

scene, too, was exceedingly pretty; indeed, the scenery alone is worth seeing, and deserves the highest praise.

The Flower Show has just taken place at the rink building, but unfortunately the day the flowers had to be picked was very bad, and we had had a very wet day just before, which considerably marred the beauty of some of the most lovely blossoms, and also prevented a great many who had entered from exhibiting at all. A special prize was presented by Mrs Jellicoe for the best loosely-arranged bouquet. Miss Beatrice Knight carried off the prize, Mrs England being second. Both prizes were almost entirely white, and were very pretty, but not at all my idea of a loosely arranged bouquet. They were so flat and round, instead of being raised in the centre and loose like the artistic fashionable bouquets of the present day. A dinner table decorated excited a good deal of admiration, being the work of Mrs Jellicoe and Mrs Charles Izard. Arum lilies and ferns occupied the centre, prettily draped round about with yellow figured art muslin, which was scattered about the edge with loose cut flowers. The table was completely flat for dessert, the finger glasses having a tiny flower in each, and the fruit being artfully decorated. One of the great features of the show is a table completely covered with exhibits sent by Mr Thomas Mason, of the Hutt, consisting of vegetables, fruit, and flowers, amongst them being a very beautiful specimen of that very rare plant—the Waratah, of Australia. Mrs Joseph Bourne is, as usual, a large exhibitor, one very fine collection of calcarias being in my opinion the best exhibit in the show. The ferns were lovely, especially the beautiful English maiden-hair fern. There were prizes for all the schools for bouquets. Miss Kate West won the prize among all the girl's schools. The show is not quite as good as usual, I think, but the committee have worked hard, and have had to labour under serious difficulties. The show of pansies was wonderful, but strange to say, there was a very poor show of roses. I cannot think why, for they have been so lovely lately. A large number of ladies attended at the opening in the afternoon, and the building was again crowded in the evening.

The Thurston Lawn Tennis Club is to open with a large afternoon tea given by the members.

The following Saturday we are to have the Athletic Sports on the Basin Reserve.

We also have the Show to look forward to next week, and a Harmonic concert the night before the Show.

Such numbers of people have gone to Christchurch for the Carnival week there, but we expect them all to return in time for our festivities.

Judge Richmond and his daughter, Miss Emmie Richmond, have gone to Napier to be present at Mr Alfred Richmond's marriage to Miss Rockford. I have just heard the news of Miss A. Richmond's engagement to Mr Blake, which took place in England, where the Misses Richmond have lately been visiting.

Here is clipping which I am quite sure will be read with interest by all New Zealanders, as those mentioned are so well known to us: 'The many Wellington friends and admirers of Miss Katharine Hardy will be interested to learn that she is to appear shortly in grand opera in Melbourne, taking one of the principal soprano parts. Mozart's famous opera 'Le Nozze di Figaro' is to be produced on the 7th December, in celebration of the composer's centenary. In this work, as in the same master's 'Don Giovanni,' there are no fewer than three 'first soprano' roles, each requiring an artiste of the highest class. In the present instance the part of Cherubino (so eminently associated with the renowned names of Christine Nilsson and Pauline Lucca) has been allotted to Miss K. Hardy, while another Wellington favourite, Madame Bahnsen and Madame Elise Weideman (wife of the Austrian Consul) will represent the other soprano characters, Susanna and the Countess. Judging from the rehearsals the Melbourne musical authorities predict a great success for this interesting performance.'

RUBY.

## PALMERSTON NORTH.

DEAR BEE,

NOVEMBER 12.

Palmerston has been very quiet lately until the last week of two, when we have had a little more excitement, and I thought perhaps you might like to hear of our doings. The last dance of the season was given by Mrs Snelson, and was a great success, as that most popular of hostesses entertainments usually are. The large dining-room was converted into a ball-room and the adjoining conservatory, with its lovely flowers and cabbage palms, was a delightfully cool and much favoured resort after dancing. Being the end of the season there were not many new dresses. Mrs Snelson wore a handsome gown of heliotrope satin draped with black lace; Mrs Richter was in a most elegant black satin dress with a train; Mrs Harrison looked very nice in black lace with pink roses on the bodice; Mrs W. H. Smith was also in black lace; Mrs Mannestad and Madame Miller were both in black; Miss McKenzie's dress of pink silk gauze looked very pretty; Miss Clapperton wore black with pink flowers; Miss Fainchild (Wellington) was in pink velvet; Miss Shannon, pink net dress; Miss Minnie Shannon, white tulle gown; Miss McBeth (Marton), black velvet heliotrope chiffon frill (very pretty); Miss Waldegrave, handsome black merveilleux gown with black beaded girdle; Miss Randolph, white velvet draped with white lace; Miss Mueller, lovely blue silk dress; Miss Keeling, black net; Miss Watkins, pink and white; Miss Barnell was in pale blue silk; and Miss Ada Barnell, in red.

