



TOPICS OF THE WEEK

SOCIETY'S SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR and the Countess of Glasgow, with Lady Augusta Boyle, Miss Wauchope, and Captain Clayton, have left New Zealand in the Waihora in order to be present in Melbourne when the grand Cup Race comes off. Very many New Zealanders are following their example, and the affair, always a smart society function, promises to be even more brilliant than usual this year. Sir James Prendergast has been sworn in as Acting-Governor during Lord Glasgow's absence.

By the Rotorua the Vice-regal party arrived in Lyttelton to attend the wedding of Captain Hunter-Blair and Miss Emily Rhoads. It consisted of the Earl and Countess of Glasgow, Lord Kelburne, the Ladies Augusta, Alice, and Dorothy Boyle, Miss Wauchope, and Captain Clayton, A.D.C. Lord and Lady Glasgow and Lord Kelburne were the guests of Mrs Rhoads, Elmwood, and Miss Wauchope and some of the party were staying with Mr and Mrs A. E. G. Rhoads.

DURING Saturday afternoon Lord Glasgow and his son visited the Cavalry Sports at Addington, which were not nearly so well attended as usual, owing to the dull, cold weather, and the counter attraction of the opening of the boating season. The sports caused considerable amusement until an unfortunate accident occurred, resulting in the death of a valuable horse belonging to Mrs George Rhoads, Meadowbank. This marred the proceedings, though happily the rider escaped with a dislocated wrist. The horse became frightened at the people, and twice refused his jumps at the wire fence, and at the third attempt got entangled in the top wire and fell head foremost, breaking its neck. On Sunday the Camp was visited by numbers of town people, the Engineers' band playing some good selections of sacred music. Lord and Lady Glasgow were the guests of the officers during the afternoon.

COLONEL FOX inspected the troops on Friday afternoon, and expressed himself as entirely satisfied with their work and appearance, saying no doubt they considered his remarks last year very severe, but he had only done his duty, and the way they had taken up the new drill as suggested by him, and their smartness and neat appearance generally, greatly pleased him. Captain Wright, the commanding officer, on dismissing the troop was able to congratulate them on the marked improvement. He thanked the officers for their zeal, and the support accorded him, and the men for their obedience. The Ambulance Corps under Surgeon Jennings also received the approbation of the commanding officer for their efficient services. In the evening the troop entertained the Christ College Rifles at a smoke concert in the large mess-room. To enable those who wished to take part in the annual sports on Saturday, guard was relieved by the Christchurch Mounted Rifles. Camp was struck early on Monday morning, the southern contingent returning by train, the Northern and Little River men riding. The Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry have presented 10g. to the Agricultural and Pastoral Association's prize fund. This comes as a grateful acknowledgment to the Association for the use of the Show Grounds for the week's training of the Cavalry there.

THE Judge's Bay Regatta Committee met last week and drew up a preliminary programme for this popular annual fixture. There seems but little doubt that the function this year will excel those of any previous year. There will be two yacht races, and one for centreboard yachts and fishing boats. The rowing events need not be mentioned categorically. Oarsmen will find that the events are well arranged, and should afford excellent and exciting races. There will be a greasy boom, a duck hunt, a tilting match, and several other attractive side shows. The Poisonby Pegatta people, it is said, will not gain much by their attempts to forestall the Judge's Bay by fixing their date immediately ahead of the established favourite. The Judge's Bay people have shown themselves good caterers, and will receive liberal support.

A DELIGHTFUL evening was spent by a favoured few at St. John's, Nelson, last Wednesday, when Mr and Mrs Fell gave a musical evening to their friends. Of course the attraction of the evening was Herr Baling, his viola alta solos being a rare treat to all lovers of music in Nelson. His music is entrancing, and people listen spellbound to the sweet sounds he produces from his instrument. Others contributing to the evening's enjoyment were Miss Jackson, Miss B. Atkinson, Mrs Houliker, Mr Fell, Reva J. P. Kempthorne and Chatterton, and the Bishop of Nelson. A dainty supper brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

THE opening of the boating season as regards attendance and the usual brilliance of the banks of the river was completely spoiled by the unpropitious weather. A cold easterly wind and gloomy sky is no signal for 'our girls' to introduce pretty costumes to the public, though the boating men continue to make this a very attractive day, and only positive rain could render it a failure. There was the usual crush on the little footbridge, and the banks of the river looked like a promenade instead of the usual garden party. The Canterbury and Union Rowing Clubs threw open their rooms in a most kindly and hospitable manner, serving tea and cake to all comers. Mr H. Thomson once again essayed the post of Marshal in a highly satisfactory manner. The procession of boats, numbering now over sixty, was a very pretty sight with their floral decorations. A few scratch races finished up the afternoon, but after the formal opening the greater number of spectators thought there was no place like home.



GUONOD.

AN interesting article on the great composer who died last week appears in the 'Smoke Room' page this week. Our picture is from the painting recently exhibited in the Paris Salon.

