

CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Bee,

March 26.

Our long-talked-of autumn show eventuated on Wednesday and Thursday last at the Victoria Park, adjoining "Rardowie." Wednesday morning looked most unpromising, as a steady rain had set in during the night and continued until about eight a.m., when the clouds began to disperse, and by 10 o'clock the sun was shining brightly, and our spirits rose accordingly. A most picturesque spot has been chosen for the show, and £1000 has been spent in improving it, besides all the voluntary labour bestowed upon it, and those who worked so hard to make it the success it was must feel amply rewarded by the result. A very complete little grandstand to seat 1100 is situated on a gentle rise, and all the grass was so beautifully green and dry. A handsome belt of trees is planted round the grounds. It is estimated that there were fully 6000 people on the ground on "The People's Day," and the takings at the gate amounted to £100. Amongst such a crowd it was almost impossible to note many of the dresses, but the few I did get a glimpse of were: Mrs. James Taylor, black and white delaine, black toque; Miss Taylor, white silk, black Country Girl hat, trimmed with black and pink roses; Miss Hay, white silk, black hat; Mrs. W. Graham, figured delaine, black hat; Miss Brunsell, white silk, black hat, with roses; Mrs. C. Hunter, champagne coloured voile, much tucked, and large black picture hat; Miss Hunter, white muslin, relieved with black, and large black hat; Mrs. Buckland, black silk, with Paris lace collar, with stole ends, black and cream toque; Miss Buckland, blue and white spotted delaine, trimmed with a border and white hat, with white rosettes and white roses; Mrs. Brooks, black and white muslin, handsome black silk jacket, black bonnet, with pink roses; Miss Brooks, tussore silk, white silk, white hat, trimmed with cherries; Miss J. Brooks, white silk, white hat, trimmed with forget-me-nots; Miss Young, tussore silk, white hat, with forget-me-nots; Mrs. Jax, Hally, black silk, black picture hat; Mrs. A. Gibbons, blue grey voile coat and skirt, and hat trimmed with wisteria; Miss Hally, string coloured muslin, with insertion to match, black picture hat; Mrs. N. Hunt, black gown, white hat, trimmed with black and white; Mrs. John Hally, black silk greendine, black and cream bonnet; Miss Kirkwood, white muslin and lace over yellow, white hat, with yellow roses; Miss Keosling, white silk blouse, with string coloured lace, black voile skirt, black hat; Mrs. Richardson, string coloured muslin, with white spot, black picture hat; Miss Richardson, white muslin, white Country Girl hat, trimmed with green ribbon and foliage; Miss Souter, blue and white spotted delaine, white and blue hat; Miss K. Souter, white muslin and white hat; Mrs. A. Souter, black voile, with white silk applique, black hat; Mrs. Wells, black voile, grey and pink bonnet; Mrs. R. Campbell, black gown, black and white bonnet; Miss Campbell, heliotrope muslin and hat to match; Mrs. May, bright navy blue voile, trimmed with cream lace, and hat to match; Mrs. W. M. Douglas, black canvas voile, black hat; Miss Cousin, grey voile, white ostrich feather bon, grey and white Country Girl hat; Miss Willis, black coat and skirt, white hat trimmed with white rosettes; Mrs. A. Stone, white silk blouse, black skirt, black Country Girl hat; Miss Wright, white silk, black hat, with plumes; Miss Dunne, pink drill, black hat; Mrs. Polmarth, black costume, black hat; Miss Margery, tussore silk, black hat.

On both evenings of the show a concert and an amusing operetta, "Old Knuckles," were given in aid of the grandstand fund, and which, it is hoped, will realise close on £50. The first half of the evening was devoted to the concert and the last to the play, which went with very much more spirit on the second night. Mr. and Mrs. Boston Couper were instrumental in getting up the entertainments, and must have been gratified at the bumper houses which greeted them each night, and the show committee, I am sure, must feel very grateful to them for their help.

EISIE.

NAPIER.

Dear Bee,

March 25.

