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**Society Gossip**

**FOXTON.**

Dear Bee, July 20.

Nothing could have been more appropriately timed than the "White Ball," to which, on Tuesday evening, a large number of guests were invited by Mr and Mrs T. Haywood in the Masonic Hall. Around the walls were arranged palms and evergreens, festooned with snowy lines sparkling with frost powder, which gave them added beauty, and in the corners of the hall were holly and other greeneries, all covered with imitation snow and icicles, the whole scheme being most realistic and admirably worked out. The stage was arranged as a drawing-room, where Mr and Mrs Haywood received their guests, who then passed down to the hall, where Miss Haywood and Miss Atchison distributed white programmes from a snowy-white table, which had a charming effect. A marquee had been erected adjoining the hall, in which a dainty supper had been laid out, and here again the decorations had been nicely arranged with greenery and a profusion of white roses. The floor was in perfect order, and the music by Mrs Walls was all that could be desired.

Extras played by Miss Haywood were highly appreciated. His Worship the Mayor (Mr G. B. Gower) and Mr Walter S. Carter, as the M.C.'s, were most assiduous in their attention to visitors. The dancing of the Sir Roger de Coverley made a pretty ending, and the hearty singing of "Auld Lang Syne" evidenced the appreciation of all for their host and hostess. A more enjoyable evening has not been spent in Foxton for many a long day. The following ladies looked charming in their handsome white costumes, with powdered hair and patches:—Mesdames Haywood, Frankland, H. Frankland, John Robinson, C. Robinson, H. Austin, R. H. Barber, C. Collins, Jenks, A. S. Easton, W. Barber, Fraser, Clemett, Stewart, Barnard, Hamer, T. Nye, J. Barber, Whyte, McMillan, Misses Haywood, Atchison, Fraser, P. Fraser, O. Fraser, Collins, E. Collins, Easton, Wanklyn, E. Wanklyn, Symons, Carter, N. Simpson, P. Simpson, Thynne, Carkeek, Hamer, Crompton, Nimmo, Power, Williams. The following gentlemen were present: Messrs Haywood, Frankland, H. Frankland, John Robinson, H. Austin, Jenks, W. Barber, A. Fraser, Clemett, Simpson, Hamer, T. Nye, B. G. Gower, W. S. Carter, O. Robinson, D. Purcell, H. Thynne, P. Thynne, L. Furrle, John Stevens, E. Marshall, W. Edwards, R. Hickson, S. Easton, G. Barber, L. E. Reade, Mainwaring, Morgan, Murray, W. Sutherland, Bill, Powie. RONALD.

**WANGANUI.**

Dear Bee, July 24.

"PRETTY PEGGY" was staged at the Opera House on Thursday, 20th inst., by the Nellie Stewart Co. to a very large and fashionable audience. Some very superb toilettes were worn on the stage by Nellie

