

of the heat, though really we are in the middle of autumn! Mrs. Collins received in a lovely gown of black crepe de chine, trimmed with delicate lace, and a black picture hat; her little girl wore a charming white silk frock and sash; Lady Ward was in blue voile with a smart hat of royal blue and emerald green tulle; Mrs. Rhodes wore black silk, and a handsome brocade toque; Mrs. T. C. Williams, black crepe de chine, with skirt panels of rich guipure, black and white bonnet with pink roses, large white marabout stole; Mrs. Yawford, mouse-coloured voile, with pipings of scarlet, and many little gold buttons; Mrs. A. Duncan, white voile, very much gauged and inserted with lace; Mrs. Willford, white linen de soie, threaded with pale blue; Mrs. Turnbull, white satin foulard with a black design, sash of vivid green; Mrs. Baldwin, deep blue voile and scarlet hat; Mrs. Martin, white canvas voile, and black hat; Mrs. Hunt, pale green silk linen; Mrs. Miles, fuchsia-tinted silk voile, much flounced and inserted, toque of shaded purple and violets; Miss Miles, pretty floral muslin in shades of mauve; Mrs. W. Hislop, white serge dress; Mrs. A. Young, ivory voile, the skirt laid in wide horizontal tucks; Mrs. John Abbot, rose pink voile, ray-pleated, pink bebe hat, white marabout stole; Misses Stafford, pretty floral muslins; Miss Higginson, pale blue delaine, with yoke of Paris lace; Miss Donnison (Dunedina), white canvas and black beaver hat; Miss Grace, ivory cloth with motifs of lace; Miss Fitzgerald, white muslin and lace; Mrs. Finch, black voile and ecru lace; her daughter was in white, with a scarlet hat; Mrs. Rawson, black voile; Miss Rawson, white canvas; Miss O'Hagan, red cloth dress, and red bebe hat; Mrs. Fitchett, fawn voile, inserted with lace, black hat; Miss Duncan, pink voile, spotted with white; Mrs. McEwan, white cloth, and pale blue hat; Mrs. T. Young, ivory basket cloth, and hat with pale blue; Mrs. Ian Duncan, white silk muslin, spotted with black, black picture hat; Mrs. Wickman, mauve and white satin foulard, black hat with violets; Mrs. Valentine, light grey tweed, and smart black hat; Mrs. Harrison, black cloth, strapped with pale blue and lace; Mrs. Linaicke (New Plymouth), white cloth dress, and smart black beaver hat; Mrs. Henry, green canvas voile; Miss K. Henry, biscuit-tinted voile, red tulle hat with strings; Mrs. Gow, white satin blouse, and white voile skirt, black picture hat; Mrs. Perkins, white muslin spotted with black, deep pelerine cape; Miss Medley, ecru muslin spotted with white; Mrs. Ewen, grey voile; Miss Ewen, pale blue tweed; Mrs. Harding, black brocade; Misses Harding, white voile dresses and black hats; Mrs. Edwin, black brocade; Miss Edwin, pale blue voile; Mrs. Rhind, grey silk with handsome black passementerie; Mrs. McGregor, black voile; Miss McGregor, white canvas, deep lace collar, black hat; Mrs. Loughnan, pale grey, and black velvet; Miss Harcourt, white voile; Miss G. Harcourt, white canvas, and red hat; Miss Otterson, white muslin, handsome chine sash; Miss Fitzgerald, white sash, and black hat; Mrs. Gilmer, black voile; Miss Gilmer, white voile spotted with black velvet; Mrs. H. Gilmer, pale blue voile; Mrs. Jeffcoat, grey blue voile, with silk fringe; Mrs. Gilruth, white cloth, threaded with Emerald green; Mrs. O'Hagan, pale blue crepe de chine

elaborately tucked and inserted with lace; Miss May Seddon, blue voile with modillions of lace; Mrs. Embling, black voile; Mrs. Wright, champagne tinted muslin spotted with white, black hat; Mrs. Rankin Brown, pale brown voile, deep belt and strappings of dark brown velvet; Mrs. E. Haddfield, white serge, and black hat; Miss Butt, mauve and white silk; Miss Richmond, prune cloth, and long grey cloak; Miss Burnett, grass lawn over green; Miss Simpson, white cloth dress; Miss Seed, ivory canvas; Mrs. T. Young, white cloth, pale blue belt; Mrs. Watson, tussore silk, and black toque; Mrs. Symonds, pale green silk voile, with applique of lace.

Mrs. Beauchamp gave a farewell tea to Mrs. and the Misses Johnson, who have gone to England by the Turakina for an indefinite visit.

OPHELLA.

MARLBOROUGH.

Dear Bee, March 15.

