

Society Gossip

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee,

July 30.

The great topics of conversation during the past week have been the grand opera performances and the splendid concerts by Marie Mall, unquestionably the most sympathetic and soulful player we have ever heard in New Zealand. The opera has been attended by large and brilliant audiences, but owing to the early hour of starting, and the difficulty of getting down in decent time, on account of the tramway trouble, everyone arrives in a bunch, and my amiable design of getting down early and watching people come in, so as to describe their frocks (for there are some exceedingly smart ones) has been made impossible. Amongst those who have sat where I could see them on the evenings I have been there were:

Mrs. Arthur Myers was wearing a lovely pale gown with white theatre coat; Mrs. Louis Myers, handsome black silk with a real lace scarf; Miss Cohen, becoming white silk softened with lace; Miss G. Cohen, pretty floral chine silk with touches of violet velvet; Mrs. Alexander, black silk softened with lace and pale blue; Mrs. Ehot Davis, becoming white gown relieved with pale blue; Mrs. Sharman was gowned in black and white mousseline over black lace; Mrs. Buckland, handsome black silk, with white lace scarf; Miss Buckland, dainty white silk; Miss H. Buckland, pretty pale blue silk with Valenciennes lace; Mrs. Duthie was gowned in a becoming white silk softened with chiffon; Miss Rooke, black silk with vest and berthe of cream lace; Mrs. Ivor Evans in a dainty white evening gown and white opera coat; Miss Honey was gowned in a pink chiffon taffeta; Miss V. Honey wore black with cream lace; Miss Gillilan was daintily frocked in white; Mrs. Bodle, black satin with silver embroidery; Miss Buddle, black silk with vest and tucker of Valenciennes lace; Mrs. Rainger, black satin with becoming blue cloth theatre coat; Mrs. Gibson (Whakapirau) was gowned in crepe de chine of a Bordeaux shade, with vest of white lace; Mrs. Dargaville, handsome black gown with white boa; Miss Dargaville, dainty white silk with touches of blue; Mrs. Frank Dargaville, white, with long white cloth opera coat; Mrs. Douglas, pretty pale blue taffeta; Mrs. Towle wore black silk with tucker of real lace; Miss Towle was daintily gowned in white; Miss — Towle, becoming pink chiffon taffeta; Mrs. Sydney Nathan, black silk relieved with white lace; Miss D. Nathan was prettily frocked in white with touches of blue; Mrs. Phillipps wore a lovely gown of white point d'esprit with band of black Chantilly lace over white lace; Mrs. Goertz was gowned in black with silver embroidery; Miss Heale wore a charming gown of pale blue mousseline de soie over taffeta, with clusters of pink roses; Miss Toke, white with pretty blue opera coat; Miss E. Toke also wore white with a red cloth theatre coat with fur; Mrs. Keesing, handsome black silk with black silk and lace coat; Miss Keesing, blue with a becoming blue coat; Miss Beryl Keesing was daintily gowned in white; Mrs. Rathbone, black taffeta with cream lace, blue cloth theatre coat; Mrs. Alfred Nathan, black with vest and tucker of white lace; Mrs. Edward Russell, black with long white coat; Mrs. C. Browne, pretty black and white gown with Wedgwood blue coat trimmed with white fur; Mrs. Towsley, black with a lovely pale pink opera coat; Miss Towsley was daintily gowned in white with a white silk and lace coat; Mrs. Pollen, black chiffon taffeta relieved with white lace; Mrs. Hope Lewis wore a white gown with black velvet bands;

