

Society Gossip.

Special to the "Graphic."

NOTICE.

The Editor desires to draw the attention of occasional contributors of any items to the Society Gossip columns that name and address must be given with copy, otherwise any such communication cannot be recognised.

AUCKLAND.

March 21.

On the Mongolia.

THE large afternoon tea given on board the Mongolia was quite the feature of the week. Considering the great crowd present everything was well managed; there must have been many hundreds of guests. Mrs. Somers, with Mr. S. M. Pierson, first officer (in place of Capt. Preston), received the guests, who then passed on and dispersed on a tour of inspection. One thing which struck me was the coolness of all the long corridors, evidence of perfect ventilation. The tea table was decorated with groups of delphiniums, which were very effective. It was only by the best of management and good temper that the ship was cleared by five o'clock, but at last the huge vessel hove off in a most stately and imposing manner, all aflutter with waving handkerchiefs and flowers and papers. Most of the smart women were present, so some very pretty toilettes were worn. Lady Sinclair Lockhart in green striped nixon and a floral toque; Mrs. Somers, cream de chine with pale blue flower, cream hat; Mrs. Mitchelson wore black and white; Mrs. Bloomfield, a handsome black toilette, black bonnet with touch of white, and white lace scarf; Mrs. W. R. Bloomfield, black striped nixon with touch of pale blue in the bodice, green and black hat with pink roses; Mrs. George Bloomfield looked especially well in a nude frock, large black hat with pink roses; Mrs. Lucas looked handsome in a black frock and large black hat; Mrs. Harry Bloomfield was a dainty figure in a smart cream braided cloth coat and skirt, white hat lined with pale blue and massed with pink roses and lilac; Miss Grierson looked well in a cream voile, white feather boa, cream hat with pink roses; Mrs. Hope Lewis, black and white striped flannel, very pretty purple satin hat massed with shaded lilac; Mrs. Sharpe was admired in golden brown charmeuse, shaded brown hat; Mrs. Houghton, white coat and skirt, black hat; Mrs. (Dr.) Ferguson, a very dainty cream silk vest with lovely embroidery, cream hat, and a lovely feather stole; Mrs. Egeron wore grey; Mrs. Napier looked well in a striped Eton coat and skirt, black and white toque to match; Mrs. Cotter, dark blue striped nixon, cream hat with black velvet, and pink roses; Mrs. Black, heliotrope cashmere, cream lace, and large black hat; Mrs. Edmunds, black and white toilette, large black hat; Mrs. Bedford, embroidered Indian muslin, black satin hat lined up with apricot and massed with shaded delphinium; Mrs. Frater, black and white purple toque; Mrs. Frater, white linen coat and skirt, black hat; Miss Howarth, golden brown coat and skirt, brown hat; Mrs. Towle, stone grey cashmere braided in same shade, black toque with jetted ostrays; Miss May Towle looked smart in a well-cut navy blue coat and skirt, heliotrope hat with shaded flowers; Mrs. Dargaville wore a heliotrope toilette and toque; Mrs. Carwick, black silk and lace; Miss Dargaville, old rose cashmere, relieved with cream net and lace, and touch of black, large black hat massed with white feathers; Miss Nellie Walker, blue coat and skirt braided in black, black velvet hat with gold tissue; Mrs. Buckleton, navy cloth coat and skirt, cream hat with pink roses; Mrs. McFarland, cream nixon inserted with lace, on the bodice a touch of black velvet,

