

Society Gossip.

AUCKLAND.

DEAR BEE,

DECEMBER 19.

Our women folk are rejoicing in dainty summer dresses at length, and look charming in consequence. I will begin my letter with the gowns worn at the

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

Amongst the performers were Miss Keene in rose corall silk, and her sister, black lace; Miss Harding, black with green sleeves; Mrs Stewart, cream silk gown en traine. Amongst the audience I noticed, Mrs Nashelski, grey; Mrs Aitken-Carrick, dark blue spotted; Mrs E. Lewis, black and white; Miss (L. D.) Nathan, lovely trained black tulle; Miss Dolly Davis, pink; Mrs Butt, black brocaded satin; Miss Colbeck, pretty pink and green cashmere; Mrs Isidor Alexander, stylish grey striped lustre; Mrs R. Kee, red opera cloak; Miss Atkinson, white; and her sisters, black skirts, pink and blue blouses respectively; Miss Wilkins, brown velvet and grey Tudor cape; Mrs Fenwick, black velvet; Mrs Sterrick, grey trimmed with velvet; Miss Batzer, cream; Mrs MacFarlane, rich black satin with black lace; Miss Durieu, black and white striped gown; Miss Howa, blue spotted dress with white lace; Miss Warren, white muslin; Miss Laird, black; Miss Rose Laird, black lace gown en traine; Miss Kelly, mode grey with black velvet; Miss Harding, white cashmere, blue opera coat; Miss Reed, white; Miss Felkin, grey, and her sister, cream; the Misses Brown, blue delaines.

Many of our people are filling their houses with guests for the Christmas festivities while others are leaving for the holiday season. Amongst the latter Mrs. E. C. Forbes, who is leaving for Fernleigh in the excellent care of her daughter, Mrs E. C. Forbes, whilst she takes a much needed trip to Sydney. Mrs Wilks and family and Mrs A. B. Wright are going down to St. Helier's in a month.

DRESSES AT THE AGRICULTURAL SPORTS.

Mrs Dignan wore an extremely stylish black and cream striped cambrie, with deep white lace trimmings, hat with floral decorations of yellow; Miss Minitt, navy skirt and zouave, white blouse with pink flowers; Mrs. G. Walker, mode grey, lace edgings, black zouave, black hat; Mrs (Dr) Howa, fawn; Miss Percival, grey dress, black hat with pink roses; Miss - Percival, navy skirt, white bodice, white sailor hat; Miss Maxwell, heliotrope with black lace; and her sister, white with black trimmings; Miss Brigham, black (mourning), hat with feathers; Miss (W. F.) Huckland, grey with black velvet, gem hat; Mrs Noakes, black silk, black bonnet with bouton d'oeuf velvet trimmings; Mrs Cotter, stylish grey striped lustre black hat with feathers, for white box; the Misses Cotter looked deliciously cool in their white dresses with canary-coloured sashes; Mrs Harry Jervis, white muslin, gem; Mrs Frank Buckland, pretty dark grey silk, black lace bonnet with pink flowers; Mrs. Hilda Walker, mode grey cashmere with grey silk belt, black hat, with green floral trimmings; and her sister, navy skirt, white blouse, gem; Mrs Walker, black silk, black bonnet with spray of green; Miss Croxall, black flowered delaine, sailor hat; Miss Lily Ireland, heliotrope striped zephyr; and her sister, looking cool in white; Mrs Ireland, dark green; Miss Ilay, black with heliotrope flowers in bonnet; Miss Whistler, cream; Mrs R. Garie, black silk dress, black lace bonnet; Miss Hilda Lewis, navy skirt, bright pink blouse, black flap hat with velvet; Mrs. G. Lewis, dark grey zephyr, black hat with yellow flowers; Mrs Gordon, black; Miss Gordon, brown holland, blue and white striped vest; Misses Scheraga, mode grey, navy skirt, mode grey and pink; Mrs (Col.) Dawson, stylish coralloid, mode grey gown; Miss Elliott, navy skirt, white blouse, burnt wheat hat; Mrs Lucas, Bloomfield, pale pink crinkley gown with white lace hat with roses; Miss Hilda W. Gown, fawn cloak, sailor hat; Miss Griffith, lovely embroidered, mode grey hat with pink flowers; Mrs Lyons, lilac gown; Miss Forbes, navy serge, white vest; Miss Churton, black; Mrs Churton, navy serge, white vest; Mrs Norton, pale blue and white striped gown, flowered hat; Miss Abbott, navy skirt, mode grey hat with pink roses; Mrs Hesketh, fawn dress with black lace; Miss Hesketh, pretty pale blue gown; and her sister, cream; Miss Hesketh, fawn cloak edged with red plaid silk, black lace; Miss Hesketh, mode grey, simple dress; Mrs Hesketh, navy skirt, mode grey gown, sailor hat with black velvet; Miss Firth, navy; Miss Mary Firth, brown; Miss Hookes, dark fawn holland gown, white vest, black hat with pink roses; Misses Shirley-Baker looked well in white drilled, wide feathered hats; Misses Budda, cream flowered delaine, black hat with feathers; and her sister, wore white, cream hat with red poppies; Miss Dunnet, brown holland, white vest, white sailor hat; Miss Beale, claret cashmere with velvet on sides; white sailor hat; Mrs Inez Walker looked remarkably pretty in fawn tussore silk, bonnet en suite; Miss Bailey, black mourning costume; Miss Haver, navy serge, white vest; Mrs Kerr-Taylor, white muslin; Mrs. H. Kerr-Taylor, mode grey, white sailor hat; Mrs W. Philson, dark grey flowered delaine, grey hat with red berries; Mrs Philson, pale grey lustre, grey hat with pink roses; Miss Hookes, petunia gown; Miss Gillies (England), handsome grey with black skirt, pink blouse, black hat with pink roses; Mrs Lawry, black skirt, seakink jacket, black hat with heliotrope feathers; Miss Barstow, shot brown silk trimmed with terre velvet, bonnet en suite; and her sister, cream flowered delaine, heliotrope Empire cashmere crown flowered hat; Misses Taylor, white vest, gem; Miss Chambers-Taylor, white gown. Amongst the fair equestriennes I noticed Mesdames Bloomfield, Wars, Budda, Woodroffe, Misses Hesketh, Bull, Cogswell, etc.

