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The Canterbury A.A.C.'s meeting took place on Saturday last. The four cycling events, which are under Alliance rules, produced an average of 26 entries, which may be considered highly satisfactory. It indicates a healthy interest in amateur cycling in Christchurch, and the revival of this branch of the sport in the Southern centre will be viewed with satisfaction by Alliance supporters. A club to affiliate with the Alliance will, it is said, be formed soon in Christchurch, and judging by present indications it should meet with success. Developments are also hinted at in South Canterbury, where, it is said, the amateur athletes and cyclists formed a wrong impression (brought about by a newspaper statement) which led them to go over to the League.

Little Gargurevich, the diminutive cyclist, has forsaken his old love, and announced his intention of riding a Melbourne Cup winner. He has, he says, been devoting a great deal of attention to riding racehorses, and he intends to shine as an Australian Tod Sloan. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, Sloan is rumoured to be about to try his prowess on the wheel.

The cycling writer of the Melbourne 'Leader,' hopes that 'the farce of trial races' will be dispensed with should Australia or any one of the colonies decide to send a rider as its special representative to the World's International Championship Meeting at Montreal in August. Everybody knows that R. H. Walne is the one man qualified to represent Australia, and the announcement of his selection to do so at Montreal would give general satisfaction throughout the colonies. Apart from Walne's undeniable excellence as a rider it is satisfactory to know that in all other respects he is a singularly creditable specimen of the Australian athlete, which is a matter of no small consideration.

The 'Ceylon Independent' gives the following answers to correspondents: 'Should I carry a gear case?' No; it would look very silly. Fasten it on the machine. 'What sort of pedals do you recommend?' I should get pedals for the feet, one hard pedal and one soft pedal, and you will make music wherever you go. It's a mistake to hang your pedals on the handle bars. 'Don't pneumatic tyres puncture very easily?' No, unless you use unpuncturable ones. These don't puncture. They simply burst. If your tyre does puncture you can easily get it brazed. You should carry a brazing machine in your pocket with you. 'What gear should I ride?' It is quite unnecessary to have a gear at all. Buy a good, strong bicycle and you will not want a gear. 'The lady I am engaged to is too nervous to learn to ride.' Shoot her and get another. 'What sort of rims do you recommend?' I can't answer any more fool questions. Get rims to match your head. Get wooden rims.

The wonderful progress of the Cyclists' Touring Club of Great Britain was prominently shown by the annual meeting at St. Martin's Town Hall. The total number of members at the close of last year was 54,332. The total revenue of the year was £15,989 19s, and the balance in hand is £1,542. The expenditure was occasioned by the loss of £2,000 on the 'Club Gazette'; the handbook free to members cost £3,200; and caution boards account for £1,200. Reciprocal agreements have been entered into with the touring clubs of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, and Sweden. Cyclists owe a great deal to the C.T.C., and it is therefore pleasant to find that the organisation is in such a healthy condition.

Quite the latest thing in wheel organisations in England is the 'Cyclists' Political Brigade of Canvasers.' The association bearing this imposing title has been called into existence with the object of rendering service at election times for Parliamentary or county council candidates. It makes a very good twin brother to the Christian Cyclists' Union, which was referred to the other day.

The use of bicycles, which a few years ago was unknown in Java, has, within the last three years, advanced tremendously in that country. There are now between 3,000 and 4,000 bicycles in the island, and the number is increasing. Wheeling is confined entirely to Europeans, half-castes and Chinese, the Arabs and natives not having taken it up. Elderly people

do not ride, and women ride little, as it is considered immodest for a girl over fifteen to ride a bicycle.

THEORY OF THE FLAMING SWORD.

'Ah, talk of blessings! What a blessing is digestion! To digest. Do you know what it means? It is to have the sun always shining and the shade always ready for you. It is to be met by smiles and greeted with kisses. It is to hear sweet sounds, to sleep with pleasant dreams, to be touched ever by gentle, soft, cool hands. It is to be in Paradise. There came a great indigestion upon the earth and it was called a deluge. All the evil comes from this. Macbeth could not sleep; it was the supper, not the murder. His wife talked and talked; it was the supper again. Milton had a bad digestion, and Carlyle must have had the worst digestion in the world. Ah! to digest is to be happy!'

There!—how does that strike you for a burst of eloquence? I quote from Trollope. If there is anything wrong about the theology you must hold him responsible. As for its physiology and pathology (pardon all these 'ologies') I can answer for the correctness of these two. And so can millions of people besides me. They speak of the curse of indigestion continually in every language; they groan and writhe under it in every land and climate.

'For many years,' says one of this innumerable army of martyrs, 'I was obliged to bear as best I could the torments of indigestion. My appetite was practically destroyed. I ate, of course, because one must eat or die! but after meals I had great pain at the chest and around the sides.

Sleep almost forsook my pillow, and naturally I was tired and exhausted. Sometimes better and then worse, but never free from pain and illness. I lived on with little or no hope of getting well. It is hardly necessary to say that I had medical treatment, yet no real benefit resulted from it. Happily at this time Mother Seigel's Syrup was brought to my notice, and so strongly commended that I laid aside other medicines, which were doing me no good, and began using this one only.

'In a short time I realised a great improvement; food agreed with me and I gained strength. A little later—continuing to take the syrup regularly as directed—the pains at the stomach, sides and chest wholly ceased and I have not felt them since. My indigestion was cured at last, and I enjoyed the blessing of health. My son, who suffered severely from rheumatism has been relieved by Mother Seigel's Syrup as by nothing else he ever tried. In gratitude I give you full permission to publish my letter should you desire.' (Signed) (Mrs) Ann Barker, Field Lane, Braubing, Ware, Herts., Oct. 7th, 1898.

