

Society Gossip.

Special to the "Graphic."

NOTICE.

The Editor desires to draw the attention of occasional contributors of any items to the Society Gossip columns that name and address must be given with copy, otherwise any such communication cannot be recognised.

AUCKLAND.

More Bad Weather.

November 1.

SATURDAY again proved unfavourable to the various outdoor clubs who had arranged opening functions. A strong wind and clouds of dust prevailed during the first part of the afternoon, and at 4 o'clock rain fell, with the result that play had to be abandoned.

Farnell Tennis Club.

There was a good muster of members and friends at the opening ceremony in connection with the above popular club on Saturday afternoon. Professor Seagar declared the season open, and in the course of his remarks stated that the club was in a prosperous condition, both financially and as regards membership. Owing to the exceptionally early start, the lawns were in a somewhat backward condition, but the warm weather and plenty of watering would speedily rectify this. No expense had been spared on the croquet green, for which 150 loads of soil had been requisitioned to bring it up to first-class condition, and the result was one of which they might feel proud. He then presented Mr. Scherff, on behalf of the club, with a gold watch guard as a token of esteem on his retiring from the arduous duties of the secretaryship—a post which he had carried out with marked success for many years. A group photograph was then taken by our photographer, which appears in this issue. A very dainty afternoon tea was partaken of, and though play was interfered with by the rain, it fortunately held off till after the ceremony was concluded.

Among those on the lawns I noticed: Mrs. W. R. Holmes, in a white linen gown and large burnt straw hat with sapphire blue velvet band; Mrs. Gollan Newton, a smart white worked linen costume with white crocheted jacket; Tuscan hat wreathed with pink and heliotrope flowers; Mrs. W. R. Bloomfield, navy cloth coat and skirt, violet straw hat with loops of velvet; Miss Hilda Bloomfield, blue and white cambrie frock, white French sailor hat; Mrs. J. E. Reed wore a stylish cinnamon brown linen tailor-made gown and black picture hat; Mrs. Geo. Hill, navy blue costume, Tuscan hat wreathed with pink and heliotrope flowers; Mrs. Pavitt, dark blue cloth tailor-made gown, toque en suite; Mrs. Derry wore an elegant fawn Directoire costume, handsomely braided in silk the same shade, pink and black toque; Mrs. Colegrove, pretty French gown of finely striped black and white cloth, hat en suite; Mrs. McCormick, pearl grey summer tweed gown and violet floral hat; Mrs. Geo. Kent, pale grey veyella coat and skirt, violet Dolly Varden hat; Miss Mary Cameron, cream serge skirt and silk embroidered blouse, white lace hat threaded with blue ribbon; Miss Marion Metcalfe wore a dainty vieux rose and white striped cambrie frock and white Tuscan hat swathed with pink; Miss Vera Duthie, white embroidered muslin frock, large art blue hat swathed with brown floral silk; Mrs. Chatfield, dainty white silk gown and violet hat; Mrs. Erson, mink grey tailor-made costume, grey hat swathed with violet; Mrs. Gregson, beautifully fitting navy serge costume, black plumed hat; Misses Kerr-Taylor wore green costumes, braided with silk, hats en suite; Mrs. Hunt, black cloth costume with white entrecœur, black plumed hat; Mrs. Rathbone, black gown and stylish French coat of white crash inserted with Mechin lace and faced with black silk, black toque; Miss Luak, grey linen coat and skirt, black lace and jet beehive hat; Miss O. Luak, grey and white striped linen frock, violet mushroom hat; Miss Preece, blue and white striped linen, hat to match;

Miss Basley, cream serge gown with heliotrope pipings and buttons, large heliotrope hat; Miss Davey, navy and white costume; Miss Payton, dark green tweed frock, white straw hat swathed with black silk; Miss Katie Devore, cream striped summer tweed coat and skirt, large cream hat with brown velvet band; Mrs. (Dr.) Keith, white embroidered muslin, white Panama hat with black band; Mrs. Cooke, smart grey and black striped linen gown, floral hat; Mrs. A. P. Friend, French grey cloth coat and skirt, black ermine hat with pink roses; Misses Oliphant wore white and blue linen frocks respectively.

Shakespeare Club.

