



## WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE,

JULY 10.

I have so much to tell you about this week that I hardly know where to begin, but I believe Mrs Charles Johnston's 'At Home' comes first among the gaieties. We were led to expect nothing more than a reception, for there was nothing to even suggest dancing on the cards. However we were not to be disappointed, as dancing began at about half-past nine, and was kept merrily going until past midnight, the billiard-room being used for dancing, and the drawing room for music and singing, with which those who did not dance were entertained. Miss Williams sang very sweetly. Our hostess was richly dressed in a pompadour silk of palest grey with coloured flowers, and trimmed with quantities of chiffon, and made high to the throat, and with puffed sleeves. Her sister-in-law, Miss E. Johnston, was very handsomely dressed in sky blue silk veiled with magnificent jewelled embroidery, and wore a beautiful jewelled giraffe and gold shoes, and carried a handsome fan. Miss Holmes (Dunedin) wore one of the handsomest dresses, and also Mrs (Dr.) Adams, the latter wearing a high collar. Miss Acland (Christchurch) was the only debutante, and amongst other guests were Mrs Grace, Mrs Newman, Lady Hall (Canterbury), Mrs Valentine (Otago), Mrs T. Fergus (Dunedin), Mrs W. Moorhouse, Miss Coleridge, Mrs Travers, Mrs De Castro, Mrs Barron, Mrs (Dr.) Collins, Miss Wilson (Christchurch), Miss Pharazyn (Wairarapa), Miss Butterworth (Dunedin), Miss Moorhouse (Christchurch), and the Misses Grace, Izard, Cooper, Harding, Barron, Williams, Brandon, and Reid, Miss Buller and her two brothers, Captain Russell, Mr Walrond, Mr A. Rhodes, Mr R. Pharazyn, Mr Walter Johnston, Dr. Collins, Mr Travers, Mr Parfitt, Mr E. O'Korke, etc. The two little girls were there part of the evening, looking very well in their pretty evening frocks. Both Mr and Mrs Johnston and their son, Mr Guy Johnston, were indefatigable in their efforts to amuse their guests, and a most enjoyable evening was the result.

The Rowing Club's annual ball came next, I think, taking place in the Garrison Hall, which was well filled, and, oh, it so beautifully decorated. I would like you to have had a glimpse, for it was a sight one would seldom forget, and nobody could recognize the usually bare, cold hall. It looked just like a huge marquee, the whole roof being draped with red, white, and blue, and most artistically decorated with quantities of Chinese lanterns, greenery, flowers, mirrors, etc., that must have taken days to arrange. A raised platform was erected in the centre of the ballroom, and in this—for it was converted into quite a fairy bower—the bandsmen were stationed. Four large trees were at each corner, between which were draped lace curtains over scarlet cloth, finished all round with lovely black screens with large bold designs in gold. The band played the best dance music I have heard for many a day. All the little alcoves round the room were converted into tiny sitting-rooms, and the supper was served at one end of the room partitioned off by curtains, greenery, etc. It is quite impossible to give you even a faint idea of the magnitude of the decorations in so large a hall, the whole of which was crowded, but not unpleasantly so, with dancers. The Earl and Countess of Onslow were present, arriving in time for the first set of dances, Lady Onslow being handsomely dressed in black lace and moire, with long train, the front of her low corsage sparkling with diamonds, and wearing her coronet of diamonds, and carrying a huge bouquet of white camellias and ferns, and large black fan. Mr Walrond accompanied them. The lady Mayoress, Mrs Brown, was dressed in pale blue silk with short train. His Excellency danced with Mrs Patterson, wife of the Captain of the Club, the Mayor dancing opposite with Lady Onslow, and Mr Patterson and the Mayoress, and Mr and Miss Duthie also danced in the same set. Mrs Patterson wore black crossed with a tartan sash, and Miss Duthie wore black with narrow bands of bright green. Mrs Cooper and her daughters were there, and also Miss Hall, the Misses Acland, Miss Hadfield, Mrs Bell, in a black gown; the Misses Carr, one in black trimmed with jet, and the other in pale blue; Miss Holmes, Miss Wilson, the Misses Gore, Miss C. Brandon, Mrs W. Crawford, in black and red; Mrs Kennedy Macdonald, in a very handsome old gold plush and silk, with long train; Mrs Andrew Young, black satin. There were also many other pretty dresses, white appearing the favourite colour, and as for chiffon, you could not get away from the sight of it. It is very pretty, but I am afraid we shall soon get tired of it if we see much more. It seems to be worn in some form on almost every ball dress, but it is no wonder, for what could possibly look softer or more becoming. Unfortunately, there was one fault—and the committee were evidently over-anxious in chalking the floor, and laid far too much, so that directly the dancing began the chalk rose into the air, causing quite a misty appearance. It was a great pity, for all the other arrangements were quite perfect, and it was a very brilliant affair, upon which so young a

