

LADIES' COLUMN.

THE COST OF BEAUTY. Five hundred a year seems rather a large sum, even in these days of un-

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.

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.

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.

The duty of every woman though is to make the best of herself, and certain defects of complexion and figure can be easily remedied.

WHANGATEAU.

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.

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.

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.

Auckland Farmers' Union.

At Paparua there was a good muster of cattle and sheep. All lines were cleared at the hammer or immediately afterwards.

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 1/2yr steers £4 5s, to £5 15s, store cows £3 10s to £4 5s, beef cows £4 5s to £5 7s, fat steers £6 10s to £7 7s.

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

At Mrs Price's clearing sale at Kaiwaka the farm was sold at a satisfactory figure, and furniture and effects also brought good prices.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Mine 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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, of Auckland, who is at present holding a Gospel mission in this district, gave a stirring address on his experience in Prohibition districts down south.

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 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."

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."

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS. AUCKLAND, HELENSVILLE AND WOODCOCKS.

Table with columns for Stations, Distance from Auckland, and Departure/Arrival times for Down and Up directions.

DERBY TOBACCO advertisement featuring a cartoon character and the slogan 'Do I like DERBY TOBACCO? Well, I Should Smile YOU TRY IT'.

Your Eyes advertisement featuring an illustration of eyes and the slogan 'DEMAND YOUR BEST CARE'.

FRY'S MILK CHOCOLATE advertisement with the slogan 'THE BIGGEST SOLD AND IS THE BEST QUALITY.'

A. A. MCILAN ARCHITECT advertisement with contact information and a list of services.

Samuel Barry, D.B.O.H., London, EYESIGHT SPECIALIST advertisement with address '314, Queen St., Auckland'.

J. C. OLDBURY, GUNMAKER, ETC. advertisement for 'Importers of all kinds of Guns, Rifles, and Sporting Ammunition.'

CIVIL BROTHERS advertisement for 'STRONG BOOTS & SHOES, &c. &c. &c.' and 'MISS GREEN, DRESSMAKER'.