

white aprons and caps. The cook, too, was very-complex in her get-up. A lovely canvas apron with a package of nursery recipes in the pocket. Another doll which aroused much admiration was dressed in white pique, relieved with blue. The dress and underclothing were marvels of neatness, and the whole effect was one of cleanliness and unalloyed pains. But one could go on discussing dolls by the hour, or rather by the volume, did space permit. All were in their way almost as good as the best, and when it came to the judging the ladies who had undertaken this work confessed themselves completely beaten. They insisted that it was quite impossible to judge the dolls for first, second and third prize, and so forth, for all were so even. All they could manage to do was to pick out the six they thought best, and all these six they considered equal, absolutely. The handsome baby doll, they thought, deserved special mention from the enormous labour put into the hand-drawn work on the skirt and the beautiful finish of the underclothes. The following are the names of the prize winners:

- Dolly McFarlane, Epsom.
 - Minnie McTier, Takaputa.
 - Ray Tole, Pongsonby.
 - Dora Dubson, Tapsaki.
 - Pearl Goodyear, Eden Terrace, Auckland.
 - Doris Gittos, Hamilton Road, Pongsonby.
- Special prizes have also been awarded to—
- Bessie Martin, Hawera.
 - Lillian Webster, Manukau Road, Parnell.

The judging took some time, and by the hour all was arranged and in order there was quite a crowd waiting to come in and see the show. Scarcely had the doors been opened before the young recipients, too, began to arrive, and though hours too soon, to walk round admiring the dolls and speculating on which they would get. Faster and faster they came, till at last it was evident that the children to receive presents must be separated, and got on the stage. They were arranged in rows, the youngest at the bottom, and these received their toys first. Never was such excitement. The children were wild with joy, and it was hard work to keep order. Still, at last, doll after doll and toy after toy disappeared, and the bright-faced boys and girls hurried off to compare their treasures, and chatter excitedly over their good luck. Then came the lotto distribution, and how the children did enjoy that! It was a pleasure to see them. Those distributing had a hard time to keep up with the eager little hands and expectant mouths, as the rows filed past. It had been hoped to take a group of the children, but they were far too excited and anxious to get home and show their mothers their presents, so all that could be done was to take some snapshots, and these will give some idea of the happiness given. All the best dolls were sent to the sick children at the hospital, who had also several other treats this year. Packages of dolls, etc., were also sent to other deserving institutions. In brief, the distribution was a great success, and all these children who helped can congratulate themselves on having given others much pleasure.

THE WELLINGTON DISTRIBUTION.

In Wellington the dolls dressed by the cousins and others were distributed among the following institutions:—Wellington Hospital, St. Mary's Orphanage, St. Paul's Dorcas Society, Letia Memorial Home, St. Mary's Home, Karori, and the Home for Incurables. As in Auckland, the recipients were delighted with the presents, which served in no small degree to brighten their Xmas.

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Personal Paragraphs.

Misses Kent (2), Auckland, are visiting Mrs Skinner, of New Plymouth.
 Miss Evans, New Plymouth, is on a visit to Wellington.
 Mr E. Govett, Wellington, is on a visit to his father, the Ven. Archdeacon Govett, at New Plymouth.
 Mr Roskrige, Wellington, passed through New Plymouth on his way to Auckland.

Captain and Miss McClatchie, Christchurch, are visiting their relations in New Plymouth.

The house party at "Langley Dale," Blenheim, entertained by Mr and Mrs W. Adams, included Mr and Mrs R. Kingdon, Miss Stevens, Miss Forbes, Mr Hamilton, all of Nelson; Miss Eley Maekintosh and Miss Zita Broad, of Wellington, and others.

Miss Maud Clouston, of Blenheim, is spending Christmas with Mrs Masfield, "Manarua," Pelorus Sound.

Mrs (Dr.) Fell, of Wellington, is staying with Mrs A. G. Fell, at "Te Weranga," Picton.

Mr and Mrs G. Watts' guests at "Lansdowne," Blenheim, during the Christmas holidays were Mr and Mrs J. Sharp, of Nelson, Mr Corbett, and Mr P. Dillon, "Leefield," and Mr Mackay, Nelson.

Mr Stacy Griffiths, of New Plymouth, has come to spend a week or two with his parents, Mr and Mrs Griffiths, at "The Barton."

Mrs Orr returned last Saturday to Blenheim from her visit to Victoria, but, as we regret to hear, not very well.

Miss McCallum, who was taken seriously ill during her visit to Rotorua, was brought home to Blenheim on Saturday, and we hope that she will soon be restored to health.

The other day, when Captain Gilbert Yair offered his services to the Government for South Africa, the Premier replied how highly he appreciated "the spirit of the old warhorse," but that both he and the Captain had unfortunately been born too soon.

Miss Grace Parkes, of Waanganui, is on a visit to Auckland.

Among the visitors at Lake House, Takapuna, during the Christmas holidays were Mr and Mrs Joseph Eddle, Captain and Mrs Best, Mr and Mrs Carpenter, and Mrs and Miss Jolly.

Dr. Grace Russell, who arrived from London last week on a visit to the colony, is now staying with her mother, Mrs J. R. Russell, at the North Shore, Auckland.

Miss Hicks, Northcroft, second daughter of Mr Northcroft, B.M., leaves Auckland on the 6th inst. to take up the study of medicine in Edinburgh.

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A SWIFTER AND A MORAL.—What the dumbest is to the dwelling in which we live that it is a profit! James is to the local habitation of the kama spirit. Thus writes a well-known medical writer.

