

much those medleys of extravagance and nonsensical antics, 'The Trip to Chinatown,' and 'The Milk White Flag.' With whimsicalities of this flavour a hit is scored now and again, but, frankly, we think it problematical how far they can be relied upon to divert Australian audiences.

On Wednesday last the Christchurch Amateur Operatic Society made their first appearance in the 'Pirates of Penzance.'

The Pollards are due in Christchurch on the 24th inst., when they open with 'Black-eyed Susan.'

The dispute between Dante and his manager was settled out of court. Dante will be back in this colony next summer.

Tom Fitzgerald sails for Europe shortly in search of novelties.

## Exchange Notes.

Gold output for the month was £45,313 14s 2d.

New Zealand Talisman yield to hand since the returns were compiled was £3609 2s 2d from 900 tons.

Grace Darling shares are moving upwards, and a successful flotation is anticipated.

South British Insurance had inquiry this week, a dividend of 1s 6d per share being paid.

Directors of the Pukewhau Company have let that mine on tribute.

Bunker's Hill shares have eased, as the ventilation in the mine is so bad that work is hampered. The leader still shows strong colours of gold.

Picked stone worth half an ounce of gold to the pound is being won from the Progress Rock mine, Coromandel.

Waihi return this month totalled £22,093, which was obtained from 7635 tons.

Transactions took place in Talisman shares this week at 15s 3d, and buyers still offer 15s. In four months this mine returned bullion worth £13,715 12s 2d.

Heavy sales were made of Alphas this week for forward delivery.

Westport Coal shares were wanted this week at 62s 6d. Other coal stocks were neglected.

An offer of 29s for New Zealand Accident Insurance shares failed to cause sales.

May Queen of Hauraki shares advanced this week from 6s 3d to 6s 8d. Buyers evidently think the gold in the Saxon section will soon be encountered.

The total output from the Waihi mine has now reached £960,044, of which £372,500 has been distributed in the shape of dividends, and the £1 shares are still quoted at £6.

Luck seems to follow some men. Messrs Andrews and Gunn, who had such a rich tribute in the Kapanga mine, and afterwards took up a claim on the Tokatake range, have struck a leader and got ten pounds of rich stone.

A nice patch of picked stone has been discovered in the Butterfly mine, at Coromandel.

Some nice stones showing good gold have been got from the Just in Time lode in the Welcome Find mine at Coromandel.

The Hauraki Associated Company has started crushing again, thirty tons having yielded £285.

At the Thames-Hauraki mine the enlargement of the Queen of Beauty shaft will be sufficiently completed this week to enable the cleaning out of the level to be undertaken preparatory to driving on the Vanguard reef.

A crushing by tributaries in the May Queen mine of sixty-six tons of quartz yielded gold worth £200 13s 8d.

In the Wonder of the Age claim, Coromandel, strong colours of gold are seen in the face of the reef, which is one foot thick.

The Mariposa Company, Kuaotunu, obtained £404 4s 11d from 240 tons of ore, and 315 tons of tailings.

In the Imperial Company's low level the reef is showing gradual improvement.

Maratoto shares had demand this week at 2s 5d. Not long ago it was hard work to sell them at sixpence.

At the last breaking down in the Puru Consolidated mine the manager got some of the best gold seen since contracting started in the mine.

New Zealand Crown Mines return this month showed considerable improvement, £5652 being obtained from 2730 tons of ore, making a total output to date from this mine of £206,261.

Waihi Silverton shares advanced steadily until 15s was reached, and then buyers eased off, but holders still ask 15s 6d.

A good advance was made by Royal Oaks this week, sellers at 1s 6d being replaced by buyers at 1s 8d.

The Moanatairi mine produced ore this month which when crushed yielded £917. Of this amount £554 1s 9d belonged to various tribute parties.

Shares in the Whangamata Gold Corporation are wanted at 3s 6d, as the new crushing plant is now rapidly approaching the stage when ore can be treated. It is estimated that there is at least 15,000 tons of ore in sight worth from £3 to £4 per ton.

It is confidently expected that the Waihi Gladstone Company will share in the better prospects which are being obtained at the Waihi Silverton mine. The management have decided to erect an assay plant on the property in order to systematically test the value of the ore, of which there is a large quantity in sight.

