

Queen 5000 and 6000 on the ground. We were sorry that our men did not do so well in their second innings, but still they did well against such a fine team, and have probably benefited greatly by the match. Among those I noticed on the ground on the last days were Mr. and Mrs. Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Grace, Mrs. C. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gore, Mr. and the Misses Harcourt, the Misses Higginson, Fell, Gore, Braddon, Fitzgerald, Hishop, Johnston, Izard, Heywood, Tolhurst, Denniston (Christchurch), Reid, and many more.

OPHELIA.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, January 30.
The Horticultural Society were more fortunate this week, and the day fixed for the Floral Fete was a fair specimen of an autumn day; we seem to have entirely skipped over summer. Elmwood, Papanui-road, which had been placed at the disposal of the Society for this Show by Captain Heaton Rhodes, was looking lovely, and attracted a large number of visitors to see the ferneries and gardens alone. The absence of wind enabled all the exhibits to be arranged on the lawns, and the effect was very pretty amongst such a wealth of greenery. Afternoon tea was dispensed free, and a charge made for admission at the gate; a band played at intervals during the afternoon, and some pretty exercises with clubs and dumb-bells were gone through by some of the Woolston school girls, under Miss Glanville. Among the visitors were Mrs. Denniston, in all black; Mrs. Stead, pastel blue ca. over white silk, and strapped with lace silk, white chiffon toque with wreath of forget-me-nots; Miss Stead, pale grey voile with three skirts, white lace vest and under sleeves, white hat and feathers; Mrs. J. Gould, pale green costume with white lace

vest and pretty hat; Mrs. Cobham, voile gown of a pretty shade of green, trimmed with black lace, black hat; Miss Meares, black voile skirt, tucked white silk blouse, black hat and feathers; Mrs. Rochfort Snow, black silk gown trimmed with lace and jet, black hat; Miss Sutton (Napier), lace skirt over grass lawn, bodice prettily tucked and trimmed, black hat; Mrs. R. E. McDougall, cream silk gown and hat to match with pale blue bow, belt and choux; Miss Way, in white with cherry ribbons; Mrs. R. Macdonald, a pale grey summer cloth gown, pretty toque; Mrs. H. R. Webb; Mrs. Chapman, lawn costume, and handsome lace collar, black hat and feathers; Miss Tabart, pale green linen costume, black hat; Miss Murray-Aynsley, pink muslin, black hat; Mrs. R. Allan; Miss Allan, stylish blue and white striped muslin, large lace sleeves, black hat; and others.

The "Sherlock Holmes" Company have been delighting everybody, and for the whole week packed houses greeted them. The quietness of the acting makes it the more impressive, while the neat, noiseless, and surprising manner of the scene shifting is ages ahead of anything we have had before. Mr. Cuyler Hastings, as Sherlock Holmes, seems the very man himself, but he is most ably supported, and there is never a weary minute in the whole three hours. Among the various audiences have been: Mr. Mrs. and Miss Stead, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. G. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Wigram, Mr. and Mrs. G. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. T. Cowlishaw, Mr. and Mrs. P. Campbell, Dr. and Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Wardrop, Mrs. Ogle, Mrs. and Miss Lee, Dr. and Mrs. Thacker, Mr. and Mrs. Walcot Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wood, Mrs. Rainger (Auckland), Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie Moore, Mr. F. Deamer, Mrs. G. F. Martin, Miss Martin, Miss D. Devenish-Meares, Mr. and Mrs. Cobham, Mr. W. Reece and party, Mrs. T. Garrard, Mrs. R. D. Thomas, Miss Thomas, Miss J. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Croxton, Mrs. Kohn, Mrs. and Miss

Morris, the Hon. C. Mrs. and the Misses Louisson, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Harris, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Payling, Mrs. Tonks, Misses Turner (two), Mr. and Miss Wymouth, Deau Harper, Mrs. H. M. Reeves, Mr. and Miss Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Laurie, and many others.

Mrs. R. E. McDougall had a children's party last week to celebrate one of her little girls' birthday, when a glorious time was spent by the small people: tea, cakes, sweets, games, and presents for every one. Among those present were Mrs. K. Garrick and her little niece, Mrs. Leicester Matson and children, Mrs. D. Matson and children, Mrs. Quane and two children, Mrs. Norton and two children, Mrs. V. Hargreaves and small niece, Miss Marion Wood, Master Syme, and a number of other little visitors.

The Summer Gala on Thursday drew a large crowd of people, especially in the afternoon and evening. The place was gaily decorated with bunting, and sports kept going on sea and land, while a band discoursed lively music near the Cave Rock.

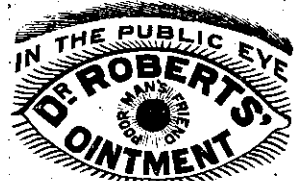
It seems we are not to hear Melba after all, or shall we hope on until she has really left the colonies? Rumour is so fickle. For consolation we shall be able to go twice as often to hear Mdlle. Dolores, and report says the latter is more satisfying.

Great sympathy was felt for the Misses Turner, of "Passifern," Papanui-road, on Monday afternoon, when it was known their house had been badly burned during their absence in town. "Passifern" is a large house of twenty-two rooms, and usually a number of paying guests reside there, but fortunately only a few were in residence. The fire originated near the kitchen chimney, and burnt very fiercely for a time, gutting several rooms, while much furniture was badly damaged by the mistaken kindness of friends, who completely lost their heads.

DOLLY VALE.

MARLBOROUGH.

Dear Bee, January 26, 1903.
Plays of different kinds, but all of them of exceptional merit, have visited us of late. Of course we like them, and when they come to our doors we spend our money like millionaires, and go to see them. That is perhaps why so few of us can go tripping to Wellington to hear Madame Melba and other stars. We cannot have our cake and eat it too, and we—not being really millionaires—content ourselves with the plays which come to us. The Miss Fitzmaurice Gill Company met with a splendid reception here, playing "Man to Man," "The Christian," and "The Sign of the Cross," all three new to Blenheim, and all were well received. Of course the small stage militates against the proper staging of such plays, but here we go to be



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