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 Specimens presented by His Majesty the Governor.
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 Show Window in "Canning's," Queen-st., opposite the Bank of N.Z. For the last three years Mrs Kelly has done all the Floral Work for their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Ranfurly, and has received a special letter from them expressive of pleasure for the manner in which she carried out the decorations of Government House for the Reception of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall. Mrs Kelly also made the Bouquets and Floral Baskets which were presented by Her Royal Highness in Auckland.
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ENGAGEMENTS.

The engagement is announced of Dr. Tracy Ingih, of the Auckland Hospital, to Miss Utting, of Pongsonby.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS

BLACKLOCK—MEACHAM.

A wedding which created a good deal of interest was celebrated quietly in Wellington on Saturday last, between Miss Florence Meacham and Mr Arthur Blacklock. The bride wore a beautiful dress of white duchesse satin, and a tulle veil, fastened with a spray of orange blossom. She was attended by three bridesmaids, Misses Clare and Emma Meacham (sisters), and Miss Gwen Flaagan, niece of the bridegroom, all dressed in white silk, much tucked and inserted with lace. Their hats were of black, picturesquely trimmed. They carried large pink shower bouquets, and each received a gold cable bangle from the bridegroom.

CARSON—SCULLAR.

The shipping in Wellington harbour was gaily decorated with bunting on Monday last, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr Alexander Carson, chief officer of the s.s. Monowai, to Miss Mabel Scoullar, daughter of the late Mr A. Scoullar (formerly head of the firm of Scoullar and Chisholm). The ceremony, which took place at the manse of the Kent Terrace Presbyterian Church, was performed by the Rev. J. K. Elliott. The bride wore an Eton coat of tuckered white lace, and a skirt of the same. Her toque was of pale blue, trimmed with coralflowers. Miss Lillie Brown acted as bridesmaid, and the Mayor of Wellington, Mr J. G. W. Aitken, gave the bride away. Mr A. J. Walsh was best man. Among the numerous and valuable gifts was a handsome presentation from the employees of the firm of Scoullar and Chisholm, consisting of a solid silver tea and coffee service.

PILKINGTON—VESTY.

Mr Harold Pilkington, eldest son of Mr James Pilkington, of Riverdale, West Tamaki, Auckland, was married to Daisy, eldest daughter of Mr S. Vesty, of Hampden, on the 18th inst., at the Udenominational Church, Hampden, Hawke's Bay. The bride, who arrived with her father,

wore a dress of ivory silk-trimmed with handsome lace. She wore a wreath of orange blossoms in her hair and a tulle veil, also a pearl brooch, the gift of the bridegroom.

PALTRIDGE—STEWART.

"A very pretty wedding was solemnised at Holy Trinity Church, Gisborne, on Saturday, Dec. 21, says the Poverty Bay 'Herald,' more than the usual interest being taken in the happy event on account of the popularity of the young people about to be united in the bonds of matrimony. The contracting parties were Mr William Paltridge, son of Captain Paltridge, of Auckland, and Miss May Campbell Stewart, only daughter of Mr J. Stewart, of the local Telegraph Department. There was a large number of friends present at the ceremony at eight o'clock, although the hour was made early in order to allow the wedding party to get away by the boat for Auckland. As the bridal party entered the church the hymn "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden" was rendered, and on leaving the Wedding March was played by Mr Taylor. The marriage ceremony was impressively performed by the Rev. W. Welsh, the bride being given away by her father. The bride was tastefully attired in white muslin, white satin and chiffon trimmings, with orange blossoms, and carried a beautiful spray-bouquet. Misses Kirkland (Dunedin) and Bright acted as bridesmaids, and were handsomely dressed in white muslin over maize, and white muslin and lace trimmings respectively. The bridegroom was attended by Messrs F. Eare and W. J. Gaudin. The service was full choral, the choir rails and chancel being nicely decorated with evergreens and flowers. At the conclusion of the service the wedding party drove to the residence of the bride's parents at Kaiti, where a sumptuous breakfast was partaken of. Amid the good wishes of their numerous friends the happy couple left by the Kingamite at 10 o'clock for Auckland and Rotorua, on their honeymoon tour.

WOOD—MARSHALL.

A pretty wedding took place at St. Peter's Church, Wellington, on Wednesday last, between Miss Daisy Marshall, daughter of Captain J. T. Marshall, and Mr F. J. Wood, second son of Mr J. T. Wood, of Canterbury. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr H. Marshall, wore a dress of rich white silk, trimmed with handsome lace and sprays of orange blossom. She was attended by three bridesmaids, Miss Violet Marshall (her sister), Miss Lydia Blundell (her cousin), and Miss Kathleen Wood (sister of the bridegroom), all wearing white muslin dresses, much trimmed with lace and tucks. They had black picture hats, and carried shower bouquets of scarlet flowers. Mr S. Short officiated at the organ, and Mr Perry Wood acted as best man. The honeymoon is being spent in the Wairarapa.

WARREN—SWINEY.

A quiet but pretty wedding was solemnised at the Wesley Church, Wellington, between Miss Alice Swiney and Mr E. Warren. The bride, who wore a becoming dress of rich white silk, was attended by Misses Sainsbury and Brailsford and three little children as bridesmaids. Mr Kellow was the best man. After a reception, held in the Victoria Hall, the bride and bridegroom left for the South Island, where the honeymoon will be spent.

Our Christchurch correspondent telegraphs that on Saturday afternoon, at St. Mary's, Merivale, Mr E. Goring Thomas, Deputy-Registrar of the Supreme Court at Auckland, was married to Miss Wilkin, eldest daughter of Mr J. C. Wilkin, manager of the "Lyttelton Times" Company. The wedding was a very quiet one, only relations being present. Mr J. P. Whitetaw, an ex-Auckland, now a member of the literary staff of the Christchurch "Press," officiated as best man. The young couple were the recipients of many handsome presents.

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