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Society Gossip CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, January 3.

There is very little to tell you of "society" doings during the Christmas holidays; for the most part "society" is out of town, and the rest confine themselves to family gatherings or nearly so. Boxing Day was a perfect day, but all the others have been gloomy, and a cold feeling in the air, not at all days for basking on the sea shore, yet thousands found their way to Brighton and Sumner, and on New Year's Day the regatta at Lyttelton attracted almost as many people as previous years. The submarine explosion, under the management of Captain Falconer, was exceptionally good, and quite one of the features of the day's proceedings. Mrs. Laurenson, wife of Mr. G. Laurenson, M.H.R., pressing the button to fire the fuse. Lyttelton was gay with bunting, and the usual display of fireworks took place at night, the darkness being all that was wanted for that, but the gathering gloom drove many people home.

A number of small tennis parties have been given lately, and a friendly tournament concluded, Mrs. Ogle and Mr. Woodroffe proving the winners. Several matches have been played at Mrs. Palmer's, "Woodroffe," Papanui, and at Mrs. T. Cowlishaw's, Bligh's Road.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Cowlishaw, at present with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Turnbull, are staying at Avonside, at Mr. W. P. Cowlishaw's residence, during his absence in Auckland.

On New Year's Day Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie Moore, Papanui, had a few friends for the afternoon and evening, including Mr., Mrs., and Miss Earle (Oamaru), Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm (Opawa), Mr. and Mrs. T. Garrard, Miss Wastney (Nelson), Miss Geddes (Oamaru), Mr. F. Deamer and one or two others. Croquet and deck quoits were played, and afternoon tea with delicious raspberries and cream were served on the lawn, high tea following later, with ping-pong and other games after.

A good many picnic parties were organised for that day. One I saw returning about six on the North Road, half the party cycling, the remainder in a drag. Amongst the number were Mr. and Mrs. F. Waymouth, the Misses and Masters Waymouth, Mr. and Mrs. de Vries, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Kinsey, Miss Martin, Mr. W. C. Hill, etc.

Camping out parties are also a favourite way of spending the holidays. A large one has gone to the West Coast, including Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Jackson (of the High School), Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert, the Misses Cuthbert (?), Mrs. H. C. Godfrey and others, eighteen in all. They purpose being three weeks on the journey.

The Misses Robinson have returned to Cheviot with their brother, the house having been partially restored and things quieting down generally.

Sie George and Lady Clifford have gone back to Stoneyhurst. The damage there had not been so severe as at Cheviot, but quite bad enough.

The Hawtreay Comedy Company,

with the "Message From Mars," is a great treat. The company is a clever one, and the play a wholesome one, with opportunities for many a hearty laugh. The theatre has been crowded, and I believe "Tom, Dick and Harry" is funnier than the last.

A very quiet wedding took place at Holy Trinity Church, Avonside, on the 28th December, when Mr. Alfred T. Dunnage and Miss Annie Y. Otway were married. Miss Otway is a daughter of the late Rev. E. R. Otway, well known in Christchurch. The Rev. Dunnage officiated, assisted by the Rev. F. R. Inwood, of Burwood. The bride was given away by her brother, and wore a simple gown of white tulle silk, with chiffon trimming on the bodice, tulle veil and bridal wreath. She was attended by two bridesmaids, the Misses Dunnage, wearing pale grey Etan costumes, white silk vests and white hats, trimmed with pale blue chiffon, black velvet, and quills.

DOLLY VALE.

ROTORUA.

Dear Bee,

We are having most wretched weather in Rotorua, nothing but rain, rain, rain, with an occasional fine day just sufficient to remind us that we ought to be having summer weather. Rotorua is thronged with visitors, and a tremendous amount of sight-seeing goes on, despite the weather. There was to have been a promenade concert in the Sanatorium grounds on Boxing Night, in aid of the Rotorua Band, but the rain came down just at seven o'clock, and the concert was postponed until the following evening, when it was a great success. As usual, the grounds looked beautiful with their decorations of Chinese lanterns and brilliant arc lights, and the band stationed in the rotunda played excellently before and after the concert. Several items on the programme were very kindly contributed by visitors, and amongst the remaining items were duets, a plantation song and a few vocal solos. Miss Empson played several accompaniments, also Miss Griöben, a visitor.

