

tly trimmed with chiffon frills; Miss Ella Johnston (Haugitikei), white satin and chiffon gown; Miss Cooper, black satin with white lace and pink roses; Miss O. Gore, white satin gown, the bodice veiled with accordion chiffon; Miss Fitzherbert, black satin with cream lace sleeves; Miss I. Fitzherbert also wore black, the bodice trimmed with pink and white; Miss Rolleston, white striped glace silk gown; Miss Friend, black satin trimmed with lace; Miss Henry, white brocade trimmed with chiffon and lace; Miss G. Henry wore black with jet and chiffon; Miss Sprott, in pink silk and velvet; Miss Hislop, white gauze gown trimmed with lace; Miss Harcourt, white and pink figured silk, white lace on the bodice; Miss Twigg, black satin trimmed with blue velvet and passementerie; Miss I. Coleridge, a pale blue silk gown, the bodice veiled with white lace; Miss Quick, pink silk trimmed with lace; Miss Reid, pale blue silk veiled with white figured tulle and the bodice prettily tucked; Miss G. Reid wore a black lace gown with pink velvet; Miss Edwin, cream silk and chiffon; Miss A. Edwin, pale blue striped silk gown; the Misses Chatfield in white satin gowns with lace; also, Colonel Penton, Major Owen, Professors Brown and Easterfield, Sir Kenneth Douglas, Messrs Coates, Tripp, Gore, Cooper, Pearce, Harcourt, Duncan, Turnbull, Sloman, Richmond, Williams, Robinson, etc., etc.

Mrs Seddon gave a very enjoyable afternoon in last week to a number of members' wives and others. The season has closed at last, and I should think all the visiting members are glad to get home, now that the summer weather has commenced. A number of people are going down to Christchurch next week for the Carnival Week there. I believe the shops and dressmakers have been kept continually busy for the last week or so. Let us hope the weather will be fine down South, so that the ladies may have an opportunity of displaying their new finery.

OPHELIA.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, October 22.
The Nelson Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society gave three performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's charming and melodious opera "IOLANTHE"

in the theatre last week. Unfortunately on the first night (Wednesday) the weather was anything but propitious. A fierce south-easterly gale was raging, accompanied by heavy rain, such weather as is seldom seen in our quiet little city. The wonder was that there was any audience at all, but considering the weather it was remarkably good. The next two nights were fine, so large and enthusiastic audiences greeted the amateurs. The opera was very prettily staged, some of the scenery being lovely; the music was well rendered, and the dresses, which were all new, were greatly admired. The cast was as follows—Lord Chancellor, Mr. T. Condeell; Iolante, Miss M. Dickson; Phyllis, Miss H. Reeves; Queen of Fairies, Mrs W. R. Walker; Strophon, Mr E. Pratt; Earl of Mount Ararat, Mr J. Jickell; Earl of Tolloller, Mr W. Smith; Private Willis, Mr R. Cooke; Celia, Mrs J. Jackson; Licia, Miss N. Reeves; Fleta, Miss E. Smith; chorus of fairies, Misses Burford (2), Harley, Leggatt, Pratt (2), Smith, Sealy, Topliss and Watkins; Mesdames Giblin, Topliss and Wastney; chorus of carls, Messrs Cooke, Edwards, Finney, Giblin (2), Hamilton (2), Jickell, Lane, Levien, McDonald, O'Biernie, Oldershaw, Roberts, Shallerass and Wntt. Mr A. P. Burnes was the stage manager, and Mr C. Trussell the conductor. There was also a most efficient little orchestra, of which Miss Stevens was the pianist and Mr Parsons first violin. All the soloists received numbers of bouquets, especially Mrs Walker, who, as Queen, was most successful, her acting and singing were alike good. She wore a lovely dress. The deep corsage was of silver armour; the flowing skirt was of soft white muslin trimmed with silver and gold; from the shoulders hung a long cloak of heliotrope with spangles, gauze wings and a becoming crown. Miss Dickson, as Iolante, was very graceful, and she sang beautifully. Her dress of white and silver was most becoming. Miss H. Reeves wore a shepherdess dress, and received much applause for her singing and acting. All the fairies wore long, flowing gowns of different set shades, gauze wings and brilliant stars in their hair and on the wands. The

