

Society Gossip.

Special to the "Graphic."

NOTICE TO OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.

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.

All copy intended for publication in these columns must reach the office not later than Saturday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

AUCKLAND.

December 24.

Garden Party.

RS. W. E. HUTCHISON'S garden party on Tuesday afternoon was a most charming function. The beautiful grounds surrounding the house were a perfect picture; the house is on the side of Mt. St. John, and the garden slopes down, and in places is terraced. There is a lovely stretch of lawn, large enough for two croquet lawns, which were kept going all the afternoon. Beyond the lawn are beds of lovely flowers, which scented the air, and here a marquee had been erected, for Mrs. Hutchison had hit upon the happy idea of having children at her party, who came with their parents, intent upon having a happy time. And they had it. In the marquee the children had all sorts of good things for tea, and then came just a delightful surprise—a real Father Christmas, simply laden with toys, hung all over him, which the kiddies had just to help themselves to. All this not only delighted the children, but all the grown-ups, even though they had no children. The Bavarian Band played all sorts of jolly music. Up in the house the older guests were served with tea and delicious ices, and strawberries and cream, and while we were seated enjoying these, Mr. Hedlum entertained us with music, song, and story, in quite a clever way. So you can see our hostess had, indeed, thought of everything for the entertainment of her many guests. It was so pretty to see the children in their pretty white frocks playing about the gardens. At one end of the lawns swings were going hard all the time—how children do love a swing! I came to the conclusion that it is a splendid idea having children at a garden party—generally rather dull affairs, but where there are kiddies having a good time, one could never be dull. Mrs. Hutchison received her guests in the garden, and wore a lovely frock of palest blue crepe de chine over white silk, and a large black hat with feathers; Mrs. George Grex wore a smart little natter blue tunic frock, and a large black hat; Mrs. Kirke wore black and white; Mrs. (Dr.) Knight, Mrs. Fowlds, Mrs. E. Mitchellson, Mrs. Dr. Moir, Mrs. E. Firth wore a graceful grey crepe frock, with pretty embroidery in the same shade, and a large black hat; Mrs. Shippard wore a very pretty frock of natter blue charmeuse, with corded trimmings and lovely embroidery, and a black hat; Mrs. A. Ferguson looked well in a pretty amethyst toilette; Mrs. Smath wore black, with pink roses in her bonnet; Mrs. Craig, sen., black; Mrs. Bertie Craig wore a very pretty frock of cream crepe de chine, with silk embroidery, and a smart black and white hat; Mrs. E. W. Alison wore a pretty mole coloured crystalline, beautifully braided, and a black hat; Mrs. Fotheringham looked nice in white.

Among the guests were: Mrs. Archer, Mrs. L. and Misses Marriner, Misses Bews, Mrs. H. C. Choyce, Mrs. H. Philcox, Mrs. Brooks and Miss Brooks, Miss Milne, Mrs. H. P. Taylor, Mrs. W. Leighton (Henderson), Mrs. T. H. Garland and Miss Garland, Mrs. E. W. Burton, Mrs. Hanblin, Mrs. Baskett, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Hough, Mrs. and Miss Smith, Mrs. E. C. Brown, Miss Campbell, Mrs. J. Wiseman, Mrs. Spooner, Mrs. Rogerston, Mrs. and Miss Moody, Mrs. H. Cooke, Miss F. Cooke, Mrs. Chandler, Miss Cooke, Mrs. G. Massey and Miss Massey (Tamaki West), Mrs. Cathrew, Mrs. Rendall, jun., Mrs. Peat, Mrs. Teed, Mrs. May, Mrs. Hegman, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. and Miss Holman, Mrs. and Miss Clayden, Mrs. Mumford, Mrs. New-

comb, Mrs. Gilmore, Mrs. Isemonger, Mrs. Hughes-Jones, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. and Miss Hyskins, Mrs. Leyland, Mrs. Spragg, Mrs. Tom Caley, Mrs. McNair, Mrs. Siddall, Mrs. Blomfield, Mrs. W. H. Smith, Mrs. Heaps, Miss Hodge. Among the children were: Masters Firth (3), Shipboard (2), Hegman, Misses Eva Hobbs, Florrie Cooke, Rendall, Peat, Minnie Coleman, Peggy and Hazel Leslie, Amy and Doris Bumbury, Jean Taylor, Master Reggie Smith. Miss Hegman and the Misses Chandler assisted Mrs. Hutchison in looking after her young guests.

Melmerly College.