On Saturday afternoon a small sale of work was held in the Sanatorium grounds, and in the evening a concert by St. Thomas' choir, Auckland, assisted by Mr., Mrs., and Miss Boulton. In spite of the threatening aspect of the weather a fairly brisk sale of goods went on in the afternoon. The afternoon tea stall was largely patronised, of course, and another stall that attracted a good deal of attention was the photographic stall. There was to have been a musical programme, but it was too damp for the piano to be taken out. In the evening the grounds were charmingly lit up with Chinese lanterns, and the ivy house was turned into an ice-cream and tea stall, where a brisk business was done. The other stalls were arranged on the verandah, and during the twenty minutes' interval most of the articles were sold, and the remainder auctioned after the close of the concert. Miss Boulton contributed two violin solos, which were greatly appreciated. The collection at the gates amounted to £9 13/0 odd, but the result of the day's sale has not yet been published. At the conclusion of the concert the Rev. H. G. Blackburne thanked St. Thomas' choir and Mr., Mrs., and Miss Boulton for the help so kindly given, and all those who had helped in any way with the sale of work, which was in aid of St. Luke's Anglican Church.

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee,

THE AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S CARNIVAL.

The third day of the summer meeting was held on Wednesday, New Year's Day. The morning broke dull and sunless, and for some little time those who had been anticipating a day at Ellerslie were rather anxious as to how the clerk of the weather was going to treat them, as he has behaved so strangely this Christmas that for any eccentricity on his part pleasure-seekers had to be prepared. Fortunately the wind took a southerly direction, though at no time was the sky cloudless, there was beautiful sunlight, pleasantly tempered by fleecy clouds. The attend-

ance was tremendous. The scene on the lawn was full of life and colour. The ladies had a chance at last to display to advantage their newest and best of frocks. The extremely smart and moneyed people of the Auckland population feel bound to present themselves, once at any rate, if not twice, three times, or the whole four days of the summer meeting. It was more particularly on Derby Day that the dressing of the ladies was superb. Nine-tenths of the whole of the ladies present had their attention completely absorbed in admiring each other's dresses. Admirable taste had been the characteristic of most of the ladies' dresses. Eyesores were very few and far between—a somewhat rare state of things at such a monster assemblage. Pale azure blue and white were the predominating colours on the lawn. Miss Buckland, the president's (Mr. A. Buckland) daughter, gracefully decorated the winner of the Great Northern Derby, Mr. Stead's Menschikoff, with the blue ribbon, in front of the grand stand, amidst the hearty cheers of the crowd. Amongst those present were: Miss Buckland (president's daughter) looked well in a grey tullecked voile with black lace, black chiffon hat; Miss Alison, white tulle muslin, black hat; Miss Atkinson, blue mercerised silk, black hat; and her sister wore a mode grey bengaline, white hat; Mrs. Isidor Alexander, beige brown, with ecru lace trimming, toque with roses and chiffon; Mrs. Elliot Moss Davis, ecru silk, with ecru lace and blue rosettes, black hat with feathers; Mrs. Ansenne, grey tullecked voile, with white lace and silk at neck, hat with pink roses; Mrs. Atkins, grey tullecked voile bodice, and frilled skirt, blue hat with tulle; Mrs. Armitage, pale green costume, with ecru lace, hat with pink flowers; Miss Phillips, brown holland; Mrs. Bodle, black foulard, with white spots, the bodice was stylishly trimmed with ecru lace, black hat; Mrs. S. Anderson, black bolero and skirt, white vest, pink waistband, hat with pink; Mrs. G. Bloomfield, white serge gown, hat with flowers; Miss Griffiths, white nun's veiling skirt, white silk blouse, hat with blue and pink; Mrs. Lucas R. Bloomfield, a combination of absinthe green and ecru lace, hat with pink roses and black velvet; Miss Raey, black silk, with a blue brocaded design, white vest, black hat; Mrs. Reade Bloomfield, black costume, black bonnet, relieved with turquoise blue choux; Mrs. William R. Bloomfield, pretty pearl grey crepe de chine, with ecru lace braid trimming, white hat with wreath of yellow and red roses beneath the brim; Mrs. Sharland, white tullecked silk, with narrow bands of black velvet, black toque; Miss Berry, white flounced costume, hat with two brims; Miss Minitt, grey check bolero and skirt, black collar, black hat; Miss Cruickshank, grey voile, with touch of blue, white lace collar-ette, hat with blue; Mrs. Bruce, silver grey voile, black hat; Mrs. Edmiston, beige brown, trimmed with coffee lace, black toque, finished with pink; Miss Edmiston, navy bolero and skirt, black hat with white tulle swaths; Mrs. C. Brown, cream muslin, with green floral design, hat with cream and pink tulle; and her sister wore white; Miss Wylie Brown, white silk skirt, with ecru lace, blouse of white satin ribbon and ecru lace, white hat with ostrich feather and ribbons; Mrs. Benjamin, grey tullecked voile, black toque; Mrs. Bush, black silk; Miss Bush, white muslin, pink ribbon band at waist, black hat; Mrs. Browning, black silk, black toque, relieved with white; Miss Ronillan, white pique blouse, white silk skirt, sailor hat; Mrs. Bamford, black silk bolero and skirt; Miss Van Asch, cream holland gown, white hat; Miss Brodie, white Japanese silk, black hat; Miss Olive Buckland, brown holland; Mrs. Cheeseman, pale green skirt, with ecru lace, fawn three-quarter jacket, hat with green silk; Mrs. Keating, black silk, relieved with fawn lace, black bonnet; Miss Keating, green skirt, cream lace bolero and blouse, black toque with pink flowers; and her sister wore cream silk, black toque; Mrs. Cotter, white silk, with large black spots, finished with black lace and violet velvet, cream toque, with violets and velvet; Miss M. Cotter, grey voile skirt, silk blouse, black hat; her sister wore a grey voile, black hat; Miss Stenenson, white