black and white hat; Mrs. Thomas, white linen coat and skirt, purple hat; Miss Nesta Thomas, white linen coat and skirt, and a smart white hat; Miss Ethel Martin, navy blue coat and skirt, cream hat with roses and black velvet; Miss Millie Cotter, a very smart little tan-coloured taffeta one-piece frock, with white let into the bodice, and a pretty touch of blue, large white hat with black drape and pink roses; Miss Hazel Buckland, white lawn and lace frock, large heliotrope hat with flowers; Miss Ruth Buckland, wedgwood blue Shantung coat and skirt faced with black, large cream hat; Miss Rachel Gorrie wore all white; Mrs. Harry Nolan wore a pretty heliotrope with white grey spot, piped with a darker shade, large picture hat; Mrs. Gore-Tillan was picturesque in a painted chiffon over green silk, a large green hat; Mrs. Grieg, stone grey cloth coat and skirt, black hat; Miss R. Grieg, blue coat and skirt, cream hat; Mrs. Sharnan, brown coat and skirt, black velvet hat swathed with gold tissue; Mrs. Cohen (Palmerston North), long blue coat and skirt, black hat; Mrs. Savage, blue Shantung coat and skirt faced with blue satin, large picture hat; Miss Cooper, plain brown linen coat and skirt faced with black, smart little green hat with black trimmings; Miss Jessie Reid, white lawn inserted with fine lace, a pretty white hat turned up with black velvet lining; Mrs. Upton, grey costume; Miss Upton, dark grey coat and skirt, cream hat with black; Mrs. Parker Upton wore a smart tailor-made of an uncommon shade of purple, large burnt straw hat with black; Miss Gorrie, white linen coat and skirt faced with black, and black buttons, black and white hat; Miss P. Gorrie, cream frock, large cream hat, with deep red roses; Miss Peacock, white, black hat; Mrs. Kissing, black; Miss Lily Kissing, white linen, a smart black hat with jetted trimmings; Mrs. Basley, black; Miss Basley, a smart golden brown frock, cream hat with brown; Misses Brown (2); Miss Ivy Biddle, a smart frock of white muslin, with tiny black spot, black and white hat; Mrs. Prickett, a dark blue Sicilian coat and skirt, and a black hat; Miss Prickett, white linen coat and skirt, and a black hat; Miss Alison, a floral muslin over cream glace, and a white hat; Miss Alison, white muslin black hat.

Croquet.

After nine days' play the association matches are over, and I fancy most people are not very sorry. It must be a great strain. I came to the conclusion after watching several games that one needs a constitution of iron, and the temper of an angel—a combination that is not common. The combines were won by Mrs. Smith and R. Seagar, who defeated Mr. and Mrs. Walker. In the ladies' singles, Mrs. W. Colbeck and Miss Hesketh met in the finals, the latter lady winning somewhat easily. Miss Hesketh plays a very solid game, but from a spectator's point of view she is too careful a player, "but slow and sure" wins the game, as is again proved. In the doubles the finish was a most exciting one. The competitors were: Mr. Thomas and Mr. Smith, and Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Colbeck. The first game seemed a certainty for the former pair, but by a piece of brilliant play, Mrs. Brown snatched the game from them. In the second game a hard struggle ensued. This went to Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Smith, as did the third. Mrs. Colbeck was feeling the strain of her nine days' hard play, being quite played out. The association are most lavish, players and onlookers having been treated to morning tea, tea for lunch, and sumptuous afternoon teas. All the officers worked hard, and the long series of matches went off without any hitches. A very special vote of thanks should be given to the poor umpires, who worked hard, notably, Mr. Payton, Mrs. Walker, and Mrs. Marquand. Among the interested spectators on several days I noticed: Mrs. Archie Clark, black and white silk, heliotrope hat, and a long white dust coat; Mrs.

