

## SOCIAL DOINGS

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## WELLINGTON.

JULY has been a crowded month, with the most important gaieties crushed into the space of one week. Races, the Racing Club ball, the Wellington Savage Club's Ladies' Night, and a children's fancy dress ball all made a gay week. Considering that it was winter, the weather was wonderfully well behaved for the race days, with the exception of the last, which was bitterly cold, wet and windy. However, there were big dividends to console race-goers—that is for those who were fortunate enough to be on them. As regards wearing apparel, naturally furs were much to the fore, and some very beautiful ones were to be seen, notably a sable cloak worn by a visitor from the country. Handsome stoles, capes and coats trimmed with beaver, skunk and other fur were also to be seen. One of the most noticeable figures in the way of frocking was Mrs. Arthur Duncan, who looked as if she had stepped out of the fashion books—smart and uncommon. She wore a navy blue coat and skirt, the coat short and sac-like, and finished with a deep border of Oriental embroidery. Her hat, of black panne with a high crown, was trimmed with a brush of petunia coloured ospreys at the back. A girl visitor from Palmerston North was in a henna coloured costume with the short loose coat, also sac-like, edged with moleskin and embroidered in blue and gold, and worn with a mole panne hat. Mrs. Eric Riddiford wore a smart navy blue coat frock embroidered in steel beads with a steel girdle; a blue hat, and fox furs completed her toilette. Another pretty coat frock was that worn by Mrs. J. G. Crawford, just navy blue embroidered in white, and worn with a grey feathered hat. Mrs. Strang (Palmerston North), wore black, her hat trimmed with a red mount in the front. On a fine winter's day, all white, particularly if worn with white furs, looks rather charming, and there were two or three people who chose cream costumes, worn with furs, and cream hats to match. Miss Ida Duncan wore with her cream costume a cream fur coat and cream velour hat. Mrs. Elgar (Featherston), wore black, with a sable coat, and black velvet hat with upturned brim surrounded with ospreys. Mrs. Gathorne Hardy, a visitor from England, was in brown, with a fur collar and upturned brown hat. With so many long cloaks and coats it was impossible in many cases to see the handsome frocks that were worn underneath. Her Excellency Viscountess Jellicoe did not attend the opening day of the meeting, owing to a cold, but came later in the week.

THE Wellington Savage Club's Ladies' Night is always sure of attracting a large gathering of "wahines" and other friends of the Savages, and their recent revel, held the night after the Racing Club ball, was no exception to the general rule. The decorations from the ball were still in place, save with regard to the stage, which had been dismantled of its masses of foliage and replaced with much drapery. The programme of entertainment was a particularly good one, the installation of His Excellency the Governor-General as Great Savage Chief being a most important part of the proceedings. Having been presented with the insignia of office, a necklace and a large bone, accompanied by the chanting of a very civilised sonnet, Lord Jellicoe took his place as Chief of the Revels. The best part of the evening's programme was the performance of "Trial by Jury" by the A. Newton Repertoire and Joint Stock Company, a unique band of Savage geniuses, and the hilarity of

the audience bore witness to their success. It was indeed a good performance, and it was astonishing how well the men looked in the make-up as bride and bridesmaids, and even seemed quite at home in it. The Chief Savage, Viscount Jellicoe, was accompanied by Lady Jellicoe and a large party from Government House. The distinguished visitor from India, the Hon. Mr. Sastri, was also present, as well as Mrs. W. F. Massey, the Mayor (Mr. R. A. Wright), Sir Robert and Lady Stout, Sir William Fraser and Miss Fraser, Sir Joseph Ward and Lady Ward, the Hon. E. P. Lee and Mrs. Lee, Sir W. and Lady Carnarross, Mrs. Pow, Lady Luke, Miss Anderson, Mrs. W. Barton, Mrs. Eric Riddiford, Mr. and Mrs. Firth, Mrs. E. Blundell, Hon. Tahu Rhodes, Mrs. W. Barton, Captain Mundy, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Russell, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Hislop.

THE children's fancy dress ball arranged by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Navy League, held at the end of racing week, was a very charming affair. The decorations from the Racing Club ball remained, and the setting was one which admirably suited the gay and varied fancy dresses worn by the children, of whom there were about eight hundred. The greatest variety and ingenuity had been shown in carrying into effect ideas that were both fanciful and pretty, and the judges had a distracting time in awarding prizes. It is astonishing to see how well children dance nowadays. They seem to have an instinctive sense of grace and rhythm, and this should surely have an effect upon their carriage and gait in later years. Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Jellicoe, with some of the guests staying at Government House, were present, and some of the children made great friends with His Excellency.

