dits, while a bowl of hig arums called forth much praise. Both Mra. Finher and Mias Fell, who sang delightfully, had the advantage of being accompanied by Mias Humphrica, who is unequalled in this respect. Miss Martin and Miss Humphrices also played very charmingly. Mrs. Humphries... wore black taffetas, with a fichu of lace; Miss Humphries, a graceful frock of myrtle green velvet, with a vest of lace and net, high-waisted beit of chine ribbon; Miss Baldwin-Warne, beige southe cloth helt of chine ribbon; Miss Baldwin-Warne, heige souple cloth, and a brown hat. Another English artist of note was present in the person of Mra. Chi-ford Godden, whose clever work has attracted much attention: Both she and Miss Baldwin-Warse are exhibiting moxt week at the annual show of the 'Art Hociety.

Miss Christine Smith, who is back from Rotorus for a few weeks, was the principal guest

AT MRS T. G. MACARTHY'S TEA

AT MRS T. G. MACARTHY'S TEA on Wednewday. It was rather a cheer-less day, bit the drawing-room looked charming with its rose-shaded lights, while the brisk hum of conversation and the gay music of the band added to the exhilarating effect. Delightful futures were forecast by a fortune tellor, and a perverted proverh competitions added ex-citement and interest, the winner being ventually deviared in Miss Ward, who received a silver heart-shaped box; Mrs G. Richardsou coming next with a laintily found look of poems. The tea-table was enchanting with its decoration of rose-pink carnations and cyclamen in silver vases, the silver candlesticks hav-ing rose-coloured shades to match. Mrs blues of lace and net, and a high Em-pire saah with long ends of pale blue; Miss Christine Smith, green check tweed talorimade, and green hat with wings. Still another tea was given on Friday by Mrs Riley, whose guest of bonour was Mrs McWard. The latter lewre shortly for a trip to England.

LADY WARD'S LUNCHBON PARTIES.

LADY, WARD'S LINCHRON PARTIES. Lady Ward gave another of her series of luncheon puries on Thursday. Mauve and purple were the predominating col-ours of the decorations carried out by anemonic physicilling, and viotes in all-ver books, suijs of delicate tinded rib-bons being laid on the ctoth." Lady Ward wore 'Altee sldue chiffon glace, 'with a guimpe and sliceves of lace. Her daught ter was all in white, 'with a lace blouse. The guests included iMrs.Rhödes, Mrs Heaton 'Rhödes', (Christohurch),' Mrs Heaton' Rhödes', Miss Coates, Mrs Baume (Auckland), Mrs J. Allen (Dunedin), Mrs H. Johnston, Mrs J. Studhoime (Taupo), Mrs Thorne George (Auckland), and Misses Sedton, Prouse, and Rutherford.

MRS MILWARD'S TEA

MRS MILWARD'S TEA on Wednesday was characterised by its beautiful flowers, most of which had been seat down from the country. Pink camellias, surrounded by the artistic bronze tones of birch, proved a fassin-ating combination in the tea room, the effect being enhanced by narrow pink ribbons. The drawing room was dedi-cated to deficills and jonquils, and there was a profinsion of flowers in the hall. Mrs Milward wore pale mouve taffetas, made in semi-Empire styfe, with a yoke of delicate laces and net: her sister (Mrs Martin, Wairarapa), who was shaying with her, wore black crept dle chine and lace. Miss Beauchamp and Miss Mar-tin contributed musical items. OPHIELIA,

OPHELIA,

CHRISTCHURCH.

September 18. Dear Bee.

A CHILDREN'S DANCE

was given by Mrs. Leonard Harley on Friday evening, which was a delightful affair, most thoroughly enjoyed by these present. The hostess was gowned in a scarlet crope de chine Empire frock, relieved with bands of black silk. The ladies who helped amuse the children were: Mias Wynn Williams, in black ustin and lace; Miss N. Receves, pale blue tusore and white lace; Miss Prins, black astin dress with berthe of white face, Miss Thoras, pale blue and white floral muling Miss Bennett, apple green creps de chine; Miss was given by Mrs. Leonard Harley on

Cracroft Wilson, white silk; Mine Robin-con, blue munlin. The little guest: were: Mine Wynn Harley, in a pretty frock of gale blue sutin; the Minese Wilson, Pyne, Thomas (2), Robinson [3], Holdernean, Westears, Hamilton, Moore, Jennings, Macdonald, nearly all wore pretty white frocks, with coloured easher; Manters Harley, Harris (3), Wankiye, Jennings, Holderneas, Anderson, Pratt, Robinson, Moore, Carrington (2), Measrs Reeves, Anderson, Boasid, and Nancarrow.