club are to be congratulated. The Governor and Lady Onslow stayed until quite late, and thoroughly entered into the general spirit of gaiety.

Next week you may hear something of Mrs Godfrey Knight's dance, which will be over by that time. Miss McClean's concert, which, I hear, is quite a novelty, takes place a few days later, and later still comes the Harmonic concert, and then Mr Parker's annual concert, besides the Kindergarten concert, so musical people will be well provided for.

Mr Leon Driver has been greeted with good, large audiences, but I have not yet been, so cannot give my opinion. Lady Campbell, Mr E. J. Hill, and Mr McDuff-Boyd have been helping at his concerts, Miss Medley playing the accompaniments.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with the Wellington City Rifles took place the evening after the Rowing Club ball in the same building, when there were fully five hundred ladies and gentlemen present, and Mrs Collins, wife of the captain, presented the prizes.

A few days later Lord Onslow, who was accompanied by Lady Onslow and Mr Walrond, laid the memorial tablet in the new offices of the Wellington Harbour Board, which are now being erected in Jervois Quay. There was a large gathering of influential citizens, and nearly all the Ministry and numbers of members, besides those closely interested in the ceremony. Three cheers were given when the Government House party drove away, carrying with them the silver trowel which had been presented to His Excellency, and which, by-the-by, caused a little excitement during the proceedings by snapping in half.

The Rev. Mark Guy Pearce has paid us a flying visit, which, however, has been greatly appreciated by large numbers of people who heard him lecture on 'The Old Folks at Home.'

The young ladies attending St. Francis Xavier's Academy have just given a most successful entertainment at the Exchange Hall, consisting of an operetta, but as I have not much more time, I will just tell you the names of those who took part. The Misses Zohrab, Blackie, M. Crease, Davis, W. Stevens, Shewbridge, E. Young, M. Driscoll, Seagar, Webbe, Dunne, Yuile, McGregor, Saunders, H. Crease, Smith, A. Cuff, J. Wilson, J. Jones, Z. Smith, Abern, Lyon, Whelan, M. de Castro, Monogue, Allen, Beauchamp, Holcroft, Salmon, V. Camino, Hawkins, Chevannes, Allen, Taylor, Kubbzell, Edmeades, G. Dunne, and Fauvel. They chose 'Rubenzahl' and 'Frederick of Prussia,' and did them remarkably well.

Two very quiet weddings have taken place this week—that of Mr Hirschberg, of Masterton, and Miss Jessie Wallace, niece of the late John Howard Wallace, and that of Mr Kemble, of Wairarapa, and Miss Laura Welch, of the Taika.

There are a great many visitors for the season, including Mrs and the Misses Acland (Christchurch), Miss Holmes (Dunedin), Miss Butterworth, Mrs Fergus, and Miss Larnach (Dunedin), Mrs and Miss Rees (Auckland), Miss Moorhouse (Christchurch), Lady and Miss Hall (Canterbury), Mrs Valentine (Otago), Miss Rolleston, Miss Wilson, and Miss N. Reeves (all of Christchurch), the Misses McKenzie (Palmerston South), Mrs Foster Pratt (Palmerston North), Mrs Arthur Gore (Napier), the Misses Carr (Australia), Miss Dousey (Australia), Miss Wardell and Miss Pharazyn, both from the Wairarapa.