PROFESSOR CARROLLO is to be congratulated upon the improvement which his boys annually display in their gymnastic performances. On Monday evening the Auckland public had another opportunity of proving the excellence of a '*Mens sana in corpore sano*' as regards our Auckland youth. The Opera House, upstairs and down, was packed with proud papas and mammas and admiring little sisters, who applauded loudly every feat of the youthful gymnasts, although the mammas occasionally gave a gasp of relief when dear Johnny or Tommy or Willie landed safely on his feet after a series of thrilling aerial evolutions. The Grand March was very effective, the orchestra supplying inspiring music, to which the boys kept perfect time. Professor Carrollo has made himself very popular among his pupils. It is an attribute of boyish nature to hero-worship, and the eager attention of these young gymnasts when the Professor himself takes the floor plainly indicate where their admiration is bestowed. May his popularity increase and the coming generation of Auckland be a race of powerful, able-bodied, and also able-minded men!

THERE have been several pleasant parties in Dunedin during the week. One was a return ball given to the ex-High School girls in the Choral Hall, which was tastefully draped with flags, and the stage adorned with ferns and pot plants, and furnished with drawing-room chairs and lounges. The supper-table was decorated with yellow silk and trails of lovely white clematis. The dance was most enjoyable. There were very few new dresses worn, but what there were appear elsewhere.

AMONGST the many pleasant dances arranged this season for young Auckland, that given by Colonel and Mrs Dawson at 'Arborfield,' Ellerslie, last Friday, must rank in the first row. It took the form of a fancy dress ball, for which over one hundred invitations were issued. About eighty young people came, half of whom were in fancy dress. The night was exceptionally lovely, the moon lighting up the harbour and gently silencing the waters of the lake. It was so warm and inviting in the garden that between the fourteen dances of the programme it was quite a favoured resort. Extras were charmingly played by the Misses Gypsy Walker and Hilda Worsp. Miss Dolly Walker played the violin with Mr Bertram Dawson. The ballroom floor and the music came in for much praise, the musicians being in the anteroom off the ballroom.

THE supper table looked very pretty, the decorations being lemon-coloured gauze and geranium crinkled paper, arranged fan style, the centrepieces being a dolphin with ferns and ixias, different kinds of sandwiches, patties, oysters, trifles, jellies, varieties of cakes and sweetmeats, with iced claret cup, lemonade, tea and coffee, wine, etc. The room was thrown open for refreshments soon after 9 o'clock, and was steadily patronised up till 12.30. There did not appear to be any wallflowers, as the hostess and hosts exerted themselves to keep the ball rolling, and everyone danced with a will. The floral decorations were high arrangements of ferns, arums, bamboo, grasses, etc., and the house was lighted up with lamps and coloured shades, Japanese lanterns, etc.

AT the third Chamber concert, Wellington, a trio by Reissiger was splendidly performed by Mr T. Tallis Trimmell (piano), Mr H. Spackman (violin), and Mr H. T. Edger (cello), and was the gem of the evening. Beethoven's Quartet in E Flat was also extremely well performed by Miss Medley (piano) and Messrs Spackman (viola), G. Kennedy (violin), and Edger (cello). Mr Tallis Trimmell played two pianoforte solos in first class style, and Mr Edger contributed a 'cello solo. Mr Geddis, the only vocalist, sang 'The Aara,' Schumann's 'Bride's Song,' and Mendelssohn's 'Song of the Savoyard.' There are still three more in the series (of six) to look forward to. They are given about once every week or ten days, and are looked forward to with much pleasure by lovers of classical music.

MRS SOWERBY (Auckland) was presented on Monday evening, at the breaking up of one of her juvenile dancing classes, with a pretty afternoon tea table, also two sets of afternoon tea cloths, etc. They were presented by little Miss Ida Sharland (four and a half years old) on behalf of the class, and accompanied with a present from herself. The Tuesday evening adult class made a very handsome presentation in the shape of a most beautiful afternoon tea service on tray, also a lovely pair of vases. Wednesday adult class followed with a large photograph album on stand. Each presentation was accompanied with a very flattering address signed by the pupils.

THE annual reunion of Wellington's local branch of the Public Service Association proved a more than usually enjoyable affair, the committee having arranged for a concert and dance instead of the usual conversation. There was a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen in Thomas' Hall, where it took place, and at the conclusion of the concert the floor was cleared and dancing was kept up until midnight. A committee of ladies supplied an excellent supper, and helped also with the decorations, which were very pretty. They were Mesdames Pilcher, J. Burns, W. James, J. M. King, Evans, De Castro, Redward, Allport, Hales, and Hugh Pollen. Mr O'Sullivan made an able secretary, and was assisted by the Committee, consisting of Messrs Hugh Pollen, Gibbs, King, McCordle, Holmes, McKay, Allen, Montgomery, De Castro, Barnett and James. Mr Hugh Pollen, the chairman of the local committee, made a short speech and welcomed the guests, after which the concert began. Mrs Peter Webb sang 'The Ship Boy's Letter,' Mr F. Pope, 'The Two Grenadiers,' Mr Ramsey, 'Go, Lovely Rose,' Mr Clothier, 'Alice, Where Art Thou,' Mr Marks and Mr Morgan each contributed a recitation, and a couple of glees were well sung by Messrs Hickson, Edger, A. Gray, and Clothier. Mr Camino's string band supplied the music for dancing, and it was altogether considered a most successful gathering.

TO-MORROW (Thursday) and Friday evenings Miss Dargon is announced to give a series of dramatic sketches in the Opera House, Auckland. She comes with a good reputation in her line, and will doubtless do well.