

were about five hundred present, and one and all pronounced it a great success. The Hon. R. Seddon was amongst the guests, having come from Wellington on purpose to take part in the function. The proceedings began on Mr Graham's birthday and finished on the anniversary of Mr Seddon's wedding day. Suitable speeches were made by Mr Graham, Mr Seddon and Mr J. Harley (Mayor). Delightful music and games were the programme for the early part of the evening, and dancing for the latter part. Mr Seddon opening the dancing with Mrs Graham. The supper was all anyone could desire, the table being literally covered with dainties and delicacies of all kinds. The proceedings terminated with cheers for Mr and Mrs Graham, Mrs Graham, sen., who had the seat of honour during the evening, Mr and Mrs Seddon.

PHYLLIS.

NAPIER.

Dear Bee, January 19.
A most interesting lecture was given on Friday night at the Theatre Royal on the causes which have led to the present trouble in South Africa by Dr. Kemp. His Worship the Mayor, Mr G. H. Swan, presided, and there was a most appreciative audience, as the war is the one great topic of the day. Dr. Kemp has resided in the Transvaal for more than 20 years, so that he had a thorough knowledge of his subject. He gave an account of the earliest history of the Boers up to the present time in a concise yet eloquent manner, ending with a panegyric on Mr Cecil Rhodes as by far the greatest personality in South Africa. At the end of the discourse a very hearty vote of thanks was given to the lecturer.

An enjoyable little euche party was given recently by the Misses Newton of the Bluff Hill, and one was also given on Thursday evening by Mrs Carlile of Cameron Road. Some of those present at the latter entertainment were the Misses Hallowell, Florence Watt, Williams, Cornford, Simcox, Dixon, Begg, etc., and Messrs Jones, Williams, Barron, Cornford, Grumit, Burke, Cotterill, McLean, Howell, etc. After the euche, which lasted until ten o'clock, there was dancing to a late hour.

MARJORIE.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, January 15.
Everything we have to talk about now revolves on the same hinge, "the war," and all my items are hanging on the same peg, for there is scarcely a function organised but has some war-like object in view. On Thursday evening an immense gathering of people were out to see the procession, and some 5,000 paid admission into Lancaster Park, where there were various evolutions of the volunteers, Scotch dances to pipe music, and a grand parade of cyclists with numerous coloured lights. Dr. Jennings, and Messrs Selig and Grierson were mainly responsible for maturing and carrying out the idea, and they must have felt more than satisfied with the result and the handsome addition to the War Fund.

Mrs Studholme, Merivale, is organising a mouster garden party promenade concert and art union, to come off on the 25th in their pretty grounds. She is well known as an excellent "General," and will be assisted by the Mayor (Mr W. Reece), who is chairman of the War Fund. If fine, there is sure to be a large attendance.

The Rev. Curzon Siggers, of Dunedin, is paying Christchurch a visit, and preached at St. Michael's on Thursday evening, when there was an interesting service for the war, and afterwards delivered a lecture in the Schoolroom on "South Africa." The collections at both were devoted to the Patriotic Fund.

There is great excitement amongst the nurses, as there is just a possibility some may be sent to the front, and they are more than anxious to go. Mrs G. E. Rhodes and Mrs Heaton Rhodes head the list of subscribers to despatch them with £100 each. Our New Zealand mothers and sisters will feel glad to think of some of our nurses being in attendance if harm should befall any of our contingent.

January 17.

Here I am again trying to give you news of social doings when there is a positive famine in the land of

away holiday making, and others are on more serious thoughts intent. The time is drawing very near when our second contingent will leave us, and about the same date four picked nurses will leave by the steamer Lincolnshire for Capetown to go on to the field or wherever they are wanted. They are Nurses Peter, Webster, Littlecot, and Hiatt. All honour to these noble women who for the past few weeks have left no stone unturned to gain the consent of those in authority to accept their services for duty at the front. They belong to the British Nurses' Association, and hold splendid testimonials. Mrs Mickle is sending a parcel by the Waitara for the injured, containing 267 shirts, 223 pairs socks, and 334 handkerchiefs, and Miss Cabot has 515 "Nightingales" and a large parcel of socks and handkerchiefs.

On Saturday afternoon a game of polo was played on the club grounds, Hagley Park, when Dr. Fox, Messrs J. D. Hall, E. D. O'Rorke, and G. Turrell were the winners. There were not a great many onlookers as very few people knew about it; it is so long since any matches came off. Mrs O'Rorke provided the ever welcome tea.

We have said good-bye to Mr and Mrs Brough and Company for some time and did so regretfully, and I think I may safely say the feeling is reciprocal, for they like Christchurch. Mr and Mrs Brough and Miss Temple have a host of friends here, and as much time as they have to spare is eagerly seized upon. Mr and Mrs Wardrop at the Bank, Hereford-st., gave a supper party in their honour the Sunday before they left, when Mr and Mrs O'Rorke, Mr and Mrs Ogle, Mr and Mrs Burns, and others were present. Mrs Howie, Wilson's Road, gave a luncheon party one day for them.

