

WELLINGTON.

August 10.

Vice-regal.

The approaching departure of their Excellencies Lord and Lady Islington was announced last week, but it had been vaguely known for some time that they would probably be leaving New Zealand at the end of this year. Although Lord Islington has visited most parts of New Zealand during his two years here, he has not had time to go to the outlying parts of the Dominion. Perhaps the most energetic Governor in this respect was Lord Ranfurly, who explored the sub-Antarctic islands such as Macquarie, Auckland, the Antipodes, and Chatham. In addition, he took a cruise to New Zealand's possessions in the Pacific north of Auckland. Like his successor, Lord Plunket, he visited almost every out-of-the-way spot in New Zealand, and the vice-regal railway carriage was frequently side-tracked in interesting parts of the country for an impromptu camp. As Lord Ranfurly added another year to his full term of five years, he had more time than any other Governor to investigate the country in which he represented royalty, and when he left New Zealand it was with a wide knowledge of its lands, scenery, and resources.

At present there is a distinguished visitor at Government House, in the person of the Honourable Maurice Baring, who has made a name for himself in literary and diplomatic circles. Mr. Baring is a son of Lord Revelstoke, has travelled a great deal, and is an excellent linguist, his attainments including the Russian language, which was of great use to him while on the scene of the war between Russia and Japan.

Y.W.C.A.

Of late her Excellency, Lady Islington, has personally interested herself in the work of the Young Women's Christian Association, and on Saturday she attended a meeting at the Association's quarters, in Herbert Street. On behalf of the stall-holders of the Antarctic Bazaar she received from the donors a number of contributions for the stalls, and later she spoke earnestly of the need for financial support to enable the Association to do its work.

The same plea was made by Miss Birch and Miss Barnes, two secretaries of the Y.W.C.A., the latter coming from Australia for a special visit to the New Zealand branches.

Miss Stapleton-Cotton accompanied her Excellency, and superintended the Zealand branches.

Boating Club Ball

The Star Boating Club ball rather scored by being the only affair of note during the social week, so it was particularly appreciated. Outside the Sydney Street Hall the surroundings were appropriately aquatic, but indoors everything was cheerful and exhilarating, and there was a pleasantly-manic flavour about things. Rosettes of ears were effectively arranged on the walls, together with crossed rowlocks and tillers. Flags hung from every available space, and the ceiling was latticed with lycoperium. The crowning triumph of ingenuity was overhead, where a couple of outriggers hung motionless, like flying-machines at rest, only wanting the wings.

Many handsome silver trophies are the property of the Star Boating Club, the spoils of victory on various waters, and on Thursday these had place of honour on the supper tables, where the pale blue and white of the club colours gave a delicate note of contrast to the freesias and narcissi and jonquils used for adorning the tables.

The president of the club, the Hon. H. D. Bell, K.C., was present, with Mrs. Alfred Bell and her daughter. Mrs. Bell wore vieux rose charmeuse, draped with lace; Miss Bell, white satin, the nimon tunic edged with crystal fringe. The chaperons were Mrs. Bridge, in black satin and jet; Mrs. Newton, in green chiffon taffetas; and Mrs. Fulton, who wore black velvet, with applique of embroidery.

The debutantes—who have a delightful ball to remember as their first experience—were: Miss Amy Bender, who wore white crepe de chine, with lace and bands of intricate embroidery; Miss N. Lawson, in white satin, with silver embroideries on the nimon tunic; Miss E. Mack, whose white charmeuse dress had lace draperies and pearl embroidery. White freesias, narcissi, and camellia composed their bouquets.

Bridge.

Before Mrs. Hubert Nathan left for Christchurch, with her mother, she gave

a bridge party in honour of her sister, Mrs. Kohn. There was auction bridge for those who liked excitement, while players who preferred the old-fashioned kind had tables at their disposal. Several of the guests, as well as the hostess and her mother, Mrs. Louison, were going South for the Grand National, so in between the rubbers there was plenty to discuss. Crimson and purple anemones in silver vases decorated the tea tables, and the rooms were scented with violets. The bridge prizes, charmingly bound books, were won by Mrs. MacLellan and Mrs. Kohn, the latter's being for auction bridge. The hostess wore lotus blue crepe de chine, with delicately tinted embroideries; and her mother was in shot taffetas, with a hat having greeny-blue plumes; Mrs. Kohn (Dunedin) was in blue nimon over pale rose taffetas.

