

OBITUARY

MRS. JAMES BURNETT

Mrs. James Burnett, who died recently at her home at York Bay, Wellington, was the fourth daughter of the late Wilson and Jane Gibson, who came out to Nelson in 1848.

She was born at Waimea West on October 7, 1854, and in 1858 the family went to Dunedin in a small schooner. The next year they joined the father and his brother, the late Edmund Gibson, who had taken up Waitangi Station, on the Canterbury side of the Waitaki River, about 60 miles from Oamaru. Mrs. Burnett retained vivid memories of that first journey from Oamaru to the station, which took three days in bullock drays, two goats running alongside to provide milk for the young children. She had interesting stories to tell of life in those early days on an up-country station.

In 1879 she married the late James Burnett, whose parents arrived at Auckland in 1852 and who was born at Whangarei in 1855. They lived at Oamaru until 1880, and then went to Christchurch. In 1900 another move was made to Wellington, and in 1908 Mr. Burnett was appointed Chief Engineer of the New Zealand Railways.

Mrs. Burnett became interested in the Richmond Free Kindergarten, founded by Miss Mary Richmond in 1905, and for a number of years was a member of the executive committee. Mr. and Mrs. Burnett were mainly responsible for having a sundial erected at Taranaki Street Kindergarten in record of Miss Richmond's work.

In 1915 they went to London, where they lived till 1919, helping in the New Zealand Soldiers' canteens in Victoria Street, Southampton Row, and Russell Square. For about two years Mrs. Burnett with Miss Q. Pratt.

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was in charge of the canteen at Southampton Row, where men on leave and parties of men from hospital came for meals. This meant devoted and capable work all day and every day, no light task for one over 60. This spirit of service was shown by Mr. and Mrs. Burnett all their lives, but more than any public work they did was their interest in and understanding of children and young people and their unfailing hospitality and kindness to them.

From the time they were first married their house was a second home to many people.

They showed in their lives how two great ideals may be fulfilled at the same time, true and faithful family life, and outstanding public service.

To Be Married Today.

Captain Algernon G. W. Heber-Percy, of the Grenadier Guards, is to be married in England today to Miss Daphne Parker-Bowles, daughter of Mr. Eustace Parker-Bowles, of Far Croft, Market Drayton. The ceremony will take place at the parish church and the reception is to be held at the bridegroom's home, Hodnet Hall, Shropshire. Captain Heber-Percy has many friends in New Zealand, having been aide-de-camp to his Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Galway.

A Gipsy Afternoon.

An old witch on her broomstick appeared at the Manakau Women's Institute's recent meeting, and caused much amusement. Prophecies of the future by the gipsies present were also of great interest to the members. Mrs. Staples, who presided, introduced a visitor from England, who gave an interesting talk on her travels. The winners of the competitions were as follows:—Best book covers, Mrs. Meredith and Mrs. French; best bloom in the garden, Mrs. New. A sub-com-

the garden, Mrs. New. A subcommittee was formed for the annual ball, which is to be held at the end of May.

Advice on Marriage.

A meeting of the Wellington South branch of the League of Mothers was held in the Church of Christ hall recently, when Mrs. Bouttell presided. The speaker for the afternoon was Major Glover, of the Salvation Army, her subject being "The Sanctity of Marriage." The reason for so many unhappy marriages, said the Major, was because people would rush into it, persuading themselves that it was God's will, and not taking time or trouble to find out all about the one whom they planned to marry. His characteristics, peculiarities, the result was a lack of complete understanding and co-operation in the home. If there was any doubt in the mind about some trait in the character of the chosen one it should be cleared up before marriage, for it would not dwindle away, but grow like a snowball. For the sake of the children yet unborn and future generations young people should consider well all phases of the divine institution of marriage before embarking upon it. Recitations were given by Mrs. Dernley, and songs by Mrs. Edmonds and the choir. Afternoon tea was served.

Tribute to Nursery Matron.

A tribute to the work of the matron of the Residential Nursery, Miss McKibbin, was paid by Mrs. L. O. H. Tripp when in the chair at yesterday afternoon's annual meeting of the Women's National Reserve Residential