Stewart and the lady members of the company. Amongst the audience were Mrs Saunders, in a handsome black silk gown with wide collar of cream Brussels net and berthe of lace; Miss Inlay, black silk and collar of beautiful real lace; Mrs Gifford Marshall, pale blue crepe de chine, with lace on corsage, full elbow sleeves with wide full; Miss Rawson, white silk with overskirt of white net edged with pastel blue, white feather stole; Miss Moore, black crepe de chine gauged frock, transparent yoke of champagne lace; Miss Dudgeon, pale pink silk, trimmed with champagne lace; Miss K. McBeth (Christchurch) wore a dainty white silk frock; Mrs Morrison (Wairarapa), pale grey crepe de chine with berthe of Maltese lace; Miss D. Higgie, becoming gauged white silk gown, with lace on corsage; Mrs R. Lethbridge (Turakina), black silk with berthe of cream lace; Mrs S. Gordon, black silk skirt, blue blouse with lace; Miss Gresson wore a pretty pale silk blouse with yoke of lace, black silk skirt; Mrs Alexander was gowned in an exquisite black and white costume, relieved with heliotrope, cream opera cloak; Miss Alexander wore a pastel blue silk with lace on corsage; Miss Aird (Scotland), soft white silk; with berthe of lace and a spray of roses on corsage; Miss Hardcastle, white silk with gauged corsage, white opera cloak edged with fur; Miss Cotterill (Napier), wore a becoming black silk evening gown, with Maltese lace berthe; Miss Shand, black silk evening gown, handsome brocaded opera cloak; Mrs Fenwick, gauged white silk frock, fichu of lace on corsage and crimson silk ribbon chion; Miss Wright (Christchurch) wore a soft white silk, berthe of lace and shaded ribbon rosette; Miss Tennant (Marton), pale green evening frock, fichu of net to match; Mrs Hughes-Johnston wore a black evening gown; Mrs J. C. Greenwood, pretty pale pink silk blouse with yoke of champagne lace, black silk skirt; Mrs Moss, black silk with collar of cream lace; Mrs Dyer, black silk with jet and lace on corsage; Mrs Dudgeon, black silk yoke of lace; Mrs John Stevenson wore a handsome black and white evening gown; Miss Morse (Fordell), pale blue silk blouse with lace, black silk skirt; Mrs Logan Bush (Dunedin), cream crepe de chine blouse, black brocaded skirt, cream opera cloak edged with fur; Mrs Christie wore pretty silk blouse, pale pink embroidered opera coat, black crepe de chine skirt; Mrs A. E. Kitchen, smart pale blue crepe de chine blouse with bands of narrow velvet ribbon to match, black silk skirt; Miss Willis wore a dainty gauged white silk frock, with berthe of lace, her sister a soft white silk, the skirt made with wide gauged founce, fichu of lace, and crimson silk rosette in her corsage; Mrs Barnicout wore a becoming evening gown with long pastel blue cloth opera coat, the collar and cuffs with champagne lace medallions; Miss Barnicout, pale grey frock, relieved with pale pink; Miss P. Barnicout, dainty white muslin gown with wide frills on corsage; Mrs Speed wore a black and white evening gown, long pale grey opera cloak with collar of cream lace; Miss Birch (England), black silk gown, wide berthe of lace; Mrs Fairburn, crimson silk frock, fichu of crimson chiffon; Miss M. Brewer, white silk blouse, banded with champagne insertion, black silk skirt; Miss Utfield, black silk gown; Miss Brewer, crimson silk blouse with insertion, black skirt; Miss Brabant, cream silk blouse, black skirt, blue cloth opera coat, with wide collar of cream cloth; Miss O'Brien, pale blue silk blouse with lace, black silk skirt; Mrs Lloyd Jones, black silk evening frock with lace; Mrs Downes, black silk, opera cloak of white silk edged with fur; Miss Henderson, gauged white silk frock; Mrs Morton Jones wore a black silk gown, the bodice banded with wide cream insertion; Miss P. Jones, becoming black crepe de chine, berthe of lace on corsage and pastel blue silk chion. There were also present—Messrs G. Marshall, Harold, Hardwicke, Dunn, C. Wilson, G. Saunders, N. Fitzherbert, Borlase, Dyer, Moss, Stevenson (2), Dudgeon, Jones, Stik, Young, Gordon, Lethbridge (Turakina), Drs. Wall, Fenwick and others.

On Thursday, 20th inst., Mrs Dymock gave a

**"CELEBRITY" AFTERNOON TEA.**

Mrs McBeth won the prize for the most original idea, and Miss Young for guessing the largest number. Amongst those

present were Mesdames Dymock, McBeth, Burnett, Jones, F. Harrison, Harper, McLean, Misses Dudgeon, McBeth (Christchurch), Lifiton, Anderson, Brewer, Dymock, Wells (Auckland).