Miss Belle Napier was warmly welcomed on her return from England by a number of Hawke's Bay friends at the Athenaeum on the 18th inst. Several of her delightful recitations were given by Miss Napier, and perhaps the most successful of these was "The Bells of Iss," recited with great dramatic power. Some smart costumes were worn. Miss Napier looked particularly well in a handsome gown of tussore silk and cream lace over pale blue, biscuit coloured hat with pale blue feathers; Mrs. Edgar had a stylish green dress, and a hat to match; Lady Whitmore wore a rich black silk costume with a coat of pleated chiffon, and a black bonnet; Mrs. Dixon was in grey and black; Mrs. Cornford wore a stylish gown of black voile, and a black bonnet relieved with red; Miss Cornford looked dainty in pale green, becoming picture hat; Mrs. Howell was also admired in a green voile gown with bands of green silk round the skirt and on the bodice; Miss Howell had a graceful grey costume and a large clip hat; Mrs. Lusk was in a fawn dress trimmed with the long fringe so fashionable at present, fawn hat to match; Miss Large looked well in grey, becoming toque prettily trimmed with yellow poppies; Mrs. P. S. McLean wore a dark blue cloth tailor-made costume; Mrs. Hamlin wore black; Mrs. Bowen was handsomely dressed in light coloured voile with motifs of cream lace and a smart black toque covered with silver sequins; Miss V. Twigg wore a sky blue dress, which suited her to perfection, large cream clip hat trimmed with pale blue; Mrs. Ormond was in black, cape of handsome black lace and bonnet to match; Miss Ormond had a grey dress much tucked and gathered, and a toque trimmed with pink roses; Miss Wood looked well in a white dress trimmed with lace and insertion; Mrs. Stedman wore a tussore silk dress much trimmed with insertion, over heliotrope, deep cream hat with shaded heliotrope plumes; Mrs. Pharaayn wore black silk; Mrs. Henley wore cream, large black hat with plumes; Miss Van Dodelzen was in black and white; Mrs. Johnston looked well in pale grey tweed faced with white; Mrs. W. Anderson wore pale grey voile trimmed with innumerable rows of narrow black velvet ribbon, large black hat; Mrs. George White was in black, and she wore a hat to match.

A series of tableaux vivants, under the management of the Rev. John Hobbs, were given at Hastings on the 24th inst., in aid of St. Matthew's Church. One of the great attractions of the evening was the recital given by Miss Belle Napier, of "The Ballad of Judas Iscariot," which she gave with dramatic force and pathos. The tableaux were thoroughly successful. The grouping and colouring deserve especial praise. They were of a sacred character, illustrating the events of the Resurrection. The final group was capitally treated; all were arranged in an effective tableau, which was an appropriate finish to the entertainment.

MARGORIE.

WANGANUI.

Dear Bee,

March 25.

We have had quite wintry weather lately, and oh, such rain! On Friday night the storm was so bad that several windows were blown in and the roof of the observatory was moved some inches. Owing to the heavy rain and flood in the river two picnics in the oil launch had to be postponed—one given by the Misses Cowper in honour of their guest, Miss Knight, of Dannevirke, and the other a party of Mr and Mrs H. Holes' friends, who intended going up to the river and having afternoon tea with them. After Lent is over several weddings are to take place in Wanganui. Early in April Miss Jessie Griffiths and Mr Frank Hatherley are to be married. Miss Mabel Stewart and Mr Cave, of Waverley, and Miss Ethel Christie and

