

Society Gossip

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee, June 11.

I fear I cannot give you a particularly long or detailed description of the

ST. GEORGE'S ROWING CLUB'S 17th ANNUAL BALL,

which took place last evening, and from which I have only returned a few hours. The paper really should be in the press now, but is being held back to enable me to tell you that the whole affair was a brilliant success, on which those concerned may justly pride themselves. Everything was exceedingly well done, quite royally, in fact, and the small executive committee had certainly never counted expense in their endeavours to make the guests thoroughly enjoy the dance. The decorations, though not lavish, were effective, and I was delighted to see tree ferns and nikans had on this occasion been spared. The stage was very comfortably furnished for chaperons, and there was ample and comfortable sitting-out room for all. The gallery was thrown open to spectators, and was crowded during the earlier part of the evening. The floor was good and the music by Burke's orchestra absolutely perfect, but the programme was decidedly too extended. Nineteen dances, exclusive of four supper extras, is rather too much of even the best of things. Supper was excellent, and was admirably served at small tables in the annex and also in a marquee. I have only time to mention a few of the many well-gowned people I saw:

Mrs. George wore a beautiful black chiffon toilette, inset with handsome black lace, mounted on white lace; Mrs. Duthie was effectively gowned in primrose brocade, brightened with gold sequins, full vest and tucker, and corsage spray of lovely gold tissue roses, black velvet in coiffure; Mrs. Devore had some black silk gown relieved with white, cluster of violets on corsage, and black and gold chiffon roses in coiffure; Mrs. Steele wore black satin with white chiffon vest, outlined with handsome Paris tinted insertion; Mrs. Russell pretty ciel blue chiffon taffeta, softened with blue accordion-pleated chiffon, wreath of blue flowers in coiffure and corsage spray of same; Mrs. Griffiths was wearing a black silk gown, with velvet berthe and white lace tucker; Mrs. Willie Jagger looked pretty in black net over black lace, the bodice veiled in jetted lace, dainty white chiffon tucker; Miss Phillips, pretty shrimp pink crepe de chine, softened with lace, pink roses in coiffure; Miss — Phillips was daintily gowned in white satin and lace, with celine ribbon arranged as sash on bodice and chine ribbon sash, pink roses in her hair; Mrs. Bloomfield wore a beautifully fitting black silk with black chiffon and silver-spotted net, white osprey in coiffure; Mrs. Holmes black jetted net robe over black lace; Mrs. Rathbone pretty eau de nil chiffon taffeta, with cream lace arranged with fichu effect, black bird in her hair; Mrs. Gore Gillon wore a graceful black velvet gown with beautiful white lace on bodice, white butterfly bow in her hair; Mrs. John Dawson was handsomely gowned in black chiffon taffeta, with touches of white; Mrs. Mackay, black satin with white lace berthe and tucker; Miss Roie Nathan was becomingly gowned in heliotrope chiffon taffeta, with Valenciennes lace vest outlined with floral ribbon, floral ribbon sash; Miss Ada Preece daintily rose pink mousseline with Valenciennes lace chemise-like, pink silk corselet belt; Miss Zadie Nathan (Wellington) was strikingly gowned in poppy red crepe de chine, with velvet of same shade threaded through her hair; Miss Dorothy Ware was prettily frocked in lime green silk with white lace on bodice; Mrs. Coney, rose pink accordion-pleated crepe de chine with cream lace, and touches of black velvet on bodice; Mrs. Lecky was daintily gowned in Paris-tinted sprigged net, with bouncings of Valenciennes lace, mounted on white silk; Mrs. Bagnall wore pale sea-green

