



THE first part of the programme was miscellaneous, and included 'The Naiads' by the orchestra, a violin solo by Mr Boyd, which was accompanied by the orchestra, and a couple of Mendelssohn's part songs by the complete choir. Among the ladies who were singing in the choruses were Mesdames Parker, Habena, Sprout, Allen, Beere, Hoggard, Fell, Barron, McDuff Boyd, and the Misses Barron, Swainson, Gore, Hamerton, Upham, Johnston, Reeves, etc.

THE usual athletic sports in connection with the Boys College, Nelson, were held on Wednesday afternoon. The day was lovely, being a real Nelson summer day—very hot, but with a delightful sea breeze, and doubtless the beauty of the surroundings, coupled with the sunny weather, helped to make the day's sports the success they were. The College looked quite gay with its bunting flying, and the terraces brightened by the gay dresses of the ladies. After the sports were over, the prizes were presented to the boys by Miss Bell, the matron of the College, who was herself presented with a lovely basket of roses. The winner of the Senior Cup for this year was M. Bonar, a Hokitika boy, and the Junior Cup winner was W. Ewart, a Blenheim boy. After the presentation, three hearty cheers were given for Miss Bell, Mr Gibbs, Mr Fell, and the College governors. During the afternoon many were the applicants for the delicious tea which was kindly dispensed by Miss Bell, and which proved so acceptable to the crowd of thirsty souls.

SOME swimming matches in connection with the Nelson Girls' College came off one morning recently and proved the means of collecting quite a crowd of onlookers to the Maitai banks. Some of the contests were very close, which made it interesting, and the diving of one of the pupils, Miss M. Kowley, was splendid. The club has the making of some good swimmers, and when the races come off in February they ought to prove very attractive. Sitting on the bank and watching the girls were Mrs Robinson, Mrs Bunny, Mrs Fenwick (Dunedin), Mrs Richmond, Mrs Sclanders, Mrs Mackie, Misses Richmond, Broad, Levien, Catley, Gibson, Gribben, Tendell, Higgins and Morgan, Mrs Blackett, Mrs Harris, etc. The prizes for the different events had been kindly presented by Miss Levien, Dr Mackie, and Mr Fell and Miss Catley.

MISS STEVENSON, 'Glenholm,' Remuera, gave a large afternoon 'At Home,' last Friday to meet Mrs Duncan Clerk, who is at present on a visit to them from the Wai-kato. The afternoon was gloriously fine. Tea, cakes, and strawberries and cream were served outside under the delightful spreading trees. An *al fresco* meal takes away any stiffness, and adds to one's enjoyment. A Tennis Lawn was marked out for play, but none of the young lady guests were evidently equal to the exertion, as no one volunteered. Some of the more energetic did, after much persuasion, play croquet on another lawn. The view is exceptionally extensive and beautiful from 'Glenholm,' having such a picturesque glimpse of the sea.

MRS McMILLAN, 'Ardstrath,' Remuera, had a charming little picnic party to Hunna Falls on Saturday. The weather was just delightful for any outing of this nature.

GOLF in Dunedin has attracted a good deal of attention lately, and at the golf tournament, which took place at the Golf Ground, Roslyn, there was a fair attendance of onlookers, mostly those particularly interested in the game. A great deal of walking was done, many following the games with the keenest interest. On the second day, a large number of guests were invited to be present, when Dunedin played against Christchurch, and groups of ladies could be seen all over the immense ground following the course of some game in progress. Tea was served in a large tent, and was very welcome during the afternoon, which, although very fine, began to get chilly as the day wore on.

MUCH excitement was exhibited towards the finish of the game, when as the Christchurch lady had won on the previous day, it was only natural there should have been great delight at the Dunedin victory the second day. The golf players all wore dark skirts with light shirts, the players for Christchurch being Mrs Lomax-Smith, Mrs Wylder, Mrs Wigram, and Mrs Boyle; for Dunedin, Mrs Stilling, Mrs Melland, Mrs Ogston, and Miss Kate Rattray.

A SUCCESSFUL Cinderella dance has been given in the City Hall, Dunedin. The dance was got up by the gentlemen, the ladies providing supper. A large number of dancers were present, the races and golf tournament bringing many strangers to town. Several ladies took great pains to decorate the hall, the result being most satisfactory. The stage was transformed into a pretty little drawing room, and the hall draped with flags. The gallery made a pleasant resort for dancers, and in all sorts of cosy corners chairs were placed. The supper was excellent, and the long table looked exceedingly pretty, being decorated the whole length with heliotrope and canary-coloured crinkled paper arranged very high. Grasses and large arm lilies nestled amongst this pretty arrangement. A great many handsome and effective dresses were worn.

THE weather for the Dunedin races has been on the whole fine, and many ladies donned their summer costumes, the brilliant mornings seeming to warrant the venture, but, unfortunately, showers fell during the afternoons. The rain, however, did not spoil the days' pleasure, as all found shelter on the stand. The last day was very disappointing as far as the weather was concerned, but in all other respects the event was an agreeable one.

IT appears, indeed, that the Dunedin weather has much to answer for. The opening of the Carisbrook Tennis Club was postponed several times on that account, and when at last the day was finally fixed the rain came down again, and made all hope of play out of the question. Tea was the great event of the afternoon, the ladies presiding at the tables being Mrs Ross, Mrs Stock, Mrs Pym, Mrs Melland, and the Misses Rattray.