McCosh Clark was all in black; Mrs. Black, white linen skirt, white spotted lawn blouse, with embroidery, and lace trimmings, old rose-coloured straw hat; Mrs. Seagar, black and white cambric hat; Mrs. McDowall, white linen skirt, white lace blouse; Mrs. Lucas Bloomfield, white linen frock, black hat swathed with royal blue silk, long blue veil; Mrs. Uphill, white linen, cream hat; Mrs. Rankin Read, white linen frock, white hat, with white tulle trimmings; Mrs. Foster, white linen, large heliotrope straw hat and heliotrope scarf; Mrs. Owen looked smart in a cream coat and skirt braided with cream soutache; pretty vieux rose straw hat with pink roses; Mrs. Hill, cream frock, cream hat with lilac; Mrs. Porter looked very well in a cream Shantung coat and skirt, and a smart hat; Miss A. Walker, a beautifully braided cream cloth coat and skirt, sage blue velvet hat; Mrs. Alexander, a very smart black and white check frock, braided in black, large black and white hat; Mrs. Buckland, black silk and lace, black and white bonnet; Miss Hazel Buckland, white frock, large cream hat with heliotrope trimming and a large pink rose; Miss Foster, white frock, large black hat with pink rose and a pink scarf; Miss Buchanan, white muslin frock, pale blue belt, black hat with wreath of small poppies and cornflowers; Miss Greig, pale pink cambric and white embroidery, large hat; Mrs. Horricks, black and white striped coat and skirt, cream hat and long green veil; Mrs. Whitney, white embroidery coat and skirt, large black hat; Miss De Camp, blue serge coat and skirt, pink and bronze straw toque; Mrs. Rathbone, black frock and long white linen dust coat, small black hat; Mrs. Ramsden; Mrs. Williamson, blue lustre coat and skirt, black hat; Mrs. O'Loughlin, black toilet, smart black jetted toque; Miss O'Loughlin, black and white spotted muslin with white lace trimmings, black and white hat; Mrs. Morton, white linen, black hat; Miss Gordon, grey lustre coat and skirt, black hat; Miss Beresford (Adelaide), dark blue lustre coat and skirt, black and white hat; Mrs. Payton, white muslin and lace, cream straw hat; Mrs. Erson was in black.

Tennis.

Mrs. Archie Clark was lucky in having such a perfect day as Friday for her tennis party. The position of "The Brees" is simply ideal, and on such a day the surroundings were delightful. Tea was served in a most quaint Maori tea-house tucked away at the end of the lawn, and the groups of pretty girls, in their trim white frocks, dotted about, made a most picturesque scene. Mrs. Clark was wearing a smart black and white striped silk, with vest and half sleeves of lace, and a heliotrope straw hat draped with velvet of the same shade; Miss Isobel Clarke wore white embroidered linen and a becoming hat of mottled blue and black; Mrs. Archie Buchanan wore an artistic frock of an uncommon shade of stone colour, with an effective trimming of brown and gold, a smart black hat; Mrs. Henry Bloomfield looked charming in a smart little chequed silk, a cream straw hat lined with pale blue and massed with lilac and pale pink roses; Mrs. McDowall, a mottled blue cashmere de soie, with vest of lace, ostrich feather boa, black hat; Mrs. Read, black and white striped dress, black hat; Mrs. Walker, blue and white striped cambric and black hat; Mrs. Edmunds, heliotrope and white striped cambric, large purple hat; Miss Williams looked well in a white linen frock, pretty coat of a soft shade of natter blue, smart hat of the same shade of blue straw, with very full puffed crown, slightly turned up, with black and a swathing of gold tissue; Miss Lulu Browning, white tucked linen skirt, and white lace inserted blouse, large cream hat swathed with black taffeta; Miss Miles (Wellington), white linen, straw hat draped with black; Miss Hilda Bloomfield, white linen skirt, cream silk blouse, large black hat; Miss Foster, white frock, large black hat with pink rose; Miss Buchanan, white muslin, pale blue draped waist band, black hat; Miss Grierson, wore white and a very becoming white and black hat; Miss Eunice Saunders, white linen, and a mottled blue straw hat; Miss Cooper, white linen, cream hat draped with black; Miss M. Cotter, white, black hat wreathed with tiny roses; Miss W. Cotter, white, and a heliotrope hat.

Mrs. Harry Bloomfield had an all-day tennis party on St. Patrick's Day, and a very jolly day was spent by those present. On Saturday Miss Lulu Browning gave

a tennis party for her guest, Miss Miles (Wellington).

Victoria League.