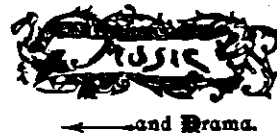
It was a fortunate circumstance for Mrs Sarah Gell, of Melchbourne, Bedfordshire, that one day she had a personal talk with Mr Smith, the butcher at Rushden. He told the lady that in his opinion if she went on suffering from indigestion and asthma (one of its consequences) it would be because she neglected to use Mother Seigel's Syrup. 'And,' said Mr Smith, 'I speak from knowledge.' She had been ill with this abominable ailment for many years, and had spent time and money in unavailing efforts to obtain relief.

Acting on Mr Smith's advice, Mrs Gell began using this remedy at once, and tells the outcome in a letter of which we have room for the conclusion only:—

'I was better almost immediately, and was soon as well and healthy as one could wish to be. Now I keep "Mother Seigel" in the house and it never fails to help us when needed for any passing complaint.' (Signed) Sarah Gell, Oct. 5th, 1898.

Judging from the force of his comment on the disease, I should say Mr Trollope knew something about indigestion from experience. Most literary people do. To them, and to all other victims. I confidently commend the best remedy yet found—Mother Seigel's Syrup.

Clark's R. II Pills are warranted to cure Gravel, Pain in the back, and all kindred complaints. Free from Mercury. Established upwards of 30 years. In boxes 6d each, of all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World. Proprietors, The Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln, England.



The Maggie Moore and H. R. Roberts Company concluded its Auckland season on Saturday last.

The Gaiety, Specialty and Comedy Company continues to do good business in Auckland.

The Wellington Amateurs are busy with their preparations for 'The Gondoliers,' which will be produced next month.

Mrs Brough is said to be at her very best as Catherine in 'Madame Sans Gene,' now running at the Theatre Royal, Sydney.

Mr Rignold's Othello continues to win encomiums from the Sydney press.

Dan Godfrey's Band is now in America and may be expected in Australia some time next August.

The Wanganui Borough Council has decided to expend £4597 on the erection of the new Opera House.

It is said that over the production of 'Dorothy' the Christchurch New Zealand Natives' Association's Operatic Society lost £20. The piece cost a little over £500 to stage.

The Christchurch Musical Union will produce 'Samson' at the close of the present month.

The Wellington musical people have been joining in the cry for a good town hall worthy of the Empire City, in which, in addition to civic functions, high-class concerts could be given.

The Pollards, in addition to their usual pieces with which they are drawing good houses in Wellington, have been playing 'Saucy Susie.'

We learn from the Canterbury 'Times' that Dante's real name is Oscar Eliaon.

'The Geisha' is now in the tenth week of its production at Her Majesty's, Sydney.

Elton, well known in these colonies, was, when last heard of, included in the cast of 'Little Miss Nobody,' on a provincial tour in England.

Fitzgerald's Circus is booming in Sydney. Packed houses are the order of the evening.

Mr Walter Bentley is much praised for his production of the 'Passion Play' in Sydney.

Nellie Stewart is now engaged for the next two pantomimes at the Royal Drury Lane.

We learn from the Sydney 'Evening News' that the Greenwood family have returned to Sydney after an absence of several years. Since their first appearance here they have travelled with unvarying success throughout the Australian colonies, playing standard dramas and musical comedies. Lately they have been residing in New Zealand, owing to the lengthened illness of their father, Mr R. C. Greenwood, whom they had the misfortune to lose some months ago. It is the intention of the Greenwoods to inaugurate a tour through Queensland shortly with some good plays, which afford equal opportunities for the display of acting and vocalism of these talented young ladies.

China has produced a female dramatist by name Wion-wen. She is 28 years of age, and has written many plays. One of these was recently produced in San Francisco with success.

The Melbourne 'Age' says of the first performance of Messrs Williamson and Musgrove's new musical comedy, 'The Belle of New York,' which is running at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne:—'The Belle of New York,' though in no sense a "frost," had at best scored only an equivocal success, and it now remains to be seen whether judicious excisions and alterations will serve to make the play fulfil in Melbourne the destiny which has been its unvarying lot in other places.' The 'Argus' writes of the performance as follows:—'The Belle of New York,' produced on Saturday to a phenomenally large and keenly expectant audience, is a reversion to musical comedy of the distinctly American type—American in idea, in structure, in speech, in setting, and in interpretation. It resembles very little the musical comedies associated with the Gaiety companies, which smacked strongly of their London manufacture, and very

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ALL OVER.

'CYCLING.

We learn that the proposal to prohibit newspaper men from belonging to the Executive of the League of New Zealand Wheelmen has been defeated by an overwhelming majority. The voting was 77 for, 13 against, from which it is plain enough that the League recognises the folly of alienating its advocates in the press. The telegram also states that the League has made a change in its amateur definition. Under the new definition a League amateur must be an amateur in all branches of sport.

Mr F. S. Malcolm, ex-president of the Auckland Cycling Club, left for Christchurch last week. He was given a hearty send off by the club, who entertained him at a smoke concert, and presented him with a framed photo, enlargement of himself. Mr Malcolm intends settling in Christchurch and beginning business as an auctioneer. It seems to me the Auckland Cycling Club would find in their ex-president a very suitable delegate to represent them on the League.

Jack Green, the well-known English cyclist, who visited Australia the season before last, writes to a friend in Melbourne to say that he, accompanied by Harry Reynolds, will leave again for Australia in August or September next, arriving in time to compete at the next Austral meeting.