

pale blue ceinture, black Romney hat; Miss Boulton, cream silk costume with insertions of Paris lace, corselet belt of very handsome gold Indian work, picturesque hat to match; Miss Phyllis Boulton wore a crushed strawberry linen costume with cream vest, burnt straw hat swathed with grass lawn spotted with pale blue; Miss Eileen Lewis, was in a dainty pale blue and white spotted muslin frock, with transparent yoke of beautiful Tenerife embroidery, wide corselet belt, and large black picture hat; Miss Douglas wore a pretty white Persian lawn gown tucked and inserted with Valenciennes lace, and finished with numerous medallions of same lace, sea green sash, cream straw hat swathed with green silk; Miss Dora Whitson, black canvas wide corselet and skirt trimmed with Paris lace medallions, cream vest, black plumed hat; Miss McLeod, cream eolienne gown prettily tucked, white picture hat. Amongst the gentlemen present I noticed—Messrs Nathan (2), Myers, Allison (2), Hellaby, Thompson, Leys, Phillips Watt, and others.

PHYLLIS BROWN.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee.— February 13.

The first day of the TARANAKI JOCKEY CLUBS summer meeting was held last Wednesday. The day turned out very stormy and wet which deterred many from going, but those ladies who braved the elements, wore closely covered, either with macintosh or umbrella, so I am afraid my description of the dresses will be rather abrupt.—Mrs. Paul wore black silk and heliotrope; Miss Boul, cream silk voile, with handsome trimming, hat en suite; Mrs. Penn, white silk; Miss G. Holdsworth, rose pink costume, hat to correspond; Miss J. Lawson, fawn costume; Miss M. Capel, pretty corollower blue costume, trimmed with Paris insertion; Miss Webster, green linen; Mrs. Webster, black pink roses in bonnet; Mrs. Al. Goldwater, black; Miss Goldwater, cream serge costume, hat to correspond; Mrs. Langford (Wanganui), looked well in a black silk voile, hat en suite; Mrs. Champion wore an exquisite accordion-pleated white silk chiffon; Mrs. G. Newman, handsome blue voile costume, trimmed with black insertion, white picture hat, with large ostrich plume; Miss Glynes black skirt, white silk blouse; Mrs. Patterson, black; Mrs. Rennell, black silk; Misses Rennell, (2), black costumes; Mrs. S. Teed, fawn silk; Mrs. G. Kelbell, pale blue voile, white and blue hat; Mrs. Sydney Cutler (nee Avery), dove grey costume, hat en suite; Mrs. Gibbons, black; Miss J. McKellar; Miss O. Graham (Hamilton), green linen; Mrs. A. D. Gray, black satin; Mrs. Wright, black; Mrs. Robertson, black and white silk costume; Mrs. T. Carlhew, white silk veiled in black; Miss Cameron, grass lawn costume; Miss — Cameron, black silk voile; Miss Campbell, white; Miss Cunningham, black and white costume, hat to correspond; Mrs. Oswin, check costume, trimmed with green velvet; Mrs. Alex. Hill (Wellington), black costume trimmed with lace; picture hat en suite; Mrs. Percy Webster, pink crepe

de chine, with accordion-pleated frill, black hat; Mrs. Knight; Mrs. Salway, black; Miss Teed, white muslin, and scarlet, black hat; Mrs. Fred, Watson, tussore silk; Mrs. Fitzherbert, cream costume; Mrs. Morgan, stylish holland, trimmed with black.

NANCY LEE.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, February 12.

At present our dramatic tastes are being excellently catered for. We have the Williamson Company at the Opera House, with Mr. Cuyler Hastings in the leading parts, and our clever dramatic students are giving a series of performances next week in aid of a charity. All the town has been to enjoy the "Admiral O'richton," and has had its feeling artistically harrowed by the "Light That Failed." The imitable scenes in the former have to be seen to be thoroughly enjoyed. When I remind you that Mr. Cuyler Hastings has with him the charming Miss May Chevalier, together with Miss Odga Beatty Kingston and Miss Julia Merton—who were so popular when they came round with "Are You a Mason?"—you can imagine how the plays draw.

The Opera House looks so spruce and clean now. It has been done up in peacock green and white, which affords an excellent background to the pretty dresses worn.

