

given in their honour at the Criterion Theatre. Had it not been got up so hurriedly, I fancy there would have been many more present from up country, as both families are widely known and liked. Unfortunately Mrs Palmer was unable to be present, having gone to New Plymouth the previous day, to say farewell to her people, who reside there. Russell's band provided the music, and the floor—thanks to the energetic secretary's exertions—was really very good. A most dainty supper was provided, after which Mr Moss made a short speech, speaking in most eulogistic terms of the guests of the evening, to which they suitably replied. Now for the dresses worn: Mrs Clare, ivory white satin, the skirt was cut in a long train, both the bodice and skirt were heavily trimmed with gold embroidery, spray of pink blush roses on the left of the square cut corsage; Mrs Claude Purchas wore her wedding dress of white surah silk; so also did Mrs R. Jones; Mrs Forbes, white satin chiffon sleeves, a most becoming dress; Mrs Pratt, black lace; Miss Orr, pink nun's veiling; Mrs Sullivan, oyster white silk lustre, relieved with black ribbon velvet; Mrs Haszard, pale green Liberty silk trimmed with beautiful Limerick lace; Mrs Charlie Forster, black velvet; Mrs Brunskill, white broche satin; Mrs McArthur, black velvet; Mrs John Edwards, maize satin; Mrs Bustings, very handsome shot silk; Miss Forster, fancy cream silk; Miss N. McArthur, white; Miss Wright, pink chiffon evening blouse, white skirt; Miss Mary Wright, cream satin; Miss E. Bagnall, pink trilby muslin blouse, dark skirt; Miss Gibbons, white silk; Mrs DeCastro, pale green satin trimmed with ruchings of pale pink chiffon; Mrs McArthur, black ottoman silk; Miss Slaton (Te Aroha), yellow nun's veiling; Mrs Gooch, dainty cream satin; Mrs Porritt, white satin, moss green satin sleeves; Messrs Clare, Palmer, Gooch, Haszard (2), John Edwards, Jones, McArthur (3), Hagne-Smith, Jackson (2), Moss, Mueller, Wrigley, E. Clarke, G. O'Halloran, Connolly, A. Bush, Porritt, D. Cochrane, Simpson, Carpenter, G. Vercoe (Tauranga), Jordan (Tauranga), C. Purchas, Dr. Forbes.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, April 5.
It is in great spirits my letter reaches you, for our Easter has been the greatest success, chiefly owing to the glorious weather which we had, and still are rejoicing in, and what a difference it does make to be sure. Well to begin my news. On Thursday evening last our gallant volunteers began their camp, field days, which mean hard work, took place on Friday and Monday. On Sunday a review was much appreciated by the public, who took advantage of going out in large numbers to Bottle Lake. Drags, buggies, trams, etc., all well filled, went at intervals of an hour. The camp of 1899 will long be remembered as a great success.

Monday being the holiday everybody was bent on observing it as such. It was indeed a lovely day almost like summer, in fact, we felt our winter costumes almost too warm, but new dresses, hats, etc., must appear first.

AT THE RACES

and the Riccarton Racecourse presented a gay and pretty scene. Numbers of well dressed ladies filled the stand to overflowing, and a splendid day's racing we all had. Among the gay throng were Mrs E. C. J. Stevens, a handsome black coat and skirt costume, white silk vest, prettily black bonnet, with pink velvet trimmings; Lady Clifford, in scarlet coat and skirt heavily braided with black, large black hat with feathers; Mrs G. Stead, a grey coat and skirt with grey fur trimmings, small toque with palest blue; Mrs E. D. O'Rourke, a lovely heliotrope gown with narrow black velvet, black hat; Mrs George Rhodes (Charmont), a bright blue costume, hat en suite; Mrs R. D. Thomas, a brown costume with rich orange velvet trimmings, bonnet to match; Mrs Jennings, blue dress braided with black, large black hat with erise trimmings; Mrs Hume, black dress with pink silk yoke, black and pink hat; Mrs Ronald Macdonald, a striking costume of red, with becoming red velvet hat and shaded red ostrich feathers; Mrs George Harris, a navy blue dress, yellow silk vest, small toque; Mrs Morton Anderson, a green cloth dress with pink trimmings; Miss Luckley, a lovely dress of grey chiffon with lace