Mrs. Egerton was gowned in black with a becoming blue coat; Miss Wilkie wore white with white theatre coat; Miss Fenton, black relieved with white; Mrs. Frank Jervois, becoming black and white gown; Mrs. Houghton, black skirt, charming pink silk and chiffon blouse with touches of black velvet; Miss Gorie was gowned in a smoke-blue mousseline de soie; Miss Gwen Gorrie, pretty heliotrope mousseline with Valenciennes lace; Madame Wielert was wearing white satin with clusters of pink roses; Miss Pierre, white with handsome green theatre coat; Mrs. Martelli, becoming black and white gown; Mrs. Dunca, Clerk wore a cream mousseline with Tuscan lace and lovely rose pink coat; Miss Draper, black velvet with berthe of lace; Miss — Draper, pretty blue gown; Miss Cameron, black with a becoming white theatre coat; Miss Cameron was daintily gowned in white; Miss May Cameron, pretty pale blue mousseline de soie, white cloth coat; Madame Boeufve wore white with a handsomely braided Tuscan cloth theatre coat; Mrs. Breff, black silk toilette; Mrs. Richmond, black with cream lace; Miss Richmond, white and cream silk opera coat; Miss Jean Richmond, lovely shimmering blue burnouse opera cloak, over white silk; her sister was in pearl grey; Mrs. Gamble, black silk gown; Mrs. Arthur Nathan, black toilette; Miss Gwendoline Nathan, dainty white silk inset with lace; Miss Benjamin, cream silk and dove grey coat; Mrs. F. W. Gordon, electric blue shot silk with lovely lace on corsage; Mrs. Lemuel Bagnall, black silk with cream lace; Miss Bagnall, white satin pin tucked frock, and heliotrope coat; Mrs. W. Gorrie, black silk; Miss Law, black with jet on décolletage, and blue coat with cream lace capette; Mrs. F. B. Winstone, lovely pale blue glace silk coat, and Maltese lace collar; Mrs. R. Frater, black silk and cream lace; Miss Duncan, black marquisette, and olive velvet coat; Mrs. Jobson, black with white silk blouse and pale blue coat; Mrs. Bamford, black and cream lace capette strapped with wine-coloured velvet; Miss Kirker, white silk; Mrs. Kroufeldt, black lace, and heliotrope ottoman cloak; Mrs. C. Smith, black, pale pink feather boa; Mrs. Baume, cream faille, and black coat trimmed with rich cream lace; Mrs. P. Dufaur, white silk blouse, black skirt and blue coat.

"AT HOME" MUSICAL.

That the high-class musicale "at home" will never be displaced by novelty teas and bridge afternoons, which are at present the fashion, was the general verdict of the large and fashionable gathering that assembled at Taitaha, Mount St. Mary, Ponsonby, in response to the invitation of Mrs. Ralph on Thursday afternoon. The spacious drawing-room made an ideal concert-room. The programme which was distinctly artistic, included violin solos by Mr. Gerald Ralph, who is leaving Auckland to take up the leadership of the Pollard Company orchestra. Pianoforte solos by Mrs. and Miss Ralph, and songs by Mrs. Archdale Taylor and Mrs. Ballin. That Mrs. Ralph and her daughters and son are musically gifted, was demonstrated on Thursday afternoon. Afterwards, afternoon tea was served in the dining-room, the table being beautifully decorated with a canopy of yellow Mimosa, caught, with yellow ribbons from each corner. The at home lasted from three to five. Mrs. Ralph received in a black crepe-de-chine gown with jetted net transparent yoke and elbow sleeves; Miss Ralph was pretty in a lovely pale blue chiffon taffeta, made with shoulder straps over a white silk blouse, and finishing with a long sash ends; Mrs. Ralph's two younger daughters were charmingly frocked in shell pink chiffon taffeta, and white Indian muslin; Mrs. Arthur Myers was gracefully gowned in silver grey chiffon velours and grey hat with long grey ostrich feathers; Mrs. J. A. Toke wore a violet chiffon lace, and becoming violet velvet hat with long shaded heliotrope feather; Mrs. Louis Myers was attired in black and white black silk, with black applique, and white velvet bonnet, swathed with black tulle; Mrs. Moir, black silk gown, and a chic bonnet with pink roses; Mrs. Archdale Taylor, black tailor-made with tartan facings, and smart cerise velvet hat with shaded brown and dunsack roses; Mrs. Savage, violet cloth costume, and becoming black hat with two white ostrich feathers at the back; on either side to the front; Mrs. Arthur Nathan, smart black toilette, and handsome stone marten furs; Mrs.