LADIES' DRESSES AT MISS STEVENSON'S AFTERNOON TEA.

Mrs W. Y. Stevenson, handsome black costume; Miss Stevenson, pretty pink and white zephyr, sunburst straw hat with red flowers; and her sister, black skirt, spotted blouse, and another sister, red delaine; Mrs Duncan Clark, white embroidery dress with brown d'oeuf sash; Miss McMullan, stylish cream embroidered dress with terre sash, cream hat with ostrich feather trimmed with terre ribbon; Miss H. Bull, looked extremely well in white with pretty hat with canary-coloured daisies and green velvet; Miss McCrea, grey with bands of black velvet; Miss Minitt, navy; Miss Dunnet, slate grey with red vest; Mrs. H. Haver, navy serge, pink vest, black hat with pink roses; Miss K. Taylor, pretty white zephyr with blue stripe, sailor hat; Miss L. Taylor, navy skirt, blue blouse, black hat with pink roses; Miss Budda, black skirt, pink blouse, black hat with pink roses; Misses Kempthorne, fawn holland with bands of white braid; Miss Hay, pretty combination of mode grey and pink; her sister, blue and white striped zephyr; Misses Kerr-Taylor (two), pink and black; and another sister, grey with red vest; Mrs. Haver, cream flowered delaine; Miss Herrold, grey cashmere with brown trimmings; Miss Hookes, petunia coloured cashmere with black braid; Miss McCrea, fawn holland; Miss Mary Corrie, pretty lilac black muslin hat with flowers; Mrs. H. Haver, white embroidered dress; and her sister, pretty pale lilac striped zephyr, lilac Empire sash; Miss Heywood, brown; Miss Gillies (from Kilmorie) is staying with Mrs Street, 'Birtley,' Farnell, stylish mode grey.

AT THE WEST END TENNIS LAWN.

