

dining-room was used for dancing, the floor of which was really excellent. A most recherche supper was served in the pretty hall, whilst the spacious drawing-room, verandah and other sitting-rooms were much used between the dances. Mrs Kingston wore a very handsome black gown, the bodice of coquettish red silk, veiled with black lace. Amongst the guests were Mrs Percy Adams, pink moire with transparent yoke and sleeves of white lace; Mrs Roberts, pink silk blouse with white chiffon trimmings, black skirt; Mrs Jack Sharp, flame-coloured blouse, black silk skirt; Miss Blackett looked well in white; Miss Day, black finished with blue velvet; the Misses Glasgow, Heaps, Harris, Jones, E. Ledger, Sealy, Richmond, Robertson, Trolove, Webb-Bowen (2), Stephens (2), Messrs Adams, Muir, Wratt, J. Sharp, Booth, Lewis, Skerrett (Wellington), Moor (2), Glasgow, Hamilton (3), Heaps, Tomlinson (2), D. Burns, Mackay, L. Levien, Dr. Roberts, etc.

Mr and Mrs Hannibal Williams, of New York, have just spent a few days in our midst and charmed everyone by their

SHAKESPEAREAN RECITALS.

which were given last Thursday and Friday evenings. On each occasion the audience was large and most appreciative and enthusiastic. On Thursday Mr Williams recited Shakespeare's "Henry IV." (Part I.), and on Friday Mr Williams gave an interpretation of "A Winter's Tale," both of which were splendidly rendered and much enjoyed. Mrs Williams wore a handsome gown of white silk with trimmings of white bead passementerie and rich lace, diamond ornaments. Amongst the audience were Mrs Niles, black silk, pink cap; Miss Grant, navy costume; Mrs Richmond, black gown, pink and red in cap; Miss Richmond, pink silk blouse, black skirt; Mrs Booth, amber silk blouse, dark skirt; Mrs Chatterton, dark blue silk; Mrs E. F. W. Cooke, grey silk blouse, black skirt; Miss Houlker looked well in light blue silk; Miss Tendall, buttercup silk blouse, black skirt; her sister wore blue; Mrs Webb-Bowen, black; Miss F. Webb-Bowen, white; Mrs Heaps, black with scarlet silk vest; Miss Heaps, white muslin blouse, black skirt; Mrs Sealy, black, with jet and silk trimmings, white lace cap; Miss Bunny, pretty red silk blouse, dark skirt; Miss Trolove, red evening dress; Mrs Holloway, black, white lace cap with pink; Mrs Blackett, black; Miss Blackett, red velvet; Miss Holloway, blue silk blouse, trimmed with swan's down; Miss Gribben, green and white striped silk blouse, dark skirt; Miss Pearce, white opera cloak over dark dress; Miss Galntley, black, finished with white lace; Mrs Littlejohn, brown; Miss Forbes, pretty crimson gown; Mrs and Miss Cuthbertson; Miss Burnett, blue; Mrs Morrison; Mrs de Castro, black evening dress, white opera cloak; Mrs Hayner, black evening dress; Mrs Fell; Miss R. Atkinson; Miss Trix Atkinson, black silk skirt, dull red blouse; Mrs Watts, black silk; Mrs C. Watts, black, finished with white lace; Miss Gascoigne, black and amber; and many others.

