

LADIES' COLUMN.

**THE COST OF BEAUTY.**  
Five hundred a year seems rather a large sum, even in these days of unlimited extravagance, for the mere upkeep of one's complexion. Yet a certain daily paper which has gone into the matter gives the various items, and shows how impossible it is for a Society beauty to attain any distinction without a yearly outlay varying from one to five hundred pounds. Beauty, one gathers, is a mere question of expense. Whichever way you look at it the modern woman is supposed not to be able to do without the assistance of a face specialist. If nature has endowed her with a good complexion, she must not leave it alone, but have it massaged and electrified in order to keep it in condition. If she has a bad one, it is absolutely imperative for her to indulge in a new one, either by the addition of cosmetics, or the even more thorough method of skinning. The latter does not sound very inviting, but we are assured it is indulged in by many Society people.

If all we hear is to be believed, there is absolutely no torture the would-be beauty will not endure in the sacred cause of her appearance. She will cheerfully go under chloroform, and have her scanty eyelashes picked out one by one, long curling black ones being sewn into the eyelids in their place. Several weeks of excruciating agony in the dentist's chair will follow, with beautiful results in the way of pearly teeth; and if her nose is not to her liking, she can have it altered to the fashion of the moment by another process of a more or less painful nature. Of course in the matter of hair and figure we get so used to sudden transformations that nothing much can startle us, but, seeing the difficulty that is often experienced in recognising people with these slight modifications, one trembles to think how hard a matter it might prove to be after all their features had been under such drastic alterations and repairs.

It certainly is the age of beauty doctors though, and that these make a considerable income is said to be obvious from the gorgousness of their establishments, and the crowds which throng their rooms. It is impossible to take up a ladies' paper without reading of these face specialists, and beauty restorers. Every method of advertisement is used, save one which one ventures to suggest free of charge—namely, a placard to be worn by some grateful patient, similar to those suspended on houses, with "Decorations by Mrs. House," or "Alterations by Mrs. Dash" printed on it. A sufferer unable to devote the necessary income for the upkeep of her appearance might be prevailed upon to adopt this method of showing her gratitude to those specialists who work almost as indefatigably as the County Council at the beautifying of the monumental (human and architectural) sights of London.

There is really nothing new in the cult of beauty; the only novelty lies in the extravagant fashion in which new inventions are applied to it. Electric bath and vibration treatment may be innovations, but cosmetics and baths date from the earliest ages. Women have always aspired to be beautiful, and have powdered their faces, and "tired their heads" since time immemorial, and in all countries. We are told that the geisha of Japan changes the colour of her lips three times in one evening, and no little Japanese lady ever misses the opportunity of whipping out the powder jar and mirror which form an indispensable part of her toilet.

The question is, Are women really any more admired in these days for being steamed and smeared and electrified? Is any attraction worth having which is obtained by the painful and expensive methods we read of, that society beauties are supposed to willingly undergo. One doubts it, for nobody can be really taken in by the artificially-manufactured beauty.

The duty of every woman though is to make the best of herself, and certain defects of complexion and figure can be easily remedied. Physical exercises, fresh air, and good diet will work wonders with those, and by the addition of a smart dressmaker, milliner, and hairdresser many a plain girl may be transformed into a pretty one, without adopting the extreme measures suggested in Society papers.

ELIANE.

WHANGATEAU.

(Own Correspondent.)  
SALE OF WORK.

Members of the Salvation Army held a sale of work at the hall on the afternoon of the 13th inst., and judging by the rapidity with which the many useful and ornamental articles were bought up the industrial section of the exhibition of the day's display was a manifest success. The Work stall was presided over by the Misses Verena Darrach and Nellie Ashton adding natural attraction to the many beautiful creations of the scene. The Sweets and "Cloudy Lemon Squash" department, presided over by the Misses Smith, was much sought after, also the Olive was an agreeable feature of this occasion, its special flavour and tone being much to the taste of the Brunton neighbourhood. Confections and other refreshments, solid and liquid on a liberal scale, were dispensed, and the Gramophone added its quota of enjoyment. In the evening a concert with other items was happily rendered and the entertainment would have been more largely patronised could the steady rain have been conveniently postponed for a few hours.

School Concert.

The annual school concert which took place on Friday evening, 15th inst., was a bigger success than ever and a crowded audience greeted the programme put forward. All the items of the lengthy programme were well rendered, and the children's execution of the drills and part songs reflected every credit on the painstaking teachers. The following was the programme:—Recitation, "Blowing Bubbles," club drill, boys, song, "Fan Philosophy," tableau, Tambourine Drill, song, "Jolly Jack Tars," recitation, Evelyn Morrison, dumbbell drill (girls), song, "Dolly's Goodnight," tableau, "May Queen," song, "Flowers," Musical Bell Drill, recitation, Ronald Moore, song, "Chinaman," floral march, (girls), song, "Dancing Bear," dumbbell drill, (boys), song, "Little Bo-peep," club drill, (girls), song, "Valiant Soldier," hoop drill, duet, "Ragged Doll," Dorothy Warren, and Gladys Wilson (very good), ring drill.