RUBY.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE,

JULY 8.

I had a whole week's revelry with many of my neighbours, and some hailing from a distance, in the new parochial room, last week, at Papanui, with the exception of one day, and as that was a social, I didn't like to intrude, so let the parishioners have it all to themselves, which I regretted after, for Mrs Matson had a few nice things for sale, I heard, made by their guild, and Miss A. Matson, Mr C. Jennings, and others gave some charming songs, besides the great attraction of the pictures, and the room not being tightly packed, and everyone moving about, was the best thing to see them. The Papanui people are to be congratulated on the possession of such an admirable room for parochial purposes. It is fitted at one end with a neat little stage and two small dressing-rooms, and plastered throughout, consequently good for sound. The walls on this occasion were covered with pictures, some very good ones. Miss Gardner had some pretty landscapes (bits of the West Coast road.) There were some of our favourite local artist, Mr John Gibb's, also some of Mr Gully's. Among the photographs I saw Mr J. T. Matson, Mr Michael Campbell, General Campbell, and Bishop Harper. The stage each evening was a very bright spot, being most artistically decorated with mirrors, Liberty mullin, ivy, and pot plants, and well lighted.

The Bishop gave his interesting lecture on the Chatham Islands one evening to a crowded and appreciative audience. The next night the fame and popularity of the carnival had so spread abroad that people were standing in every available spot, the money-taker's table in the porch being a great point of vantage. The evening began with 'The Happy Fair,' by Mr and Mrs G. Humphreys, but owing to the arrival of late-comers almost through the entire piece, and coming in by the stage door, put them off considerably. Mrs Humphreys looked very nice in a crimson brocade tea-gown with full front of white silk and lace. The second part opened with the Oriental band playing selections. This was a most effective scene, and was loudly applauded. Twelve dancers in Oriental costumes seated Oriental fashion on the stage played tambourines, and some

indescribable other instruments, one looking uncommonly like a dinner-bell, the whole led by Mrs Westmacott, Miss Hannah behind the scenes accompanying on the piano. The other ladies of the band were Miss Queenie and Bessie Campbell, Miss Worthy, Miss M. Hannah, Miss Helmuers, Miss Macfarlane, and several I could not recognise. Then eight more girls skipped in, in very pretty Spanish peasants' dresses, and danced a step dance, coached, I believe, by Mr Low, who in Spanish costume played the violin with the damsels, while Mr Poulton and Mr Watson, in gorgeous attire, stood one on each side, and just filled up a corner. The dancers were Miss Hailey, Miss E. Cox, the Misses Greenwood, Miss Walton, Miss Kimbell, Miss Campbell, and Miss Pattison. It was most gracefully performed, and loudly encored. Then came tableaux, 'She Wore a Wreath of Roses,' sang by Mrs Westmacott, Miss Campbell posing as the maiden, then the bride, with her cousin, Mr Poulton, as bridegroom; then the most charming widow in becoming sorrow, but which ended too soon, for before the curtain was half down she clapped her hands with great glee, and was brimming over with smiles, which caused a good deal of amusement among the audience. 'The Lost Child,' sung by Mr Newman, and personated by Miss A. Matson, and a little boy of Mrs F. Brittain's, made of the orthodox complexion of a gutter child, was very well done. 'Who's That Tapping at the Garden Gate?' sung by Mr Acland, Mrs F. Brittain and Miss Bessie Campbell making a very model of the old lady unable to leave her chair and a coquettish maid. 'Jessie's Dream' was the finale of a most successful evening. Miss Fairhurst sang this, the bagpipes coming in most effectively in the distance, Miss A. Matson and Miss Hoare representing Jessie and the officer's wife.