PHYLLIS.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee,
The Taramaki Guards held their first annual

BALL

in the Drill Hall last Thursday evening, and it was probably the largest, and certainly the most successful, ball ever held in New Plymouth. The hall was decorated with numerous flags of every describable colour, and these, with the gaily dressed throng, made it a sight worth seeing. To make the accommodation larger, two large marquees were erected outside the hall, one for a supper-room, which went by the name of "Pretoria," and the other for a drawing-room, named "The Making Retreat," and made a charming fairy bowers, decorated with ferns, Chinese lanterns, etc. The supper was laid out in the usual supper-room, as well as the marquee, and the table decorations were attended to with great taste by Misses E. Rennell, Paul, Biggs, Lawson, and Siggs. The flour was in good order, and Mr McKinnon Bain's orchestra provided excellent music, extras being played by Mrs Percy Webster, Misses Kirkby, M. Humphries, and Hursthouse. The committee for the general arrangements were: Colour-Sergeant Waldie, Sergeant A. MacDiarmid, Corporals A. Goldwater, Nixon, Treeby and K. Web-

ster, and Privates A. Humphries, Moore, and L. Woodhouse; while Sergeant C. T. Mills made an excellent secretary. Those ladies who were on the supper committee were: Meadames Dockrill (president), Taunton, Ellis, Holmes, Mills, Cook, J. C. George, A. C. Pookes, Messenger, and Misses Hirst and Jacob. At the entrance of the main door stood a guard of honour, as the guests passed in, and Captain Taunton and his officers stood inside the door and greeted the "civil" arrivals and saluted the military ones. His Worship the Mayor (Mr Dockrill), Major Ellis, officer commanding the district, Captain Okey, Lieutenants Cook and Hooker, of the Taranaki Rifles; Captain Dempsey, Central School Cadets; Lieutenant R. Bayley, N.Z. Militia; and several troopers of the Hattera Mounted Rifles, were present. The programme was a lengthy one, and in this, too, the military character was kept up, the dances being as follows:—Lord Roberts waltz, Major Robin polka, Colonel Thorneycroft Lancers, Lord Cecil mazurka, Major-General Baden-Powell waltz, General Buller nine-pins, Major Davies waltz, General Warren lancers, General MacDonald Highland schottische, Colonel Keekewald waltz, General Hart d'Alberty, Guards waltz, General White polka, Lord Kitchener waltz, General French lancers, Lieutenant-Colonel Newall waltz, Lord Methuen nine-pins, Lieutenant-Colonel Mahon waltz, Lord Dundonald tennis dance, Lieutenant-General Rundle lancers, General Huton mazurka, General Hamilton Highland schottische, Major Jowsey waltz, Captain Macdocks waltz. The ball was most successful, as said before, and Captain Taunton and those who assisted him are to be congratulated upon the affair, which was exceptionally well managed.

THE DRESSES.

Among those present were:—Mrs E. Bayley, white tulle and silk; Miss Sutton (Dunedin), soft pink silk; Mrs Wright, black net; Mrs W. Syme (Hawera), lovely scarlet brocaded silk, trimmed with velvet and lace; Miss Fraser, very pretty yellow silk, trimmed with white satin ribbon; Miss Dalziel, pale yellow satin; Mrs A. Pookes, green silk; Miss Jacob, black velvet, trimmed with yellow crinkly chiffon; Miss C. Jacob, blue figured silk, trimmed with silver passementerie; Miss Pookes, white, with black velvet trimmings; Mrs Paul, black satin and jet, with lovely opera cape of white and blue brocaded silk, trimmed with ostrich feathers; Miss Paul, ivory satin, handsome opera cape, of cream brocaded silk, ostrich feather trimming; Miss Biggs (Hamilton), pink silk; Mrs Percy Webster, white silk, and chiffon trimmings, and pink flowers on shoulder, white satin skirt; Miss M. Pookes looked pretty in white silk veiled in net; Miss G. Pookes, blue silk, and chiffon; Miss C. Cook, yellow satin; Miss N. Skeet, pink silk; Mrs Courtney, green silk, and black chiffon trimmings; Miss Hursthouse, white over blue; Miss Ross (Christchurch), pale blue and white silk; Mrs James, black satin; Miss V. Rennell (debutante), handsome corded silk; Miss M. Humphries, black and scarlet; Miss Robinson, cream and yellow; Miss J. Moffin, pink; Miss Ellis, white and black velvet; Miss L. Ellis, pink; Miss Brewer (Inglewood), yellow; Mrs J. Morey, white figured silk; Miss Ramsom, yellow silk; Miss — Ramsom, white; Miss G. Morey (debutante), a dainty soft silk, trimmed with chiffon; Mrs Penn, handsome blue and gold brocaded silk; Mrs Bewley looked distinguished in a turquoise blue silk with transparent yoke and sleeves of white chiffon; Mrs Pollen, green; Miss Lusk (Auckland) looked well in black and gold; Miss Lewis, white, and crimson flowers; Mrs Hall, pretty pale yellow silk, with chiffon frills; Miss C. Bayley, pink silk; Miss B. Bayley, blue, and black velvet trimmings; Mrs Hayward, black and white check silk, trimmed with pink; Miss Hayward, pink satin; Miss Acheson, blue satin; Miss Walker, black and scarlet; Miss Holdsworth, black satin; Miss G. Holdsworth, black satin skirt, black silk bodice, trimmed with green; Miss Tribe, cream; Miss Ninkie, a handsome brocaded pink satin, en traine; Mrs J. Wilson, brown and cream; Miss Collis, white; Miss B. Oliver looked well in black silk; Mrs J. C. George, black silk, and silver passementerie trimmings; Miss Kirkby, pretty white silk, with chiffon; Miss B. Kirkby looked well in white silk lustré; Mrs Taunton looked striking in black silk, and silver sequin trimmings; Miss Knight, black and pink; Miss Rennell, green silk; Miss B. Rennell, pink silk;