The annual picnic took place in Mr J. Wilson's paddock, and the afternoon was spent in games, swings, etc., to the joy of the children. A large number of both parents and children were present. Lollies and bananas were distributed during the afternoon and each child received a present at the gate. A splendid tea was provided about 3 p.m. This annual function is a very pleasant one and the school children look forward to it with excitement.

Auckland Farmers' Union.

At Paparua there was a good muster of cattle and sheep. All lines were cleared at the hammer or immediately afterwards. Calves to yearlings £1 14s to £2 10s, 18 mos. to 2yr steers £2 13s to £3 15s, 3yr steers £4 5s to £5 5s, grown steers £5 15s to £6 7s 6d, stone cows £2 10s to £3 5s, forward cows £3 15s to £4 5s, beef cows £4 5s to £5 7s, fat steers £6 10s to £7 7s. Sheep: dry ewes 13s to 15s 6d, wethers 13s to 16s.

At Maungaturoto a small yarding came forward and mostly sold. Calves to yearlings £1 17s to £2 7s, 18 mos. to 2yr steers £2 17s 6d to £3 10s, 3 to 3 1/2 yr steers £4 5s, to £5 15s, store cows to £3 10s.

At Mangawai only a small yarding came forward, fat cows £4 10s, calves to yearlings £1 16s to £2 2s 6d. Ponies weeded £1 to £2 10s, good hacks to £20.

At Mrs Price's clearing sale at Kaiwaka the farm was sold at a satisfactory figure, and furniture and effects also brought good prices. Sheep 7s to 13s, dairy cows £3 to £4 15s.

At Warkworth only a small yarding came forward owing to the closeness of the Xmas holidays. Cattle were dull of sale grown steers £6 to £6 10s, 3yr steers £4 to £4 13s, 18mos to 2yr steers £2 to £3 3s, calves to yearlings £1 5s to £1 17s, store cows £1 10s to £3 7s. Sheep: hoggets, 14s, fat sheep 14s 6d to 16s.

Accident at Lime Kilns.

TWO MEN BURIED.

On Saturday last just before noon an accident took place at the Lime Kilns whereby two elderly men were seriously injured. They were working near a place known as the pit. The trolleys are loaded with the rock and travel along to receiving bins. In tipping the material out a certain amount falls outside the bins and accumulates on the roof of a verandah. This over-flow had been allowed to collect for some time and it is estimated some four or five tons lay there. The tipping of a trolley proved too much for the structure and it collapsed, and Mr Barnaby and Mr Thomas, who were working underneath were buried. Fortunately the fall was broken or both must have been killed. The men were rescued as quickly as possible. Dr McCredie was quickly on the scene and found that Mr Barnaby was suffering from severe injuries to the pelvis, and bruised badly from head to foot, his cheek being laid open with a deep cut. Mr Thomas besides being badly bruised had his hip dislocated. After receiving attention to their injuries both were removed to their homes, and at last reports were progressing satisfactorily. It was Mr Thomas' last hours at the kilns as he was leaving to enter another situation at Papakura on Monday.

FOOTBALL.

"The Black Plague," i.e., the New Zealand football team has had its triumphant career checked at last. To the sturdy Welshman falls the honour. There is no New Zealander but that will regret the win, but on the other hand they will bear no animosity towards the conquerors. Sport rings too true in New Zealand for that. The keenest regret of all will be that enthusiasts of the time honoured game could not be present to witness the battle royal between the two leading teams of the world. The game is described as a strenuous struggle for supremacy. Wales scored a try after 27 minutes play. From this out the New Zealanders made desperate efforts to score, but failed to break through the splendid and stubborn defence of the Welshmen. On two or three occasions the New Zealanders were balked from scoring by misfortune. Once Wallace got within a yard of the Welsh goal-line but was pushed into touch, and Deans at another time spoilt a splendid chance of scoring by passing forward. Ill-luck pursued the New Zealanders to the end and the whistle sounded no side amid a scene of tremendous excitement, and with the score still standing; Wales 3, New Zealand nil.

The Festive Season.

Once more our shops are resplendent with stocks suitable for the joyous Xmas time, and this Xmas Eve, no doubt, will be inundated with anxious parents bent on securing some token of joy for little Billy and the other children. And the younger generation will be in a state of perplexity as to the most suitable present for mother and father. With such a large range of tempting articles the anxiety is but intensified.