The annual football concert came off, and was a decided success. The secretary, Mr Kelleher, and the committee are to be complimented upon their excellent management. The programme, which was an unusually good one, was greatly appreciated by the large audience. During the interval, the prizes which had been competed for during the season were presented to the winners by Mrs Clapperton. Mr J. Mowlem, best forward, and Mr W. Jewell, best back, were the fortunate recipients.

Tennis has started again, much to the delight of our many enthusiastic players. The opening day was beautifully fine, and our popular secretary, Mr Harrison, kept the games going briskly all afternoon. Amongst those on the courts were Mrs Fitzherbert, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Leary, and the Misses Clapperton, Muir (Dunedin), Randolph, Keeling, Lloyd, and Armstrong, and the gentlemen were Messrs

Harrison, Fitzherbert, Mathias, Costello, Cramp, Kock, and others; whilst those who were not playing enjoyed the delicious tea provided by the committee.

KIWI.

[I have written to you.—LADY EDITOR.]

## CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE,

NOVEMBER 14.

Lady Onslow's garden party was one of the pleasantest things of its kind I have been to. The gracious and sweet manner of the Countess's reception of her guests, combined with the Governor's geniality—for both welcomed at once and all as if old friends—put people at their ease at once, and out of the three or four hundred present all one's acquaintances seemed to be there. The Countess wore a cream silk gown with bonnet to match, and carried a lovely bouquet of roses, presented by Mrs E. C. J. Stevens, whose garden is famed for its roses. A large marquee was erected on the lawn nearest the house, where tea and coffee and other light refreshments were served. The day was very fine, but a cold wind blew late in the afternoon, and the guests began to disperse about five. The little Ladies Gwendoline and Dorothy were present in exquisitely embroidered white muslin frocks, with grey coats and hats. There were many pretty and tasteful costumes worn, and some very handsome ones. Mrs G. Roberts looked extremely well in a lovely grey with gold embroidery, bonnet to match; Mrs Acton Adams, in grey with wide stripes; Mrs Julius, myrtle green silk with cream vest of embroidery, bonnet to match; the Hon. Mrs Parker, grey dress with gold cord, black three-quarter cloak and grey hat; Mrs R. Wilson, pale fawn with rich embroidery; Mrs Leonard Harper, black costume; Mrs J. Gibbs, blue spotted washing silk trimmed with white lace, black and gold bonnet; Mrs (Dr.) Jennings, in French grey corduroy, Newmarket jacket, shady grey lace straw hat with white ostrich tips (a strikingly pretty costume); Mrs Chynoweth, grey blue and fawn tweed with large invisible check, fawn bonnet with pale blue feathers; Mrs Hargreaves, black silk, with lace mantle, black and gold bonnet; Mrs R. D. Thomas, fawn and brown tweed, small bonnet to match; Miss (Queenie) Campbell, blue flowered delaine with blue silk yoke, blue flowers in her bonnet; Miss Cunningham, cream delaine with blue flowers, and cornflower blue three-quarter cloak, large shady hat; Miss E. Helmore, a pretty grey dress, three-quarter cloak, and shady hat with tips *en suite*. Mrs Greenwood, navy blue silk. I could go on describing many more who looked equally well—Mrs Cunningham, Mrs (Dr.) Townd, Mrs Common, Mrs Weymouth, and many more, while there were some equally fantastic, not to say ugly, costumes worn. The gentlemen for the most part wore a frock coat and tall hat. Some were in grey with corresponding hat, many not disguised at all, and some a mixture of the two first-mentioned styles with a not very pleasing effect, and all with a button-hole.

Mrs G. Roberts had a large party of friends to afternoon tea. Mrs Neville Barnett (Sydney), Mrs Appleby, Mrs C. Cook, Mrs (Dr.) Thomas, Mrs W. Wilson, Mrs Batham, Mrs Mallion, Mrs Kinsey, Mrs (Dr.) Jennings, and Miss Harly Johnston were some of the guests. Tea was served in the dining-room, and on a hot day is a pleasant arrangement, as the drawing-room gets cool and all the hot tea is left behind. Pleasant chat and music soon brought the afternoon to a close. But I must tell you how lovely the tea-table looked with its centre piece of brown plush bordered with white Persian lilac, with a few rather tall vases of the same down the centre, and with the pretty cakes and china looked exquisite.

