



AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee, December 5.
There was a very large attendance on Tuesday evening in St. Benedict's Hall, to witness the presentation of certificates and medallions obtained by the Auckland Centre pupils of the

S. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

His Excellency the Governor arrived punctually at eight o'clock, accompanied by the Countess of Ranfurly, Lady Constance Knox, and Lord Northland, and attended by Captain Dudley Alexander and Mr Garland. Twenty-five members of the Medical Staff Corps made quite an imposing guard of honour outside the building. At the door the distinguished visitors were received by His Worship the Mayor, Mr P. Dignan, who is also president of the Auckland Centre, and several of the Executive Committee. The platform was prettily decorated, the flowers and lanterns being left from the previous evening, and various flags being added. Lady Ranfurly was presented with a bouquet arranged in the form of a cross, of scarlet double geraniums on a ground of white roses, by the wife of the secretary, whilst the daughter of the Lieut.-Col. Surgeon, Miss Ethel Dawson, presented Lady Constance Knox with a dainty little bouquet. The whole affair was very well managed, and the evening's work was attractive. The secretary, Mr W. Rattray, read a satisfactory report, and Lord Ranfurly gave a very interesting account of the origin of the S. John Ambulance Association and its history. His Excellency was frequently applauded. The Countess of Ranfurly gracefully handed the certificates and medallions to their various recipients, and evidently took a real interest in the several specimens of ambulance work given by members of the Association and pupils. The three (apparently) drowned men who were resuscitated by three different methods evoked some amusement, but the (apparently) wounded on the field of battle, bandaged and borne away on stretchers by the Ambulance Corps painfully recalled the sad side of war. The wonderful perfection attained in moving the sick and wounded was demonstrated to everyone's entire satisfaction. Miss Searle and Miss Spargo illustrated practically the style of neat bandaging learnt in the nursing class. As Lady Ranfurly left the platform, she said courteously to the secretary: "It has been a very pleasant evening. The National Anthem was played by Miss Jessie Holland, daughter of Mr J. J. Holland, M.H.R., and one of the committee and this young lady also accompanied Miss Crowther, Mr Kissling, and Mr Gooch in their songs. Mr Boak gave a recitation. The Countess of Ranfurly looked very pretty in a black silk skirt, and loose bodice of accord-pleated emerald-green silk, finished with lovely lace, and roses in the corsage, diamond ornaments; Lady Constance Knox looked very sweet in soft white muslin over pale pink silk, the muslin being arranged pinafore style. Others present were—Dr. and Mrs. Dawson, the former in his uniform, the latter in black silk; Miss Ethel Dawson, white muslin, with green silk sash and yoke; Mrs. Cowie, dark costume; with her were the two Misses Willis; Dr. and Mrs. King, the latter in black, brocaded with red and grey, black bonnet; with coloured ribbon and ornaments; Dr. and Mrs. Scott, the latter in fawn, striped with paler and darker shades, trimmed with brown guipure, vest and neck band of pink ruffled chiffon, toque of brown and pink, etc.; Dr. and Miss Girdler, the latter in Moinou coat and skirt, white hat, with black band; Mr and Mrs Holland, the latter wore black silk; Rev. H. R. Dewsbury, Mrs Dewsbury, in black silk, black hat, with sunset-shaded rows under black

net and black feather; the Rev. Scott West, Mrs West, wore black silk, black and white bonnet; Mrs Rice, black silk; Canon and Mrs Nelson, the latter in black silk, black bonnet touched with scarlet; Mrs McLean, black silk, purple in her black bonnet; Dr. Walker, uniform of naval surgeon; Mrs Walker; Miss Essie Holland, pink Ottoman silk, the bodice swathed in muslin; Miss Crowther, white mousseline bodice, white silk skirt; the Misses Coffey, pretty summer costumes; Mrs J. Roach, lilac silk blouse, black skirt; Mrs Churton, cream gown, white hat; Mrs Hay, black and white check blouse, dark, skirt, black bonnet, with white flowers; Mrs Hughes-Jones, green and black broche bodice, dark skirt, black toque; Mrs (Rev.) Sommerville, rich black silk, white silk from under cream lace, black bonnet, with white forget-me-nots; Miss Weston, blue and white stripe blouse, dark skirt; Miss F. Hart, white pique skirt, heliotrope silk blouse; Mrs Rattray; Mrs and Miss Conolly; Mrs Grant, etc.