AN "AT HOME

was given on Wednesday afternoon by Mrs. George Merton at her residence, Park-terrace, in homour of, and as a fare-well to, Miss Moreland, who is shortly leaving (buildhows). well to, Miss Moreland, who is shortly leaving Christchurch for England, via fudia, Mrs. Morton wore a protty dress of black chiffon, with insertions of larce, and worn over white silk; Miss Mertou, olive green solienme, with crean lace yoke; Miss-Moreland, cream serge coat und skirt, with grietly blue shat; Mrs. Denniston, black clath costume, black hat; Mrs. George Masper, grey tweed loat and skirt, black and white hat; Mrs. John Beans, black taffets, black hat with feathers: Mrs. Resald Marchand gray coat and skirt, black and white hat; Mrs. John Beans, hisck taffeta, black hat with feathers; Mrs. Rasald Macdomaid, gray cloth costume, with hat to match; Mrs. T. Cowitshaw, dark: blue cloth coat and skirt, hat trimmed with shop rikhon. Others prepent were: Mrs. Isaac Gibhs, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Kettle, Mrs. Beals, Mrs. Quaine, Mrs. Symtes, Mrs. Wilding, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Gymtes, Mrs. Wilding, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. G. F. Bonalds, Mrs. Anderson, Meedamas Robinson Har-tey, Gonsett, Hitl, A. Mer-ton, Rose, Wasklym, Jeanings, Carring-ton, Campbell, Wood filevenson, and Hall, Malasa Gorris (2) (Auckland), An-derson: (2), Wood, Humphreys, Moore, Mathias, Julius, Campbell, Gossett, Park, Molinbaux, Buras, (2), Keltle, Cracroft-Wilson, Banks, Wilding, and Todhunter, During: the afternoom, Mrs. Wilding played the piano, and songs were sung by Mrs. Gower-Buras, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. and Miss Kettle, AN-*AT HOME".

AN AT HOME

AN "AT HOME" was given by Mrs. Scherck as a fare-well to ber husband. Herr Benno Scherck, who has now left Christchurch, for Aus-tralia. During the atternosa a delight-ful musical programme was given; Herr Benno Scherck and Madaine Scherck both played planoforte solos, Miss Parla Scherck delighted the guests with her violin playing, Dr. Gröcker gave two planoforte solos, Mrs. H. H. Loughnan a (cello solo, and Miss Parsons sang. Amongat the guests were; Mrs. H. H. Loughnan, Mrs. Bores, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Isaac Gibbs, Mrs. Widing, Mrs. Kettle, Mrs. Denniston, Mrs. Parsons, the Misses Parsons (2), Kettle, Rosa, and Loughnan. Parsons (2), Kettle, Rosa, and Loughnan.

GOLF.

The ladies' championship of the Hag-ley Park Club was won by Miss Preston, with Mra. L. Harley as runner-up. There was a large attendance of interested apectators to watch the finals. To-day (Friday) various competitions are to be held on Hugley Park links, and the championship prizes will be presented. At Shirley a medal match and bogey com-petitions have been played during the work. The first was won by Miss C. Kettle, and the second resulted in a tie between Mra. Cowlishaw and Miss N. Campbelt. The Championship Meet-ing takes place this year at Dunedin. A number of Christchurch golfers-have entered for the different events. entered for the different events.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Grace (Welling-ton) are in Christchurch, staying with Mrs. Stead, at "Strowan Park." The Misses Gorrie (Auckland) are the guests of Mrs. Borthwick, Christchurch, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Anderson and Miss Anderson have returned to Christ-church from the North Island, where they have been reaiding for some time. Miss Woodhouse (Dunedin) is staying with Mrs. Walter Moore, at St. Albans. Mrs. Class. Louisson has returned to Christohurch from Wellington, where ahe has been apending some months. Mrs. Izard (Christchurch) has gone.on a visit to Wanganui.

Mrs. Izard (Christeliurch) has gone on a visit to Wanganui. The Missee Wood (2) and Miss A. Humplareys have returned to Christ-church from the North Island. Miss Panay, Ford is the successful com-petitor for the prize offered for the best design for a new seal for the Christ-church. City Council. None of the de-signs eent in were of sufficient merit to induce the Council to change the present one, but they decided to award the first prize. DOLLY VALE. DOLLY VALE.

THE HOUSE OF ASTOR

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And the Vulgar and Senseless Extravagances . of the New York Society which caused Mrs Astor to Resign and a series and series

In a New York newspaper dated January 10, 1789, appeared an advertisement announcing that "J. Jacob Astor, next door but one to the Friends' Meeting House," had for sale planes of the most approved make and furs of the best quality." That rather curiously mixed business was the origin of what is to-day was quite the largest-for it has been surpassed by at least one other-but the most solidly invested and the most tenaciously held of the great American fortunes.

THE GROWTH OF THE ASTOR ESTATE.

To-day the Astor estate is estimated at about four hundred and fifty million

dollars, and it is advancing in value daster than ever. So long as it is maintained in its present ironclad position of strategic strength, there is nothing, humanely speaking, that can prevent its continual and colossal increase. It will reach a billion dollars before many years pass, and it may be the first of the world's great fortunes to do so. It does not depend as most of the others do, to a greater of less extent upon the life of and individual or individuals. Industries may change or flutenate, mil-roads may be injured by new competition or new inventions, but nothing can stay the expansion of the American metropolis; and it cannot expand without paying an ever greater tribute into the Astor confers. A state date,