plique coat and skirt, black hat; her sister wore a white silk; Miss D. Stenenson, blue flowered muslin, white hat, trimmed with blue; Mrs. Seavill, white silk, white picture hat, swathed with tulle; Mrs. Ruddock, white muslin, with lilac design, white hat, swathed with lavender; Mrs. Colbeck, grey tullecked voile, black toque; Miss Binney, pale green muslin, trimmed with white, black hat; her sister wore white tullecked silk gown, black hat, with turquoise blue feathers; Mrs. Clifton, royal blue and white, white hat; Mrs. Kingswell, black silk, with beading; Mrs. Napier, navy, with grey wave traced pattern, black toque, with flowers; Mrs. Cox, black silk bolero and skirt, with ecru lace, black toque, with feather; Mrs. Creagh, grey check; Miss Creagh, green French muslin, with black tulle trimming; Mrs. Caro, black silk, with lace, black hat; Miss Croo, white muslin gown, black hat; Miss Coleman, royal blue and white, hat swathed with tulle and silver beads; Mrs. Louis Myers, black foulard, with white figured pattern, white tulle collar-ette, pectunia toque, with gold crown; Mrs. Baume, black and white figured silk, black bonnet; Mrs. William Coleman, French blue, relieved with white, black toque, with feathers; Miss Myers, lovely white gown, black hat; Mrs. (Col.) Dawson, lovely black silk, white tullecked silk yoke, black hat, with blue flowers; Miss May Dawson, dark skirt, white blouse, heliotrope hat, with ostrich plumes, her sister wore white muslin, with blue waistband, white hat, with blue; Miss Hill, white skirt, blue blouse, white hat, with blue tulle rosettes; her sister wore white; Mrs. Devereux, black silk, with bead passementerie, black toque, with violets; Miss Devereux, brown coat and skirt, black toque; Mrs. Dufaur, holland costume; Miss Horne, wood violet satin soiled, with ecru lace braiding and white ribbons, black hat; Mrs. Donald, black silk, with blue at neck, black bonnet, with blue; Miss Donald, greeny muslin, hat with crysanthemum pink trimming; Miss Dunnett, grey tullecked voile, with ecru lace, cream hat, with flowers; Mrs. J. M. Dargaville, black mirror silk, with steel passementerie, black toque; Miss Dargaville, green flowered muslin, white lace, straw toque, with pink flower and black ostrich feather; Miss M. Dargaville, pink flowered muslin, white hat, with plumes and ossemer veil; Mrs. Lowry (Hawke's Bay), very handsome Nil green silk, with ecru lace

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