At Mrs. Hayman's bridge party on Thursday the first prize was won by Mrs. Birkett, and the second by Mrs. Louison. Freesias, violets, and rose-coloured camellias decorated the rooms, and the tea-tables were done with spring flowers. Mrs. Hayman wore black lace over white satin; and Miss Hayman was in palest pink cologne.

Benefit Fund.

Tragedies on the tramway line have been painfully frequent lately, and in one particularly sad case a young woman was a mother and a widow on the same day. To aid her and her child, and also to assist another case of bereavement from a tram accident, arrangements are being made for a benefit fund. On Wednesday there was a big concert in the Town Hall. His Excellency the Governor and a party from Government House being present among the audience, which was large and sympathetic. So many other entertainments have been planned for the same purpose that other fixtures have been set aside for a week or two.

Reform League.

The Reform League had a gala night on Saturday, political speeches, dancing, songs, and supper combining to make it a most festive and enjoyable occasion. Of course, the hero of the evening was Mr. Massey, and everyone was glad to welcome Mrs. Massey, who has been so little in Wellington until lately. Their elder daughter, who used to come down for the session before her marriage, has many friends here who are glad to see her again. On the platform as well were new Ministers and their wives, and the leading officials of the Reform League and other important people. Special stress was laid by speakers on the importance of the work done by the women's branch, and the president was warmly applauded before and after her speech. Mrs. Fisher was presented with a bouquet by her husband's constituents, who also gave him a testimonial. During supper the hall was cleared for dancing, which went on with great zest until the end of an evening which was quite a memorable event. Mrs. Massey wore black crepe de chine and lace, and her bouquet—the gift of the League—was of jonquils, violets, and bronze birch; Mrs. Taylor was in amber nimon de soie, and Miss Massey had a girlish frock of white mouse-line with lace; Mrs. Newman, black Liberty satin, with embroideries on the corsage; Mrs. Morrison, black satin, with applique of lace; Mrs. Herdman, white lace, with a drossus of satin; Mrs. Fisher, ivory net, with a tinge of blue on the embroideries. The committee which was responsible for the notably successful At Home was composed of Mrs. Earle, who wore smoke-grey nimon over geranium-pink satin; Mrs. Lawson, jade green chiffon taffetas; Mrs. Darling, white silk, with a tunic of black nimon bordered with chenille fringe; Mrs. Robinson, black satin veiled in jet net.

Children's Parties.

The epidemic of children's fancy dress parties continues, last week's hostess being Mrs. Gilmer, and next week's Mrs. Young. There were all sorts of amusing games besides dancing, and Mrs. Gilmer and her trio of small children enjoyed themselves as much as their guests. One was a quaint little Puritan, the boy a cricketer, and the wee girl, in white satin and rowbands, looked quite fascinating. There were 'n' good many grown-ups present to help amuse the children, Dr. Mackenzie's magic lantern proving a very special joy to the little ones. Mrs. Gilmer wore delft blue taffetas, with a net tunic and embroideries in hydrangea tones; Mrs. H. Gilmer, black peau de soie, and a black and white toque; Mrs. K. Gilmer, dark blue chiton, and a blue hat; Mrs. Herbert, puce blue taffetas, with bands of shot colours, black plumed hat.

PERSONAL.

Miss Margaret Simpson is receiving many good wishes on the announcement of her engagement. Lately she has been staying with her sister, Mrs. Young, as Mrs. Simpson is away in Australia.

In England this month the marriage of Miss Rita Simpson is to take place; her father will give her away, and her sister, Miss Elsie Simpson, will be one bridesmaid, and Miss Miles (Wellington) is to be the other. Mr. Simpson and Miss E. Simpson return to Wellington about the end of the year.

HAMILTON.

August 10.

Benedict's Ball.