The closing recital of the present season was given by the Ponsonby Shakespeare and Rhetoric Club on Thursday evening, when the pleasant little lecture room of the Leys Institute was filled to overflowing. The programme was of a varied description, opening with the trial scene from "The Merchant of Venice." Owing to a cold, Madame Wielandt was unable to read the part of Portia, but the vacancy was ably filled by Miss Bertha Jackson. The other parts were allotted as follows:—The Duke of Venice, Mr McCoy; Antonio, Mr J. Gregory; Bassanio, Mr H. Henus; Gratiano, Mr Alison; Shylock, Mr E. T. Hart; Nerissa, Miss M. Stubbs; Salerio, Mr Kealy. The quarrel scene from "The School for Scandal" was admirably read by Miss Bertha Jackson and Mr H. Henus. Miss A. Gillett and Miss Stubbs recited an amusing piece entitled "Chatterboxes." Miss Alice Gillett gave a very humorous recitation, "Little Orphan Annie," for which an encore was demanded. Another excellent item was the final scene from Ibsen's "A Doll's House," which was cleverly read by Mrs F. Turner and Professor Maxwell Walker. Mr G. Bullen gave an effective reading entitled "Napoleon," and two delightful musical items by the Boy Quartet were given. Among the ladies in the hall were Mrs Leys, in brown silk with cream lace entrecœur. Mrs Maxwell Walker, blue and white striped silk with white tucked net guimpe; Mrs Gardner, black satin gown; Mrs T. U. Wells, white floral and lace; Mrs John Gregory, pink floral muslin with pipings of old rose velvet; Miss W. Leya, white embroidered muslin frock; Mrs Hodgson, reseda green Shantung relieved with cream lace; Mrs Ross, dark green charmeuse; Miss A. Gillett wore sea green nixon, piped with dark green velvet and cream lace; Miss Stubbs, shell pink chiffon taffeta and white lace, pink bandeau en coiffure; Miss Bertha Jackson, very pretty cameo pink crepe de chine, embroidered in pearls; Miss Nellie Hellaby, white embroidered muslin; Mrs Cooke, cream lace gown; Miss Rees, royal blue charmeuse; Mrs Turner was pretty in delicate pink mousseline with ruffles of white lace.

At Home at Devonport.

Last Thursday between 70 and 80 people assembled at Bayshill, Devonport, when Dr. Bennett's Glee Club were "At Home" to their friends. An excellent and varied programme was presented. Solos and a trio by various members were much appreciated, and the club was heard to great advantage in "The Sands of Dee" (Macfarren), "O, Lovely May" (German), "Moonlight" (Eaton Fanning), "The Long Day Closes" (Sullivan), etc., but singers and audience alike will agree that "As Torrents in Summer" (Edgar), took the palm; it was beautifully sung. Three instrumental trios by Messrs. Beale, Palairat, and Armstrong added not a little to the enjoyment of the evening. After supper a pleasant ceremony took place in the dining-room, when the club presented their conductor, Dr. Bennett, with a case of silver-mounted pipes, as a token of gratitude for the time and trouble spent on their behalf. "God Save the King" brought a very pleasant evening to a close, and the visitors departed wishing themselves and everyone concerned, "Many happy returns of the day."

Bridge.

Last Saturday week, Mrs. W. J. Culpan, of Ashton-road, Mt. Eden, gave a delightful bridge evening, at which 10 tables were arranged in her spacious dining-room. The prize-winners were Miss F. Bock and Mr. E. Ashton. After supper, which was served in the drawing-room, there was some music, which was much enjoyed. The hostess was gowned in heliotrope chiffon taffetas trimmed with silver lace. Among the guests present were: Mesdames A. Taylor, Adkins, J. Culpan, F. Wilson Smith, Dacre, Howard, Cockcroft, Ashton, Bock, Gidham, R. Sheath, C. Germann, Misses Connelly (2), Harper, Bock, Hogwood, Anseune (2), Alexander (2), Brett, Messrs. Frances, Murphy, Ashton, Alexander (2), Everard, Bennett, Adkins, Culpan, Wilson Smith, C. Germann, Cockcroft, R. Sheath, Corbett, Dacre, J. Culpan, Harper.

Afternoon Tea.

On Monday afternoon Mrs. F. Wilson Smith gave a most enjoyable afternoon tea at Buchanan's tea rooms, Queen-street, in honour of Miss Bock's visit to Auckland. The hostess was charmingly gowned in an amethyst Shantung tailor-made coat and skirt, with pretty floral hat to match; Miss Bock wore a smart mauve linen costume with pretty heliotrope hat. Amongst those present were: Mrs. Bock, wearing smart black chiffon taffeta gown; Mrs R. Dacre, dainty black and white linen gown; Mrs. R. Sheath, cream coat and skirt; Mrs. Oldham, Mrs. Adkins, Misses Devore, Miss Frater, Miss Nicols, Miss Stevenson, Miss Commons, Miss Connelly (2), Mrs. Culpan, Miss Holland, etc.

Personal.

Mrs. F. Short, of Opatiki, is spending a few weeks in Auckland, and is stopping with her father, the Hon. Major Harris, M.L.C., Epsom.

Mrs. Tuthill, of Ballarat, who has been staying for some months with her daughter, Mrs. Kissling, of Gladstone-road, Farnell, is at present on a short holiday to Rotorua.

PHYLLIS BROWN.

WELLINGTON.

October 29.

The Races.

I have very little to tell you of the races, as it was not a good day, and smart frocking was not conspicuous. His Excellency the Governor and some of his staff were there, but Lady Plunket did not put in an appearance. There were the usual luncheon teas, and, in spite of the bad road, a number of people went out in motors. Miss Harcourt wore Beauvais blue cloth, the long coat braided in blue, a blue hat with roses shading from crimson to purple, and ermine furs.

