



THE N.Z. SUGAR REFINING CO.'S NEW STEAMER.

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On the 17th inst. there was launched from the yard of Mr W. H. Brown, Customs-street, Auckland, a new steamer, built to the order of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. The launch was very successful, the steamer moving easily down the ways as the ties were cut. The vessel was not christened, a name not having yet been fixed on. She is built of kauri, with hardwood keel and keelson. The keel is 66ft. long, while the length overall is 70ft. 6in., the beam 11ft. 6in.,

and the depth of hold 6ft. 6in. She is very strongly built, and is copper fastened throughout. Her hull is coppered up to the water-line, and above that she is painted black, with a yellow ribbon. The engines are by Crabtree and Co., Great Yarmouth, England, and are of the latest compound surface condensing type. Immediately after being launched the vessel was taken over to the Queen-street wharf, where the engine and boiler will be lifted in by means of the crane. She will be ready in about a fortnight, and will be used to tow the sugar lighters across the harbour. When she is completed the s.s. Kotu-

ku will be laid up, and converted into a barge. The plans and specifications for the steamer were drawn up in the Sydney office of the firm.

### A WISE YOUTH.

An American paper published in Paris recently contained the following unique advertisement: 'A young man of agreeable presence, and desirous of getting married, would like to make the acquaintance of an aged and experienced gentleman who could dissuade him from taking the fatal step.'

### WHICH FOOT WALKS THE FASTER?

You may think this a very silly question to ask, but is it? There is no catch about it. It is a simple demonstrable fact which you can prove to your own satisfaction in a very few minutes.

If you will take any pavement that is clear of other pedestrians, so that there shall be no interference, and walk briskly in the centre, you will find that before you have gone a hundred yards you will have veered very much to one side. You must not make any conscious effort, of course, to keep to the centre, or you may do it; but if you will think of something, and endeavour to walk naturally, it is a hundred to one you cannot keep a direct line.

The explanation of this lies in the peculiarity of one foot to walk faster than the other. Or, to be more correct, perhaps it should be said that one leg takes a longer stride than the other, and this, combined with the quicker movement, causes one to walk more to one side than the other.

It is well known, for instance, that if one is lost in the woods, the tendency is to walk in a circle and eventually to return to about the starting point. This demonstrates the fact also that one foot walks faster than the other.

You can try an interesting experiment in this way if you will place two stakes in the lawn about eight feet apart, and then stand off about sixty feet, allow yourself to be blindfolded, and endeavour to walk between them. You will find it an almost impossible task, because one foot will go a bit faster than the other, either to the right or left. Now, which one of your feet walks faster than the other?

Women are keenly competing with men in art and professional life in America, as is shown by recent statistics. In the United States there are 4000 actresses and 35,000 lady vocalists and instrumentalists; 11,000 are professional artists; 890 lady journalists, and 2800 are engaged in literary work of one kind or another. The number of women who are dramatic authors or theatrical managers is 600.



HIGH ST. RANGIORA.

HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, CANTERBURY, N.Z.