Most of the lady players wore the Club colours in a belt at the waist or a band round the hat. Amongst other costumes I noticed Mrs Cook, black and white, a mantle and bonnet; Mrs Kea, lace mantle over dark dress, large feathered hat; Miss Kea, light blouse over pearl grey skirt, pretty hat to match; Miss Cook, red and white costume, sailor hat with red ribbon; Miss Russell, mode grey over navy skirt bordered with blue and gold (Club colours); Mrs. H. Haver, navy hat and gown; Mrs. H. Haver, navy; Miss Russell, pink blouse, navy skirt with bead of blue and gold, sailor hat; Miss Owen, black and white costume, sailor hat; Miss Cook, black and white, a mantle and bonnet; Miss Russell, navy; Miss Lena Hutter, pretty pink blouse, navy skirt; Miss G. Hutter, navy; Mrs. H. Haver, white blouse, pale blue skirt, white hat; Mrs. Litter, stylish black dress, large black feathered hat; Mrs. H. Haver, navy dress, hat to match; Miss M. Peterson, light blouse, navy skirt, sailor hat.

AFTER the ceremony was performed and congratulations had been extended the bridal couple took the 10.15 train for Pacific Grove, where they will occupy their cottage for the next two months. On their return they will live on South Third Street, in a cottage already provided for their reception.

THE bride was the recipient of a large number of presents from admiring friends in San Jose, and in New Zealand, England, Canada, Tacoma, and San Francisco, which tokens attest in a small way their appreciation of her many lovely qualities of mind and heart.

FURNESS-MORTON.

THE marriage of Mr E. H. Furness, of Auckland, third son of Alderman Thos. Furness, West Hartlepool, England, and Miss Winnie Morton, youngest daughter of Mr Thos. Morton, Sunderland, England, was quietly celebrated at the residence of Mr Shepherd Allen, Piako.

THE bride looked very charming in a lovely gown of white silk brocade, with silver lace trimmings. The bouquet was simple but effective—marguerites and maiden-hair ferns.

THE bridesmaid, Miss B. Withy, was stylishly dressed; Mr J. C. Allen acted as best man. The bride was given away by Mr Shepherd Allen. The couple are spending their honeymoon at Te Aroha.

THE presents were exceedingly handsome, nearly one hundred coming from England with the bride. There was also a beautiful gift from the employe of the bridegroom's firm.

WILLIAMS-THOMPSON.

THE Napier Cathedral was the scene of an uncommonly pretty wedding, when Miss Lesley Thompson was married to the Rev. Arthur Williams. The bride, who is very pretty, looked charming in a soft cream satin dress (made in England), long veil and spray of orange-blossoms.

THE bridesmaids were in pink and palest straw colour, hats to harmonise of pink and brown, and dainty shower bouquets. They were Miss Lucy Williams, daughter of the Rev. Samuel Williams (Te Aute), and Miss Florence Fulton. A pretty addition to the group was the bride's niece, a sweet little figure in a cream frock, with large basket of flowers.

AFTER the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the house of Mrs Kinross White (aunt of the bride), where a delicious afternoon tea was provided. Hence, the Rev. Mr and Mrs Arthur Williams left for Te Aute, amidst the customary good wishes.

'SHADING FROM THE CAST.'

A VERY useful little hand-book under the title of 'Shading from the Cast' has been prepared by Mr H. Dawson Barkas, head-master of the Reading School of Art, England, and nephew of Mr T. Harbutt, of Auckland. There is a large amount of useful information in this manual, and the hints on 'Difficulties and how to overcome them' are very apt, and sure to answer many perplexities which beset young art students. This book would be very useful in New Zealand, where art is yet in its infancy, and the excellent illustrations which accompany it convey very clearly the author's meaning. Mr Harbutt, of Bath, England, was invited by the Commissioners for the English Fine Art Department in the Chicago Exhibition to contribute, and she sent a case of exquisitely painted miniatures in ivory which elicited much praise.

OBITUARY.