DOLLY VALE.

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee, January 22.
The summer season is usually synonymous with all that is socially dull, and with the mercury creeping up steadily in the thermometer it is not surprising that fashionable records lack local interest. Those who delight in warm weather and the strength of Sol's summery caresses, when even the flowers and leaves shrink, have had the means of full contentment during the past week. Hot weather, however, is not discomfiting to those enjoying a vacation out of town, for one can always find a cool and shady place in bush or by the seaside. During the week I noticed some pretty street costumes. Mrs Thomas Morrin wore an amethyst shot glass bodice, cream skirt, black director's hat trimmed with black and white chiffon; Mrs H. King, in black, smart white pique sac jacket white hat with black silk ruche round crown; Miss Whitson, holland costume, the bodice trimmed with white Plauen lace insertion, white hat with black band; Mrs R. Frater, black broche, pale green butterfly bonnet, with old gold roses; Mrs Lyons wore a stylish holland with bands on skirt, white chip turban toque with cerise bow and touches of amethyst; Miss Aubrey, holland costume with rows of white braid, bayadere style, on skirt and bodice, white sailor hat with navy band; Mrs Johnston, grey and white French muslin, white silk tucked yoke and epaulettes, white hat with black velvet band; Mrs Dr. Gordon, black serge, white sac jacket with pearl buttons, white sailor hat; Mrs Masfen and her sister (Miss Courtyne) were attired in holland costumes relieved with white; Mrs Iredale, blue and white check silk bodice, black skirt, Trelawny hat with berries underneath brim; Miss McLachlan, ecru muslin, black director's hat with touches of heliotrope.

Our Hamilton correspondent writes: Miss Inez Sandes had a delightful "advertisement" tea for a number of her young friends on Wednesday afternoon. It was the first of the kind in Hamilton, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the guests. Miss Hilda Graham, who guessed the greatest number of advertisements—some of which were exceedingly amusing and original—was presented with a pretty photo. frame. Tea was served under the trees in the garden, and a very

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee, January 19.
They say "After a storm comes a calm," and there is abundant proof of the truth of the old adage with ourselves at present. We seem to be suffering a recovery from the dissipations of Carnival Week. However, there is always the Transvaal war to fall back on. Last Sunday afternoon the volunteers in camp at the Recreation Ground had an open-air service, conducted by their chaplain, the Rev. F. G. Evans, who made an appropriate address upon the occasion, and a collection was taken up from the numerous visitors in aid of the Transvaal relief fund, amounting to £15. The City Band played the accompaniments of the anthems and hymns.

On Monday A PATRIOTIC CONCERT

in aid of the same fund was held at the Theatre Royal, and was an immense success, the seating room being taxed to its utmost extent. The stage was beautifully decorated with flowers and ferns. The national, New Zealand and American flags were blended in the background with a charming effect. All the items in the programme were carried out by our local talent. Among those best appreciated (while all were good) were the recitations of the evergreen "Charge of the Light Brigade," by Mr Pascoe; and "The Absent-minded Beggar," by Mr Spence. The latter so appealed to the sympathies of the audience that a deluge of coins was showered upon the stage, and the scene as the whole audience rose en masse and

shouted the chorus to the "Soldiers of the Queen," sung by Mr McDermid, was such as will not be forgotten for many a day. The Rev. Mr Bennett's patriotic songs of "Marching to the Front," and "Rule, Britannia," were sung in a masterly manner, and suited his fine baritone voice. The proceeds of the concert, including the shower of silver and gold, were over £60, not a bad sum for our rather small hall. The greatest praise for the promotion of the idea of the concert must be given to the Misses Humphries, to whom a great portion of the success of the whole affair is due. Amongst those present I noticed: Mrs Dr. McClelland, black and pink; Mrs Brewster, black satin; Mrs Samuel, black satin; Mrs Paul, grey silk; Miss Paul, white; Miss Cunningham, pink; Mrs George, fawn; Mrs Holford, white; Mrs Watson, black; Miss Kent, green silk; Mrs Dr. Home, purple; Mrs Mullens, black; Miss M. Humphries, black; Miss Drue, white; Miss K. Humphries, black; Miss K. Holdsworth, muslin blouse; Miss G. Holdsworth, white blouse; Miss Walker, pink; Miss Webster, white; Mrs Webster, black; Miss O. Tukey, pale green, black strappings; Miss G. Fookes, white; Miss M. Fookes, white; Miss Barry, Mrs Bacon, blue and white; Miss Taylor, cream; Mrs A. Kirkby, white with scarlet tie; Mrs Penn, grey and black; Miss E. Rennell, Mrs Phillips, black and heliotrope; Miss Shore, black; Mrs Bird (Auckland), black and white; Mrs Skeet, black; Mrs Wrigley, grey and white; Mrs Turton, black; Mrs Hayward, shot silk; Mrs Garry, black and pink; Miss N. Garry, cream; Miss Harley,

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