KNOX CHURCH.

This week's festivities will mark another era in Auckland's history. An additional feature of interest is the City of the North's welcome to His Excellency the Governor and the Countess of Ranfurly, who favoured us with their presence at the opening ceremonies of our first Colonial Exhibition. On Tuesday afternoon last a very interesting ceremony took place, when Lord Ranfurly laid the foundation stone of Knox Church, Parnell, which is named after Lord Ranfurly's illustrious kinsman. His Excellency was accompanied by Lady Ranfurly and Lady Constance Knox. A platform was erected under an awning, and was prettily decorated with palms and flags. Upon the arrival of the vice-regal party, little Miss Marjory Clark presented a beautiful bouquet of white flowers, maiden blush roses, and maiden-hair fern, to Lady Ranfurly, and Mrs Kelly, wife of the minister, was also presented with a bouquet from a baby in arms, the first child christened in the temporary church. Everyone was wearing their smartest toilettes, and the afternoon was sufficiently warm to make light gowns things to be desired. Lady Ranfurly wore a black silk check grenadine on the bias over a lovely eau de Nil silk, the bodice revealed a vest of plain silk, a narrow frill finished the skirt headed with rows of narrow black velvet to form vandykes, the same trimming being on the sleeves, black chip hat, with very broad crown, edged with gathered green and black chiffon, and caught up at the side with erect plumes and green chiffon rosettes resting on the hair; Lady Constance Knox looked very pretty in a silver grey Sicilian lustre frock, the sea jacket had revers and sailor collar of white silk, edged with three rows of silver braid, large grey chip hat, with a loosely twisted fold of white lisse, and pale grey plumes on one side; Mrs (Rev.) Kelly, pale green gown, with cream insertion lace, with narrow black velvet laced through, white straw Bond-streer hat, with black band; Mrs Matthew Clark, silver grey spotted silk gown, trimmed with cream lace insertion and narrow black velvet, white silk tucked pouched vest, large black chip hat, with a huge white ribbon bow in front; Miss Marjory Clark looked very pretty in a white embroidered cambrie frock, and white bonnet; Misses Keir were gowned in fawn lustre, with brown silk vests, brown chip hats, trimmed with cream lace and brown ribbon; Miss Mary Macnicol, pale grey lustre, with black silk facings, large Leghorn hat with black velvet band, and ruching of white chiffon; Miss Norrie, tubac brown skirt and coat, white vest, white sailor hat; Mrs Haslett, green and white silk gown, bonnet en suite; Mrs Carrick, black gown; Mrs Paton, brown surah silk gown, black hat, with cream and brown striped ribbon and yellow roses; Mrs T. P. Robertson, rich black Ottoman silk, with jet, black chip bonnet, with touches of violets; Miss Robertson (Scotland), white Swiss muslin blouse, with touches of heliotrope, black crepon skirt, large white chip hat, trimmed with heliotrope ribbon and white quills, and red poppies resting on the hair; Mrs (Dr.) Hayton, black silk crepon gown, black bonnet, with black sequined ribbon bow; Mrs Stevenson, black brocade, black bonnet; Miss Stevenson, white pique blouse, black skirt, black picture hat; Mrs Sommerville, black silk gown, black bonnet, with white forget-me-