The distribution of prizes at Melmerly College, Parnell, on Tuesday evening was a quite delightful affair. There was only one drawback to the evening's enjoyment, and that was the heat, which was stifling, but we soon got so interested in the children's performances that we forgot all about it. The first part of the programme was given by the junior division—a children's operatta "Kinder-spielen." The children were very well got up, as the various nursery rhymes, "Mistress Mary," was Nancy MacKlow; "Humpty Dumpty"—this was very clever—Hannie Dufaur; "Jack and Jill," Edith Peak and Eva Beale; "Mother Hubbard," Hilda Mores; "Little Jack Horner," Hugh Keith (who seemed a great favourite with the girls); "Little Red Riding Hood," Madge Griffiths; "Little Bo-Peep," Grace Fletcher; and a number of dainty children in pretty frocks. "The Singing Quadrilles" were simply charming, all the dancing was good, and the tune perfect. Little Red Riding Hood and Jill's "Jack" were most graceful dancers, and all the children entered into the spirit of the thing and sang very sweetly. After this the prizes were given to the lower school. Canon McMurray made the presentations, and to each prize-winner said something nice and encouraging, and wound up by taking his place at the end of the line, and made the circuit of the stage keeping time, as all the other children did to the music—this to the great delight of all. Then came the flower pageant. The setting was Elizabethan, and very becoming the dress was to some of the girls. The Queen, Miss Mary MacCormick, looked charming in her Royal robes and lovely lace collar. Both of her maids of honour were dressed in blue. Miss Naney looked lovely in a pale blue brocade, pointed headdress, and lovely lace collar, and Dorothy Newton was in a pretty shade of natter blue. The "Herald," Miss Claire Blimhorn had unfortunately sprained her ankle early in the day, but bravely went through her part—and well too—sitting.

All the girls were dressed in flowing white robes, and carried the various flowers they represented. One of the prettiest effects was when the violet, the wild rose, and the Damask rose stood before the queen, and the chorus sang "Violets" most sweetly. All the music was pretty, and the movement of the girls as they marched round the stage were much applauded. Two dear little girls came on and danced the hornpipe beautifully. The pageant wound up with a well-arranged tableau, which "brought down the house." A lower dance was very pretty, and the dancing of Madge Griffiths was much admired; she was most graceful. The upper school were then presented with their prizes; the scholarship presented by the Principal of the school was won by Miss Madge Matheson, who was applauded to the echo. The College song completed a delightful and very well-arranged programme. Miss Phyllis Boulton played all the accompaniments. Mrs. Arthur Boulton, the Misses Thompson, and Miss Runcie looked after everyone charmingly, and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

At Home.

Mrs. E. M. Johnston gave a most enjoyable "At Home" at her residence "Inverary," Victoria-avenue, Mt. Eden, to the members and friends of the Inverary Ladies' Guild. During the afternoon the president, Mrs. Howden, presented Mrs. Johnston with a handsome Duntlon bowl and palm, on behalf of the members of the Guild, as a mark of esteem and a souvenir of the many happy times spent together at "Inverary." An elaborate tea was served in the large dining-room, which was prettily decorated for the occasion. Mrs. Johnston received her guests in a reseda green dress, daintily braided. Among the many present I noticed: Mrs. J. Howden, black silk gown, hat to match; Mrs. George Fowlds, green robe relieved with black, black hat; Mrs. Nelson, heliotrope voile, floral hat; Mrs. W. S. Laurie, black silk; Mrs. G. George, becoming cream voile gown; Mrs. R. Cameron, grey striped voile, and hat to match; Mrs. J. Kerr, grey and black costume; Mrs. Moore Jones, black satin, black and white hat; Miss Moore Jones, navy coat and skirt, floral hat; Mrs. Maughan, white muslin; Mrs. Jennings, black silk; Mrs. J. Martin, pink Shantung, tuscan hat; Miss Howden, pale grey coat and skirt; Miss I. Howden, cream striped costume, black hat; Miss Sage, smart cream silk voile; her sister looked dainty in cream; Miss Young, biscuit gown, floral hat; Miss Jennings, white muslin, pretty hat with roses; Mrs. H. Martin, white linen, black hat; Mrs. Dingle, black, relieved with cream; Mrs. G. Warren, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. G. Martin, Mrs. Wylie, Mrs. Evans Young, Mrs. and Miss Cooper.

Floral Fete.