Mrs S. Teed, handsome fawn brocade; Miss Maule looked well in cream silk, demi-traine; Miss Irwin, white silk lustré; Mrs H. Bailey, white and yellow; Mrs Bacon, pretty dress of cream silk and black velvet; Miss J. McKellar, white, over pink; Miss Pierce, pretty pink flowered muslin; Miss — Pierce, heliotrope flowered muslin; Miss Hill, cream silk; Miss Baker, scarlet silk, and cream lace; Miss James, blue and white; Miss Casel, yellow silk blouse, black silk skirt; Miss Bedford, blue and white; Miss C. George, pink and white; Mrs Fenton, very pretty heliotrope satin, demi-traine; Mrs Ab. Goldwater, black silk, veiled in lace, transparent sleeves; Miss N. McAlum, black and pink; Mrs H. Goldwater, black silk; Miss (Grubb), pink; Miss Treeby, blue and white; Miss Abbott, peacock green silk; Miss C. Hamerton, white; Miss Lewis, cream and pale blue; Miss Neary, pink and black; Miss Tuke, turquoise blue silk; Mrs Holmes, pretty pale yellow silk; Miss Morey, pink silk, and black velvet trimmings; Miss Masoell, white over pink; Miss M. Brown, green; Mrs Kerr, black and pink; Miss Curtheb, green silk, and white feather trimming; Mrs Pascoe, black; Miss M. Humphries, yellow; Mrs H. Mace, pink; Miss Lawson, white silk; Miss L. Siggs (Mania), rose pink silk; Miss Cameron (Waitara), handsome yellow silk, trimmed with black velvet, demi-traine, and scarlet flowers; Miss Curtis looked pretty in white silk and chiffon; Miss Drake, pale green; Mrs Home, shot silk. Among the gentlemen were Messrs Weston, Strouts, McIntyre, Woodhouse (2), Wright, Teed, Fenton, Rennell, Bedford, Halae, Spence, Penn, McEwen (3), Humphries (2), Hawkins, Kerr, Crombie, H. Bailey, Isaac, Jacob, Pookes, Webster (2), Shaw (2), Dempsey, J. C. George, Pollen, Neil, Wynn-Williams, Russell, Standish, McKellar, T. Shaw, Courtney, Cook, Holmes, Goldwater (2), Ford, Lewis, Knight, Gilmour, Drake, Pascoe, Mills, Short, Moverley, Moore, Treeby, Holdsworth, E. Bayley, Avery, W. Bayley, etc., etc. NANCY LEE.