One of the most brilliant balls ever held in Hamilton took place in the Town Hall on Friday last. It was given by the Benedicts, and reflected great credit upon the committee, especially the executive, who were: Dr. Brewis, Messrs E. E. Smith, A. Anderson, T. Burd, and L. B. Gillilan, the last-named being secretary. The decorations were on a lavish scale, and were greatly admired, especially the wealth of palms and pot plants. The music was enounced in the gallery, from which the entrancing strains could be heard to the best advantage. The supper room was also heavily decorated, the prevailing tone of colour being yellow. Great vases of mimosa and daffodils flourished everywhere, which were set off here and there by large silver candelabras, the whole doing credit to the four ladies who had undertaken the table decorations, Messdames Anderson, P. P. White, Gillilan and Miss Wells; while the remaining four of the ladies' committee, Messdames E. Wilson, A. Hyde, Whyte and Brewis, rendered loyal service in other ways, a sit-down supper for nearly 300 people providing plenty of scope. The extras were played by Misses E. Cussen and Tai Ring, and were both encored. Among those present were: Mrs. Anderson, lovely trained dress of white embroidered silk and lace-fringed coat of Indian embossed silk; Mrs. P. P. White, cream satin, net, and bugle trimming; Mrs. Gillilan, handsome gown of emerald green satin, with tunic of heavy gold embroidery on black chiffon de soie; Mrs. E. Wilson, white satin, with tunic of black nimon; Mrs. A. Hyde, dainty dress of pale blue nimon over silk and Oriental insertion; Mrs. Whyte, striking dress of old-rose silk draped with black and silver; Miss Wells (Cambridge), old-rose satin draped with cream nimon and Oriental trimming; Mrs. Gillis, blush-pink satin draped with richly-worked chiffon; Mrs. Coleman, blue satin draped with jewelled net; Mrs. Tancered Cooper, exquisite gown of white satin, lace, tiny frills and pearls; lovely coat of black velvet, collar and cuffs of ermine; Mrs. Burd, rich black silk and Oriental trimming; Mrs. A. Priorrose, white satin and lace; Miss Bayly, pretty pink satin veiled in nimon, silver trimmed; Mrs. Whitaker, moonlight silk and old lace; Mrs. Insohl, black velvet, jewelled embroidery vest; Miss Insohl, in a charming white satin frock, with Venetian insertion; Miss Swayne, another crepe de chine over silk, slashed with cream embroidered satin; Miss Mildred Taylor, blue satin and silver; Miss Atkinson, striking dress of emerald green silk, black tunic bordered with gold embroidery; Miss Holden, cream satin draped with pink and black jewelled lace; Miss Chitty, white satin and silver; Miss E. Wilson-Smith, pretty frock of white satin, bordered with fur, tunic of Neolin lace and fringe, Marie Stuart cap of pearls; Miss H. Holden, dainty blue silk, jewelled trimming; Mrs. Wright, Oriental frock of cream satin and beaten silver, blue touches; Mrs. Herbert, pink silk and cream lace; Mrs. Ring, handsome black embroidered dress, with black and white insertion; Mrs. Browning, buttercup satin and violets; Mrs. Landon, black silk and handsome long coat; Miss D. Burd, lovely gown of white satin and pearls; Mrs. Mears, dainty frock of white satin, overdress of worked net and silver; Miss Swinburne, grey nimon and charmeuse, silver trimming; Miss N. Swinburne, cream satin with soft colouring of pink; Miss L. Cussen, pretty grey dress of dewdrop chiffon and silk; Mrs. P. McGuire, black silk, trimmed with lace and jet; Miss Lawson, pink silk, touches of silver; Miss Oliver, blue crepe de chine and lace; Miss A. Oliver (debutante), white charmeuse and lace; Miss C. Cussen, black silk and lace; Miss Barton, green tunic over white chiffon taffetas, embroidered with pink; Miss T. Ring, white satin and nimon, touches of silver; Miss A. Ring; Miss —, Ring, strik-