silk veiled in green, and silver diamante, cluster of crimson roses on corsage; Miss Stevenson was strikingly gowned in maize-coloured silk with overdress of chemise spotted net, shaded roses on corsage and in her hair; Miss Upton, soft white silk, prettily frilled and trimmed with lace; Miss Devore was wearing black crepe de chine, with corsage spray of crimson roses; Miss Dolly (Goodwin) was daintily in white chiffon taffeta, with pale pink ribbon threaded through her hair; Miss Shepherd wore white silk, with touches of scarlet, scarlet butterfly bow in coiffure; Miss Shepherd, dainty pale blue mousseline de soie, softened with lace; Miss Whitson's gown was shrimp pink mousseline, with lace berthe caught with cluster of roses; Miss Whitson was gracefully gowned in pale sea-green silk and lace, with spray of crimson roses on shoulder; Miss T. Dickey looked pretty in pale pink chiffon taffeta, daintily finished with lace; Miss Hellaby was wearing a very pretty heliotrope crepe de chine, toned with velvet a shade deeper, the bodice was trimmed with beautiful white lace; Miss R. Hellaby was daintily attired in white sprigged net, prettily applied with lace, mounted on white lace; Miss Audrey Stubbs, pretty green figured silk, with white lace tucker; Miss Jameson (Wellington) was charmingly gowned in white chiffon taffeta; Miss Slater looked pretty in pink stamped chiffon, toned with pink chiffon taffeta; Miss Doris Gillon wore a dainty white chiffon taffeta gown; Miss Noakes, soft white silk, inset with bands of insertion, creamy lace on bodice; Miss Ivy Noakes wore white silk, with overdress of lovely lace; Miss Marjorie McDonnick was prettily frocked in sea blue silk and white lace, pale blue ribbon threaded through her hair; Miss Alice Davy, white ninon, softened with Valenciennes lace, gold tissue centre; Miss Armstrong wore a beautiful white and silver embroidered net gown; Miss Duder, graceful white silk toilette, with cluster of crimson roses on corsage; Mrs. Martin was becomingly gowned in black crepe de chine, with corsage spray of roses; Miss Goldsboro, dainty black toilette, relieved with white, beautiful floral ribbon sash; Miss Sybil Greig wore a pretty blue and white floral mousseline, with lace tucker, threaded with pale blue; Miss Katie Morrow, pink floral muslin, with pink centre; Miss Ruby Porch was strikingly gowned in buttercup yellow chiffon taffeta, with V-shaped vest of lace, put-lined with velvet a shade darker; Miss Steele was strikingly gowned in maize-coloured silk, toned with cream lace,

black velvet bow on corsage; Miss Hilde Steele wore a pretty pale green silk, with touches of white lace on bodice; Miss Elliot was becomingly gowned in ivory satin and lace, with clusters of shaded roses on corsage; Miss — Elliot, sea-green silk, tucked and inserted with lace, crimson roses on corsage and in her hair; Miss Cochrane, very pretty pale crepe de chine, with dainty lace tucker; Mrs. St. Clair wore a graceful black and gold spangled net toilette, mounted on black lace; Miss St. Clair looked charming in her debutante frock of white ninon de soie, with wreath of lilies of the valley in her hair.

MELBORNE OLD GIRLS' CLUB DANCE.

The Melbourn Old Girls' Club gave a most successful dance of the Oldfellows Hall last Tuesday evening as a farewell to Miss Daisy Mowbray, who was married last week. The dance, which has become an annual affair, has always been one of the successes of the season, and this one was no whit behind its predecessors in this respect. The committee, who, by the way, looked charming in their dainty gowns, with powdered hair and patches, had overlooked nothing which might add to the enjoyment of their guests. The floor was in splendid order, and Meredith supplied excellent music. The supper table was most artistically arranged with autumn leaves and maidenhair fern, and was laden with all kinds ofainties. The programme opened with the Laurels, and the first set comprised the Ladies of the committee, with their partners and the guest of honour and Mr. Gordon. During evening Miss Dagna Gilliland, president of the club, on behalf of the Melbourn Old Girls' Club, presented Miss Mowbray with a brooch as a mark of the esteem and affection in which their old school-fellow is held.