insertions over yellow satin, chiffon vest, large transparent hat of grey with yellow roses; Miss R. Buckley, a grey check costume trimmed with white, hat to match, and pretty feather boa; Miss MacLean, navy coat and skirt, black hat; Miss Brett, a rich prune-coloured coat and skirt braided with black, large hat trimmed with yellow; Miss Buller wore grey trimmed with pink; Miss Palmer, a green dress, with rich violet velvet hat; Mrs J. C. Palmer, bright blue coat and skirt, hat trimmed with fur and blue feathers; Mrs Louison, a handsome black and grey check costume braided with black, crimson velvet vest, white satin revers and collar, black hat with crimson chrysanthemums.

In the evening at 9 p.m.

MISS COX'S ASSEMBLY

took place, which was a great success. It was held in the Art Gallery, and about two hundred were present. Dancing was kept up with great spirit until the small hours of the morning. A delicious supper was served, and I heard Miss Tendall, lately from England, superintended it, so she is to be congratulated on her success. I noticed Mrs Buller in a handsome black brocade; her daughter wore a white silk trimmed with chiffon; Mrs Cox in black; Mrs Owen Cox, a lovely pale grey brocade with salmon trimmings; Mrs Charles Cook, black silk covered with net; Mrs L. Matson, a pretty white dress trimmed with red; Mrs John Anderson, black; Miss Anderson, white silk frock; Miss Howley (Timaru), a lovely white satin, the bodice prettily tucked; Miss E. Cox, yellow silk with white lace insertion; Miss Williams, white with pale green trimmings; Miss Jessie Turner, white silk; Miss Acton-Adams, black satin; Miss Buchanan, a handsome dress of white with pale blue velvet trimmings; Miss Hargreaves wore a yellow silk; Miss Neave, blue silk; Miss Lard, white; Miss Mendelson, a rich white satin with pearl trimmings; Miss Lenn, cream skirt and bodice trimmed with yellow roses; Miss Allen, a pretty white silk; Miss Gibson, pale blue; Miss Ensor, palest pink; Miss Crossley, black satin and white lace; Miss Macdonald, a pretty combination of palest green and pink; Miss Davie, white with pink roses.

On Tuesday another beautiful day for the races, and numbers went out to the course. In the evening at the Theatre Royal,

'DOROTHY'

was given by the New Zealand Natives Operatic Association, and never have amateurs achieved such a success. The theatre was packed, and the opera went off without a hitch. The scenery is beautiful and the dresses magnificent. The hunting chorus which is introduced in a disjointed fashion at the end of the second act, created a regular furore, having to be repeated three times. A graceful minuet was also much appreciated by the audience, as also the ballet dance, which was entered twice. Miss Watson and Miss Sandstern dancing wonderfully. Miss Carrick made an ideal Dorothy, both looking and acting the part to perfection, and her beautiful voice is heard to great advantage all through the opera. In the second act she wore a lovely dress of rich white brocade satin with pale blue satin paniers, and the bodice richly embroidered. Miss Lilian Smith as Lydia Hawthorne, Dorothy's cousin, was simply sweet, and thoroughly entered into her part. Miss Thompson made an excellent Phyllis. The trio "Be wise in time" by Dorothy, Lydia and Phyllis was doubly enjoyed. Mr Maitland Gardner's performance as Squire Bantam was one of the chief successes of the opera. Mr Winter Hall was very good indeed as Harry Sherwood, and Mr Marsh was exceedingly funny as Lurcher. Mrs Privett (known as Mrs Montgomery) was excellent, the ancient dunces causing roars of laughter by her clever low comedy acting. The opera continues all this week, and each night promises to be a great success, as almost all the seats are booked. Among the audience I noticed Mr and Mrs Pitman, Mrs Rhodes, Mrs Acton-Adams and her daughter, Mr and Mrs Frank Graham, Miss Graham, Mr Meares and his daughters, Mrs Grigg, Mrs Rich, Mr and Mrs Louison and daughters, Mr and Mrs Quane, Mrs Deanes, Mr Crossley and Miss Crossley, Mr and Mrs H. Overton, Misses Lean (2), Cox (2), Walker, Palmer, Cowlishaw, Dixon and Buchanan.