Despite the fact of it being a pouring wet night on Monday, the public meeting was well attended, and great interest was displayed by those present. Of course the chief interest centred in Miss Talbot's speech, which was splendid. A well-modulated voice and a striking personality are two very important factors for a platform speaker. Miss Talbot possesses them in a very marked degree. The platform had been well arranged, and was brightened with the ensign as a background, and pot plants were dotted about. The League have to thank Miss Kate Nelson, who kindly undertook this work. Seated on the platform were most of the members of the Council of the League, Dr. Hope Lewis in the chair, Miss Talbot in the seat of honour, and Mrs. Hope Lewis, Mrs. W. R. Bloomfield, Mrs. Leo Myers, Mrs. Colegrove, Mrs. Luckie, Mrs. Devore, Miss Morrison, Miss Mowbray, and Mrs. Rollett; Mr. Napier, Mr. G. Peacocke, Mr. Parr, and Capt. Young. Some of those I noticed in the audience were: Mrs. Archie Clark, Mrs. George Bloomfield, Mrs. and Miss Foster, Mrs. Napier, Miss Beresford (Adelaide), Miss Dora Beresford, Mrs. and Miss Peacocke, Miss Runceiman, Miss Hilda Bloomfield, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Walker, Mrs. Louisa Myers, Miss Henderson, Miss D. Towle, Mrs. and Miss Nelson, Mrs. Seagar, Miss Devore, and many others.

On Tuesday morning a business meeting of the League members was held at Mrs. Leo Myers' house, whose guests they were at lunch, afterwards going over to Lake Takapuna. As the weather was perfect, the outing was a most enjoyable one. Miss Talbot was delighted with the beauties of our harbour, and equally so with the lake and its surroundings. The garden around the kiosk are looking at their best.

On Tuesday night Miss Talbot was the guest of Mrs. T. C. Williams, "Wickford," Princess-street, for dinner. Mrs. T. C. Williams wore a handsome gown of heliotrope velvet, with lovely lace on the bodice and diamond ornaments; Miss Williams, white chiffon velvet, with band of silk embroidered lace around the skirt, an effectively-arranged scarf of tangerine chiffon on the bodice; Miss Talbot, a smart black and white toilet; Mrs. Hope Lewis, black nixon frock; Mrs. Richmond, pale blue. Mr. T. C. Williams, Judge Kettle, Dr. Hope Lewis, Mr. Howard Richmond, and Mr. J. Studholme were also present.

Children's Party.

Mrs. E. Horton gave a delightful cheery party for "children," all of whom have more than "seven," but who have not outgrown the art of playing games. The time was spent in a charming number of games, "charades" and dancing. Mrs. Horton received her guests in a black jetted evening frock; Mrs. George Bloomfield wore a dainty pink toilette; Mrs. Harry Clark, a soft white frock, which was very becoming; Miss Ida Thompson was also in white; Miss Nellie Thompson; Miss Hilda Bloomfield was admired in a simple little frock of white taffeta, the bodice softened with frills of French Valenciennes; Miss Isabel looked charming in a white frock, pale blue ribbon threaded through her hair; Miss Lulu Browning wore a pretty frock of Paris lace, lovely pink roses in the corsage; Miss Miles was in black charmeuse; Miss Vera Duthie, pink floral chiffon; Miss Cooper wore a black frock; Miss Pearl Gorrie was also wearing black; Misses Horton, S. Thorne-George, A. Dennison, R. Griffith, Tom Lewis, H. Henderson.

Personal.

Mrs. Henry Wilson has returned to Auckland after a pleasant visit to Wellington. Mrs. Coleman Penrice, of Wellington, is on a visit to Auckland, and is the guest of Mrs. Hellaby, Grafton-road. Miss Warburton, of Wellington, travelling with Miss Wix, of London, spent last week at "Cargen." They returned home a day or two ago, via the Wanganui River. Miss Maude and Mrs. Sloman, of Christchurch, accompanied by Miss McKnight, of Ireland, spent a few days at "Cargen" last week. They also returned home via the Wanganui River. Mr. and Mrs. P. Schroder, who have been staying at "Cargen" for the past fortnight, left by the Wimmera on Monday, en route for Germany. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Norris, of Christchurch, arrived in Auckland on Friday, and proceeded North next day. They re-