Our hospitals are attracting our attention just now. Picton has a brand new one, clean, up-to-date and well managed. The Havelock people have a branch Cottage Hospital, also up-to-date, which is to be opened shortly with a flourish of trumpets in the presence of the Picton Board, the Mayor, etc. In Blenheim we are behind the times, but that reflection will not worry us much longer. A new hospital will soon be ours, with all the very latest appliances, a children's ward, and annexes for consumptives. Our old hospital is a disgrace to the colony, and the sooner it is cremated the better.

The Exhibition flourishes apace. A meeting held in Havelock was most successful, and an enthusiastic committee was appointed to work up matters there. Picton, so far, is the only favoured spot where men are advanced enough to put ladies on the committee.

A party of about twenty residents of Blenheim went off for an excursion down Queen Charlotte Sound in the s.s. Waitohi, which is now the favourite excursion boat, being new, roomy and fast. A splendid haul of fish rewarded their efforts, and the party are looking forward to still another outing before the weather breaks.

Picton people are busy getting up various shows, for which half the ladies in the town and a good proportion of gentlemen are canvassing for subscriptions and contributions.

A regatta is keeping all the men folk on the qui vive for subscriptions, and a Hospital Ball is interesting all the weaker sex, who daily perambulate the town with pencil and paper, a purse, and a fancy Maori kit. No one is safe.

The Horticultural Show is also being well advertised by its particular committee, who let few escape; but, indeed, that particular hobby meets with much sympathy and financial help from all parts of the colony. Picton people have reason to be proud of their horticultural shows, which are famous throughout the colony.

The Friendly Societies held their annual picnic this year at Double Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound. A good train-load of Blenheim residents went down to Picton, and thence down the Sound in the s.s. Waitohi. A most enjoyable time was spent, and all returned home well pleased with their outing.

The Rev. A. H. Sedgwick and Mrs Sedgwick, who are expected back from Rotorua, where Mr Sedgwick has been taking the baths, will be welcomed home at a social.

MIRANDA.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, March 16.

As March creeps on day by day we all think more and more of the return of the Discovery and sister ships from Antarctica. The Mayor (the Hon. H. F. Wigram) presided at a meeting last week with a very large and influential executive committee, and arrangements are well forward for giving these brave men a suitable welcome home. A picnic has been arranged for one thing, Mr Deans kindly placing his Homebush Station at the disposal of the committee, and remembering how the crew of the Morning enjoyed their day in the country this was gladly accepted. A banquet will also be given to the officers, when the citizens will hope to hear some stray narratives of their perilous journeyings.

A VERY PLEASANT AFTERNOON

was spent at "Thepe" on Mrs C. H. Croxton's lawn on Wednesday, when the final of the Croquet Tournament played there took place, in the presence of a large number of interested spectators. The players were Mrs Kohn and Mr Walcott Wood against Miss I. Martin and Miss Kennedy, the game being played most carefully and earnestly, resulting in a win for the latter. Very handsome silver photo frames were the prizes. Tea was served in the dining room before play really commenced, as a very strong nor-west wind and accompanying heat made it disagreeable; but about four o'clock it became very pleasant, and fruit was partaken of under the trees. Mrs Croxton wore a blue linen coat and skirt, piped with white, and black hat; Miss Croxton, pink linen skirt, white silk blouse, and white hat; Mrs W. Stringer, champagne silk voile over silk trimmed with lovely lace, black picture hat and feathers; Mrs. Morton Anderson, dark blue skirt, white silk blouse, fancy straw hat; Mrs. Martin, all black; Miss Martin, black skirt, floral silk blouse, white net and floral hat; Mrs Walcott Wood, black voile with cream lace yoke, threaded with pale blue bebe ribbon, black hat to match; Mrs Haselden, cream canvas skirt, cream silk blouse with insertion, black hat; Mrs I. Gibbs, navy blue voile with wide cream lace insertion bands, linen coat, black hat; Mrs G. Merton, pink linen costume, trimmed with white, black and white hat; Miss Merton, black with white spot, black hat, trimmed with pale blue; Mrs Kohn, cream canvas skirt, silk blouse with insertion, fancy straw toque; Mrs E. W. Thompson, heliotrope and white stripe, black hat; Miss Kennedy, pale blue voile, hat to match; Mrs

T. Garrard, pale grey voile with cream insertions, black and white hat; Mrs Louison, navy blue gown with blue and white embroidery, red and Tuscan hat; Miss Louison, green crash skirt, white silk and insertion blouse; Miss M. Louison, pink linen skirt and white silk blouse; Mrs (Dr.) Thomas, black, with cream lace on bodice, toque to match; Miss Thomas, royal blue with cream lace, white hat; Mrs Snow, deep blue with cream lace trimming, black hat; Mrs Coveydale, pale grey cloth with Oriental embroidery, green and

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