Miss Greenwood had a girls' tea the same afternoon, which was much enjoyed. Miss A. Greenwood sang 'Good-night.' Her sister also gave a song, and Miss E. Turner, Miss Hutton, Miss Meeson, and Miss Reynolds (Dunedin). Miss Campbell sang a song, accompanying herself on the guitar. Miss Gladys Wilson and Miss Meeson, recited amusing pieces. Amongst those present were, the Misses Rhodes, Tabart, Wynn-Williams, Lean, Palmer, Mein, Maude, Ballock, and Cowlishaw. There were such delicious wafles with tea.

It was an Labour Demonstration Day, which commenced with the usual procession, but did not seem so successful as last year, not so many taking part. It ended its way eventually to Lancaster Park, where sports were held, and fairly well attended; but our two seaside resorts always attract a very large number on every holiday. In the evening a social was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, but again interests were divided. Bland Holt's last piece was on, and many were eager to see such a good thing.

The Hagley Park tennis courts were opened on a perfect day, and all the courts were kept going, the grass being in splendid condition, and very green at present. The ladies pretty bright bouquets made a charming picture. The Misses Harman and Lean had a very daintily-laid-out tea in the pavilion. I saw there Mrs Walter Allivier, in a grey flowered cotton trimmed with thick white lace; Mrs Withnall, in black, with handsome mantle; Miss Withnall, in a pretty grey three-quarter cloak; Mrs McKenzie Gibson, Mrs George Harris, Mrs W. Wilcock, the Misses Greenwood, Meeson, E. Turner, Reynolds (Dunedin), Tutton, Lingard, Delamain, and several others, though there was not so large a gathering as usual.

This was also a very great day with the Salvation Army, the arrival of General Booth having been looked for for so many weeks. The welcome was most hearty, and plenty of it, lasting all day, and the poor old man looked quite exhausted until he began to speak, when he warmed to his subject.

In the evening Mr and Mrs Stead gave a fancy dress ball for children from six to nine, then a dance for their older young friends. The house was made beautiful with floral decorations from top to bottom, lilac and fleur-de-lis being in abundance. Refreshments for the little ones were laid downstairs, and a most *recherche* supper for the elders in the dining-room. Two rooms and the hall were used for dancing, the folding doors being such an excellent arrangement for a thing of this kind. Among the fancy dresses some little mites looked very sweet. Mrs Stead's little girl was Dresden China, in pale blue and white; her brothers, Robin Hood and his Merry Men in the correct Lincoln green; Mrs Burns' two little girls as Fairy and Butterfly; Master Bruges, Gentleman of the Nineteenth Century, in the most miniature

dress clothes ever made, I should think; Miss Julius, Sleeping Beauty, in the dress she wore in the play of that name at Mrs Humphreys' ball; little Miss Mason most successfully disguised as the Daughter of the Regiment. There were gipsies, peasants, kings and courtiers, etc., in endless variety, and the game of 'Luby Light' had quite as many devotees as the dancing. About ten o'clock the elders took the floor, and some very pretty dresses were worn. Mrs Stead had a very handsome white silk with pearl embroidered front; her niece, Miss Palmer, black, with rich white sash hand painted; Miss Cunningham, pale heliotrope; Miss B. Cunningham, a *debutante*, lovely white dress with lilies of the valley; Miss Delamain, black, with pink feathers; Miss F. Greenwood, white, with gold girdle; Miss R. Tabart, black, with jet trimming; Miss E. Tabart, grey, with pink roses; Miss Campbell, cream striped gauze and lace; Miss Hennah, white flowered silk; Miss Helmore, fawn, with bands of velvet of darker shade; Miss M. Tanner, soft white silk; the Misses Murray-Wynn-Williams, soft white silk; the Misses Murray-Aynley, the Misses Cowlishaw, and Miss Black all wore white; Miss Graham and Miss McCulloch, black. Fleming's music was, as usual, delicious to dance to.

General Booth held a large invitation meeting in the Oddfellows' Hall, only a few of the officers of the Army being present, when he talked about his scheme, which he is very enthusiastic about, and seems to have a longing for New Zealand, but I don't think we have such a longing for his people.

At the polo match a good many were present, and Mrs Palmer gave a delicious tea. The Governor was there for a short time. I also saw Mrs G. Lee, Mrs Stead, Miss Palmer, Mrs and Miss Kimbell, the Misses Rhodes, Aynsley, Helmore, Delamain, Tabart, and others.

By the Kaikoura we lost our energetic stage manager, Mr E. W. Seager, for a time, he having gone to England on a short visit. He will be greatly missed should there be any private theatricals or anything of the kind during his absence.

DOLLY VALE.

## DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE,

NOVEMBER 11.