On Tuesday evening Mrs John Stevenson gave

**A BRIDGE PARTY**

in honour of Mrs Baker, of Dunedin, who is making a short visit to Wanganui. Amongst those present were Mr and Mrs S. Gordon, Mr and Mrs Sarjeant, Mrs and Miss Baker, Mr and Mrs Dyer, Mrs Peake, Mr and Mrs Fairburn, Mr and Miss Dudgeon, Mr and Mrs Stevenson, Mr R. Stevenson, Miss Brewer.

On Monday evening a most successful entertainment was given in the Opera House by the

**PUKI NATIVES**

and their friends. The audience was so large that the seating accommodation was taxed to its utmost extent, a large number having to stand. All the tableaux, songs, etc., were well received, and reflected the utmost credit upon the organisers. Amongst those present I noticed: Miss Fraser and the Wanganui College girls, Mrs Logan Bush (Dunedin), Misses Krull, Christie, Thompson (Castlemaine), Mrs and the Misses Hatrick, Mrs and Miss Alexander, Miss Cameron, Mrs W. H. Smith (Canterbury), Mrs B. Taylor, Mrs and Miss Williams, Mrs and Miss Jones, Mrs John Stevenson, Mr R. Stevenson, Miss Wright (Christchurch), Miss Blandell, Messrs Harold, Jones, Stevenson, Williams, B. Taylor, C. Wilson, Dr. Hatherly, and many more.

**HUTA.**

**ROTORUA.**

Dear Bee, July 27.

A small committee of Rotorua ladies and gentlemen arranged a most successful masquerade ball in the Assembly Hall on Friday, the 21st. The hall and supper-room were decorated for the occasion, and the stage was comfortably furnished with easy chairs, etc., for chaperones and others who did not feel inclined to dance. The costumes worn were exceptionally pretty and effective, and it would be hard to say which was the best, unless, as many seemed inclined to do, one gave the palm to Miss Constant, who as Phyllis ("Iolanthe") looked charming. Before the masqueraders unmasked it was very difficult in most instances to penetrate their disguises, as all seemed to have made it their business to remain incog, if possible. Amongst those I noticed were: Mrs. Wigg, as a Swiss Peasant; Miss French, as "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe"; Mrs. Littlejohn, Granny; Miss Webster, Pillar Box; Miss Crosswell, Maori Wahine; Miss Mountfort, Goddess of Peace; Miss Crowhurst, Sister of Mercy; Miss N. Kalman's representation of Pretty Peggy was a complete disguise; Mrs. D. I. Barrow went as the Belle of New York; Mrs. Williams, Court Lady; Mrs. Clarke, Normanby Peasant; Mrs. Constant, Juliet; Mrs. E. M. Donaldson, Italian Peasant; Mrs. Crowhurst made a good Hypathia; Mrs. Hannah, Helen MacGregor ("Rob Roy"); Mrs. Grove, Night; Mrs. Maxwell looked pretty as a French Fisher Girl; Mrs. Turner's costume, as Zuleika, was handsome and particularly well carried out; Mrs. Nadou, Up-to-date; Mrs. Batten was disguised as a Maori Wahine, but upon unmasking revealed herself as a very smart and handsome Sorceress of the 17th Lanciers; Miss Kalman looked particularly charming as a Dalmatian Girl; Miss Alice Corlett looked very well indeed as Cleopatra; Miss Downey looked well as a Spanish Dancer; Miss Gardner, Dawn; Miss J. Gardner, Butterfly; Miss Hannah, Night; Miss M. Lundon made a winsome Gipsy Dancing Girl; Miss Murrish looked very well as Maritana; Miss Lundon, Polly. Amongst the men were: Mr. Donaldson, Matador; Mr. Sealey, cigarette; Mr. Clarke, the Diamond-Eyed Coon; Mr. Brackebush, Red Domino; Mr. Ewleton, Court Gentleman; Mr. D. I. Barrow, Domino; Mr. Batten, Domino; Mr. Wiggs, Captain Rotorua Rifles; Mr. Redward, the "Hot Lakes Chronicle"; Mr. Bremor, Highlander; Mr. Naden made a splendid Father Christmas; Mr. Green's "Dyer" dress was excellent; Mr. Biggs, Venetian co-

