

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee,— January 15.
 The weather was beautiful to-day for the first day's cricket match between Lord Hawke's team and Wellington. The afternoon was almost a public holiday, nearly all the shops closing to-day instead of on Wednesday—the usual weekly half holiday—and offices were closed also for this auspicious occasion. The Basin Reserve was thronged with spectators, there must have been many thousands on the ground. Everyone was delighted at the splendid stand made by our men, and it certainly was gratifying to see that they could score so well against the English bowling, and that they were not to be hopelessly beaten, as so many people thought probable. To-morrow we will see the visitors batting, and are looking forward to a treat. Most of the Englishmen are staying at the Wellington Club during their stay here. They are to be entertained at a luncheon by Mr and Mrs. H. D. Bell at their summer residence, Lowry Bay, on Sunday. To-morrow night Mrs Grace is giving a dance in their honour.

Among the number I noticed on the cricket ground to-day were—Sir Joseph and Lady Ward, the latter wearing a very pretty gown of pale biscuit silk lined with pale blue, and the insertions of lace showing the blue lining through, black chiffon toque; Miss E. Ward wore a light linen dress; Mrs Duncan wore a handsome black silk gown and cape, and a pale heliotrope bonnet; Mrs Arthur Duncan, light silk gown and long cream voile jacket, burnt straw hat with pink roses; Mrs Collins, a cream coat and skirt with soft tucked vest and a cream hat; Mrs Barron, bellotrope linen gown and cream and black toque; Miss Barron, a white pique skirt and muslin blouse, white hat with pink flowers and lace; Mrs

Gore, a black voile gown with white lace and a tulle bonnet with mauve flowers; Miss Gore, in white muslin and cream hat with blue flowers; Mrs Harold Johnston, long cream voile jacket with black piping, and a burnt straw hat with pink and blue flowers; Mrs Walter Johnston, cerise pink frieze, Eton gown and a black chiffon toque; Miss Z. Johnston, white muslin gown and a straw hat with blue rosettes; Mrs H. Gore, dark skirt and long covert coat, cream hat with roses; Mrs Finch, a black tucked voile gown, trimmed with white, black and white toque; Miss Finch, blue linen gown and black chiffon hat; Miss M. Finch, light-flowered muslin gown and cream hat trimmed with chiffon and pink flowers; Mrs Firth, a blue linen gown with white lace collar and a black hat; Mrs Wickam, pale grey voile, with cream lace and a large cream hat with black feathers; Mrs C. J. Cooper, white frieze Eton gown, trimmed with white lace and a straw hat with blue chiffon and hydrangias; the Misses Hislop in pale blue silk gowns, much tucked and trimmed with lace, burnt straw hats with pink roses; Mrs Edwin, blue foulard gown and black bonnet, with pink roses; Mrs Wroughton (Christchurch), pale grey skirt and figured silk blouse, straw hat with flowers; Miss Brandon in a light figured gown and cream hat; Miss F. Brandon, pale pink gown and hat to match, her sister wore a light blouse and dark skirt; Mrs Trevor Gould, cream serge coat and skirt, white hat trimmed with lace and pink flowers; Miss Mills, Royal blue voile gown and black chiffon hat; Miss Stowe, white sprigged muslin gown and floral hat; Miss Harcourt, crushed strawberry coloured gown, and white hat with pink geraniums; Miss G. Harcourt, in a red linen gown with white collar and white hat trimmed with red; Miss O. Fitzgerald, a pretty soft cream muslin and lace gown, and a burnt straw hat with pink roses; Miss Izard, a cream gown and long

fawn jacket, black chiffon toque; Miss Higginson, cream voile skirt and silk blouse, black toque with plumes; Mrs Berry, a white Eton gown and large white hat with pink flowers; Miss Harding, in a white skirt and silk blouse; Miss Heywood, blue linen gown and dull pink hat; Miss E. Heywood, in cream; Miss Stuart, pink linen gown and black hat. There were also present the Hon C. H. Mills, the Hon. J. McGowan, the Hon. W. Walker, and Messrs Duncan, Hamer, Firth, Finch, Heywood, Butler, Harcourt, Johnston, Gore, Cooper, Tripp, Latham, the Hon. Hill-Trevor, Mrs. Anson, Grace, Findlay and others.

OPHELIA.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, January 14.
 The glory of our boasted climate has certainly left us; we dwell on the memory of what we used to do in the summer, and hope (fortunately we are very full of hope) that we shall soon get some settled sunny weather. We know it is spring, because the leaves come on the trees, and we know it is autumn, because they fall off again; otherwise it is always winter, with the exception of three or four days between November and January, when a howling nor-wester makes one feel that the costume of a Fijian even is irksome. In this Cathedral City we pride ourselves on being so English "don't cher' know," but we are all agreed we would rather not follow the pattern of their late summer. Everything so far has been spoiled with the rain. The Horticultural Society, with the kind permission of Captain Heaton Rhodes, had arranged a floral fete to take place last week at "Elmwood," but it had to be postponed to this week, and yet the settled weather seems no nearer.
 Mrs. Wynn-Williams, Latimer Square, was "at home" to her friends

last Wednesday, and will be so throughout January and February, when the grounds and croquet lawns make a delightful rendezvous. Last week afternoon tea was charmingly arranged under the trees, when down came the pitiless rain, and drove everyone and everything indoors. Among those present were: Mrs. J. Harley; Miss Wynn-Williams (England); Mrs. and Miss Denniston, Mrs. and Miss Reeves, Mrs. J. M. Turnbull, Mrs. Wardrop, Mrs. and Miss Lee, Mrs. and Miss Ronalds, Mrs. E. Turrell, Miss Murray-Aynsley, Miss Nedwill; but coming on so wet prevented many from going.

Mrs. Walter Moore, Mrs. and Miss Hill gave a river picnic last week, and this also was damped with a good shower of rain, but a most enjoyable time was spent. The party landed at Dallington, and soon had a bright camp-fire going, where high tea was served, and games, songs and stories made the evening pass all too quickly. Among those present were: Mrs. and Miss Moore, Mr., Mrs. and Misses Hill, Mr. and Misses Elworthy, Mr. and Miss Kitson, Mr. and Miss Williams, Misses Julius, Wright, Denham, Mr. and Miss Cook, Miss Saunders, Messrs. G. Pascoe, Lawrence and several more.

Mr. J. C. Williamson's company is at the Theatre Royal this week with "Sherlock Holmes," of which report speaks very highly, and standing room only was put up on the second night of its production.

Great interest is felt here over the coming cricket match with the Englishmen. I only hope our men will not get too badly beaten, and learn all they can from the visitors' play.

The marriage of Miss Mabel Allan, "Aberley," and Mr. Harman Reeves (formerly of Dunedin) is arranged to take place about the second week in February. It is intended not to have a very large wedding party I hear.

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