

Society Gossip

BLENHEIM.

Dear Bee, January 15.
 Mrs Rogers entertained a few young friends at "Eltham Lodge" one evening this week, before her guest, Miss Ausin (Christchurch) took her departure, and a very pleasant time was spent, music and games making the time pass quickly. Some of those present were the Misses Rogers (2), Ausin, E. and R. Bull, Horton, MacLaine, B. Smith, and Messrs Rogers (2), MacLaine, Banks, Geoffrey Horton, etc.
 On Wednesday evening Mrs Orr gave a small progressive euchre party, and those who were present were the Misses Nimmo (Wellington), Carter (Reefton), Nurse Broadbent (Porton), Archibald (Wellington), Ball (2), McCallum (2), and Messrs Orr, F. Grady (Wellington), Fish, Bunting, Hawley, R. McCallum, G. Broad, L. Grimths, etc.

The garden party in aid of the Transvaal War Relief Fund took place at Dunbeath House, the residence of Mr C. H. Mills, M.H.R., last evening, and proved a great success. The weather was showery all the morning, and there were gloomy prophecies about the failure of the party, but as the cause was such a good one the Clerk relented, the rain cleared off in the afternoon, and the breeze and bright sunshine speedily dried the grass. Special trains were run from Picton and Blenheim, but a great number drove out. A splendid marquee, sent by Mr J. Penney, was erected on the lawn, in which refreshments were served, and there was a specially tempting table, where four young ladies, the Misses E. J. and C. Chaytor, and Christophers (Grey-mouth), dispensed raspberries and cream, fruit salads, jellies, water melons, etc. The marquee was lighted by acetylene gas, put in by Mr F. Adams. The verandah was lighted up and seats placed, the piano having a prominent position, and from there a programme of songs was rendered, the Garrison band playing selections between each song. Mr Mills gave a short opening address, in which he acknowledged the kindness of Mr J. Penney, Mr F. Adams, and the Garrison band, who gave their services and did all they could to promote the success of the party. The singers were Messrs McIntosh, L. Bartlett, Drake, and Mills—at least their names were on the programme, but some one else sang whose name I could not ascertain. A fortune-teller, who had numberless patrons, had a room at the end of the verandah, and small tents were dotted about the lawn, in one of which a hat trimming competition for men was carried on. Another was called the "deception" tent, but all kept at a wary distance, so far as I could see, and I never solved the mystery. The hats and bonnets trimmed by the men were judged by Mr McIntosh. The young ladies who were them were placed on the verandah in a row, and each stepped out in turn to exhibit the millinery effort, turning round that each part might be seen. Mr Wallace took first prize, Mr Drake second, and Mr McCartney, the Mayor, was highly commended. A beautiful doll, given by Mrs Bushell, and most fashionably attired, was first won by Miss Christophers, then by Mr J. Redwood, neither of whom would keep it, so it was put up again. The photograph of the doll was raffled, and the doll given to the winner. Altogether the doll realised several pounds. Mrs and the Misses Mills were ubiquitous, and did all they could to promote the pleasure of the visitors. I have not yet heard how much was realised by the party.

A good deal of interest has been taken here in making the "Nightingale wraps" for wounded soldiers in South Africa, and when we hear of the extremeness of temperature there we can understand what a comfort they may be. Lieutenant Chaytor writes of 100 in the shade in the day, and 40 at night, which must be very trying.

FRIDA.

PICTON.

Haeremal, Kainga, Waikawa.
 Dear Bee, January 14.
 We came into camp on Thursday and had all our work cut out to fix up tents and fireplaces ere night came on. Our camp is placed in a perfect position, sheltered from the north winds by the Snout. All in front is a beautiful bay, fringing with fish, of

which some of the boys went out to catch a supply.

OUR COSTUMES

are worthy of description by kodak, and we long for one often. The Vicar of Spring Creek is a target for the humorous remarks of the camp, but he cares not, only smiles and asks his persecutors what they suppose he came out to camp for. If not to wear his old clothes and paddle about after the fashion of his original forbears. The vicar of Picton's personal appearance is not much better, but he wears a clerical looking vest, and on the strength of that token of his profession he considers it his duty to rail at his brother, who wears none. So far the Archdeacon has only paid flying visits to the camp, and his costume is too orthodox to call for remark. Presently when he comes to stay his appearance may be worthy of description. The rest of the male population—about eight—are usually dressed in a nondescript fashion impossible to particularise. If one puts on a civilised garment the rest jeer at him. They spend most of their time bathing, but sometimes they go out fishing. They went outside the bay the other day, there was a little swell on, and they all felt sea-sick. The Picton girls grinned. I refrain from describing the ladies' gowns and sets-up. We are so often in the papers, but I may say that we have been saving up all the old dresses, hats, and shoes for a while, and leave you to imagine them. The only things that trouble us are sandflies. We had to do some darning to protect ourselves.

CAMP COOKERY.

is an institution, but disappointing sometimes in its results. For instance, when fried eggs and sausages get all mixed up together in the ashes. However, the cooks for the occasion have minds above troubling over accidents such as that, and invent a new dish on the spot, which evokes much applause in the kai-kai whare, when we assemble to discuss our meals.

ACCIDENTS.

are numerous, and already our amateur doctor has had to attend to a burnt hand, a black eye, and a maimed toe, not to mention sundry cuts and bruises.

A PUBLIC MEETING

was held last night in the "Social Hall" to arrange for the publication

of the camp newspaper. Two editors were appointed for the first week whose duty it is to solicit contributions or write the articles themselves. "Our Own Artist" will illustrate the contributions. There will be a "Poet's Corner," "Ladies' Page," "Lost and Found" column, and all the other peculiarities of a bi-weekly paper.

The three clergymen drove into their several parishes yesterday, also the Sunday school teachers, leaving the camp to the tender mercies of two chaperones and the young people. Needless to say that Sunday was well spent, though perhaps a curping critic would have found fault at the very short service, at which a lady presided and the happy manner in which the empress spent the day.

We are expecting a good many visitors next week, and only hope they'll come well provisioned, as the enormous appetites developed by the ozone and sea bathing bid fair to create a famine.

JEAN.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, January 15.
 This has been one of Nelson's quiet weeks, very little of any interest taking place. Two afternoons last week were spent in cricket.

TARANAKI V. NELSON.

Several of the City's team and members of the Nelson Association met the visiting team at the Port, and the next morning the Taranaki representatives were formally welcomed at the Council Chambers by the Mayor and the Nelson cricketers and several other townspeople. The pitch, in Trafalgar Park, which was in splendid condition, having been carefully prepared by Mr Haggitt and Mr H. Batchelor, was spoilt for the day by a sudden, but heavy, shower of rain; so a new wicket had to quickly be prepared. The result of the game was a win for Nelson by twelve runs.

There was not a very large attendance owing probably to the threatening appearance of the weather. Delicious afternoon tea was dispensed by Mrs Walker, the Misses Burford and others.

On Friday evening Mr Graham, M.H.R., entertained his various election committees at a large

SOCIAL, held in the Provincial Hall. There

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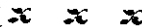
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