ing frock of white satin with ermine bands; Mrs. McGregor, pale blue satin, touches of emerald green; Miss Lambert, champagne charmeuse with Oriental trimming; Miss Brewis (debutante), dress of white satin, with silver tunic; Miss J. Priorrose, blue silk with pink touches; Miss Provis, white satin with silver fringe; Miss L. McAllum, ermine satin draped with black; Miss Wallnut, white satin and nimon; Miss V. Hunter, white lace and silk, pink roses; Miss Carruth, white charmeuse, lace fichu; Miss Annesse, orisonum velvet; Miss L. Barton, nimon over pink satin; Mrs. V. Chitty, handsome cream satin embroidered with Oriental colours; Miss Thompson, pale blue silk with nimon and jet; Mrs. S. Ferguson, white satin, overdress of gold bugles; Mrs. Caldwell (Cambridge), ermine satin veiled in jewelled net; Miss A. Bond, cream and maize silk; Miss Malcolm, blue crepe de chine with satin bands; Mrs. F. Jolly, handsome black silk with Oriental insertion; Miss Rothwell, graceful gown of black velvet; Misses Roche, pale pink charmeuse; Miss Andrews, cream silk and gold; Miss Watdy, jewelled net over cream satin; Mrs. V. Hunter, grey silk with black bands, long black coat; Mrs. Grocott, moonlight charmeuse; Mrs. Meredith (Cambridge), white satin and lace; Miss A. McPherson, black silk; Miss Leslie, black silk; Miss O'Neill, lovely French frock of blue satin, cream nimon and tiny frills; Miss E. Ring, white silk and black lace; Miss K. Hunt, red velvet; Mrs. Sharples, white satin and lace; Miss R. Cussen, white satin veiled in jewelled net; Miss Caldwell, maize satin tunic of blue nimon; Miss L. Landon (debutante), white charmeuse, fichu with tiny frills; Mrs. Friend, white satin and pink roses; Miss Loughnan, vieux rose charmeuse veiled in cream nimon; Miss Barnstead, blue crepe de chine over silk; Miss Hunter, white charmeuse and silver; Miss B. Taylor (Cambridge), blue chiffon de soie; Miss Penniket, white silk, lace and pearls; Mrs. Greenalade, cream satin, corsage and panels of silver bugles; Miss Brown (Palmerston), pretty blue crepe de chine; Mrs. Stewart, lovely blue nimon and satin; Mrs. W. I. Taylor, black silk with lovely gold embroidery; Mrs. Forsythe, black silk, handsome long coat; Miss Lovell, rose-pink charmeuse draped with nimon, lovely point-lace collar; Miss Jackson, white charmeuse, nimon overdress with silver bugles; Miss Gladys Tompkins, white charmeuse, debutante frock, with nimon overdress dotted with pearls; Miss Elsie Holden, gold dewdrop chiffon over white silk; Miss P. Lambert, green charmeuse; Miss Edgecombe, pale pink silk; Miss P. Edgecombe, white charmeuse; Miss D. Edgecombe, white satin; Miss O'Neill (Takapuna), white satin, lovely Persian embroideries; Miss M. Cussen, pale blue silk; Miss E. Cussen, pale blue satin; Miss B. Hunter, pink taffeta with nimon overdress trimmed with pearls; Miss Andrews, white silk; Misses Pickering (2), Miss E. Young (Auckland), white charmeuse with nimon overdress edged with fringe; Miss M. Roberts (debutante), dainty frock of white charmeuse and maize lace; Mrs. Fraser (Cambridge), pink satin with blue nimon overdress; Miss Landon, white nimon over satin; Miss V. Currie, white silk draped with embroidered net; Miss Wilkinson, lavender silk, cream nimon and lace; Miss G. Anderson, white nimon over silk.

At Home.

A small impromptu but very pleasant evening was given by Mrs. A. Hyde on Saturday last for her sister Miss Brown. The large diningroom was cleared for dancing, the seniors enjoyed bridge in the drawingroom, while the breakfastroom made a comfortable smokingroom for those so disposed. The decorations of wattle and lovely narcissus were much admired. During the evening suggestions and trios were contributed by Miss Bechan, Mrs. Hyde, Miss Brown, and Messrs Davy, Micklethwaite, and Hyde. Mrs. Hyde received her guests in pretty cream charmeuse, with tunic of ermine nimon; Miss Brown (Palmerston North), electric blue cologne, cream silk lace. Among those present were Mrs. P. P. White, who wore lovely shade pink satin, trimmed with lace; Mrs. Warren, black silk; Mrs. Whyte, emerald green charmeuse with tunic of black lace; Miss Wallnut, blue evening gown, pretty cream coat; Miss Crook, white silk, pink roses; Miss Bechan, white silk, lovely overdress cream lace; Miss Warren, dainty blue dress; Miss Newham, cream silk, lace; Miss Howard (Marham), pretty cream silk; Miss White, dainty pink silk; Miss Grnar, lovely embroidered robe of white silk; Miss I. Grnar, pretty cream silk.