Mrs. Gilliland wore a becoming black chiffon taffeta gown, relieved with touches of white; Mrs. Dewes, blue velvet, with rich white lace berthe; Mrs. Reed, black jetted net over black lace, with dainty vest of white lace; Mrs. Morrow, handsome black silk toilette, softened with lace; Mrs. Angus Gordon was wearing a pretty trained gown of black velvet, with lace berthe; Mrs. Young was attired in black silk, with touches of white lace; Mrs. Butler was wearing a pretty pastel green silk, with white lace caught with red roses; Mrs. Cowan, black silk, trimmed with black lace, and ribbon rickish; Miss Gilliland was charmingly gowned in shrimp pink mousseline, prettily shirred and trimmed with lace, mounted on pink

DECEASED. — On June 10th, at her residence, Shurlockwell, Grey, Lyon, Margaret, the beloved wife of Christian Buge; aged 65 years; after years of suffering.

DECEASED. — On June 8th, 1907, at the District Hospital, Jane, the dearly beloved wife of Albert Stillwell, nee Jane (Jeanie) Woodall; aged 40 years.

DECEASED. — On June 8th, at her daughter's residence, Mrs. Penelope, of Jerusalem, Pounamu, Sarah Smith, widow of the late George Smith (nee Howard), late of Walkemete; aged 83. At rest.

IN MEMORIAM.

LULLIVAN. — In loving memory of Metama Hukura Sullivan, who died on June 7th, 1906. Inserted by her loving husband and daughter, Mrs. T. W. Davis. — June 7th, 1907.

Youth on the Links.

MR BALFOUR'S PLEA FOR GOLF FOR THE YOUNG SUPPORTED BY FACTS.

"It is a game for young people. Unless you begin it when young, you will never know the full glory of it. The idea that people should play nothing but cricket till thirty-five, and then, after ten years' meditation, begin a golf career as a solace to their old age, is a profound mistake."—Mr A. J. Balfour.

Mr Balfour's opinion that golf should be begun early is supported both by results and by the experiences of leading golfers. The greatest golfers of the day are young men, who began their careers on the links at an early age, and won championships long before they reached their forties.

Even men who have grown white-haired at the game started their golfing young, and extracted their utmost enjoyment from the exercise while in the fullest possession of the physical faculties.

This was demonstrated last autumn at the novel golf foursome played between octogenarians on the links of the Royal North Devon Club. The contestants were: Dr. Reid, age 87; Captain J. E. Gordon, age 80; Mr R. B. Jones, age 85; and Captain Molewgrth, age 82.

Dr. Reid began to play golf when he was eighteen, and the others had developed their love for the game in the prime of life, and gained their skill before they were old. At the same time, the fact that they were able to enjoy golf at the octogenarian stage shows the futility of making a hard and fast rule on the subject.

One authority, however, has endeavoured to do so, and his opinion is in striking contrast to Mr Balfour's. Dr. J. Clifford Allbutt, professor of physics at Cambridge, has averred that there ought to be a law against any man playing golf before he reaches the age of thirty-five. Golf was not so useful in training character, he said, as cricket or football.

This contention is controverted by many prominent golfers, whose evidence supplies the best available commentary on Mr Balfour's interesting declaration.

J. H. Taylor began playing golf before he reached his teens, and so did James Braid, Harry Vardon, and Alexander Herd. Taylor is now thirty-six, and he was the open champion at twenty-three, and again at twenty-four and twenty-nine.

"There would be no tip-top players," he says, "if men waited till the age of thirty-five. I would have schoolboys playing. The successful golfer has to have command of his nerves, to be rapid in judgment, quick in execution, and always ready to snatch a hard-won victory."

James Braid considers golf an excellent game for boys. "Anyone wishing to excel," he says, "should start young."

"Golf is the best of all games for boys," says Harry Vardon, who is still in the thirties, and was open champion at the age of twenty-six. Alexander Herd, too, is still under forty, and was open champion at thirty-four.

As a means of inculcating the virtue of self-reliance, golf is pre-eminent among all games, and for that reason alone schoolboys should be taught to play it as soon as they can handle a club.

Headmasters are not at present prepared to take this generous view of golf. It is almost the only large school where it is played, and there only to a small extent. It is not allowed at Harrow or Charterhouse, and is not officially recognised at other great schools.

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