THE decorations of the Racing Club ball are always a distinct feature, and this year it is possible they excelled in originality and beauty those of past years. The Town Hall is always a difficult place to transform, on account of its size and height, still it was achieved. To enter the main hall through a lantern-lit shrubbery was to enter a very elaborate and more than up-to-date summer-house, the whole of the roof having been enclosed with trellis work covered with trails of lycopodium and crimson roses. The front of the galleries was partly enclosed in the same way, but with spaces left to form window effects. The walls downstairs were screened with pink muslin, and more muslin festooned the lower part of the galleries, together with ropes of lycopodium. Masses of foliage, mirrors, huge shaded lights and numbers of tiny coloured electric lights peeping out from the foliage made the big hall look very charming, and a fit setting for the many beautiful frocks which were worn. Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Viscountess Jellicoe attended the ball with a large party from Government House, in which were included Mr. and Mrs. W. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. C. Elgar (Featherston), Mrs. Rolleston (Canterbury), Miss Teschemaker (Blenheim), Captain Curtis, and Captains Mundy and Southey. Her Excellency, who danced with Mr. Harcourt in the official set, wore a gown of soft lemon coloured brocade with a train, and trimmed on the corsage with gold lace. In her hair was a diamond circlet with a diamond clasp, and she wore a diamond necklace and rope of pearls. Viscount Jellicoe danced with Miss Harcourt. Miss Massey with the Hon. J. G. Coates, Mrs. Coates and the Hon. Tahu Rhodes, Miss Skerrett and Captain Hamilton. Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Eric Riddiford, Mrs. Eric Riddiford and Mr. C. Elgar, Mrs. Elgar and Mr. C. Skerrett. Miss Massey wore a very pretty frock of royal blue charmeuse with

a sequined overdress. Some striking gowns were worn, and many were very beautiful.

MR. Jascha Spivakovsky was the guest of honour at a reception held at the Midland Hotel the second day after his arrival in Wellington. Mrs. Morice and Mr. and Mrs. Horace Hunt received, and Mr. Hunt, who is president of the Wellington Society of Musicians, made a brief speech of welcome. Afterwards those who were present were introduced to the pianist, and many, especially the women wearing rings, will remember the muscular grip of his hand. One cannot be a famous pianist without some manifest sign of pre-eminence. —DOROTHEA.

## WHANGAREI.

THE Club Ball, which is the most brilliant social function which Whangarei enjoys during the year, was largely attended. The hall was beautifully decorated with coloured paper ribbons suspended from the ceiling. Some lovely frocks were worn, and the debutantes who had looked forward to this event with eager anticipation were Miss Alma McKay, who wore ivory taffeta with draped panels of silver lace; Miss Dorothy Cullen, in a pretty frock of white crepe de chine and georgette with a touch of pink; Miss Doreen Stone, in white satin prettily trimmed with silver sprays, and Miss Inez Wilkinson, who was charming in a white georgette petal frock with tissue roses at the waist.

In spite of "hard times," there seems to be plenty of money forthcoming when the cause is a worthy one, and the Ladies' Committee of the Public Library, who trained "The Bright Hours Children" for the concert held to augment the funds of the Library, were very gratified with the success of the entertainment. The Committee was assisted by Mrs. Mervyn Wilson, who staged the second half of the programme, Mrs. East, Mrs. Delamore and Miss Hall.

Miss Thorpe, who visited Whangarei recently, and gave interesting lectures on behalf of the Russian Famine Fund, was during her stay the guest of the Mayoress, Mrs. McLean. —MAXINE.

## NELSON.

NELSON has just now a distinguished visitor in Miss Annette Kellerman, the famous swimmer, who has taken up her residence here, and is preparing for the aquatic film which she will commence in September.

Miss Matia Rogers, a popular young hostess, has left for a six months' visit to Ceylon. During the last few weeks she has been the guest of honour at a number of afternoon and evening parties.

Mrs. Robison gave a most enjoyable evening for the girl friends of her daughter, Miss Nancy Robison. The guests appeared dressed as if twelve years of age or under, and great merriment ensued as coy little girls with sashes and big bows, and neat little boys arrived. A very enjoyable evening was spent in dancing and competitions. Among those present were the Misses Rogers, D. Rogers, M. Young, Harkness, Andrew, Grace, B. Easterfield, Maginitty and Sadlier.