The following evening was called the select night, as it was to be a really good concert, prices accordingly. The room was fairly filled, and gave breathing room, which there certainly was not the previous night. Mrs Wilson was in excellent voice, and gave 'The Old, Old Story' and 'The Soldier's Dream' splendidly. Mrs Hadham gave two songs; Messrs Acland, Newman, Corbett, and Manning were also very successful. A banjo quartet by Messrs Blakesley, Matson, Morton, and Raphael fairly brought down the house. The Misses Helmuers gave one of their pleasing duets, and each sang a song very nicely, and Mr Matland Gardner gave his now famous 'Tarantelle,' in which he fairly rivals Mr Fater.

The next evening's programme was almost a repeat of the tableaux, but this time Mr and Mrs Humphreys excelled themselves, being quite at home in their parts, and putting a great deal of life and go into their acting. Two recitations by Mrs Chynoweth took the place of some of the tableaux, and were exceptionally good. This is becoming quite a fashionable art, but unless well done is very ludicrous. Some people think they have only to learn a piece of poetry and then they can recite. Mrs Chynoweth has evidently studied the art, and is charming.

Mrs Alan Scott's Wednesday work party did not take place, as she was out of town, so double energy must be shown next meeting.

Mrs W. P. Reeves is in town just now, but only for a short time, I believe, as she returns to Wellington next week.

The 'Wahine' Club met at Miss Hutton's last week, when an improving and enjoyable afternoon was spent.

The students at the Agricultural College, Lincoln, gave a very pleasant dance. The dining hall was prettily decorated with flags and shields, the mantel-piece draped with Liberty and pot plants, most effectively arranged on it and in the fire-place. This made an excellent ballroom, and a splendid supper was laid in the lecture-room, the table being made very pretty with two shades of Liberty and ivy. A drag left the Kirk stables about seven o'clock, taking out a number of towns folk, and did not return until six the following morning, so I should think it must be pronounced a real good time.

Mrs Neave had a large gathering of children at Okover. This had to be an indoor party, it was so cold, but Mrs and the Misses Neave were ably assisted in amusing them by the Misses Tabart, Miss Delamain, and several others.

Mr and Mrs Michael Godby, of Timaru, and Mr Walter Perrie, left by the Doric for a trip to England. We have not had so many departures lately, people not liking to arrive there and start off with a winter.

I am glad to hear the hospital lady visitors are contemplating giving another amateur performance in aid of their fund, as these are always so good.

The volunteers are very busy preparing some grand spectacular display, to come off in the theatre, to get funds for improving their new range at Bromley.

DOLLY VALE.

## DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE,

JULY 7.

The University students' ball has been the chief excitement in social circles since my last letter. It was in every way a big success, and the Garrison Hall looked its very best, prettily decorated and fitted up. The stage was devoted to the musicians, and Robertshaw's band discoursed the sweetest of music. In front of the stage was a small greenery, in the centre of which a tiny fountain played. The night was unusually warm for the season, and the dainty and cool delicacies provided were as much appreciated as the hot coffee and tea. The committee had spared no pains for the amusement and comfort of the guests, and its members are to be congratulated, for it was declared on all sides to be 'a lovely ball.' While people are whirling round the room it is all but impossible to get any fixed and definite idea of the minute details of a dress, the colours and material being about all one can grasp. There was a good deal of white worn, for a number of young ladies made their debut. Among these were Miss Winnie Gordon, Miss Ulrich, Miss Braithwaite, and Miss Black. Miss Gordon wore white corded silk with long trailing skirt, the bodice being adorned with ostrich feathers; Miss Ulrich, a dainty gown of white, the skirt of which was finished with tiny French frills; a lovely spray of white flowers adorned the bodice. The fashion of trimming the edges of the skirt is growing more and more, the old fashioned lace flounce coming in again, but unless the greatest care is manifested in the arrangement of these deep ruchings, flouncings, etc., anything but a picturesque effect is produced. Among the pink dresses Miss Fodor's was lovely. It was of a peculiarly pretty shade of cashmere, the skirt