

NAPIER.

Dear Bee, May 11.
 One of the enjoyable meetings of the Hawke's Bay Highland Society was held in the Foresters' Hall on the 4th inst., when Mr R. D. D. McLean presided. The programme consisted chiefly of songs and Scottish dances. Mr H. King gave an excellent flute solo. Messrs McIntosh, A. Cameron and J. P. Thomson also kindly contributed songs. The evening's entertainment concluded with "Auld Lang Syne." Mr C. Wilson (for the round dances) supplied the pianoforte music, and Mr J. Shanahan piped for the Scottish dances during the evening. The songs were also accompanied by Mr C. Wilson.

Mr George Swan, who has left Napier for Wanganui, was, previous to his departure, entertained at the Criterion Hotel by his many friends on Friday last. Mr W. R. Blythe, who took the chair, after an appropriate speech, presented Mr Swan with a purse of sovereigns as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the Napier people. Mr Swan, in replying, thanked them for the gift, and said how much he felt parting with them after living amongst them for thirty-four years. Mr Swan will be especially missed in amateur theatrical circles, and he has always been willing to help either with songs or recitations at any public entertainment. Several musical items concluded the evening's diversion.

A series of literary and musical lectures are being inaugurated here, to take place every Tuesday evening during the winter months at the Athenaeum Hall. The two principal movers in the matter are the Misses Spencer and Large, and some of the lecturers will be the Dean of Waiapu, Mr P. S. McLean, Miss Hodge, Mr Parsonson, Mr Wood, and several other well-known local ladies and gentlemen.

There was a large audience at the Edison Company's cinematograph entertainment. This consisted chiefly of scenes at the war in South Africa, varied by musical items on the colossophone. The performance took place on Tuesday evening, and on Wednesday afternoon there was a matinee performance, which was also well attended. — MAJORIE.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, May 7.
 The Harmonic Society's concert on Thursday evening was a great success. The Theatre Royal was so crowded in every part that extra seats had to be brought in. The first part of the programme consisted of an instrumental overture, and Gade's "The Erl King's Daughter," and the second of miscellaneous vocal and instrumental music. The solo parts in the cantata were taken by Mrs Snodgrass, Miss Clarice Hunt, and Mr H. Kidson, and were well rendered. Mrs Snodgrass had a short but difficult part with some very high notes. Her voice is clear and sweet. Miss Hunt was in splendid voice. All her numerous solos were artistically sung. Mr Kidson was evidently suffering from a cold, but it is always a pleasure to hear him sing. In the second part the gem of the evening was undoubtedly Miss Hunt's song from Gounod's "Irene," which was sung with exquisite delicacy and taste. Her rich notes rang through the building, and at the conclusion the applause from the delighted audience was almost deafening, nor would they cease till Miss Hunt came forward to sing again. All the ladies of the chorus and the soloists wore white. Amongst the very crowded audience were noticed Mrs Mules, black, white lace cap; Miss Mules, pink silk evening blouse, white opera cloak, black skirt; Mrs Richmond; Miss Richmond, black evening dress finished with pale blue silk; Mrs Schanders, grey and black striped silk; Mrs Adams, smart blouse of pink pleated chiffon relieved with black, black silk skirt; Mrs Sweet, dainty blouse of white lace trimmed with pink bebe ribbon; Mrs Sealy, black, white lace cap; Miss E. Sealy, pink blouse, dark skirt; Mrs C. Watts, black; Mrs J. Sharp, bright pink silk evening blouse, black skirt; her sister, Mrs W. Trolove, wore black relieved with white; Mrs Richardson, dark electric blue silk blouse, black skirt; Miss Brabant (Auckland), heliotrope bordered muslin; Miss Webb-Bowen, white opera cloak over dark dress; Mrs Vining, égar brown; Mrs Childs, royal blue velvet trimmed with white lace insertion; Miss Perrin, white muslin over pink; Miss Bunny, black silk; Mrs Fell; Mrs Leggatt, black; Miss V.

Leggatt, pretty pink frock; Miss Day, white opera cloak over evening dress; Mrs and Miss Preshaw; Mrs Wood, black silk, lace cap; Mrs Robinson; Miss Poole, light blue silk blouse; Mrs A. Mackay, black; Miss Mackay, white silk and chiffon; Mrs Cook, grey satin; Mrs Bell; Miss Aggie Bell, blue evening dress; Miss Huddleston, black; Miss Ledger; Miss Crump, blue with white lace yoke; and many others.