(DELAYED.)

Dear Bee, March 28.
A great musical treat was given us in the Choral Hall on Monday evening, when Miss Elsie Hall made her debut before a Christchurch audience. Miss Hall is an exceptional pianist; her execution is simply wonderful. Her first piece was Liszt's dramatic 'Rhapsodie' No. 14, and it was truly wonderfully played, being much appreciated by the audience. Beethoven's sonata in F major was a great treat, and in response to an undeniable encore Miss Hall played Mendelssohn's 'Spinnlied' most beautifully; all her other numbers called forth loud applause. Mrs Burns and Mrs Howie assisted Miss Hall; also Messrs Hockley and Gardener. Miss Hall wore a pretty white silk gown made in Grecian style, which was most becoming; Mrs Howie a lovely white satin trimmed with ostrich feathers and lace, long rucked chiffon sleeves; Mrs Burns a rich white brocade, with beautiful roses, and carried a bouquet of roses. Among the audience I noticed Judge and Mrs Denniston, the latter wearing a handsome black gown, pretty pink cloak; Miss Ainger, also in black; Mrs Cook, a pretty silk blouse with rich lace; her daughter a white silk with yellow insertion; Mrs John Anderson, black, white corded silk opera cloak; Miss Anderson, white silk; Mrs Buller, black; Miss Buller, white silk blouse; Mrs Kettle, a striking red costume, with black lace; Mrs Malet, a rich black brocade; Miss Malet, black; Mrs Jennings, a blouse of vieux rose silk; Miss Cowlishaw, green velvet, with white lace; Mrs Turnbull, new Cowlishaw, a pretty heliotrope blouse of chiffon; Mrs Westmacott, a yellow gown; also Mr and the Misses Meares; Mr and the Misses Bishop; Mr and the Misses Gardener.

Great preparations are taking place for the Easter encampment of the volunteers at Bottle Lake. It is a good place for a camp, and given fine weather a very jolly time, as well as instructive, should be spent. The different corps go into camp on Thursday night until Tuesday.

DOLLY VALE.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, April 6.
The weather for the Easter holidays was simply perfect, just like the middle of summer, and no wind. A great many picnics were arranged for, and a large garden fete was held in the Government House grounds, on Monday, the proceeds going towards St. Paul's Church. A large number of people took the opportunity of strolling about the lovely grounds, and afternoon tea was provided under the management of Mrs Sprott, who was assisted by a number of friends.

THE TENNIS.

About three hundred guests assembled on the beautiful grounds of the Thorndon Lawn Tennis Club on Monday to witness the matches between the Canterbury men and four of the Wellington men. Those from Canterbury were Messrs C. Cox, J. U. Collins, J. Williams and P. Laurie, and the Wellington four were Messrs H. M. and C. Gore, A. Young and F. Laishley. The matches resulted in a win for the visitors by fourteen games. The scores were as follows:—C. C. Cox, Canterbury, present champion of the colony, beat C. Gore, Wellington, 6-4, 5-6, 6-4. F. Laishley, Wellington, beat J. Williams, Canterbury, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. A. Young, Wellington, beat P. A. Laurie, Canterbury, 6-2, 6-5. 2-6. H. Gore, Wellington, beat J. A. Collins, Canterbury, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. Second round: J. Williams, Canterbury, beat A. Young, Wellington, 5-6, 6-2, 6-1. J. U. Collins, Canterbury, beat C. Gore, Wellington, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. P. A. Laurie, Canterbury, beat F. Laishley, Wellington, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. C. Cox, Canterbury, beat H. Gore, Wellington, 6-4, 4-6, 6-5. At the end of the first round Wellington was leading by fourteen games, but after the second round the score was: Canterbury, 115; Wellington, 113. Double: C. Cox and J. U. Collins, Canterbury, beat H. and C. Gore, Wellington, 6-4, 6-3, 6-5. P. A. Laurie and J. Williams, Canterbury, beat F. Laishley and A. Young, Wellington, 6-5, 6-3, 6-5.