effect was charming. Mr T. Condeell, as Lord Chancellor, was most successful, and the other principals also sustained their parts well. The dresses worn by the men were most handsome and appropriate. Amongst the audience on different evenings were Mr and Mrs Kingdon, the latter wearing pink; Mrs Leggatt, black; Miss V. Leggatt, pink; Dr. and Mrs Andrew, the latter wearing black and pink; Mr and Mrs Wood; Mrs and Miss Atkinson; Miss Garston (Christchurch); Dr. and Mrs Hudson; Mr and Mrs H. Edwards; Mrs Edwards, light blue blouse; Mrs Robinson, black; Miss N. Robinson, light blouse; Judge Robinson; Mrs Houliker, rose silk blouse, black skirt; Miss Houliker, blue silk blouse; Mrs Wither looked well in pink; Mr Wither; Mrs and Miss Levien; Mrs and Miss Lightfoot; Mrs Bain; Mr. Mrs and Miss Webb-Bowen; Miss Bunny, white muslin; her sister wore red; Miss Gibbs, bright blue silk blouse, black skirt; Mrs Humphries, black; Miss Evans, black with white lace; Miss Robertson, fawn silk; Mrs and Miss E. Sealy; Miss D. Bell, white muslin; Mr and Mrs F. Trusk; the Mayor and Mrs Harley; Colonel and Miss Pitt; the latter wearing black and white; Mr and Mrs McDonald (Cable Bay), the latter wearing white silk; Mr and Mrs Browning (Cable Bay); the Misses Blackett (2), Gribben, Stewart-Forbes, Harris (2), Coote (2), A. Bell, Trolove, Tomlinson, Driscoll, Pratt, and B many others. After the close of the last performance a flashlight photograph was taken of the performers and the scenery. Subsequently Mr A. P. Burnes, on behalf of the society, presented Miss M. Pratt with a handsome set of silver-mounted tapers in connection with her approaching marriage. Cheers were given for the recipient, and also for Mr Burnes, Mr Trussell and others. The company afterwards adjourned to the Oddfellows' Hall, where an enjoyable dance was held.

MUSICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The following candidates have passed the practical examinations of the Associated Board, R.A.M., and R.C.M., London, which was conducted by Mr Stewart Macpherson, in Nelson last week:—Local Centre, Senior Piano: Misses P. Fell, Ethel Sealy, Waite, Ethel Leiger, Pike and Gilbert. Local Centre, Senior Singing: Miss A. Bell, and Mrs Patterson. Local Centre, Senior Violin: Miss L. Croucher (honours), Miss P. Buchanan. Local Centre, Junior Piano: Misses Bendall, Rowe and Harkness. School, Higher Piano: Misses Ladley, P. Buchanan, Tatton, Sheldon, Martin, Gray and Jennings. School, Higher Singing: Misses Sadd, Hannon and Midge Mackay. School Lower Piano: Misses Everett, Hill, Edwards, and McLean. School, Elementary Piano: Misses Baigent, Roberts, Sheldon, Clark, Rowe, Mackenzie and Mercer. Miss N. Moore passed the teachers' examination in pianoforte, and is therefore entitled to use the letters C.T.A.B. after her name.

PHYLIS.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, October 22.
How it has rained this week, and surely it has never rained harder in the annals of Canterbury than it did on Thursday. The streets were almost canals, and this on the evening, too, when a hearty desire was felt by a large section of the Canterbury citizens to do homage to Mrs Howie, who is so soon to leave us, by being present at her farewell concert in the Choral Hall that night. However, the elements pleased the cabmen, and they in their turn succeeded in fairly well filling the hall, though the reserve ticket showed up in many vacant chairs. The programme was a very long one, much too long, eighteen numbers being set down, and the too ready desire to respond to entores prolonged the pleasure to such an extent that it became wearisome, and but for Mrs Howie, or as we are beginning to know her now, "Te Rangī Pahi," being down at the very end to sing Tosti's "Good-bye," there would have been a scanty house at the finish, many being obliged to leave as it was to catch late trains. The beneficere looked simply splendid as she entered in a very long black gown, the front covered with net, embroidered with true lover's knots of steel sequins, a steel ornament and hula feather in her hair, and carrying an exquisite shower bouquet of wild clematis and other white flowers. She was the recipient of