On Wednesday evening a very large number of people attended at the Provincial Hall, when a

SOCIAL

was given to the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney in commemoration of his silver jubilee of twenty-five years' service as the Roman Catholic parish priest of Nelson. The hall was prettily decorated with flags, ferns and flowers, being the work of the energetic committee. All sections of the community, without respect to creed, were present, for Dean Mahoney is most popular with all, and everyone felt they would like to offer their congratulations on this occasion. Many complimentary speeches were made to the Dean during the evening, and Dr. Duff on behalf of the parishioners and the citizens of Nelson presented him with a beautifully illuminated address and purse of eighty sovereigns. An excellent musical programme was provided, those taking part being Mrs A. P. Burnes, Mrs (Dr.) Roberts, Mrs Walker, Miss Driscoll, Miss Scott, Messrs Reunart, Coney, A. C. Maginness, O'Beirne, and Naylor. Refreshments were also provided. Amongst those present were the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, vice-general of the diocese, the Ven. Rev. Father Lewis, diocesan administrator, who acted as a delegation from the Archbishop; Rev. Father George (Nelson), Dr. and Mrs Duff, Mr and Mrs Macquarrie, Mr and Mrs A. P. Burnes, Dr. and Mrs Roberts, Mr J. Harley (Mayor), Miss Harley, Mr Graham, M.H.R., Mr C. Y. Fell, Mr and Mrs Trask, Judge Robinson, Mrs Robinson, and many others.

All the pupils attending the Girls' College were very sad on Wednesday morning when they were informed that Miss Gibson, the lady principal, had given up her position and would not return to college next term. Miss Gibson has always been a great favourite and much beloved by the girls, and her loss will be very greatly felt by parents, pupils, and teachers, but all join in wishing her every future happiness. — PHYLLIS.

HASTINGS.

Dear Bee, May 11.
 A mounted infantry corps is to be formed here, to be named the Hastings Mounted Rifles, and a meeting concerning the matter was held on Thursday evening in last week, when Captain Russell presided. It was decided that the uniform shall be plain khaki, and the officers will be Captain A. Russell, First Lieutenant Whiteley, Second Lieutenant Barber, and Third Lieutenant Charles Gordon. About ninety members have already joined the company and great interest is being evinced in the undertaking. Dr. Linney has kindly offered to lend his paddock for mounted drill; Captain J. A. Fraser the grounds of the Heretaunga School for foot drill, and Mr Alfred Elling-

ham has granted the use of the Stamford Lodge grounds. In addition to these, the company also has the use of Messrs Murray, Roberts' old store, so there will be no lack of ground for drilling purposes.

The Hastings people inaugurated a successful sacred concert in the Princess Theatre on the 8th inst., in aid of the Indian Famine Fund. The performers were Mrs Mantering, Misses N. Caulton, Chadwick, Kelly, Towsey, pianists; Miss Marbrook, Messrs Marbrook and Hullett, violinists; Mr L. Fowler, cornet; and Mrs Merewether, Misses N. Caulton and Grace Roach, Messrs R. Winsley, Hudson, Mantering, McKay, Whiteley, and Vickers, vocalists. There was also a capable choir conducted by Mr H. H. Hunt.

The Waipawa people gave the first of a series of winter concerts in St. Columbia's Schoolroom, Waipawa, on the 4th inst., when, in spite of the inclement state of the weather, the room was well filled. Some of the performers were Mesdames Eames and Bennet, Misses Boyte, Coe, and Malone, and Messrs W. Arrow, J. Cosgrove, Eames, F. J. Shanly, and J. Peters.

DOROTHY.