nots; Mrs A. Stewart, black silk, lace cape, black bonnet, with purple flowers; Miss Stewart, fawn cloth skirt, and coat, white goffered silk chiffon vest, white hat; Mrs T. Baxter, black and grey check gown, black toque with yellow roses; Miss Winks, white and black striped pique, fawn toque, trimmed with green; Mrs de Montalk, black silk, black bonnet, with yellow; Mrs Graves Alekin, black silk, black bonnet, with pink flowers; Miss Aikin, Neapolitan blue cloth skirt and Eton jacket, white and black check vest, white sailor hat, with black band; Miss Philson, green cloth costume, pink vest, white hat, with cluster of pink roses; Mrs Dacre, black gown, trimmed with satin ribbon; Miss V. Dacre, pale blue cambrie; Mrs Thorne, brown costume; Miss Jessie Savage, green lawn blouse, tucks edged with white, cream skirt, Panama hat, with huge cluster of roses; Mrs Ernter, grey gown, trimmed with grey silk, black hat with pink flowers; Mrs Hughes-Jones, pretty amethyst gown, with trimmed founce skirt, black toque; Mrs Atkinson, green and white floral gown, black and green bonnet; Miss Atkinson, white and heliotrope check costume; Miss Gilbert, white pique; Misses Bell, mourning costumes.

There was a very large attendance of invited guests and the general public at the ceremony of

OPENING THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

This long-felt want, viz., the need of a separate building for the treatment of our sick little ones, is at length satisfied. All that now remains is for some generous friends to come forward and supplement the £1500 already in hand for furnishing the same. One wing of the new building is for convalescent patients. The day was beautifully fine, tempered by a breeze from the sea, and the Hospital grounds with the magnificent view of the harbour thence obtainable looked their best. A guard of honour formed by the King's College Cadets, was drawn up to receive His Excellency and the Countess of Ranfurly. These unfortunate lads had to stand in the blazing sun for some time, and despite the large force of medical men and trained nurses no notice was taken of the very evident suffering of many of them from the heat until seven had one after another fainted from its effects. Then the military surgeon (Dr. Leger Erson) ventured to suggest that the circumstances of the case might allow of a relaxation of discipline and order, and the cadets, many of them very white, were moved forward a few paces into the shade and permitted to stand at ease.

The vice-regal party was, of course, punctual, and at three o'clock they arrived, and were received during the playing of the National Anthem by the Mayor (Mr Dignan), the Chairman of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board (Mr J. Stichbury), representatives of various societies, Dr. Baldwin (Hospital medical superintendent), Mrs Wooten (matron), and all the available staff of nurses, etc. The Countess of Ranfurly was stylishly gowned in navy cloth faced with white, white vest, white hat with white feathers and crimson roses at the side and under the brim. Lady Constance Knox wore a soft dove-grey coat and frock, pretty grey hat with feathers to match. Captain Alexander and Mr Garland accompanied them. Miss Rosa Stichbury presented Lady Ranfurly with a handsome bouquet, and Lady Constance Knox with a pretty basket of flowers.

There were some very pretty dresses worn, especially by the invited guests. Mrs Baldwin, wife of the resident medical man, was becomingly dressed in fawn spotted muslin over white silk, the skirt had two founces edged with lace, black hat with chiffon and feathers; Mrs Wooten (matron), blue serge with red cross band on the arm; Mrs Masfield, very handsome black satin, with deep yellow insertion, lace across the bodice and lace on the skirt; black bonnet with chiffon bow, black plumes and mandarin yellow flowers; Miss Masfield, a pretty shade of cloud grey, pink chiffon plastron and neck band, white hat with feathers; Mrs Harrop, black skirt, blue and white striped blouse; Mrs Haines, an elegant summer costume of fawn spotted mousseline de soie over silk, striped silk sash, black fancy toque with shades of magenta floral trimming; Mrs Dignan, an effective mixture of fawn muslin and green silk Swiss belt, black hat with cerise trimming; Mrs Guttridge, all black; Mrs (Dr.) Walk-

