

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee,—

July 2.

The old-time "Capping Day" came round again last Friday, but once having seen the ceremony and heard the accompanying noises, unless directly interested, one does not choose it as a pleasant way of spending an afternoon. Why it should be so is a mystery, but certainly the higher education does not produce a corresponding state of refinement on these days. Sir James Hector and some of the professors must have felt a good deal of annoyance, even remembering their own boisterous college days. The hall was filled with spectators, mostly friends of the college students. In the evening a dance was held in the University Hall, at which over a hundred were present, including Professor, Mrs. and Miss Cook, Dr. and Mrs. Evans, Canon and the Misses Harper, Professor, Mrs. and Miss Haslam, Professor Wall, Mr. A. and Miss Widing, Miss Maling, Mr. P. Mrs. and Miss Curnow, and Miss Wilson, Misses Freda Marsden, Basley, Kane, Greensill, Dobson (2), Hardcastle (2), Moir, Messrs. Newman, Moir, Cooper, Scott, Stowe, Pridaux, East, E. Rice, Morris, Irwin, Flower, Collins, etc. In one room music and cards were provided for those who did not dance, and the Misses Hardcastle and Newman sang very sweetly. Some very pretty dresses were worn. Miss Cook looked well in white soft silk, with pale green chiffon rosette on the front of bodice, the long ends falling to the foot of the skirt; Miss Curnow, pale yellow gown and white fichu, with long ends; Miss Wilson, blue flowered silk petticoat and bodice, the over skirt open in front of bright blue satin, slightly trained at the back; Miss Kane, cream silk with chiffon bow and long ends from the bodice; Miss Marsden, black velvet relieved with pink brocade; Miss —, Hardcastle, black velvet with steel and silver trimming; Miss Hardcastle, pale pink gown.

A very pleasant little euchre party was given on Thursday evening by Mrs. Poulton, Avonside, of five or six tables. The first prizes were won by

Miss Winter and Mr. Hume. Others present were: The Misses Isard, Mr. Pascoe, etc. A very jolly time was spent, finishing with a dainty little supper.

July 4.

On Thursday morning Professor Rutherford, of McGill University, Montreal, who has been visiting Christchurch for some weeks, was quietly married at Papanui Church by the Rev. H. T. Purchas to Miss Mary Newton, daughter of the late Mr. Arthur C. Newton, of Christchurch. Professor Rutherford is a son of Mr. James Rutherford, of Taranaki, but his college days were spent in Christchurch, and we are very proud of the way he has succeeded in his career. Miss Newton was at one time a "sweet girl graduate" at Canterbury College, and we wish them both every happiness.

The Old Girls' Association of the High School had a very enjoyable evening last week. Miss Gibson, the lady principal, fully explained the work intended to be done by the various sections, the secretaries of each having something to say on their schemes. Music, recitations, light refreshments and much merry chatter brought 10 o'clock only too soon upon them. Mrs. Donald McLean was present, and played several piano solos, and on the following day was the proud possessor of her degree (Bachelor of Music), which she has worked hard for since her admittance at a very early age to the Canterbury College.

One of the most successful of the Christchurch Liedertafel's Herren Abend's took place on Friday, the large room in Hobbs' buildings being uncomfortably full both of visitors and smoke, especially the latter, so I am told by one who smokes, for of course we are not admitted on smoke evenings. But, like our Cathedral boys, who never sing so well out of the Cathedral, so with the Liedertafel, they always seem to give their best concerts in their usual practice room in a cloud of smoke. Mr. F. M. Wallace created quite a furore with his

violin playing, partly perhaps because they feared a desertion in favour of the cello after the last concert.

I hear there is a probability of a Hunt Club ball after the Grand National. That is something to hope for, and the next Geisha dance takes place on the 26th July.

The many friends of Mrs. Albert Kaye will be interested to know she has written a book, a New Zealand story, entitled, I think, "Haromi." It was published in London, and critics say is a very readable and healthy story. Her non de plume is Banner-man Kaye, and I am longing to read and judge for myself.

DOLLY VALE.

PICTON.

Dear Bee,

June 6.

Though matters are socially dull here business is going ahead with great strides, so that it came rather like a blow to hear that Marlborough was left out in the cold when the apportioning of the various railways was under consideration by the powers that be. There is no doubt that a railway from Picton—as the terminus of the South Island—to Christchurch is urgently required. Farming on the land lately purchased by the Government is out of the question till the railway communication is complete, and it is simply ennobling a life of isolation and poverty on those who have taken up small farms. There is no outlet for their produce and no association for them with the outside world. The small—comparatively, I mean—steamers now on the run between Wellington and Picton do the trip under five hours from wharf to wharf, and several times lately it has been done in four hours and a quarter. The important freezing operations now being started in Picton must eventually force our town into prominence; and so it behoves our legislature to consider our requirements, and if they are to borrow at all borrow enough to make Marlborough in particular and New Zealand in general a real wide-awake place to live in.

The Misses Greensill, of "Brooklyn," had a very successful

AFTERNOON

on Wednesday. Miss Greensill was wearing a green costume with a pretty silk front; Miss Ethel Greensill was in navy blue; Mrs. Allen, in black; Mrs. Riddell, in tailor-made purple cloth costume, with cream vest and brown hat trimmed with yellow silk and purple and yellow pansies; Miss Fell, tailor-made brown costume with yellow vest and pretty toque to match; Miss Nora Allen, navy blue poplin costume and brown hat; Miss Holm (Wellington), fawn costume, trimmed with rows of narrow velvet; Miss Mildred Fell, navy blue costume with toque en suite; Miss Hallett, black costume, sailor hat; Miss Nellie Allen, dark blue tailor-made cloth costume, cream silk vest with lace eravat, and sailor hat; Miss Grace Allen, royal blue costume, red silk tie and belt. A very merry afternoon was spent telling funny anecdotes and relating travelling experiences by sea and land.

There is always a good deal to say about the weather. One never knows how to take it. Walking parties and fishing expeditions have to be postponed from week to week, or adjourned sine die on account of its vagaries. Yet we live in hopes.

The "Peace" Celebration Committee hold regular meetings and report progress. Private letters from New Zealanders in South Africa say that the end must soon come now, that the Boers are becoming demoralised, and are surrendering on all sides. The horrors of the Chinese rebellion and the famine in India seem almost to have superseded the great interest in the South African war.

JEAN.

NELSON.

Dear Bee,

July 2.

On Tuesday evening Mr and Mrs Kingdon gave a DELIGHTFUL LITTLE DANCE at their residence, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The

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