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee, May 15.
 THE PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB held their opening meet at Sylvia Park (the residence of our new master, Mr Ralph) last Saturday, when there was a large attendance of members and their friends. Mr and Mrs Ralph most cordially received everybody. A large marquee had been erected at the side of their residence, where we found a substantial sit-down luncheon prepared for us. There was a cold collation laid out, consisting of mayonnaises, chicken, ham, fruits, cakes, and other delicacies, flanked with beer, tea, etc. It was a great success and undoubtedly well done. After luncheon the hounds were brought to the front of the house to be photographed. They at once collected round the huntsman, and there they sat, as grave as so many senators, with their large heads raised and their heavy lips hanging. After this business of photographing, the Master gave the mot d'ordre, and the hounds, with their cavalcade of followers, jogged away to Sylvia Mountain, where the hounds were thrown off. After a short time the note of a hound brought our hearts into our mouths. Another and another certified the truth of the declaration, and presently a grand crash and peal of deep-mouthed music proclaimed there was capital scent. In another moment the music increasing in volume, the whole pack came pouring down the side of the hill, and proceeded to run in a steady business-like stream over the adjacent fields, across the road, into the paddock adjoining Sylvia residence. Here doubling, pussie returned to the Sylvia Mountain, and was eventually killed in the marshy land there. Our hostess wore a very handsome costume of silver grey trimmed with bands of white satin, outlined with black velvet ribbon;

and she was ably assisted by Miss Muir and Misses Percival (2).

Amongst the guests I noted Colonel and Mrs Dawson, Mr and Mrs Thomas Morrill, Mr Gorrie (ex-master), Mrs Gorrie, Misses Gorrie (3), Masters Gorrie, Misses Way (Christchurch), Mr and Misses Percival, Mr and Mrs Black, Mrs Ruttle, Mrs A. Nolan, Mrs Hope Lewis, Mrs A. M. Ferguson, Mr and Mrs Grey, Mr and Mrs F. Yonge, Miss Morrill, Mr Morrill, Mr McLaughlin, Misses Pie (2), Misses Stribley, Mr Geo. Dunnet, Miss Dunnet, Mr S. Buckland, Miss Olive Buckland, Misses Phoebe and Maud Buckland, Mr and Mrs and Misses Kelly, Miss Martin, Mr and Mrs Lockhart, Mrs Burns, Messrs Kerr Taylor (3), Mr Matthews, Mr Carminer, Mr and Mrs and Miss Blue, Mr and Mrs Moody, Mr and Mrs Tonks, Mrs (Dr.) Scott, Mr Geo. Bloomfield, Miss Griffiths, Mr and Mrs and Misses Paisley, Messrs Booth, Baitley, Walker, Ralph, Elliot, Elliott, Bell, Gordon, Waller, Buckland, Miss Amy Taylor (Mungere), Mrs Markham, Mrs and Misses Selby, Mr and Mrs Crowe, Miss Abbott, Messrs Kinloch (2), Creagh, C. Purchas, Snackenberg, Lewis, Adams, Austin, Rhodes, Lewis, McLeod, Somers, Rainger, Burgess, Woods etc.

N.Z. LACROSSE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday afternoon the opening for the season of the New Zealand Lacrosse Association eventuated under most auspicious circumstances. The weather was all that could be desired, a matter for congratulation considering its unsettled state for some time past. The presence of such a numerous and representative assembly to witness the opening matches must have been very gratifying to the members of the Association. The game of lacrosse has become very popular here as a winter's afternoon amusement, just as tennis has as a summer's play. The chaste and commodious pavilion has seldom looked so gay as it did on Saturday, graced as it was by the youth and beauty of Auckland, who thoroughly appreciated the kindness of the Association in inviting them to be present at the function. At intervals during play afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies, and the gentlemen of the Club were most assiduous in their attendance on the visitors. The play commenced at three o'clock, and continued until dark, when the gay assemblage dispersed, having fully enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment. The display of the new season's dress and millinery was very pleasing. Amongst those present were:—

Mrs S. Morrill, who wore a black merveillex skirt and broche bodice, stylish military red velvet toque with touches of black, black ostrich feather bon; Mrs Bleazard-Brown, light fawn skirt and coat, small check vest, dark bonnet with gloire de Dijon roses; Miss Bleazard-Brown looked pretty in a navy serge trimmed with black fancy braid, navy felt Amazon hat with quills at the side; Miss Meta Aicken, was dainty in a fawn beige, with brown braid on bodice; Miss Goldsbro' looked winsome in navy, and white sailor hat; Mrs Wignore wore a royal blue costume, with sky-blue silk full vest, cream basket straw toque trimmed with wine velvet; Mrs Maitland was in black with smart dove-grey cloth sac jacket, and stylish violet

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