er, pale lilac, blue cornflower in her bonnet; Mrs Darby, white muslin over blue; Mrs Erson, a deft combination of blue and green shades in her dress, upstand bows to match in her hat; Mrs J. J. Dixon, black; Mrs Peacocke, yellow muslin flowered with crimson, black hat with Mrs J. J. Dixon, black; Miss Pea—a grey mixture with horizontal rows of pink chiffon edged with primrose lace, bonnet of tulle with green and roses; Mrs J. W. James, handsome black silk spotted crepon trimmed with jet beads, lace and chiffon ruffled shoulder cape, black bonnet; Miss James, very becoming lilac muslin with narrow striped yoke and trimmings, with fancy straw hat with feathers and ribbon; the Misses Garland, white; Mrs Millar, green and red figured silk, white hat with bulging crown, covered with gold barred chiffon, feather and white silk side bows; Mrs J. J. Holland, rich black silk and green, black bonnet with green touches; Miss Holland, white pique with pink; Mrs Alfred Nathan, a lovely cream silky material, faintly figured in colours, black toque; Mrs Hooper, blue flowered muslin; Mrs Horace Walker, electric blue bengaline trimmed with rows of narrow black satin ribbon on skirt and bodice, white vest, straw hat with feathers and pale buff satin under spotted net; Mrs Devore, French grey coat and skirt, crushed strawberry silk vest kilted in yellow lace applique, very handsome black bonnet with a quantity of gold embroidery, pearls, and feathers; Mrs F. Barnard, black and white check, black chapeau; Mrs Nicholls, purple lilac, cream plastron, black hat; Miss McMillan, cream muslin; Miss Horne, pink and black; Miss Tole, white, blue scarf, black hat with yellow roses; Mrs Goldie, slate grey coat and skirt, black hat with feathers and blue trimming; Mrs King, small check silk with handsome bead embroidery facings, cream silk vest, purple and blue bonnet; Mrs Dacre, green shot silk, bonnet to match; Miss Girdler, white pique, white hat; Mrs Brabant, black, white plastron, pale yellow roses in her bonnet; Mrs Rose, brown costume, cream trimming; Mrs Hope Lewis, grey; Mrs Bedlington, black, mauve and black bonnet; Mrs Robson, white; Miss King, pink cambrie with insertion, white hat; Mrs A. S. Russell, small-patterned pigeon grey silk, black bonnet relieved with pink; Mrs Upton, a grey and brown check, grey silk rucked plastron, jet bonnet with shaded roses; Miss Shepherd, petunia costume; Mrs Townsend, grey with black trimming, variegated bonnet; Miss May Sellers, fawn, hat to match with crimson silk ruching; Mrs Bishop (Christchurch), mourning costume; Mrs Crowther, black, black bonnet with roses; Mrs and Miss Udy; Mrs Nicholson, pale green, black hat with yellow roses; Miss Crust, black, green in her bonnet; Mrs Garland, black, pretty chapeau; Mrs Sydney Nathan, handsome pale green silk under fine black lace grenadine, black silk sash, beaded green passementerie trimming, and bonnet with red and pink shades of flowers, chiffon and feathers; Miss Rattray, black; Mrs Jefferson, white pique coat and skirt, summer hat; Mrs Goodall, black dress; black bonnet; Mrs Chambers, black; Mrs Rattray, black; Miss Watson, white pique, white hat with flowers; one Miss Keesing in blue cambrie skirt, blue striped blouse bodice, hat trimmed with darker blue and foliage; the other in white pique skirt, pale green and white striped blouse, hat to harmonise; one lady whom I did not know wore a pretty fancy silk with narrow velvet ribbon trimming, cream hat laden with roses.

At last the long-expected day fixed for the

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION arrived and last Thursday saw crowds of people wending their way to Princes-street to see or be seen, or perhaps to combine both. There was no difficulty in making through the Exhibition buildings along the passages, lined with soldiers of various sorts, to the Choral Hall door, and there the crush began. Everyone was anxious to get in at once, so that it was difficult to see the smart frocks which had been specially made for this auspicious occasion. Full particulars of the opening ceremonies will be given elsewhere, so that only gowns need come under present consideration. The Countess of Ranfurly was very handsomely dressed in rich blue silk, brocaded with a small black and