Miss Sadlier entertained a number of her friends at "Wathbrow" at afternoon tea recently, when a book title guessing competition was eagerly entered into by the guests. The prize, a beautiful bunch of violets, was won by Miss Brundell. —JEANOR.

## CHRISTCHURCH.

THIS month we have had the lull before the storm—a quiet time socially, in anticipation of the gaieties of Grand National Week, and this year these functions promise to be particularly brilliant and varied.

Miss Rosina Buckman and her gifted company have come and gone, and have added to their admirers every member of the large audiences that attended the three concerts here. Unfortunately, the two first concerts and all social functions, including a reception in honour of the songstress, which was to have been given by the members of the Canterbury Women's Club, had to be postponed, owing to Miss Buckman's indisposition during the first week of her visit to Christchurch.

At the residence of Mrs. Vernon, Rolleston Avenue, Mrs. Maitland Rich was hostess at a delightful afternoon bridge party. Among her guests were Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Wigram, Mrs. H. H. Pitman, Mrs. Algar Williams, Mrs. Charles Reid, Mrs. John Stevenson, Mrs. H. D. Acland, Mrs. J. Turnbull, Mrs. Beauchamp Lane, Mrs. Kingscote, Miss Hilda Williams, Mrs. Jack Anderson, Miss Humphreys, Mrs. Jellett, Mrs. F. G. Gibson, Miss Fairie Denniston (Dunedin) and Mrs. Walter Fox.

A VERY successful annual ball was given at the Winter Garden by the staffs of the combined Freezing and Allied Industries. The chaperones were Lady Clifford, who wore a handsome trained gown of gold tissue, embossed in black panne velvet, and most beautiful diamond ornaments; Mrs. C. M. Olivier, in royal blue taffeta and cire lace, with narrow gold girdle; Mrs. D. J. Shea, black charmeuse with richly embroidered overdress; Mrs. Frank Deverell, charming frock of blue and old gold brocade; and Mrs. W. Machin, black satin with jetted overdress.

Mrs. W. Irving, who has recently returned from a visit to England, was welcomed home at a party given in her honour by Dr. Alice Moreland, whose guests included Miss Moorhouse, Lady Denniston, Mrs. Deans, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Mrs. Gerald Westera, Mrs. Hugh Acland, Mrs. Nancarrow, Mrs. Loughman, Mrs. J. S. Thomson, and Misses Harvey, Nedwill, Nancarrow, and Orbell.

The members of the Committee of the Canterbury Women's Club entertained at morning tea Mrs. Christie, wife of Colonel Christie, who was recently in Christchurch with the British Empire's Exhibition Mission. The guest of honour wore over a mole marocain frock, a most covetable Paisley loose wrap and a mole hat of hatter's plush. Mrs. Christie has published several successful detective stories. —ISABEL.

## DUNEDIN.

THE University students' ball in the Art Gallery Hall was most enjoyable. The decorations were lavish as well as original, and the supper tables were beautifully arranged. Among those present Mrs. Fitchett wore black charmeuse with jet overdress; Mrs. Riley, black satin and ninon; Mrs. Russell Ritchie, handsome black charmeuse; Mrs. Marshall Macdonald, orange crepe de chine; Mrs. O'Neill, violet charmeuse; Mrs. Thompson, black and white taffeta; Mrs. Dremann, pink charmeuse and white lace; Mrs. Leech, green and silver; Professor Strong, grey satin; Professor Rawson, black satin with touches of gold; Mrs. Skinner, black satin; Mrs. Carmalt Jones, yellow satin; Miss Tottenham, silver net over rose-coloured satin; Miss E. Haggitt, cream taffeta; Miss Meadowcroft (Wellington), cerise satin and silver tissue; Miss D. Macandrew, pale green charmeuse; Miss Booth (Christchurch), mauve crepe de chine; Miss Bowles, pink taffeta; Miss R. Bowles, blue charmeuse. Also present were:—Misses Reid, Allan, Hanlon, Tate, Bull (Napier), Maxwell, Anderson (Invercargill), Dick and Greenslade; Professors Thompson and Hercus, Doctors Fitchett, Russell Ritchie, Riley, Dremann, and Messrs. G. R. Ritchie, J. Begg, Hall, G. Cook, Stowe, Harty, Tennant, Monson, Sinclair, Tate and Hart.