

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, February 5.

The Tuam-street Hall presented a very festive appearance on Wednesday on the occasion of the complimentary luncheon to the Hon. W. Rolleston, and at which Mrs Rolleston was present. About 300 assembled to do honour to the guest, many ladies amongst them. The hall was gaily decorated with flags and greenery, the five or six long tables sparkling with glass and silver, the floral decorations and many coloured confections making a pretty scene. Rossiter's Band stationed in the gallery played appropriate and patriotic music, and some interesting speeches introduced the various toasts. The Mayor (Mr W. Reece) occupied the chair, and on his right sat the Hon. W. and Mrs Rolleston, the other seats were occupied by the Hon. C. C. Bowen, Mrs Reece, Sir John Hall, Mrs J. D. Hall, Sir Arthur Douglas, the Hon. E. C. J. Stevens, Lieutenant-Colonel Slater, the Hon. W. Montgomery, the Hon. J. T. Peacock, Mr J. Sutherland, Mr G. G. Stead, Colonel Pole-Penton, Mrs Denniston, Mr Justice Denniston, Mrs Bowen, Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, Mr E. G. Wright, the Editor of the "Press," and Mrs Triggs. The vice-chairmen were Messrs W. D. Meares, J. A. Frostick (President Chamber of Commerce), H. Allan (President Industrial Association), R. Westera and G. J. Smith. Among the many at the luncheon were Mr and Mrs J. Deans, Mr and Mrs R. H. Rhodes, Mr and Mrs A. E. G. Rhodes, Mr and Mrs Joseph Palmer, Mr and Mrs Staveley, Mr and Mrs A. Rolleston, Mr and Mrs G. G. Humphreys, Mrs G. G. Stead, Mrs W. D. Meares, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Slater, Mr and Miss Connal, Mr and Mrs Beswick, Mr and Mrs T. Bassett, Mr and Mrs T. Garrard, Mr and Mrs W. B. Common, Rev. L. FitzGerald, Canon Knowles, Messrs J. B. Fisher, Montgomery, Ferguson, A. Carrick, most of the leading citizens, and many representatives of the country districts.

On Thursday a "Welcome Home" was tendered to Mr F. M. Wallace by the performing members of the Christchurch Musical Union, who gathered in strong force at the Durham-street Schoolroom (their practice room). Mrs Wallace and Masters F. and A. Wallace were present. The annual meeting of the Society was supposed to take place first, but was adjourned, and Mr Justice Denniston, the President, in a few words welcomed Mr Wallace back, especially as he had returned full of vigour and renewed health, to give Christchurch the best he could musically, making particular mention of his new love, the cello, which we hope to hear him perform on before long. Among those present were Mrs Denniston, Mrs Wilding, Mr and Mrs Burns, the latter singing two charming songs, Misses Graham and Bonnington also gave songs; Mrs W. Wilson, Misses Fairhurst, N. Gardner, Mr A. Carrick, Miss Martin, Mrs C. B. Shanks, Mrs Russell, Misses Shanks (two), Miss Vincent, Messrs Izard, W. D. Meares, Mr and Mrs A. Kaye, and many others. Light refreshments were served at 9 o'clock. Work is to be resumed this week for both chorus and orchestra, the latter having the advantage of a lot of new music which Mr Wallace has brought out.

In response to an invitation from Mrs W. Reece (the Mayoress) a number of young ladies acted as collectors for the War Fund on Saturday, being stationed in couples in the business thoroughfares of the city, all wearing white, with a badge of white ribbon and the magic word "War Fund" printed, beside the National faviour. The collecting boxes were red, white and blue, and the small table where each group was stationed was draped with the red, white and blue flag. The siege was carried on from 11 a.m. till 5 o'clock, when all assembled at Freeman's to count the spoil, and the magnificent sum of £150 8/3 was totalled up. The Mayoress was warmly congratulated on the success of her scheme, and at a little later period she was introduced another £3 3/4 was available for her box, making the grand sum of £153 13/3.

At the Camp on Sunday Messrs Allan and Hewitt received voluntary subscriptions at the gate, and another astonishing sum was counted out, £82 0/7, the result of the two days being almost the full equipment of three men.

A very large number of people witnessed a mounted parade in Hagley Park on Saturday afternoon of the Rough Riders, all being surprised at the progress made in a week, but Colonel Slater and those under him are working like Trojans to get the men into shape during the short time. Dis-

hop Julius visited the Camp on Saturday morning, and held service on Sunday at mid day.

To-day Mrs Reece has invited ladies to meet at the Natives' Association Room, Y.M.C.A. Hall, to make "hold-alls" for the Canterbury Troop for South Africa.

MRS REECE'S "BEE" on Monday, which was held in the Native Association's Room, Y.M.C.A. Hall, was very largely attended by ladies interested in our Rough Riders, with the result that over 100 hold-alls and "bus'ins" were made. The long work of cutting out was done in the morning by Mrs Reece and two or three friends, and in the afternoon with the help of seven or eight machines and some sixty workers good progress was made. Among those helping were: Mrs F. Graham, Mrs Stead, Mrs Cunningham, Mrs (Dr.) Jennings, Mrs R. D. Thomas, Mrs G. Harris, Mrs A. Parsons, Mrs Appleby, Mrs Marsden, Mrs Slater, Mrs C. Matson, Mrs W. Watson, Mrs T. Garrard, Mrs (Dr.) Thomas, the Misses Thomas (2), Graham, Harcastle, Pratt (3), Scriveron (2), Marsden, and others. Afternoon tea was provided by Mrs Reece, which for a few minutes only, silenced the whirr of the sewing machines.