Mr Lance Stedman, of Christchurch. I hope soon to be able to describe the bride's gowns and some of the pretty frocks worn at the different weddings. Local dressmakers are quite busy, and several ladies have sent to Christchurch and Wellington for their costumes. Miss Fraser, the lady principal of the Girls' College, gave a most enjoyable and instructive lecture in the large college dining-room on Friday evening in aid of the new swimming baths that are to be built in the hockey ground. Her subject was "Japan," illustrated with magic-lantern pictures. The lecture was particularly interesting, as Miss Fraser has just returned from a long visit to the Flowery Land, and she told us of so many of her personal experiences. Miss Fraser wore a rich costume of pale grey silk, the skirt having white silk tassels at intervals, the bodice had a transparent yoke of white silk embroidery edged with a frill of embroidered chiffon, the same material forming the sleeve with full bishop under sleeve of chiffon. Amongst the large audience I noticed Mrs Pattle-Zett in an old rose gown with San Toy sleeves profusely trimmed with champagne insertion; Mrs Grieg, black silk skirt, white silk blouse and handsome real lace collar; Miss Cowper, black brocade skirt, pale pink brocade blouse with chiffon rouchings; Miss Knight (Dannevirke) wore a dainty frock of white muslin with shaded butterflies embroidered in silk; Mrs Gray, pale green voile costume with champagne insertion; Mrs G. Humphreys, dove grey canvas with pink and green gallow trimmings; Mrs A. Bundell, black skirt, white silk blouse with medallions of cream lace, Mrs Fairburn, black silk skirt, pale pink crepe de chine blouse with pink shaded gallow and chou to match; Mrs Morton Jones, black silk with white lace collar; Miss Jones, black evening silk gown and cream transparent lace yoke; Miss Baker, black silk skirt white silk blouse with insertion; Miss Knapp, white silk evening gown; Miss Taylor, shaded pink and blue silk; Miss Barnicoat, pale grey bengaline frock with grey chou; Mrs Reaney, black silk skirt, blue silk blouse with insertion; Miss O'Brien, black skirt and pretty white silk blouse; Miss Brabant, black skirt and blouse of a soft shade of blue silk and cream lace trimmings; Mrs Mason, navy blue silk costume and large collar of cream lace. There were also present—Mr and Mrs H. Sarjeant, Mr and Mrs Babbage, Mrs and Miss Alexander, Mr and Mrs L. Jones, Mr, Mrs and the Misses Fred Jones, Misses Brewer, Newcombe, Christie, Gould (Auckland), Mesdames Moss, Taylor, MacLean, Fitzgerald, H. Taylor, Browne, Allison, Furlong, Misses Anderson, Stewart and many others.

HUIA.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee,

March 25.

The doings and dissipations of the Medical Congress are still the only things to chronicle, and without them we should be dull indeed.

Quite an unique function in its way was

THE CONVERSAZIONE

held in the Colonial Museum, which went off with great eclat. The dingy building was hardly recognisable in its festive adornments of palms, flowering plants and ferns, while the gay draperies and vari-coloured bunting gave very effective notes of colour. Supper was laid in the carved Maori house, where the scene was most picturesque, the gigantic figures, with their gleaming pawa-shell eyes, forming a delightfully incongruous background to the smart modern men and

women, who were enjoying the well-chosen menu.

The programme was admirably selected, and the audience was most appreciative. Mr. R. Robertson's clever vocal duets (in which he takes both parts) were very successful, and evoked storms of applause, more especially "The Miller and the Maid." Miss Floyd-Hassell and Mrs. Glover-Eaton both sang charmingly, and Mr. E. J. Hill was in very fine voice. Dr. Carbury (Stratford) also gave an amusing recitation, which was vigorously encored.

The committee of ladies is to be congratulated on the success of their efforts, which were mainly devoted to decorations and the more important branch of refreshments, and altogether the occasion was quite one to be remembered.

Dr. and Mrs. Collins received together, the latter wearing a lovely dress of black and white chiffon and lace, over satin, diamond ornaments; Dr. Elizabeth Platts-Mills wore black satin; Dr. Isabel Watson, black silk crepe, with raised motifs of Paris lace; Dr. Jessie Maddison, pale grey silk voile, with handsome lace insertion; Dr. Edith Huntley, champagne silk, with touches of black velvet; Mrs. Kendall, black velvet and Maitese lace; Mrs. Beauchamp, black satin, and Paris lace; Mrs. Fell, black brocade and loose beribe; Mrs. Henry, grey satin; Miss Harcourt, black satin and net; Miss G. Harcourt, white satin; Miss Harding, pale green brocade; Mrs. Cooper, white satin; Miss C. Smith, black crepe de chine and pale green sash; Miss McLean, pale blue silk voile; Mrs. G. Kemp, black satin and lace; Miss Kemp, white silk; Mrs. Gilmer, ivory satin; Mrs. Young, blue crepe de chine; Mrs. A. Young, black satin; Miss Brandon, white silk and net; Miss Lloyd-Hassell, black jetted chiffon over satin; Miss Coates, black brocade, relieved with white; Mrs. Polten, grey crepe de chine; Mrs. Macarthur, black brocade; Misses Hislop, black dresses and pale blue choux; Mrs. Jeffcoat, mauve Chinese crepe; Miss Waldegrave, black satin and lace; Miss May Seddon, ivory voile and lace; Miss Heywood, white silk and net; Miss Scully, white silk, with touches of pale blue;



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