The Floral Fete at Wonderland on Monday night was a huge success. We spent a jolly time watching the delightful scene before us. The fancy dresses were fairly good. In the largest bouquet carried by lady class the girl with the pink bouquet, and looking so dainty in pink and white, was quite the best, but the condition, "the largest," gave it to Miss Mabel Russell, who was smartly dressed in a short black and white frock, and carried a huge framework covered with flowers, as much like a bouquet as a haystack. I think the conditions should have been more definite. There were only two "bouquets," and these, though large, looked mere specks by the structures carried round. There were some very graceful skaters. The titling at the ring was quite new, and a great success, and was won by Miss Briggs, a very good skater. The trick skating was most interesting, and there were some very clever skaters. A man disguised as a Scotchman gained the prize. Miss L. Martin, who skated with a man wearing ordinary evening clothes, is very clever. These waltzed, reversed, and did all sorts of things. Miss Martin gained the prize for fancy skating. It seems such a pity that this charming open-air rink is not larger, otherwise the place is sweet, and, of course, so cool. The sideshows were doing a great trade, and the scene was a very bright and pretty one. The management must have been well pleased with the success of their first carnival. Mesdames Nelson, Pukes and Arthur Myers were the judges for some of the events.

A Jolly Little Tea.

Miss Dorothy Nathan gave a jolly little tea at the Piccadilly Tea Rooms on Wednesday afternoon, and asked a lot of her girl friends to meet her cousins, the Misses Nathan, who, with their mother, left in the Mooltan on the following day for a two years' sojourn in England.

Personal.

Mr and Mrs K. Ducean (Wellington) are in Auckland, and are the guests of Dr. and Mrs Harke.

Miss P. Boulton left in the Mooltan for England, where she will remain for an indefinite period.

Mr and Mrs W. R. Bloomfield left for a month's visit to Waivera on the 28th, accompanied by Miss Hilda Bloomfield.

Miss Alice Walker is visiting the Thames, where she spends Christmas.

Mrs and Miss Cumming are spending the holidays in Hamilton.

Mr and Mrs Blair are expected in Auckland shortly, and will stay at Glenalvon.

Mr and Mrs Arthur Boulton and Mrs Gawler are spending their holidays in Rotorua.

Mr and Mrs P. Laurence have gone to Orewa for a fortnight.

Mr and Mrs Lowry (Hawke's Bay) returned from Sydney in the Mooltan, and are in Auckland staying at the Grand Hotel.

Miss Butler, B.Sc., of Liverpool, has (out of 86 applicants) been appointed head mistress of the Auckland Girls' Grammar School, and will be asked to start her duties in February.

Mr and Mrs W. Coleman and their family and Miss D. Nathan are spending Christmas at Okoroire.

Mr and Miss A. Stubbs have left for a visit to Rotorua.

Miss Beule (Cambridge) is the guest of Mrs Towle, Epsom, for Christmas.

Mr and Mrs Greig have gone to Te Aroha for the Christmas holidays. Miss R. Greig in the meantime is staying at Glenalvon.

PHYLLIS BROUN.

WELLINGTON.

December 23.

During the Xmas season all social functions have come to a standstill. Packing has been the order of the day, and many are away for the holidays. The various bays absorb a large number of families with children. Heretaunga is very full, whilst a good many have gone across to Picton, which is always a happy hunting ground for camping-out parties. The tennis tournament is being held at Blenheim this year, and a good many people are going over—Miss Nunnely, Mrs. Marchbanks, Miss Gore, Miss Simpson, Miss Travers and Miss Turton among many others.

Garden Party.

Mrs. Macarthy was entertained at a garden party last week, given by some friends, in acknowledgment of the splendid work she has done in connection with Mother Mary Aubert's jubilee, and the Home of Compassion. A small dais was erected in the hall of the Home, on which were seated Mother Mary, Mrs. Macarthy, Archbishop Reidwood, Bishop Grimes, the Rev. van Staveren, and several of the Roman Catholic clergy. The Mayor (Mr. Wilford) presided. The Archbishop made a speech eulogising the good work that has been done, and presented Mrs. Macarthy with an autograph album containing the names of her associates in the work. Dr. Catill presented her with a silver jug on behalf of some friends. The tea was handed round, and brought a very pleasant afternoon to a close, many of the guests going on to the Flower Show. Mrs. Macarthy wore a pretty gown of pale grey charmeuse with lace yoke and sleeves, black hat; Mrs. Wilford, snax blue Shantung with large black hat. Some of those present were: Mesdames Ducean, M. Kennedy, O'Connor, Izard and van Staveren.

St. Mary's Home.

The children of St. Mary's Home at Karori are not being overlooked during the Christmas season. It is an Anglican institution, in which the Bishop of Wellington and Mrs. Wallis take a very deep interest, and its affairs are looked after by a strong and influential committee. This year the smaller children are to be taken to the seaside for a whole fortnight, which will be a glorious change from their inland surroundings as

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Cracking Good Thing

AULSEBROOK'S

Cream Crackers

—and—

Sao Crackers

AULSEBROOK'S