THE LIFE OF MELBOURNE

Vesta Junior's Mirror of the Day

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Perhaps one of the most interested—and certainly the most colourful—woman guest at the opening of State Parliament this afternoon was Sister Leila Ram Samuy, a former Indian Army nurse, who is visiting Melbourne from Fiji. In her royal blue robe and sari she was a distinctive figure, and many a glance was turned in her direction as she walked through Queen's Hall. After the opening ceremony Sir Winston and Lady Dugan had afternoon tea with Sir Clifden Eager, President of the Legislative Council, and Lady Eager; Sir George Knox, Speaker, his son and daughter-in-law, Lieut-Colonel and Mrs W. M. Knox; Sir Edmund Herring, Lieutenant-Governor, and Lady Herring; and Cr F. R. Connelly, Lord Mayor, and Mrs Bernard Heinze.

Happy Middle Age—

I doubt if anyone enjoyed the opening of Parliament today more than Mr Everard, MLA, member for Evelyn, who was celebrating his birthday (he would not say which one). Although he did not have a birthday cake, there was a very luscious cream sandwich on the table at afternoon tea, and his party insisted on his cutting it. Mr Everard's guests included his daughter, Betty, who is a dietitian at St George's Hospital, Kew, and his nephew, Sgt Cecil Dickson, and Mrs Dickson. Sgt Dickson, who was mining editor of THE ARGUS before enlisting as a private, had been a prisoner of war in Siam, where his brother, Cpl John Dickson, was also a POW. Another member of the Legislative Assembly who was glad to see Sgt Dickson there today was his brother-in-law, Mr Dodgshun, member for Ouyen. Sgt Dickson told me he will probably be rejoining THE ARGUS staff early in the new year.

And Blase Youth

Members and their guests were endeavouring to locate each other in the crowded Queen's Hall after the opening of Parliament, and Mr Cain, Premier, was trying to find his wife and family—and being halted every second step by people wanting to congratulate him. At last he found Mrs Cain and their daughter Joan, but where was schoolboy son John? "He's reading a book somewhere or other," was the sisterly reply.

Exhibition at Janefield

It was not only the exhibition of beautiful handwork which impressed me today at Janefield special school for mentally retarded children, but also the wonderful enthusiasm and pride of the children themselves. As I wandered around the dressmaking, knitting, and embroidery classes admiring the beautifully finished frocks and the neatly embroidered supper cloths and doyleys, the children came up to me to point out proudly their particular pieces of work. All the children were wearing attractive print frocks in floral patterns, and I learnt from Miss Kennedy, who conducts the dressmaking class, that they nearly all had been made by the girls in her class, who are aged between 16 and 20.

Seeing how happy these mentally retarded children are in their lovely surroundings, I felt sorry that the same was not being done for more of our less fortunate children, and that there were not more special schools like Janefield.

Young Children's Work

The younger children at Janefield gave visitors a demonstration of their daily routine in their classrooms. They are taught mostly through activity, and respond readily to rhythm, and this was seen in the way they sang songs and danced and acted the stories of nursery rhymes to music. Children in another classroom were enjoying free painting, clay modelling, and fingerprint work. Another popular activity is weaving, and I saw some lovely handwoven scarves and wallets on display.

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Special guests at the exhibition were Mr G. A. Osborne, assistant chief inspector of the Education Department, and Dr J. Catarinich, Director of Mental Hygiene.

Time and Talents

At the Time and Talents at home this afternoon Mrs E. W. Outhwaite, who presided, appealed for some younger members to join the sewing circles and so be ready to take over from older members who find themselves unable to carry on. This plea for younger members is one that will have to be made by many organisations unless their members are to work themselves to a standstill.

Hostesses with Mrs Outhwaite this afternoon were Lady McPherson, Mrs W. Wnter, Mrs H. Clark, and Mrs F. E. Cox.

Young People's Dance

Many of the dancers at the ball arranged by Miss Kathleen Lascelles at Malvern Town Hall tonight in aid of the Food for Britain appeal were senior boys and girls from the various schools at which Miss Lascelles teaches dancing. It was, I thought, a very jolly dance, and the girls looked so charming in their long frocks, for most of them the first they have had. Strangely enough, a number of the frocks were not the ingenue styles I would have expected, but looked rather as though they had stepped right out of *Vogue*.

"Miss Victory" Contest

There was an air of excitement in St Kilda Town Hall when I arrived at the Victory Ball arranged by the Business Girls' War Service Bureau. Voting had just ceased for the bureau's "Miss Victory" contest, and everyone was waiting for the announcement of the winner's name. The proclamation, made by Mrs Bernard Heinze, Lady Mayoress, was preceded by a spectacular parade of the five candidates—Misses Betty Slater, Betty Motteram, Doreen Kelleher, Louise Stagoll, and Kathleen Sterling—each of whom was escorted down the hall, preceded by two attendants carrying banners. The coveted title went to Miss Stagoll, who raised £482/17/3; and Miss Sterling was a close second, with just over £50 less to her credit.

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