Messrs Warin and Allen have a large range of delicacies suitable for the season nicely displayed in a window, artistically arranged with lycopodium, the work of Mr Allen, and stockings of lollies and other childish delights to bring pleasure to the small fry.

Messrs Guest and Co. have a capital display of Xmas beef, mutton, lamb, fowls, ducks, etc., suggestive of a contented mind after a sumptuous dinner. Mr J. B. Roose has specially catered for the public and his large shipments of drapery, etc., just to hand warrants a busy evening. The stock of Xmas and New Year toys is one of the best in the township and no doubt will be greatly reduced this evening.

Miss Host of the Warkworth Hotel, Mr Underwood, has, in addition to a large supply of the cup that cheers, laid in a large stock of delicious cordials, cool and refreshing and much appreciated this warm weather. For Xmas visitors, we can speak assuredly of the excellent Xmas dinner they may anticipate.

Messrs Geo. Guest and Sons say they are "approached but never beaten," and judging from the immense display of seasonable goods, toys, table delicacies, Xmas gifts, etc., etc., we can fully endorse their quotation. Since Mr Guest took control of this business the stock has been brought right up-to-date, and the public can rely on getting excellent value for their money. This firm, we may add, has just installed a butter-worker and we were privileged in tasting the first production and can pronounce it fully up to the best on the market.

Messrs Civil Bros. shop is replete with an excellent range of Xmas goods, toys, etc., and those who favour this firm will meet with every satisfaction in their purchases.

After partaking perhaps unwisely of the luxuries of the season some will suffer internally, and to these we would advocate a visit to the local apothecary, Mr A. G. Fallwell, who has laid in a special stock to treat Xmas ills.

Mr J. R. Price has not supplied anything special for Xmas in footwear, but as his boots and shoes always give satisfaction customers can rely on his work being up to all requirements.

Mr T. Walker, of saddlery and harness fame, has a splendid stock of those desirous of making a present of a substantial nature.

Messrs T. Edwards and Co. have some excellent Xmas cakes and small goods suitable for the fancy of all, and, no doubt, a big demand will set in this evening for the tempting edibles displayed.

Messrs Wakelin and Evans have nothing in their line, blacksmithing, to appeal to Xmas joys, unless it be a well shod horse and we can vouch for their excellent workmanship in this line, but in the new line they have just added to their business, that of cabinetmaking, they have an excellent display of furniture and other dainty articles to adorn homes.

Mr Alex. Warin, the other village smith, has also every cause to warrant the confidence of clients.

Dealing with equines, brings to mind the fact that there are many who require vehicles and horses to visit the beauty spots of the district during the holidays, and we would recommend them to the care of Mr John Barton, whose livery stable contains sufficient horses, etc., to satisfy the demands of all.

The Auckland Farmers' Union, Limited.

The annual meeting of shareholders took place at Maungaturoto on Saturday, December 16th, when a good many shareholders were present. Mr H. T. Smith, managing director, occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed and the balance sheet adopted. The report of the year's work was most satisfactory, the business having increased fully 50 per cent during the year. After depreciation and loss in the first year being allowed for a substantial balance was carried forward. The following directors were appointed for the ensuing year in place of the two retiring, Messrs H. T. Smith and J. A. Wilson: Messrs C. A. Wilson and Maurice Harding. The three other retiring members, Messrs Birch, Coates and Finlayson were re-elected. Mr Alex. Finlayson was appointed chairman. At the close of the proceedings hearty votes of thanks were accorded the chairman, officers and directors.

The meeting was well pleased with the work done by the Union and felt assured of the success of the business. The new departure of holding wool sales were a decided success.

We congratulate the shareholders on the successful business carried on by their company and feel assured that they are on the high road to substantial dividends in the future if they guard the interests of the company as they have done in the past.

Headache Cannot Exist—When Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets are taken. Their marvellous influence on the liver and bowels puts an end to it every time. They follow Nature's own method, doing just what is needed. No other laxative ever made can compare with them for effectiveness. For sale by Geo. Guest & Sons.

KAIPARA FLATS.

(Own Correspondent.)  
FARMERS' UNION.

The usual monthly meeting of this branch of the New Zealand Farmers' Union was held at the Ranfurly Hall, on Monday, the 11th inst., at 7.30 p.m. There was a fair muster of members present, Mr A. Hood in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The secretary stated that since the last meeting, by direction of the chairman, he had written to the Hon. Minister for Public Works, re opening railway station, and to the Postal Department, re savings bank and money order office, to Telegraph Department, re telephone to be connected with the Kaipara Flats Post office, and had written to the Right Hon. the Premier, re import on agricultural implements. From each he had received a prompt, courteous and favourable reply. The correspondence was then read to the meeting.