A LONG NERVOUS STORM.

If you ever watched a dentist draw a nerve out of a tooth, you will remember how much it looked like a little snip of wet white cotton thread. How can so contemptible a thing inflict such a mountain of agony? And why does it do it? "Disease," you say. Ah, surely. A simple and obvious answer; yet in what way does the true nerve-fibre, wrapped up and coated as it is, like the wires in a submarine cable, get to be diseased? Yet, somehow, these soft strings do become fearfully out of order, or our friend Miss Hunt, alluding to the neuralgia from which she once suffered, would not say, "Sometimes I was almost mad with the pain." And that is but one of the many forms of torture imposed on us by the nerves; yet without these nerves we should be but lumps of clay—lacking feeling and power of motion.

How can we cure these dreadful nerve-pains? The drug-shops abound in so-called remedies for them, yet they are only as breath to cool the air of a torrid summer day. The real cause and cure are among Nature's deeper secrets. Can we find them? "Nearly all my life," says Miss Hunt, "I have suffered from indigestion of an aggravated kind. I felt low, weary, and weak, having little or no energy. My appetite was variable. At one time I would eat voraciously, and at other times I could not touch a morsel of food. "After eating I had great distress at the chest and around the sides. I suf-

fered martyrdom from the horrid pain in my stomach and limbs. As the years passed by my nerves became totally unstrung, and I endured untold misery from neuralgia. My lips and half my face were almost dead from this distressing malady."

[The lady will pardon the writer. In the sense of being objects of use and pleasure, they were in truth practically dead; but in another sense they were horribly alive, as the sky is when it is pierced and rent with the lances of the lightning.]

"I consulted," she adds, "doctor after doctor, but in spite of all their medicines and applications I found little or no relief. Sometimes I was almost mad with the pain."

[Not a doubt of it. Under such circumstances the body is a poison-house of keen suffering, and people have not infrequently taken their own lives, to escape from it. Only acute rheumatism or gout can be compared with neuralgia, and (please observe) the whole three are forms of the same thing—results of the same cause. Hence sufferers from the former two ailments will be wise also to read this essay to its end.]

"In June, 1886," continues the letter, "a book was left at my house in which I read of many persons who had been cured by a medicine called Mother Seigel's Syrup. I bought a supply from a chemist in New North Road, and soon my indigestion got better, the pain in my head and limbs was easier, and I felt stronger than I had done for years."

"I think it only right that others should know of what has done so much for me. You have, therefore, my permission to make this statement public if you like. (Signed) (Miss) S. Hunt, 57, Dale View Road, Stamford Hill, London, June 30th, 1896."

Our correspondent is a schoolmistress, and, as her letter shows, a woman of fine intelligence. At the outset she names the radical, and the only real disease she had—namely, indigestion, or as we indifferently call it, dyspepsia. Starved from want of nourishment, and poisoned by the products of food constantly decomposing in the stomach, her nervous system was thrown into wild disorder, and protested and cried out with the unrelenting voice of pain. No application, no emollients are effective to remedy symptoms springing from a cause so profound and firmly seated.

Would we stop the writhing of the trees during a gale? Ah, they cannot be bound or held. We must employ, if we possess it, a power which can say unto the wind, "Peace, be still."

Something akin to this Mother Seigel's Syrup did when it abolished the digestive trouble. It enabled the stomach to feed the feeble body, and with returning strength the nervous storm subsided into the calm and harmony of health.

Note to "Graphic" Cousins.

You will see the two headings in the first two columns of the children's page are a bit mixed. The first one should read "Ingenuity 'Competition'" and in the next column it should be "Best 'Composition' or Essay." This happened by a curious accident, which only printers would understand.—Cousin Kate.

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