Union Steam shares were asked for this week on the Exchange, but holders would not accept the £10 7s 9d offered.

Taupiri Coal shares sold at 20s 9d. This is the new company that absorbed Ralph's, the Extended, and Waikato Coal Companies.

Steady demand existed this week for Waitakauri shares at 38s, but sales did not result, holders preferring to wait for better prices.

The Cardigan Company at the Thames obtained £137 7s 6d this week from 25½ tons of ore. Tributaries also crushed 42 tons of ore for £122 10s 9d.

## GOLD RETURNS.

The gold output for the past month as compiled from mail to mail, is about up to the average, although the fact that the Talisman Company's return was late has reduced the total to that extent. A

feature this month is the amount of gold won by tributaries. Appended are the returns to hand—

### COROMANDEL.

Company.	Tns.	Stons.	£	s.	d.
Hauraki	130	138	1198	16	3
Royal Oak	10	587	1028	0	9
Kapanga	7	96	437	4	11
Tokatake Consols	10	—	75	17	10
Hauraki Associated	30	—	255	0	0
Bunker's Hill	—	123	417	0	0
Hambour View, trib.	—	—	149	8	8
Welcome Find	122	130	164	2	11
Golden Buttery, trib	—	—	15	19	3
Driving Creek, trib.	—	—	13	8	9
Hauraki Gem, trib.	—	—	83	13	10
Cuba, trib.	—	—	3	5	6
Sluicing Tokatake	—	—	45	6	1
Juno, trib.	—	—	22	11	6
Good Luck	—	—	10	12	7
Great Mercury	150	—	239	4	5
Mariposa	240	—	494	0	0
			£4801	14	3

### THAMES.

Company.	Tns.	Stons.	£	s.	d.
Waiotahi	80	—	383	0	0
Kur. Caledonian, trib	65	168	700	10	0
Tararu Creek	1250	—	1248	0	0
May Queen, trib.	66	—	290	13	8
Cardigan	25½	—	137	7	6
Cardigan, trib.	43	—	122	10	9
Moanatairi, trib.	123	—	554	1	9
Moanatairi Co.	75	—	383	16	3
			£3649	19	11

### OHINEMURI.

Company.	Tons.	£	s.	d.
Waihi	7635	22,093	0	0
N.Z. Crown	2730	5652	0	0
Waitakauri	1838	5629	0	0
Woodstock	920	1515	0	0
Waihi-Silverton	1000	1321	0	0
Komata Reefs	340	650	0	0
		£37,962	0	0

Total for month.....£46,313 14 2

The Swedish bride fills her pockets with bread, which she dispenses to everyone she meets on her way to church, every piece she disposes of averting, as she believes, a misfortune.

Clarke's World-Famed Blood Mixture.—The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light. Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Bottles 2s 6d each, sold everywhere. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.



AT THE AUCKLAND CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

One of the best exhibitions of chrysanthemums it has been our pleasure to see was that held last week under the auspices of the Auckland Chrysanthemum Society, which is now affiliated with the Auckland Horticultural Society and Children's Flower Show Society. The Choral Hall, in which the exhibition took place, presented a most attractive appearance, flags and other decorations being utilised to add to the effect of the blooms on show. The humid weather of the previous few weeks was very much against the exhibitors, but notwithstanding the drawbacks they had to contend against the display was the finest ever seen in the North. Mr W. F. Buckland, of Cambridge, Mr Thos. Wells, of the same place, Mr Collins, of Parnell, H. W. Mariner, G. W. Wright, Miss E. C. Handley, and Miss F. Roberts, carried away the prizes for cut blooms in the amateur class. In the open class Mr Buckland and Mr Wells were again to the fore, while W. Handley, J. S. Jacks, and Miss J. Carruth shared honours with them. There was a fine display of pot plants, the prizes for these falling to Messrs