A Naval Dance.

In return for some of the cheery and courteous hospitality experienced by the Premier and his party on board H.M.S. Challenger during the trip from Fiji, a dance for the "Challengers" was given at Awarua House on Tuesday night. Masses of golden broom and jars of arum lilies were used for decoration, while in the supper room there was a clever scheme of yellow and orange azalea mollis, and the silver candelabra were shaded to correspond. The garden was a delightful place for sitting-out, and the wide verandah was also much in demand.

Miss Eileen Ward (in whose name the invitations were issued) wore pale primrose Liberty satin, the gracefully draped peplum of silk net being sewn with crystals and caught down near the hem with a knotted sash, the short, tight sleeves and the little bolero bodice were encrusted with crystal bugles, and in her dark hair was a dull gold fillet with a cluster of primroses; Lady Ward looked extremely well in a Princess gown of ivory charmeuse with pearl embroideries and draperies of lace; Mrs. Findlay wore pastel charmeuse with sleeves of lace; Mrs. Fowlds, black chiffon taffetas with jet, and berthe of lace; Mrs. Davies (Buenos Ayres), rose pink charmeuse with jewelled net; Mrs. K. Duncan, sky blue mesaline and silver sequins; Mrs. Abbott, shell pink crepe de chine with albort embroideries on the corsage; Mrs. Hubert Nathan, petal pink charmeuse on Princess with draperies of lace; Miss Coates, satin charmeuse with Josephine scarf of Spanish lace; Miss Pearce, pale pink nixon de soie with sleeves of lace; Miss D. Johnston, black tulle, finished with lace; Miss Collins, myosotis blue mignon with lace scarves; Miss Head, white satin with sleeves and vest of lace;

Miss Elgar, white tulle with crystal fringe and bugles, white satin sash knotted at the back; Miss Rubi Seddon, azure blue mesaline, made on Princess, with crystal embroideries; Miss Brandon, satin mignon, finished with lace; Miss Ewen, pale blue satin, veiled in mauve tulle, with a touch of violet; Miss Miles, ivory satin, embroidered in gold thread and beetles' wings; Miss Prouse, ivory crepe de chine and lace; Miss Nathan, ivory satin with touches of gold; Miss Cecil-Jones, white Liberty, satin and silver sequins.

A Successful Ball.

There are few people who know so well how to entertain as Mr. and Miss Coates, and their ball on Thursday was a brilliant affair. Nothing had been overlooked to ensure its success, and it was long after midnight before the last dance came to an end, and the guests reluctantly went home. Floor and music were alike perfection, and for the non-dancers there were cosy bondoirs and a bridge room. Masses of arum lilies decorated the stage, while overhead was a green canopy of lycopodium with pendant balls of golden broom. Crimson and white, with many flags, was the colouring of the supper room, and each table had its distinctive harmony of colour carried out in flowers and cosques.

Miss Coates wore aluminium nixon with a satin stripe, made on Princess, and bordered with jet and silver embroidery, scarf of Spanish lace; Mrs. Noel Nelson (Japan), ciel blue charmeuse with gold embroideries and lace; Miss Hill (England), black Liberty satin, embroidered in jet; Lady Ward, glacier blue charmeuse on Princess, with raised old embroideries on the corsage and sleeves, a finishing touch being given by a sash loosely knotted near the hem at the back; Mrs. Findlay, azure blue mesaline, the corsage draped with lace; Mrs. Collins, clematis mauve Liberty satin, on Princess, with Brussels lace scarves; Mrs. Elgar, gold tissue, veiled in chiffon of the same shade, and with embossed gold roses bordering the tunic, fillet and sash of pale turquoise tulle; Mrs. Thorne-George (Auckland), pale grey satin, embroidered in silver and jet; Mrs. Head, Rose du Barri chiffon taffetas with panels embroidered in dull art tones, and draperies of lace; Mrs. Fisher, ivory satin Princess gown with appliques of gold; Mrs. Chapman, white taffetas with a design of mauve flowers, lace vest and sleeves; Mrs. Tweed, black Chantilly lace over ivory chiffon, the corsage enhanced with jet; Mrs. A. Pearce, vieux rose charmeuse, with vest of Alencon lace; Mrs. Stott, eau de Nil taffetas; Mrs. Young, pale amber brocade; Mrs. C. Pearce, white satin and lace; Mrs. Abbott, white charmeuse Princess with pearl bolero; Mrs. Vernon Reed, myosotis crepe de chine with tulle sleeves; Mrs. Algar Williams, apricot charmeuse; Miss Houghton (a debutante) looked charming in white satin charmeuse made with a smart simplicity and finished with diamante lace, and she carried a bouquet of white roses; Miss Thurston (who is staying with Miss Coates) wore black nixon de soie with a touch of vieux rose velvet; Miss Eileen Ward, primrose charmeuse, the draped tunic caught back with a knotted sash; Miss Chapman, moonlight blue mignon softened with lace; Miss D. Johnston, ciel blue charmeuse on Princess, with

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