETY ON DITS.

That His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand is advocating the importance of natural science as a school subject for the higher education of young New Zealand. Practical chemistry, Lord Ranfurly says, in a country like New Zealand, with its hidden wealth is especially useful.

That influenza is prevailing in Wellington to quite an alarming extent, nearly every house having been attacked by it, and in many cases all the inmates are prostrated at once. Some of the large business firms in the city are seriously hampered in their business arrangements in consequence of the many absentees from this cause, and nurses are everywhere in request. The Hon. T. Mackenzie Minister of Lands, has been quite prostrated by it for some days, his condition causing considerable anxiety to his friends, and more than two-thirds of the members have been laid up with it during the last fortnight.

That a number of gentlemen, invited by the owners of the steamer *Bauia*, left Clouston & Co.'s wharf for a fishing excursion to Port Underwood yesterday morning. After a most enjoyable day, the party returned to Blenheim about midnight, bringing with them a quantity of fish.

That Mr J. B. Roy, the late Mayor of New Plymouth, was complimented by the Borough Council on his retirement for his past services, and replied in felicitous terms, hoping that the same good feeling that had subsisted between himself and the Council would be extended to his successor Mr E. Dockrill.

That the friends of Mr Frank Ross, Christchurch, will be interested to hear he has, after a delightful tour through America, settled down to work in the London office of Messrs Sargood, Son & Ewen, with the idea that the sooner he learns the ways of doing business in the great ware-

houses of London the sooner he can return to New Zealand, the best country in the world bar none, the 'none' spelt large.

That Mrs Linton, who is leaving Picton soon, is to be presented with a testimonial by her pupils.

That the 'Messiah' which was performed in New Plymouth, under the auspices of the Orpheus Society, given in the Theatre Royal on Thursday evening, was a great success.

That Mr Wilson, the New Zealand representative of Carter and Co., the great seed merchants of England, has presented the sum of £2 2/ to the Blenheim Horticultural Society, to be divided into prizes for flowers and vegetables grown from Carter and Co.'s seeds, for next season's show.

That an English magazine gives the following account of the Earl of Seafield: There is no romance like that of old families. Take the case of the present Earl of Seafield, who having attained his majority, is coming to this country from New Zealand to see the ancestral estates in the North of Scotland. The Seafields, to begin with, were originally Ogilvies, who were created Earls of Findlater and Seafield. But when the Earl of 1811 died, the first title expired, and the second passed to a cousin, Sir Lewis Grant. Since his day there have been six Earls, of whom four have died within the last 16 years, while three dowager Countesses are still alive. The present Earl is the eleventh, but the family estates are held by the widow of the seventh, who was his great uncle. His Lordship has been born and bred in New Zealand, where his father, who was once in the navy, emigrated, becoming in turn a labourer, farmer, and a member of the Legislature.

That the Garrison Band left Blenheim for Havelock on Saturday afternoon, where they held a social in the evening, which was attended by about 80 persons. They also gave an *al fresco* concert on Sunday afternoon.

That Dr. Alexander has finally made up his mind to practise in Blenheim.

That Probascio's circus arrived in Blenheim on Friday, and gave an entertainment on that and Saturday night to good audiences. A matinee on Saturday afternoon was well attended. Some very clever exhibitions of shooting were given by Mr Probascio.

That Mr Allanson, Anglican missionary, held an open air service in Picton close by the wharf. The spectacle was an unusual one in Picton, and collected a large audience.

That last week Scarborough was in great danger from the large bush fires which were raging near the Puhitua township. Great assistance was rendered in fighting the flames by a large band of settlers.

That the breaking-up of the Sacred Heart High School, of New Plymouth, took place on Thursday afternoon, in the large schoolroom of the Convent. There was a good attendance, including the Revs. Fathers Gallagher and McKenna, and His Worship the Mayor, Mr Dockrill.

That there is a great demand for rain in Auckland, only the intending holiday-makers being satisfied with the present dry weather.

That several of the successful competitors at the Blenheim Horticultural Show last week have presented their prize-money to the society, a kindness which is specially felt just now when there is a debit balance of £39. However, as with the new secretary, there is renewed interest in the society, and increased membership; no doubt the society will soon be in a flourishing state.

That many masters and teachers in the public schools near Auckland are taking more than the interest required by the 'Board' in the welfare of their scholars, in the way of concerts and picnics, etc. An excellent entertainment is to be given by the Point Chevalier school in the Parish Hall, Mount Albert, on Wednesday

evening next. Great excitement and mystery prevails amongst the various children taking part, some of whom are to wear very quaint costumes.

That should Parliament be pro-rogued before Christmas, it is the intention of Captain Russell, leader of the Opposition, to leave for England.

That many Auckland citizens are extremely desirous of immediately obtaining a pure supply of water from the Waitakere ranges, which is considered by a large section of the community as the best available permanent source, always supposing that a sufficient area of land by the Falls be kept as a water shed reserve.

That Mr J. M. Hutcheson, of Blenheim, though over 81 years of age, is an enthusiastic player of bowls, and plays in capital style.

That earthquakes are becoming too common in this colony. A smart shock was experienced in Waiata (Christchurch) on Saturday.

That the breaking up of the Girls' College, Waingamui, was specially favoured this year by the presence

of Bishop Wallis and Viscount Hampden. The latter made an amusing speech, adding now that women have the vote he would give them a bit of advice:—'Be sure and ask your male relations whom you are to vote for.' Bishop Wallis chose 'Samplais' for the subject of his speech, and Mrs Wallis gave away the prizes.

That a dinner was given at Government House on Wednesday night. The guests included Lord Hampton, the Hon. Dorothy Brand, Miss Darley, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon and Mrs Seddon, Bishop and Mrs Wallis, Capt. Russell, Mrs Rhodes, Colonel and Mrs Pole-Penton, Miss Hozier, Sir Walter and Miss Buller, Major Kemp, Count and Countess Jouffroy d'Albans, Col. and Miss Pearce, Major Mullocks, Hay, Sir Ralph Thomson, and others.

That Captain Fielden is a guest at Government House in Wellington.

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