The ground was in splendid condition and altogether a most exciting day was spent by those interested in

the play or players. During the afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies of the club. The visitors were the guests of Mrs Gore during their stay in Wellington.

AMONG THE LADIES PRESENT
I noticed the Countess de Courte, wearing a French grey gown, braided with white, and burnt straw hat with deep yellow roses; Mrs Biss, white duck costume, sailor hat; Mrs Barron, dark blue skirt, light blouse and black and white hat; the Misses Barron, pink dresses and white sailor hats; Mrs Fulton, white drill costume; Miss Williams, pale grey lustre costume and black straw hat trimmed with black and white tips; the Misses Edwards, white muslin dresses and pretty white hats; Mrs Pynsent, black and white costume; Mrs Holmes, black canvas dress trimmed with black and white silk, black hat trimmed with white feathers; Miss Lamb, white duck costume, pretty black and white hat; Miss Lee, white costume; the Misses Marchant, white costumes, sailor hats; Mrs Gore, black silk gown, the bodice prettily trimmed with white, stylish bonnet to match; Mrs H. M. Gore, blue costume, white sailor hat; the Misses Gore (2), dark skirts and blouses, white sailor hats; Mrs Litchfield, blue figured muslin, bonnet to match; Miss Dransfield, white duck costume, yellow tie and hat band; Miss Turnbull, white duck costume, sailor hat; Mrs Lanrie (Christchurch), black canvas dress, becomingly trimmed with rose pink, toque to match; Miss Rutherford (Palmerston), white costume; Mrs Simpson, grey silk gown and pretty pink floral bonnet; Mrs Simpson, grey tweed costume, large black and pink hat; Miss M. Simpson, white drill costume; Miss Watkins, white gown, large white hat trimmed with flowers; the Misses Henry, white duck costumes, white hats trimmed with pink ribbon; Miss Cotterill (Christchurch), black and white costume; Miss Hadfield (Marton), fawn tailor-made costume, black and white toque; Mrs Butler, pale green silk gown, trimmed with white lace, floral hat; Lady Douglas, grey costume, black and yellow bonnet; Miss Douglas, white costume, sailor hat; Mrs Haggard; Mrs and the Misses Kennedy, Miss Campbell, Mrs Tegetmeir, Mrs and the Misses Quick, Mrs Rotheram, Mrs and the Misses Hislop; Mrs Lowe, Miss Blackett, Miss Russell (Christchurch), Mrs Newman, the Misses Davy, Grant, Smith, Stewart, Atkinson and others. Among the gentlemen I noticed Messrs Fulton, Biss, Kennedy, Marchant, Gore, Hartman, Hislop, Goring, Kebbell, Newman, Butler, Grace, Luckie, Simpson, Abbott, Watkins, Robison, Young, Barron, Wight, Litchfield, Tuckey, Cox, Holmes, Reid, and many others.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, April 4.
The Easter holidays are now over, and it is to be hoped that in all places people were able to enjoy the same delightful kind of weather we had. Each day was perfect, and everyone seemed anxious to get as much fresh air as possible. On Thursday evening

THE VOLUNTEERS

mustered at the Drill shed, and, headed by the Garrison Band, marched to the port, where they embarked on the s.s. Corinna for Picton, en route for the camp at Blenheim, Lieut. Col. Pitt being in command. They returned to Nelson on Tuesday morning, having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The College Cadets were unable to attend the Blenheim camp, so they had a small one all to themselves at Brightwater, under command of Capt. Littlejohn.

On Friday the annual

CRICKET MATCH

between the Cable Bay and Nelson Post and Telegraph staffs was played in Trafalgar Park. There was a large number of spectators, and the day was all that could be desired. The result was a decided win for the Cable Bay men, the margin being an innings and fifty-five runs. J. Blackett making the highest score. Afternoon tea was provided by the Cable Bay staff, and at the conclusion of the match the usual cheers were given.

The holidays have been so beautifully warm and fine that several parties have gone

CAMPING.

Mr and Mrs Booth and party have