The weather was horribly disagreeable for the garden party given by Mrs and Bishop Nevill in honour of Bishop and Mrs Julius. The rain poured in torrents, and instead of the two hundred expected guests about seventy were present. Although the garden could not be availed of, inside the house all was cheerfulness and pleasure, for the large house at 'Bishopsgrove' was equal to the occasion, and everybody was accommodated without the least discomfort. Among the guests were Mesdames Robert Turnbull, Sise, and Misses Sise, Mesdames Edwards, Farmer, Gibson, and Miss Gibson, Mrs B. C. Haggitt, Mrs Williams and the Misses Williams, Mrs and Miss Belcher, Mesdames J. M. Richie, Davies, Allan, Chapman, Chamberlain, Branson, Hales and Miss Hales, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Fitchett, Mrs F. Fitchett, Miss Fitchett, Misses Webster (2), James, Carr (Melbourne), Neil, Lubbecki, and Robertson. Mrs Julius wore a dark prune silk dress, and black bonnet; Mrs Nevill, handsome black; Miss Neville, pretty grey costume; Mrs Belcher, brown merveilleux with Newmarket jacket, brown bonnet; Miss Belcher, smoke coloured velvet dress, and large black hat with feathers; Mrs Edwards, dark red broché; Mrs Robert Turnbull, moss green cashmere; Mrs Williams; Mrs Gibson, handsome black silk and lace mantles; Miss Gibson, green cashmere; Mrs Edwards (Wellington), lovely dress of cream cashmere trimmed with old gold Maltese lace and green silk, large cream hat covered with feathers; Miss Webster, dress of green tatan, very large checks, black hat covered with blue cornflowers; Miss Fitchett, fawn tweed with invisible blue check, Newmarket jacket with Medici collar and vest of blue silk, cream hat trimmed with blue cornflowers; Mrs Fitchett, black dress and lace mantle, and black bonnet trimmed with lilies of the valley; Mrs F. Fitchett, prune cashmere trimmed and with vest of gold embroidery; Mrs Awdry (Southland), handsome dress of light brown tweed, and dark brown velvet bonnet; Miss (Melbourne), dress of French grey cashmere, large hat trimmed with feathers; Miss E. Carr, light green cashmere trimmed with ribbon velvet of the same colour, black hat with gold butterflies; Miss Hales, heliotrope, with stripes of a darker colour, white hat with feathers.

Amongst other hospitalities, Bishop and Mrs Julius, with Bishop and Mrs Nevill, were entertained at a quiet but pleasant luncheon by Archdeacon and Mrs Fenton in their new house, Montpellier. Bishop Nevill is very enthusiastic about the future of the Selwyn college.

The Otago Tennis Court had a lovely afternoon for the opening, and the pretty grounds never looked prettier. There was, of course, delightful tea, and all sorts of nice confectionery. There is a nice little pavilion on the grounds which commands a good view of the courts. This was crowded, and so were the lawns with gaily attired visitors. Among those present were Mesdames Williams, Miss and Mary Williams, Mrs Spence, Misses Spence (2), Mrs Reynolds and the Misses Reynolds (5), Mrs E. C. Reynolds, and Mrs Leslie Reynolds, Mrs James Mills, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Neils, Mrs and Miss Fenton, Mrs Morris, Mrs F. Fitchett, Mrs Rayse and Miss Rayse, Mrs Hoes, Mrs Branson, Miss Branson, Mrs Colquhoun, Mrs Woodhouse, Mrs Kidding, Mrs A. Bathgate, Mrs Stanburd, and the Misses Stanford (2), Mrs Martin and Miss Martin, Mrs Galloway, Mrs Rose, Mrs Thompson (Christchurch), Mrs Grey (Port Chalmers), Mrs W. Kennedy, Miss Kennedy, Mrs Denniston, Mrs Cameron, Mrs A. Kennedy, Mrs Hertslett, Mrs R. Fulton, Mrs Stock, Mrs Jeffcoat, Mrs and Miss Grierson, Mrs R. Gillies, Lady Stout, Mrs De Zouche, Mrs Joachim, Mrs Stephenson, Miss T. Stephenson, Mrs Melland, Mrs and the Misses Garratt. Mrs Jeffcoat wore a handsome dress of black silk and lace, and black hat; Mrs Thompson, very stylish dress of pale heliotrope with large white spots on it, Newmarket bodice, and hat to match; Mrs Stephenson, very handsome dress of black brocade, black bonnet; Miss T. Stephenson, heliotrope dress, and hat with heliotrope chiffon; Miss K. Stephenson, fawn dress, and Newmarket jacket; Miss Reynolds, blue and white striped dress, hat to match; Mrs S. Reynolds, dress of forget-me-not blue, hat trimmed with forget-me-nots; Miss Grierson, brown dress, brown hat