NEWS of a sad fatality has arrived from Picton. Mr Howard Dodson, eldest son of the late Henry Dodson, M.H.R., was drowned at Mndford Flat on the road from Picton to Blenheim. With his family he had driven down to spend Sunday in Picton, and as it was raining heavily on Monday morning, he left the ladies to return by train and started to drive home alone. The swamp was in high flood, and it can only be surmised, that the side wheels went off the road and Mr Dodson was thrown into deep water, whence, encumbered with his wraps and opossum rug, he was unable to extricate himself. The news of his untimely death at the age of thirty-three was received with heartfelt sorrow all over Marlborough. His place will be difficult to fill, as he was ever first and foremost in every effort to advance the town in which he was born, and to help and encourage all good things that were for the benefit of Marlborough. Great sympathy is felt for his family, who are of the oldest and most respected residents of Blenheim.

and all earth. The Chinese lantern over her head went out with a splutter. The golden grey of the morning poured in now through the half-turned Venetian shutter. One long, narrow ray alighted to Rhea's feet and setting her jewelled shoe-buckles glittering, found out an ugly tarnished spot on the silver embroideries of her dress.

Rhea looked down on it curiously. Left there by a man's tears, was it? And once more there seemed to sound in her ears the passionate, boyish voice saying, 'I love her so I must leave her. I will quit at once, and for ever take myself out of her life.'

She rose slowly, unsteadily to her feet, feeling less like a living, breathing woman than a walking marble statue.

As she entered the principal drawing room, Dulcine, with averted face, fluttered across it at the further end and went out by another door.

The rooms showed disordered and desolate now, with their faded flowers and drooping greenery, and candles here and there flickering in their sockets as Rhea passed on to the room where she felt sure Lord Carthewe still lingered. Yes, there he was, leaning back on a large settee, in a listless, dreamy attitude, with one hand covering his eyes.

He started to his feet as she entered, and began a somewhat disjointed series of apologies.

'It is so late—I fancied you must have retired—I was thinking that, perhaps, after all, you would rather see me in the morning,' he said, then broke off abruptly, for the man was too innately true and honest to be a ready fabricator of glib society lies.

Rhea was very white, but her grace of manner had come back to her, together with her sweet, measured out 'society smile.'

'Pray don't apologise,' she said. 'I am glad to be able to save you the trouble of calling to-morrow. I told you, don't you know, that I would give you your answer to-night.'

Lord Carthewe drew a step nearer. His attitude was not that of a hopeful or expectant lover. His head was bowed; his fingers were clenched into the palms of his hands with the restraint he put upon himself.

'And that answer is—?' he queried nervously. 'I hope you'll forgive me, I fear it must be a plain, unqualified "No,"' she answered, her pleasant smile still playing about her lips.

'I have thought the matter well over; I feel sure you will not press me for a reason. I am very grateful for the compliment you have paid me—I hope we shall always be friends. Now, if you do not mind, I will say "good night," or rather, "good morning." I am very tired—almost tired to death.'

It was after this, within six months of Dulcine's marriage to Lord Carthewe that the Bishop of St. Cheviot's passed judgment upon Lady Glencross as a woman of the world, and Lord Cheviot sighed his regrets that a diplomatic career had been denied her.



of Christchurch.

MR BAKER (brother of Mrs Crosse, Hawke's Bay) is engaged to Miss Cooper, of Wellington. The marriage is to eventuate shortly.

The marriage of Mr Harold Brookfield and Miss Dickey (of Ouehonga) is to take place on January 4th at the Anglican Church.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS.

HARKER—SHEASBY.

THE wedding of a lately well-known Auckland young lady to an American editor is reported. The ceremony was a very quiet one, eventuating at 9.30 in the morning at the residence of the bride's parents, No. 580, North Second-street, San Jose, the Rev. Dr. Hannon officiating.

THE bride was Miss S. Rose Sheasby, daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Sheasby, and the bridegroom, Mr Charles R. Harker.

The house was beautifully decorated. Festoons of ivy were suspended from the chandelier to the corners of the room, and potted plants lined the bay window in which the couple stood during the ceremony, under a marriage bell made of bell flowers. The rear parlour was decorated with bright red geraniums and ivy.

THE bride, a very attractive young lady, was attired in a travelling suit of heliotrope, and carried a bouquet of carnation pinks and maiden hair fern. She was attended by little Miss Hattibel Osgood as maid of honour, who carried the wedding ring supported on a silken cushion. Mr Wilfred Osgood acted as best man, and Miss Rosalie Rayburn played Mendelssohn's wedding march.