stume; Mr. Constant made a very good Mikado; Mr. Williams, Graduate; Mr. Carver, Military Cadet; Mr. Connell, Domino; Mr. B. Crowhurst, Undergraduate; Mr. George, Returned Trooper; Mr. C. W. Grove made a fine Highlander; Mr. Steele, Lieut. Rtd. Rifles; Mr. McDonald, Tennis; Mr. Reed, Tommy Atkins; Mr. Gansstadt, Domino; Mr. Furber, Footballer; Mr. French, as Knight of the Brush, represented to the life a well-known figure in our town. The music was supplied by several members of the Town Band. Dancing was kept up till the small hours of the morning.

On Friday next the members of the Ladies' Hockey Club are holding a conversation to augment the funds of the club. HONEMOA

**AUCKLAND.**

Dear Bee, August 1.

**AFTERNOON AT HOME.**

Quite an original idea was that of Mrs Brett, of Lake Takapuna, who gave a "Cat Party" on Thursday afternoon, as a medium for the entertainment of her guests. For the benefit of the uninitiated I may mention that each of the guests was given a card, on which was written seventeen questions, the answer to which must begin with the word "cat." For instance, "A dangerous cat" would be "Catastrophe"; "A cat that will be a butterfly" "Caterpillar" would suggest itself; "A cat with a cold"—"Caturday" was the answer; "A library cat," "Caturday," and so on. Four ladies—Mrs (Dr.) Parkes, Miss Goldie, Miss Courtney, and Miss Nelson—guessed 15 out of 17, and drew for the prize, Miss Goldie being successful. Entertainments of this kind provide pleasant diversion and cause a good deal of amusement, hence their growing popularity. They promote conversation and assist the hostess materially in entertaining her guests. During the afternoon Mrs Parkes and Mrs Sutherland sang, and a dainty tea was handed round. "Te Kiteoro," with its spacious rooms, lends itself so admirably to this form of entertainment. The afternoon was one of the series given by the members of the Takapuna Croquet Club. Mrs Brett received in a rich black silk with touches of white lace. Those present were: Mesdames Hubson, Porter, Davis, Barton, Jackson, Goldie, Shakerpear, Quirk, Green, Keadle, O'Neill, Weston, Masfen, Goldie, Parkes, Maclier, Hart, Gorry, Bock, Moran, Griffiths, Williams, Gilmour, Sutherland, Blomfield, Tompkins, Rainger, A. R. Brett, Geward, Mair, H. L. Brett, Misses Abbott (2), Goldie (2), Courtney, Berry (2), Nelson, Flower, Moon, Williamson, Alison, Seaman, Jackson, Porter, and Honchen (2).

**LARGE EVENING "AT HOMES" AT BISHOPSCOURT.**

The third of the very large evening receptions given by the Bishop of Auckland and Mrs Neligan took place at Bishopscourt on Wednesday, and was even more numerously attended than the two former, for upwards of six hundred guests must have partaken of the lavish hospitality extended. The arrangements were again on a very extensive scale, and every effort had been made to secure the comfort and enjoyment of the guests. The Bishop and Mrs Neligan received in the drawing-room, and thence we passed to the other room, the broad balconies and the large carpeted marquees, which afforded ample room for even so great a number of guests. An excellent band provided a capital selection of operatic and light music, and a sumptuous supper was admirably and expeditiously served in the library, which is rich with historic associations. The reception, which was a very complete success, was much enjoyed and appreciated. Amongst those I caught sight of amidst the huge number present were:

Mrs Neligan was charmingly gowned in a pastel shaded green velvet, with white chiffon vest, and carried a lovely bouquet of tea roses and maidenhair; Madame Roesfey, picturesque gown of white Oriental satin with lace frills; Mrs Moore, rich black glace tulle with pink crush rose in front of bodice; Mrs Brigham, black embroidered net over white glace silk; Miss Brigham,