THE Auckland Choral Society have contributed some very delightful concerts during the year, and the last one on Thursday night was by no means the least appreciated of the series. True, one of the two vocalists, Mr Tytherleigh, was unable, owing to hoarseness, to sing more than three or four lines of his first song, and had to omit the others altogether, but Mrs Stewart made up excellently for his misfortune. 'The Old Ferryman' and 'The Old Cremona' were very well received, and in response to vehement encores the lady gave the favourite ballads, 'Auld Robin Grey' and 'Comin' thro' the Rye.' The light music of 'Princess Ida' found much favour with the audience, who seemed to prefer something not too classical this very hot weather. The quintette for pianoforte, violin, viola, cello, and contrabass, being of the latter order, did not meet with general applause, though to the initiated the playing of Miss Reeve, Herr Schmidt, Messrs J. B. Macfarlane, J. A. Beale, and H. O. Brown, was a treat. The other items were also good, especially Leutenr's 'First Overture,' 'The Messiah,' on Tuesday, was too late for mention this week. The soloists were Mrs A. Coates, Miss A. Rimmer, Messrs Archdale Taylor, and J. Ferriday.

A VERY enjoyable concert was given the other afternoon, by the members of the Musical Club in Nelson. This is only the second concert of this young club, and they are certainly to be congratulated upon their musical talents. The recitals are now over for this year, but they have proved so useful to young musicians that all hope for their reopening at an early date next year. On this occasion the performers were the Misses Crump, Jackson, Moore, Fleet, M. Crump, B. Richmond, Mrs Patterson and Mrs Howie, both the latter ladies delighting the audience by their sweet voices. The new plan of having singing as well as playing proved so successful and gave so much pleasure that the members ought to continue the practice next year. It is also to be hoped ere that time that a new piano will have taken the place of the one now used.

THE annual Sale of Work in connection with the Christchurch Pro Cathedral, Nelson, was held in the Bishop's school-room. There was a work stall, which contained many useful and ornamental goods, in charge of Mrs Sclanders, Mrs Richmond, and Mrs Kempthorne; a flower stall, which was a very attractive portion of the room, was in charge of Misses C. Richmond, Pitt, Sealy, and Wood; a refreshment stall in the care of Mrs Bamford and Miss Kempthorne. During the afternoon a very enjoyable concert was given, when Mrs Hoalker, Mrs Howie, Misses Baigent and Campbell took part, and in the evening musical items were rendered by Misses Greenfield and Kempthorne. A Christmas tree proved a fund of amusement to the smaller children, of whom there were quite a number present.

A CONCERT was held the other evening in the Princess Theatre, Hastings, the proceeds to be given to the Floods Fund. A most enjoyable evening was spent. The Hastings brass band played a selection of air outside the theatre before the concert. Those who took part in the theatre were the Misses Kosch, Stevens, Lee, Newton, Collinge, Kelly, and Messrs Ernest Tanner, Percy Herman, H. H. Hunt, Beilby, and others. Mr Tanner's singing was much admired. Mr Herman played his accompaniments. There was a good and appreciative audience.

ONCE more the Christmas season has come round, and there seems every prospect of better weather for the holidays than was enjoyed last year. When there is so much planning—as in this colony—for outdoor amusements, the question of rain or sun is a very important one; no cheerful fire being available, or desired, as a mutual *renouveau* from the unkindness of the elements. Let us hope the latter will continue propitious, so that, all other circumstances being favourable, our sincere good wishes to our many readers for a very Merry Christmas may be realised in full measure.

FOR a wonder, the weather last Saturday was all that Aucklanders could desire. The Agricultural Sports, which were so unfortunately deluged last month, were gone through with marked success this time. The most amusing event was the pony jumping for boys and girls. There were about thirty boys and one girl, the latter, therefore, joined the hunting competition for ladies, as in that there were only two entries, both being young girls. Every little boy seemed to measure his length on the ground, but always got up unhurt. The polo match between Auckland and Kihikibi was an easy win for the Aucklanders. The hunting competition for ladies or gentlemen was not of a very brilliant character. Two young ladies, one of them a very small girl who had joined for the pony riders, went round the allotted course without any difficulty; the third, though she had the use of two horses, could not get over any jumps.

THE third concert of the year by the Wellington Harmonic Club has just taken place at the Opera House, Wellington, where a very large audience assembled to hear the re-production of Cowen's 'St John's Eve.' The soloists were Mrs J. A. Millar, soprano; Mrs Edger, contralto; Mr E. J. Hill, tenor; and Mr W. Day, baritone. Mrs Miller sang the part of Nancy to perfection, her performance certainly being the best of all. The music suited her high soprano voice, and she sang it in an artistic manner, her solo 'O Peaceful Night' being perhaps the gem of the evening. Mr Hill was good, but not so good as usual. He had some lovely solos, but could hardly do himself justice, not being in really good voice that night. His duet with Mrs Millar, however, was a truly artistic feat, their voices blending admirably. Mrs Edger was heard for the first time in Wellington in this style of music, and the audience were very pleased, although, probably owing to the arduous nature of the music, it lacked a little—not much—of the necessary fire. Her smoothness and uniformity of tone is her great feature, and was exactly what was required for the part of Dame Margaret. Mr W. Day was unfortunate in making his debut. He had the very difficult part of Robert, the rejected lover, allotted to him, and in his opening solo, where he has to pitch his voice all alone, the orchestra coming in immediately after, he failed to do so correctly, taking a lower note than that written, which necessitated a fresh beginning. This was, as someone feelingly remarked, 'enough to put any fellow off,' but Mr Day, with valiant effort that raised him in everyone's estimation, began again, and sang his part splendidly. Amateurs should certainly be treated with a little more consideration on such occasions, and be given a chord to work upon. The choruses went extremely well, with perhaps the exception of one or two snatches by the female voices, which were feeble. The tenors were not as strong as usual, which was noticeable in the male voice choruses. Mr Parker conducted, Mr McDuff Boyd leading the orchestra, in which were several ladies—the Misses Kennedy, G. Kennedy, Dugdale, etc.