W. Thorne, gazelle brown silk, and dark brown velvet hat; Miss Thorne, navy cloth frock, and pretty pale blue felt hat, and white fox furs; Mrs. Coleman, dark brown cloth, and stylish brown plateau hat, with shaded roses and green tulle; Mrs. Ewen Alison, beaver-coloured cloth gown, and pale blue felt high-crowned hat; Miss Benjamin, stylish cream cloth, and white felt hat; Mrs. McK. Geddes, dark brown cloth, and hat en suite; Miss Geddes, brown, with V of tangerine silk, and hat to match; Mrs. Newell, black costume, and plumed hat; Mrs. Devore, black faille, and ruby velvet bonnet; Miss Devore, smart cream serge, and becoming black crinoline hat, with long feather; Miss Moir, navy tailor-made, and stylish green chip hat, with coque feathers; Mrs. Napier, bottle-green cloth costume, and violet hat, swathed with Parma violets; Miss Brassey, cream cloth, inset with Paris-tinted lace, and black hat; Mrs. C. Phillips, grenat cloth tailor-made, and brown beaver Dolly Varden hat, with majenta roses; Madame Boeufve's Parisian-made Havana brown cloth gown, worn with a brown toque and green coque wings, was very smart; Mrs. Hellaby, dark grey cloth, and chic violet and heliotrope hat; Mrs. Sharman, almond fawn velveteen gown, with touches of pale blue, and a stylish black velvet hat of the new shape, rolled back in front, and drooping over the coiffure; Mrs. (Capt.) Duder, navy costume, with white applique, and navy hat to match; Mrs. Edger, ruby cloth gown, and black hat; Miss Langsford, black chiffon, with silk kittings, and brown velvet hat, and sable furs; Misses Cohen (Sydney) wore violet cloth and mulberry-coloured costumes, with hats en suite, respectively; Miss Hughes, oryster Sicilian frock, and white felt hat; Miss Shayle George, green cloth, and white felt upturned hat; Mrs. Johnston, brown costume, and hat en suite; Miss Hilda Johnston, graceful cream cloth, and green crinoline hat swathed with tulle; Mrs. (Dr.) Keith, navy taffeta, and black chiffon hat with long feather; Mrs. J. J. Craig, black Cheviot tweed and ruby chenille picture hat, and white ostrich feather boa; Mrs. Baume, navy cloth costume, and the new shaped hat of navy velvet; Mrs. E. Mahony, smart violet cloth gown, and navy hat with white chiffon cachepeigne; Mrs. Monro Wilson, black crepe de chine with cream lace transparent yoke, and black hat; Mrs. Grant, navy with touches of white, and white felt hat with white ostrich feather coiled over the side on to the coiffure; Mrs. Armitage, fawn check cloth with myrtle green velvet facings, and green hat swathed with brown tulle; Mrs. Duder (Devonport), reseda green costume, and hat to match; Mrs. Olyphant, navy and green plaid silk, and black plumed hat; Mrs. W. Somers, periwinkle blue costume, and smart brown chip hat; Miss Olyphant, navy lace, with embroidered motifs bestrewn on shoulder straps, and pretty white felt hat; Mrs. W. S. Douglas, bottle green cloth costume, and grass green hat with green osprey; Miss Nellie Douglas, navy cloth, tailor-made, and white felt hat with foliage and red berries; Mrs. Oxley, black taffeta and black crinoline hat; Mrs. R. Stewart, navy tailor-made, and smart pale blue hat with foliage; Mrs. Ballin, cream cloth costume, white felt hat, and handsome stone marten furs; Mrs. Mackay, stylish navy cloth, tailor-made, and white felt hat; Miss Wallnutt, cream cloth costume and hat to match; Mrs. Gulliver, black taffeta, and black hat; Mrs. Hodgson, olive green cloth and ruby hat with damask roses; Mrs. E. H. Jones, green costume, and brown and green hat; Mrs. Mark Davies, stylish navy glaze over white silk blouse, black felt tricorn hat swathed with moss green tulle; Mrs. W. Cossar, navy, and beaver felt hat with shaded crimson roses; Miss Wingfield, cream frock, and cream

plumed hat; Miss Phillips, myrtle green cloth costume and green toque with red berries; Miss Olive Phillips, cream and white silk blouse, cream lace hat with brown velvet and shot flame coloured ribbon.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Boulton gave an

AT HOME.

at their charming and artistic rooms in the A.M.P. buildings last Sunday in honour of the famous violinist, Miss Marie Hall, and of Miss Louise Esche. During the afternoon a delightful musical programme was gone through, consisting of:—Part song, "Who shall win my lady fair," R. L. de Pearsall; roud-rigal, "This pleasant month of May," William Beale; old German folk song, "Leonore" (with vocal accompaniment), arranged by E. Branscombe; glee, "When Allen-a-dale went a hunting," R. D. de Pearsall; vocal duet, "Per Valli, per

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