Work at the camp is being pressed on, and though the men are being invited to many entertainments those in command rather grudge the time and break of discipline, yet reluctantly give "permission to." The Rough Riders' night at the theatre, at "The Stranger in New York," was a remembrance to take away with them. They will be present one night by invitation of Mr Pollard at the Opera Company, also at Mrs Howie's "snowflake" entertainment. The latter promises to be very pretty. "Bees" are being held for the production of the costumes for this, and some gigantic specimens of the name flower have been seen about.

DOLLY VALE.

PICTON.

Dear Bee, February 5.

Pleasant—and in some cases amusing—letters are being received from our brave Marlborough boys, at the front. They are gaining a wonderful experience, and it is quite an education for them. Many others are anxious to follow their comrades, but have not the means to furnish themselves and give their quota of £100, which we understand is the rule in regard to the next contingent.

"HAREMATI-KAINGA" is a thing of the past, but its joys will last for some time to come. Very reluctantly the last of the campers tore themselves away from the fascinations of that pleasant abode. The Misses Allen came up on Tuesday, and the Vicar and Mrs Sedgwick on Wednesday.

PICNICS

are quite an everyday occurrence. The mail-boat generally has a full complement of passengers for the Sound, and family parties are dotted about in the different bays of the harbour, adding to the beauties of our pretty harbour. On Thursday Mrs G. Kenny, Mrs Welford, and the Misses Harris (2), Western, Scott, and Philpotts, Captain Harris, etc., took advantage of the Phoenix going to Tory Channel to pay a visit to Mrs G. Kenny's new home at "Okukuri." They spent a most enjoyable day, and had particularly fine weather. At Mrs Philpott's

AFTER-NOON

on Friday were Mrs Riddell, Mrs Welford, the Misses Scott, Greensill (2), Western, E. Seymour, etc. Tennis was the order of the day.

On Friday evening we were all startled by hearing the church bell ring out, and there was a general rush to find out where the fire was, and a general stampede to "The Mount," the residence of Mrs Speed, which, it was at first feared, was in flames. Fortunately the fire had broken out in the outbuildings, and owing to the water supply, and the prompt action of the fire brigade, it was kept there, but Mrs Speed suffered great loss through her furniture, glass, and china having been thrown out anywhere to save it. Mrs McNab, who had some boxes of goods stored away in her mother's outbuildings, lost them all, everybody being so intent on saving the house and its contents, that no one thought of anything in the sheds. It was a great upset for the family, and really worse than many moves, for it seemed impossible at first to find anything.

JEAN.

NAPIER.

Dear Bee, February 9.

There has been an unusual amount of entertainment at the Theatre Royal during the past week, as the Brough Company have been performing there since Friday last. Their repertoire consisted of "The Liars," "The Adventures of Lady Ursula," "Sowing the Wind," "The Second Mrs Tanqueray," "Dandy Dick," and "Niobe." They have been exceedingly well received, and attracted large and fashionable audiences every night, amongst whom were Lady Whitmore, who wore black; Miss Nellie Cotterill, who looked well in white silk trimmed with pale blue satin; Mrs Warren was in a dress of white and buttercup yellow; Mrs Johnston wore black and white striped silk; Mrs King looked well in black, and did Mrs Morris in green satin trimmed with pink roses; Mrs Pearl Seal wore black and green; Mrs Caville was in heliotrope brocade, and of the same shade was the velvet on Mrs Wenley's white dress, with soft ruffles of lace; Miss Cornford was in white and yellow, trimmed with narrow insertion; Mrs Kight, in black silk; Mrs Canning, also in black; Mrs Gore had a black

chiffon bodice and a handsome red silk skirt; Miss Ethel Burke wore black and white; Mrs Von Dadelzen looked well in black silk; Mrs Hoadley wore black silk trimmed with black lace over white; Miss Hoadley was in cream; Miss Kitty Williams had a light blouse and a dark skirt; Mrs Bowen wore cream; Mrs Donnelly, petunia coloured brocade, and a long grey open cloak; Mrs Frank Perry, white, and a handsome pink open cloak; Miss Tanner wore black, the bodice trimmed with red flowers; Miss Bessie Morecroft was in cream; Mrs Davidson, black silk relieved with scarlet; Mrs Sainsbury was also in black; Mrs Coleman, black and white striped costume; Miss Florence Watt, white brocade; Mrs Humphries, black and red.

MARJORIE.

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee, February 13.

A very pleasant afternoon AT HOME was given by Mrs Campbell at "Te Kopua," Hepburn-street, on the occasion of her daughter's approaching marriage to Mr Laurie. The after-

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SOCIAL NEEDS.

Whatever questions of Social Needs may exist, and however much we may rack our brains to discover satisfactory solutions of them, there is at least one—and certainly not the least important—province, in which the solution has been found. For is not the question "What is our best daily beverage?" of importance to all classes of society? And is any other answer to that question possible, from disinterested persons, than "Van Houten's Cocoa"? It is more wholesome than any other drink, it is nourishing and easy to digest; refreshing, without acting injuriously on the nervous system, in the way that Tea, Coffee, and other drinks do; and its delicious flavor in no way falls on the taste after continually using the cocoa. As regards its price, it is, as thousands can testify from practical experience, not at all dear to use.

What a pity all social questions cannot be answered as easily as the above one; but their answers require a great deal of thinking about. Those who are busy thinking about them, cannot do better than take a cup of Van Houten's Cocoa daily, as for helping the brain-worker: it is without equal.

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