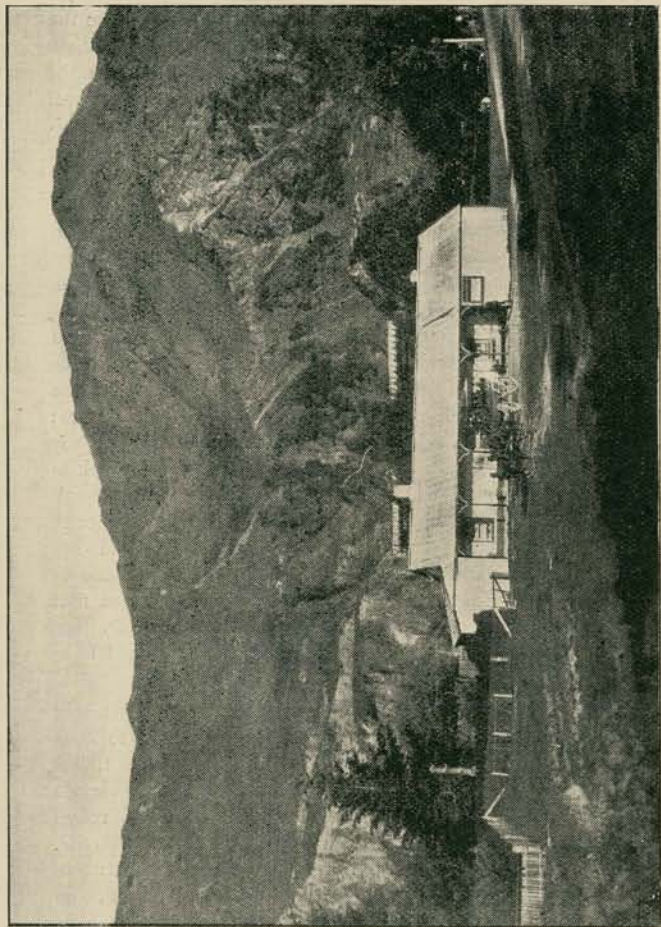


THE HANMER SPRINGS.

PROBABLY the cheapest excursion in New Zealand, and the one which affords the greatest possible change in one day's travel, is the trip from Christchurch to the Hanmer Plains. The total distance is ninety-five miles, sixty-nine miles of which is spanned by the Christchurch-Culverden Railway, the remaining twenty-six miles being covered by Derrett's coach. The return ticket by coach and train, which is available for one month from time of issue, and which can be further extended on application to the railway authorities, costs only 30s., and the expenses by the road consist only of a dinner each way, at Culverden, where one gets a first-class family lunch at the very reasonable tariff of 2s. The first object of interest on the train journey is the crossing of the main branch of the Waimakariri, known as Stewart's Gully, and which is approached through thick plantations of imported trees—pines, oaks, &c.—which border the line closely. The Waimakariri is a typical New Zealand river, and though there will be no time to make detailed observations, the traveller will be able by a hurried glance or two to form some idea of the river for himself. A brief halt at the little township of Kaiapoi, of which, however, little can be seen, and the next stoppage of importance is at Rangiora, where tea, buns, &c., can be obtained. Thence through pleasantly settled farm country to Amberley, after which the gradients become steeper, and by the time the Weka Pass, with its picturesque formations in limestone, is reached it takes the engine all its time to keep going up the stiff incline. The summit once reached, steam is shut off, and the train, mainly controlled by the brakes, rattles down merrily into the little hamlet of Waikari, where the thirsty have time to assuage their drought, if they are not hampered by crutches or any physical trouble. From Waikari the train runs on to Culverden on a slightly rising but practically level grade. Good land is run through until the Hurunui River is crossed, but from thence to the Pahau one passes through a dreary waste of gravelly soil, thickly clothed with manuka scrub. Then the land grows good again, and Culverden, the railway terminus and distributing centre of that portion of

BALLANTYNES MAKE SMART DAY & EVENING GOWNS.



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Good Stabling and Accommodation for Travellers.