Among the large audiences were Mrs. Collins, wearing black satin, with touches of rose pink; Miss Holmes, in black satin, with sequin net sleeves (with her was Miss Newton, who has only just got back from a trip to England); Mrs. Seddon, in black brocade; Miss Mary Seddon, looking so well in a black chiffon dress, the décolletage smothered in fine lace; her younger sister wore a pretty simple white frock; Misses Haudyside, one in white crepe de chine, and the other in black net, with silver sequins; Miss Fitzherbert, black, with a collar of Irish lace; Miss Fitzherbert, white, and her sister a pretty pink frock; Miss Skerrett, rose-coloured gown partly hidden by an opera wrap of peacock blue, with a tuilage of dull-gold chenille forming an Empire yoke; the Misses Richardson wore pretty white silk dresses; Miss Izard, black dress, and a pretty white wrap with swansdown; Miss D. Johnston was in pale pink; Mrs. Arthur Duncan's black dress had a deep lace berthe and a cluster of crimson roses; Mrs. W. Turnbull was wearing white brocade with a deep belt of black panne; Mrs. Guy Powles wore a becoming black satin gown; Mrs. J. Abbott's white crepe de chine had innumerable frills hemmed with pale blue; Mrs. Beece's white silk was inserted with black lace.

Such a number of people have had to abandon their intended trip to Japan and the East on account of the war. His Excellency the Governor and Lord Northland head the list. A party from Wellington, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. John Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Ian Duncan, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Duncan, who have been looking forward to the journey for some months, have now altered their plans and are going to England instead. Mr. and Mrs. Jellicoe are doing

likewise, and Mrs. Rees-George is also returning to England by a different route from that she had chosen. The lucky people who have already visited Japan and returned home with trophies of Japanese art, are congratulating themselves on their foresight, and being envied by others who meant to go—and didn't! A particularly inconvenient feature is that all the steamers going by the Red Sea route are crowded as it is, and great difficulty is being experienced in getting accommodation so late in the day.

For weeks and weeks Wellington has been getting browner and browner every day. Our gardens are all dried up, and water for a daily bath has long been an unattainable luxury to the dwellers on the heights. The "oldest inhabitant" can barely remember such a drought, and a summer which begins in October and continues without interruption till February is a season few of us can remember. As I write, the long-drawn-for rain is falling, accompanied by a severe thunderstorm, a very rare occurrence in Wellington.

Lately we have had exciting rumours of zoological gardens to be established here, and the small boys are in the seventh heaven of delight. Just what and where it is to be is at present a mystery, but the Botanical Gardens have been proposed as a site, and somebody has suggested that a circus with a large menagerie it was anxious to part with has been making overtures towards the powers that be.

OPHELIA.

WANGANUI.

Dear Bee, February 12.

On Friday, 5th, Mrs A. Blundell gave an enjoyable

AFTERNOON TEA.

for Mrs Sclanders, of Nelson, who is paying a short visit to Wanganui. Our hostess received her guests in a black silk skirt and pretty white silk blouse, tucked and banded with medallions of cream insertion. Amongst the guests were Messdames Christie, Sclanders, Ashcroft, Cleghorn, Anderson, Stevenson, Kissling, Atkinson, Wray, Nicholas, and others.

On Saturday Mrs John Stevenson gave an

AT HOME

for Mrs Sclanders. Afternoon tea was served in the drawing-room and hall, and table-croquet was played in the dining-room. Mrs Stevenson wore a dainty gown of black silk, profusely tucked, the skirt made with deep flounces edged with pipings and tucks, bodice trimmed with wide Valenciennes, medallions forming a bolero. Miss Baker, who is the guest of Mrs Stevenson, wore a pale heliotrope silk frock veiled with champagne canvas banded with insertion to match, heliotrope striped sash. Amongst the guests I noticed Mrs Sclanders, in a tucked black silk with cream insertion, black straw hat with chiffon and black roses; Mrs G. Kissling, old rose canvas strapped with silk of a lighter shade, black hat with feathers and chiffon; Mrs A. Blundell, white silk blouse trimmed with lace and tucks, black voile skirt, cream fancy

straw hat with pink roses veiled with lace, Mrs Heywood, black canvas costume with Eton coat strapped with silk, white tucked silk blouse with insertion, cream hat with black velvet ribbons and pink roses; Mrs Griffiths, black voile gown with stole ends, embroidered in white silk, white lace vest, black and white toque; Mrs Christie, turquoise blue flecked canvas with cream lace revers and front, black hat with chiffon and plumes; Mrs Fox, black and white figured foulard costume with hat to match; Mrs Fairburn, blue linen gown

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