G. W. Wright, J. West, D. Hay and Son, and Bennett and Green. In the professional class the two last mentioned firms divided the prizes. The class devoted to cut flowers other than chrysanthemums were well filled. Here the most successful exhibitors were Messrs D. Hay and Son, McDonald and Son, Bennett and Green, and G. W. Wright. Mrs G. J. Mackay took first prizes for hand bouquet, ladies' sprays and buttonhole bouquets, while Miss E. Kelly was equally successful with her exhibits of bridal bouquet and bouquet of any design in the open class. In the amateur class the first-mentioned lady took first prize for decorated dinner-table, Mrs E. J. Harvey receiving the second. Other prize-winners were Miss B. Smith, Miss F. Cook, Miss G. Kemphorne, Miss F. S. M. Pierce, Miss Ada Cooke, Miss V. Palmer, Miss Mabel Kelly, Miss Brookfield, Miss Winifred McEee, and Misses Ruby Petch, Parsons and McIndoe. In spite of the bad weather on the opening day, the show has been a great success financially. We understand that the result of it has been to put the Horticultural Society on a sounder footing than it has been for a long time.

## Minor Matters

Red deer are very plentiful in the Waitarapa this year, and are said to be in splendid condition.

Messrs Williams and Betham gathered no fewer than 26,000 pounds of grapes from their Landdowne vineyard in a single week this month.

According to a Nelson scribe, Stoke must take a 'back seat' to Toi Toi Valley in the matter of big gooseberries—we mean, big apples—till it can beat the latest record. A monster apple from Stoke weighed 21oz but Mr C. Large, of Toi Toi Valley has one weighing 23oz, and 15½in in circumference. It was the largest picked from the tree within the last day or so, but others as large have been obtained, and several are yet on the tree weighing from 13oz to 16oz. The 23½ oz apple is still green, and probably had not quite done growing when its career was nipped in the stalk.

While on the subject of big things in the fruit and vegetable line, it may be mentioned that a cabbage grown by Mrs Davis, of Makotuku, was cut last week, and when trimmed and dressed turned the scale at the modest figure of 20lb.

An amusing incident occurred at the Napier theatre the other evening during the very realistic portrayal of the burning mill. A young man, who had been enjoying himself at the wings, apparently imagined that the fire had caught a real hold of the scenery, and rushed forward to the rescue, much to the amusement of the audience, who had complete faith in the management to extinguish the mimic flame when the curtain fell.

The Dunedin 'boys' sham fight this year was probably the best in New Zealand, and is still the absorbing subject of conversation down South. Our good friend the 'Star' observes: 'The more that is heard of the sham fight at Abbotsford the deeper becomes the impression on the layman's understanding that the attacking party in piercing the centre of the defence completely mastered the situation. Much, however, can be said on behalf of the defenders. For one thing, they had a very large extent of country to cover; hence the need for rapid movements, which here and there led to forgetfulness. There was the incident at the mouth of the Kaikōrangi. The defenders blew up the bridge, and left the enemy a safe ford almost alongside. Then it is said that Captain Price's squad in making for the Chain Hills found available and promptly used a temporary bridge, which the defenders had constructed for their own use and failed to destroy. These and other experiences of the day's work are sure to be well threshed out before the parties concerned are done with the subject, for the battle is being fought over and over again at the street corners, and, we may add, all who were there agree that the men did a lot of hard work in the true military spirit, thus testifying to the efficiency and reliability of the force.'

A number of Auckland debutantes are looking forward with great expectations to Government House ball in June, when they put off the insignia of girlhood and come out in all the glory of long frocks and an artistic coiffure.

A very enjoyable entertainment was given on the 10th inst at Ormondville, Hawke's Bay, as a farewell to Mr Tuck. Mr H. Alexander occupied the chair, and the programme was very well arranged. Mr Wright sang with much feeling 'He Wipes the Tear from Every Eye,' and Mr J. W. Collins was much applauded for his contribution 'The Song that Will Live For Ever.' Miss Castles and Mr Forbes also contributed. Refreshments were provided by the ladies, and the singing of 'God be With You till We Meet Again' brought the gathering to a close.

All through the past week 'Dorothy' drew large audiences at Christchurch, among whom were the Mayor and Mrs Louison, Mr and Mrs Burkas, Mr and Mrs Waymouth, Mr and Mrs Izard, Mr and Mrs Boxton, Mr and Mrs A. E. G. Rhodes, Mr and Mrs Walter Stringer, Mr and Mrs W. C. Walker, Mr Brittain,