Several of the members complained about the road alongside the railway not being opened for traffic. Instead of the fences being removed, another fence has been put across the road and many of the settlers are hindered from attending meetings at the Hall, or getting to the store, post office or railway station. It was resolved that the secretary be instructed to write to the County Council requesting that the road be opened without delay.

A circular was read requesting branches to assist financially in enabling headquarters to send the Organiser to the several branches throughout the colony at once. It was resolved that the letter be laid upon the table until next meeting, when we hope that, as the cause of complaint, against this Branch by several of the farmers of this district has been removed, that they will roll up and help to give this branch that strength and support they contend it so much needs.

DOME VALLEY.

(A Correspondent.)  
BAND OF HOPE.

The monthly meeting of the Band of Hope was held on Monday, December 11th. The weather favoured us, and there was a good attendance.

Having two or three visitors with us made a good change in the programme. Mr Hudson occupied the chair. Mr Hadfield from Auckland, who is at present holding a Gospel mission in this district, gave a stirring address on his experience in Prohibition districts down south. He said that while prohibition did not entirely stop drinking, it considerably reduced it.

The following was the programme:—Hymn "Sound the Battle Cry;" prayer, Mr Hadfield; solo, "All Through a Piece of Blue Ribbon;" Mr T. Oakes, encored, "Sign 'tils 'Tilge To-night;" recitation, "Lord Ullin's Daughter," Mrs Matthews; auto-harp selection, "Old Folks at Home," Miss O. Phillips, encored, "Home Sweet Home;" recitation, "The Doctor's Dilemma," Miss G. Pearson, encored, "A Glass of Claret;" address, Mr Hadfield; recitation, "Papa's Letter," Miss Rosa Pearson; address, Mr J. Grimmer; solo, "Anchored," Mr L. Phillips; hymn, "Hold the Fort," and prayer by Mr J. Grimmer, brought a pleasant meeting to a close.

LEIGH.

(Own Correspondent.)  
XMAS TREE.

The Christmas tree festivities that came off at the hall on the evening of the 15th were shared in by all hands, big as well as small fry. The multitude of happy little faces spoke its own tale of thorough enjoyment due to useful gifts, the distribution of appropriate toys, and the toothsome bon-bon, whilst the auld folk entered into the spirit of the scene and became childlike and genuine to fit in with the *esprit de corps* of the cohort of "these little ones." The committee is to be congratulated on its all-round catering and derived proceeds, and would do better in the future by improvising something more like music than greeted the audience last Friday night.

FLAX INDUSTRY.

Scows in the harbour have been loading with green flax for the mills at Whangapoua. Consigning of fowls, ducks, lemons, etc., to Kawau Island and everywhere, flax cutting, grass-seed harvesting (Danthonia) and early and late gardening are still the order of the day. Land property in this locality is rising in value, whilst the increasing number of pair horse carriages (this is the neglected North under Seddon auspices) speaks in a language those who run or linger may read, mark, and inwardly digest, commendatory of Liberal Rule and reasonable thrift.

Wouldn't be big Enough.

"Well," said Mr Meekin, affably, "I suppose you are going to hang up your stocking on Christmas Eve?" His wife replied with an icy glare. "Come, come, Henrietta," he continued, "the lapse of years should not make us disregard the good old custom."

"I certainly shall not hang up my stocking this Christmas."

"Why not?"

"For the very simple but conclusive reason that all the things I expect from you would make too large a package to be contained in a stocking."

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DOWN.		A.M.	
Distance from Auckland	STATIONS.		
Miles.			
3	AUCKLAND dep.	7.0	
	Newmarket Jn. arr.	7.9	
4	MOUNT EDEN dep.	7.12	
14	Avondale " "	7.23	
20	Henderson " "	7.45	
28	Waikareki " "	8.13	
35	Helensville arr.	8.45	
		Mon. Wed. Sat.	
52	Tahereka dep.	11.10	
57	Ahuroa " "	11.35	
59	Woodcocks arr.	11.43	

  

UP.		P.M.	
Distance from Woodcocks	STATIONS.		
Miles.			
3	Woodcocks dep.	1.15	
8	Ahuroa " "	1.25	
21	Helensville arr.	2.50	
		Daily	
40	Waikareki dep.	3.20	
46	Henderson " "	4.25	
52	Avondale " "	5.20	
56	Mount Eden " "	5.43	
57	Newmarket Jn. arr.	5.50	
59	AUCKLAND arr.	5.58	

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