

Miss McCready (Gisborne) is the guest of Mrs. E. Armstrong, Palmerston North.

Mrs. Peake, of Wanganni, who has just returned from the Christchurch Exhibition, leaves again this week for Auckland and the Waikato.

Miss Maude Biss, of Auckland, who has been staying in Wanganni with Mr. and Mrs. Holm Biss, has gone on to Christchurch.

Dr. Martindale Kendall, who has been away for some months in England and Europe came back to Wellington last week.

Mrs. G. Menzies (Southland) is in Wellington for a few weeks staying with her mother, Mrs. W. Menzies, Thornodon Quay.

The Hon. T. K. Macdonald (Wellington) is contemplating taking a trip home before long. Mrs and Miss Macdonald will accompany him.

Miss Caw, who has been making a long stay with Mrs Rose, at the Lower Hutt (Wellington) has left for England again.

Sir Robert and Lady Stout are back in Wellington after a fortnight or so in Christchurch, where Sir Robert has been presiding over the annual session of the University Senate.

Mrs. Newell, Miss Newell, and Miss Lord, of Melbourne, who are at present visiting Mrs. Fuller, Palmerston North, left on Wednesday for the trip up the Waunganui River to Pipiriki.

Mrs. E. Arbon and sons, Pohangina, have been visiting Mrs. Arbon's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Haynes, Palmerston North. She has now gone to the seaside at Foxton.

Mrs. H. Waldegrave and the Misses Trixie, Sybil, Doris, and Marjory Waldegrave, Palmerston North, have gone to Muriwai Bay, near Wellington, for a month or so. Miss Frances Waldegrave has gone to the Christchurch Exhibition.

Dr. Ernest Giesen, who has been studying his profession in London for the past few years, has returned to Wellington, and is now practising in that city.

Miss Coates is back in Wellington, after a stay of some weeks in Auckland. She leaves again shortly for England, and will visit Japan before returning to the colony.

Mr and Mrs A. R. Hislop (Wellington) have gone to England for a trip extending over several months. Mr Hislop has to attend the Maritime Conference in London. They travelled by way of Sydney and Suva.

Mrs Faudke and Mrs A. E. Kernot have been elected vice-presidents of the Wellington Kennel Club. Mrs Kernot is one of the leading officials of the Wellington Bulldog Club.

Miss Baber returned to Wellington lately after about a year's absence in England and abroad. She has taken over the Fitzherbert Terrace School, which was known for more than one generation as Mrs Swainson's, and amalgamated it with her own "Pipitea" school. Miss Swainson, who, with Miss Taylor, has superintended the establishment for some years, has now retired, and, after a sojourn in the country, intends going to England for a lengthy period. Miss Taylor will accompany her.

SOUTH ISLAND.

Dr. and Mrs. Ritchie, of Dunedin, have been spending a few days in Christchurch.

Mr. and Mrs. Dymock (Wellington) are visiting Christchurch.

Mrs. and the Misses Brandon (Wellington) are visiting Christchurch.

Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Batchelor (Dunedin) are in Christchurch.

Mrs. Cohn (Dunedin) is the guest of Mrs. Chas. Louison (Christchurch).

Mr. F. Nanourrow (Sydney) is the guest of Mrs. Nanourrow (Christchurch).

Miss Fitzroy (Hawke's Bay) is the guest of Mrs. Boyle (Christchurch).

Lady Agnes de Trafford (England) has been the guest of Lady Clifford at (Stonehurst).

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Williamson (Gisborne) are in Christchurch staying with Mrs. Elworthy.

Judge and Mrs. Chapman and their family have arrived in Christchurch from Dunedin.

Mrs. and Miss Stead have returned to Christchurch from Wellington. The Misses Abraham (Palmerston North) are their guests at Stroyan.

Miss Shilton (Melbourne), who is the guest of Mrs. Guthrie (Christchurch) is leaving this week for the Southern Lakes.

Mrs. James Mills (Dunedin), who has been staying with Mrs. Beswick (Christchurch) has left for England with Mr. Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wood have left Christchurch for Rotorua. The deepest sympathy is felt for them in the loss of their little daughter who died rather suddenly, writes our correspondent.

Are There Men on Mars?

A NEW STUDY OF ITS CANALS.

When Schiaparelli first drew the canals he saw on Mars, the world said: "These are the works of sentient beings." But gradually doubts were thrown on the reality of the markings. Walter Maunder placed circles, with a few dots to represent the chief seas of Mars, before schoolboys, and told them to draw what they saw. They drew double canals joining the seas! Ergo—the canals are optical illusions, said Maunder. The tendency is to run one's eyes from black spot to black spot, and imagine lines between.

But this year Professor Lowell settled the question by actually photographing the canals. The sensitive plate tells what is there, and has no imagination.

The question being raised once again, a book, just out, by Mr. Edward S. Morse, is of more than ordinary interest. For he takes up the question from a new aspect. Briefly, he discusses the character of cracks. He has diagrams to illustrate the difference between lines drawn by Nature and those made artificially. He says:

"In order to pronounce the lines on Mars as simply cracks, one should study the various kinds of cracks in similar surfaces on the earth. In such a study he would be amazed at the similarity of cracks. When there is a grain in the substance, as in wood, the cracks follow the grain, though even in this material they are discontinuous. In amorphous material they have essentially the same character. Whether in the almost microscopic crack of old Satsuma pottery or huge cracks in sun-dried mud, the areas enclosed are generally polygonal.

"Cracks arising from contraction never converge to a common centre, and when not connected with another crack they taper to a point. They begin at indefinite places and end in an equally indefinite manner. That there should be a common resemblance in cracks due to contraction is evident, as they arise from a shrinking of the surface.

"The most ancient deposits, millions of ages ago, reveal mud cracks differing in no respect from those found to-day. The cracks in the moon are identical in character to those found on the mesa in Arizona. They start from some indefinite point, are irregular in outline, and end as indefinitely. A poor asphalt pavement offers one of the best opportunities for the study of the formation of various kinds of cracks and fissures. On the edge of a sloping sidewalk one may see the cracks due to a sliding or lateral displacement of the surface. The effects of subsidence show a number of cracks around the area of depression. The growth of a tree crowding the asphalt shows the effect of lateral thrust and an enlargement of a root below, or the effects of frost show cracks due to elevation.

"All these various cracks, reveal the same features: they are discontinuous, they begin and end without definition.

Schiaparelli says in regard to the canals of Mars: "None of them have yet been seen cut off in the middle of the continent, remaining without beginning or without end." These lines on the surface of Mars, as a writer in 'Nature' says, are almost without exception geologically straight, supernaturally so, and this in spite of their leading in every possible direction.

"But if we admit them to be natural cracks in the crust, we are compelled to admit that the forces implicated in such cracks must have been active many

millions of years ago, as Mars, being a much older planet than the earth, must have long since ceased to show those activities which the earth, even to-day, exhibits in such phenomena as earthquakes, subsidences, elevations, and the like. Now, cracks made at that early time in the history of the planet must have long since become filled with detritus and obliterated in other ways, and no evidence would show, even on close inspection, of their former existence, much less at a distance of 50,000,000 of miles, more or less."


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