

THE footballers, who have just returned from Australia, have been most warmly welcomed and congratulated, a formal reception having been given them as well as a 'social' in Thomas' Hall, Wellington, which was largely attended, music, recitations, etc., being performed to entertain them.

MUSICAL people in Napier seem very much pleased with their new musician—Mr Barnett. His playing (says my correspondent) is truly wonderful. His concerts—despite the atrocious weather, which is always bad now—attract a large and critical audience, most of whom have taken season tickets. One item, rendered lately, 'Chopin's Storm Study' in C. Minor, was greatly appreciated. The musical society is to be re-organised by Mr Barnett, the rehearsal taking place in St John's schoolroom. Bennett's 'May Queen,' and later on the 'Messiah,' are the proposed pieces. It is to be hoped a number of people will join, as about sixty voices are needed. A rumour was spread that Mr Barnett would not remain long in Napier, but happily, this has been contradicted. Mrs Barnett and two sweet little girls are now with him.

ARBOUR DAY in Picton was, like the generality of holidays in these degenerate times, wet. The head teacher of the borough schools, inspired with the heroic fortitude which defies wind and weather, gathered his pupils around him, and sallied forth into the soddened school grounds and planted trees, but the ladies' proposed expedition to Laughing Bob's Bay to plant that favourite spot with willows and Portugal laurels, had perforce to be abandoned. The Picton Fire Brigade held a very successful social in the evening, of which an account will be found in Society Gossip, and thus the day was celebrated in Picton.

WITHOUT having exactly taken Auckland by storm, the Misses Albu are slowly and surely acquiring popularity here. Their appearance at the Opera House on Monday night was the occasion of a much larger audience than greeted them in the Choral Hall. Miss Julie's clear, powerful voice was heard to advantage in Sullivan's 'Lost Chord,' and 'The Song That Reached my Heart' (Jordan), while Miss Rose's rendering of Cowen's beautiful song, 'It was a Dream,' and 'Remember me no More' (Sir W. Robinson) received storms of applause. The pianoforte accompaniments were played by Miss Harding. Miss Julie Albu wore black lace profusely trimmed with beads, black sash, Watteau back, red poppies on right shoulder, fawn gloves, and black satin shoes completed a tasteful toilet; Miss Rose Albu wore rich pale blue silk striped with black lace, white kid gloves.

HUNTING.

HASTINGS.

THE last meet of the season was held at Gwavas, a great number of people being present. Mr and Mrs Arthur Carlyon entertained the party at luncheon. At twelve o'clock the drag was laid by Mr D. Campbell on Mr Giblin's hunter Diana, over a first-class line of country, consisting of gorse hedges, post and rail, ditch and banks, and one water jump. Mr and Mrs Giblin were not present. The thanks of all hunting men are due to Messrs Carlyon, Vestry, and Ingram, for their kindness in allowing the hounds to run over their country.

THE hounds were brought into the paddock by the master at 12.20, with the whips, Messrs Jackson and Haesall, on Barbarian and Skipper; the master rode Briar. The horses and hounds appeared in first-rate condition, and indeed proved very fit, as they were nearly as fresh at the finish as they were at the start. The run was about nine miles. The first double was negotiated in good style. Mr Kinross White came to grief on his late purchase, WI Parata, but he was soon in the saddle again. There were no other mistakes during the first part of the run. In the second burst Miss Miller met with a slight accident. She was riding Desmond in her usual good style when her horse slipped at a double. However, she was soon in the saddle again and saw the finish. Mrs Rhodes was riding Arkwright, but was most unfortunate as her horse was lamed through colliding with another. However, another of Mrs Rhodes' horses, Fordham, happened, luckily, to be at hand, and was soon carrying his popular owner in his usual good style. There were no other accidents, and everyone agreed that this had been one of the most popular days of the season.

AMONGST others I noticed Miss Holden on a chestnut; Mr James Marshall on a chestnut; Mr Arthur Carlyon on Hybrids; Mr H. Carlyon on Baronet; Mr Berney, on Revolt; Mr Holden on a grey; Mr H. Rodgers on Chief Mourner; Mr Baker on a bay; Mr G. Johnston on Fordham; Mr Taylor on a chestnut, by Ronald; Mr Du Croz on a bay; Mr Lawrence Cottle on Rankaws; Mr N. Williams on Charcoal; Mr Maurice Mason on Repo; Mr L. Mackerry on Wallace; Mr John Ormond on Forty Winks; Mr Frank Ormond on Moe Moe; Mr W. Fairburn on Banker; Mr W. Hastie on an upstanding bay; Dr. Godfray on Speedy; Mr Howard on a bay; Mr Stewart Bridge on Pyramus; Mr M. Groom on Tip Top; Mr T. Groom on Explorer; Mr G. Groom on Joe; Mr Jack Groom on Cornet; Mr Ernest Nelson on Poto; and Mr Bennet on Revenge. The season is to be wound up with a dinner, which is to take place at the Empire Hotel, Waipawa. I hope it will turn out a grand success. I hear the tickets are going off fast.