many floral tributes during the evening, and her singing was a genuine delight, yet scarcely as steady and true as usual—over-anxiety, perhaps, to do more than her best for her friends. Mrs Howie was encored for her three songs, and a duet with Mrs Borna. The latter was quite at her best, and sang charmingly. The others assisting were Misses Lillian Smith, Graham, Ronington, and Thompson; Messrs P. Hockley, W. A. Day, C. Read, A. Millar, Sydney Bell, W. Izard, G. March, and Hugh Reeves. Dr. Crooke played a piano solo, and Mr H. H. Loughnan two cello obligatos, Mrs Edgar and Miss C. Lingard sharing the accompaniments. Among the audience were Mr and Mrs Bourns, Mr and Misses Burns, Mrs J. and Miss Anderson, Mr and Mrs Little, Miss Fodor, Mrs and Miss Reeves, Mrs and the Misses Boyle, Mr Connal, the Misses Hodgson, Godfrey, Fairhurst, Grant, Hargreaves (2), Ross, Mrs D. Wood, Mrs T. Garrard, Mrs F. M. Wallace, Mrs and Miss K. Young, Mrs T. W. Stringer, Mrs Fitchett (Wellington), Mrs Deacon, Miss Kiver, Mr and Mrs C. Cunningham, Mr R. C. Bishop, etc.

At the Theatre Royal Mr Donald Macdonald has given four deeply interesting lectures, or talks, for it is just as if you were in your own home, and he talking to you. He can be stirring, pathetic, and humorous, and all with the authority of one who has been there, and knows what he is talking about, never faltering for a word. He looks very picturesque in khaki and putties, and appropriate to his subject, and has had good houses throughout.

On Friday how glad we were the rain was over, for was it not the night of the Mayor's and Mrs Reece's ball, to which hundreds were looking forward? The Art Gallery was scarcely large enough to hold the large number of guests, and dancing was almost an

impossibility at first. The ball-room was the first room entered, and crossing that to where Mr and Mrs Reece stood, just inside the drawing-room, one took in at once the prettiness of it. Bright flags draped the walls, and mirrors, and delicate trails of mountain lycopodium were garlanded from lamp to lamp, as if walking in a bower. The flowering plants and palms in the drawing-room were beautiful; the music Miss Scrivenor's best; and the supper, served at small tables in Freeman's well-known style, including champagne and claret-cup, left nothing to be desired. Mrs Reece wore a beautiful gown of cream brocade shot with shell-pink, the flowers standing out quite cream; it was lined with lovely shell-pink, and trimmed with lace and fringe, with a cluster of pink roses on one shoulder; the Misses Reece (2) wore simple frocks of white aurah; their cousin, Miss Agnes Reece, a similar frock. Mr and Mrs Reece were assisted by a committee of ladies and gentlemen to entertain the large number of guests. These were: Mr and Mrs Ranald Macdonald, Mr and Mrs Burns, Mrs G. Harris, Mr and Mrs John Anderson, Mr and Mrs J. Turnbull, Mr and Mrs H. Wood, and Mrs M. Lewin. There were some beautiful dresses worn, but with such a moving crowd it is difficult to fix them. Miss Douglas (Wellington) had a charming gown of brown silk striped gauze over yellow, which had a beautiful russet appearance; Mrs J. Turnbull looked extremely well in cream brocade, with crimson poppies; Mrs Burns, a pale grey satin with chiffon flounce, the bodice covered with jewelled chiffon, a bow of pale pink chiffon falling to the feet. The ladies assisting also wore white satin streamers. Mrs R. Macdonald, black silk and striped gauze, the bodice finished with pearl passementerie and crimson velvet; Mrs G. Harris, black silk, the bodice relieved with pink; Mrs J.

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