THE NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY OF ARTS, WELLINGTON.

CONGRATULATIONS may be sincerely offered the members of the New Zealand Academy of Arts, Wellington, who after a long and sometimes disheartening trouble, are now in a fair way to witness the realisation of their high ideal. The President, Mr C. D. Barraud, will on the 16th of September have his fondest hopes realised, for the annual exhibition will then be held in the Academy's own building, to the creation of which his indefatigable energy and generosity have so greatly contributed. On another occasion we shall have much to say concerning the academy and those whose efforts are now successfully crowned. At that time the name of Mr Koch, the energetic secretary, will be in the foremost list of those who have laboured for the Academy. To his tact, knowledge of art, and enthusiasm are undoubtedly due much of the credit of the present results. At this writing, however, notice is merely drawn to the fact that an exhibition, which ought to be the representative exhibition of New Zealand art, will be held and opened in about a month's time. It is to be hoped that artists from all over the colony will forward pictures, and that patrons will loosen their purse strings and liberally encourage a noble and elevating profession.

AUCKLAND RINKING CLUB.

A CHEERY and particularly smart function was the last club night at the Columbia Rink in Auckland. Bad weather and clashing with other entertainments affected the attendance on the two previous Thursdays, but on this occasion the place was crowded, nearly all the best-known faces in society being present. The spectators were largely in the majority. The music was good, and the floor and skates in excellent order. Several waltzes afforded expert rinkists a chance of 'showing off,' and two sets of Lancers caused considerable merriment both amongst the participants and spectators. The affair was scarcely so amusing as usual from a spectator's point of view, since there were few if any beginners, and falls were of very rare occurrence. Several of those who are (rightly or wrongly) popularly supposed to 'lead the fashion,' were present at the rink last Thursday, so the boom may now be fairly said to have started in earnest. Wednesday morning appears to be the popular one for ladies for practice, but there is a fair sprinkling on most days before twelve.

AMUSEMENTS.

COLUMBIA SKATING RINK.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.

10.30 to 12 (ladies only) 6d including skates.
2.30 to 4.30 1s
7.30 to 10. Admission, 1s; Skates, 1s.

Instructors in Attendance.

E. A. FARRINGTON.

THE NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, WELLINGTON.

FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

Will be opened on SATURDAY, THE 16TH SEPTEMBER, At 3 p.m.

TO ARTISTS AND AMATEURS:

Forms of entry for exhibition or competition can be obtained from J. Leach, Shortland-street, Auckland; Messrs Fisher and Son, High-street, Christchurch; McGregor Wright, Princess-street, Dunedin and Wellington; and T. Savage and Son, Hardy-street, Nelson.

A. KOCH, Hon. Secretary.

PONSONBY 'AT HOME,' PONSONBY HALL, AT EIGHT P.M.

THE FOURTH DANCE OF THE SEASON

Will be held on FRIDAY NEXT, AUGUST 18TH INSTANT. Omnibus leaves Choral Hall at 7.20, returning after the dance. Tickets on application to the committee, or FRED. A. CLARKE, Corner Vulcan Lane and High-street.

OPERA HOUSE.

THE MISSES ALBU, ENGLAND'S GREAT SOPRANOS, AND COMPANY.

EVERY EVENING UNTIL 19TH AUGUST.

ADMISSION: 4s, 2s 6d, and 1s.

Tickets and plan at Wildman and Lyell's. Daysales at Partick's. M. L. M. PLUNKETT, Manager.

JUST RECEIVED,

A beautiful assortment of BALL PROGRAMMES, CARDS and PENCILS, also MENU, WEDDING, INVITATION, VISITING and other CARDS at the GRAPHIC Office. ALL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

BISHOP JULIUS AT HOME AGAIN.

THE most notable of a large number of passengers on board the Ruahine which arrived in New Zealand waters on Monday last was Bishop Julius, the most popular divine south of the line. It was hoped by the Auckland people that the Bishop would have been able to lecture in their city, but it was not to be. The prelate felt it incumbent on him to return forthwith to Christchurch, notwithstanding the pressing invitation from Bishop Cowie to stop a few days in Auckland. Bishop Julius looked greatly benefited by the trip, and in a few moments' conversation with a GRAPHIC representative expressed himself as highly pleased with his visit to the Old Country, and the kindness and hospitality shown himself and his family on every side. He had a very busy time, and was greatly interested in the social work which now absorbs so much of the energy and attention of the church. He has received the promise of some very handsome decorations for his cathedral—a fact which will be extremely pleasing to the people of Christchurch.

Our picture is from an excellent amateur photo by Mr Pitt, many of whose artistic and pictures have already been reproduced in the GRAPHIC. Our best thanks are due to his courteous loans and donations.



Amateur photo. by Mr Pitt.

BISHOP JULIUS.