

Oswald Nelson also showed himself smart at this game. Young Kelly won a plucky race for lads under thirteen. On the second day the sports were held in the beautiful artificial lake at Waikotro. Mr Nelson gave permission for this, and Mrs Nelson provided afternoon tea. The fondest and perhaps the best thing in the afternoon's entertainment was the tub race. The youngsters tumbled and splattered about in a manner that would have amused an undertaker.

'It is better to be born lucky than rich,' and we might add to be a fair runner in a small meeting where the stakes are large, than to be a 'flyer' on a field where competition is keen and one's performances are well known to the handicappers. At P. O. Clarke winning the St. Patrick's Grand Handicap at the Marlborough Hibernian Society's Sports we are not surprised, for receiving the handicaps he did, he should have done nothing else. That none of the scratch men ran into places was rather a significant sign. McRae was rather severely treated in respect to the handicapping, but ran well. He should never have been put 8 yards behind Clarke.

FROM Dunedin I hear that the Opho I. did not at all relish their beating by the Albion II. The Ophos fancied themselves a bit, for they had up to that time only been beaten once. A good deal of interest was taken in the match, which turned out to be very tame. The Ophos were leading for the junior Premiership. The scores were:—Opho, 34; Albion, 125; for eight wickets.

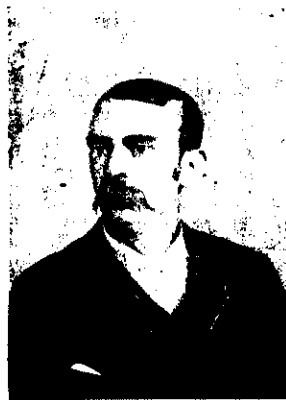
THE professionals of New Zealand have also a veritable crack of their own in the person of W. H. Arnott, champion (professional) hurdle racer of New Zealand, who won the Wellington Caledonian Society's gold medal two years in succession (i.e. 1891-1892). His picture with that of his trainer, A. J. Beauchamp, is given in this week's issue. Arnott's record is an excellent one, but in sending it my correspondent has omitted to state in what timesome of the standard distances were negotiated. Perhaps Mr Arnott himself will forward particulars. If the following were accomplished in anything like record time his performances are certainly brilliant. The professional flyer started scratch in every instance, winning the following:—1890—Greytown, 220yds; Wellington, Caledonian Society, 120yds. 1891—Feilding, 120yds; Wellington, Caledonian Society, 120yds. January 22—Greytown, 120 and 220yds; March 17—Greytown, 120yds; Wellington Druids' Sports, 220yds; Wellington Eight Hours Sports, 440yds; Levin Sports, 220yds. 1892—Feilding, 120 and 220yds; Wellington, Caledonian Society, 120yds; Greytown, 220yds.

JUST previous to the death of the great throat doctor, Sir Morell Mackenzie, his daughters the Misses Morell Mackenzie, at Wargrave regatta, showed great prowess in the double sculling race, one sister steering, the other sculling. The race was very close, but the ladies carried the day over their men competitors.

THE annual Yorkshire Cross-Country Championship was held at Halifax on January 31st, under wretched conditions, the track being in places a foot deep in snow. The distance was eight miles, to negotiate which the course had to be covered eight times, while there were also three hurdles to each lap. A most exciting race was witnessed by about a thousand spectators. Holmes and Carnelly, of the Bradford Trinity team, made the running for a couple of laps, when the former losing both shoes retired, Ingham, of Halifax, then went up to Carnelly, and the two ran away from the field. At the last lap the Halifax man was quite 200 yards in front, but Carnelly quickly made this up and got home first by a good hundred yards. Ingham was second; Pounds, of Bradford, Trinity H., third. The winner's time was 49min. 1sec. Going in a foot of snow must have been somewhat heavy.

THE football match, Blackheath v. Richmond (Rugby), was watched in England on January 31 by a huge crowd, though the cold was dreadful, and snow fell during the afternoon. The old antagonists met at Richmond to play the return match. As will be remembered by most, the first engagement between these clubs this season resulted in a crushing defeat of Richmond. Wood kicked off for Blackheath, and almost the first noticeable piece of play was made by D'Arcy Thompson, a fine run, which Marshal supplemented with one equally good, scoring a try for Blackheath; Wood making it into five points. The visitors' forwards, with Wood to lead them, had matters pretty well their own way, carrying the tight packs, and being vastly superior in the loose. From some loose play Palmer got hold, and quickly registered a try with two, Wood failing at the place. After good runs by Taber and Montgomery the latter ran in, but failed to add the major point. Towards the close of the first-half Montgomery and Taber made repeated fine runs, but failed to increase their score. The second half was void of interest, save from a Blackheath point of view, Richmond falling to pieces completely.

Woods dropped a fine penalty goal, and tries were obtained by W. A. Thompson, Fegan, Hubbard, and Jones, out of which Woods converted three, leaving Blackheath easy winners by five goals and two tries to one try.



Price and Co., photo., Wellington.  
MR J. B. SPEED,  
Secretary Wellington R.C.

In the Wellington Rowing Club, whose successful season now draws near its close, there is no more popular or useful member than Mr J. B. Speed, for some years secretary and regatta coach to the club. The last year's season of the club was most satisfactory, and the ball they gave is still talked of in Wellington.

By telegram I hear that the annual sports of the Dunedin Boys' High School were held on Saturday at Carisbrook, and were a great success. Fine weather prevailed, and there was a large attendance of friends and relatives of the boys. Entries were numerous, and events generally well contested. In the outside events W. A. Lowe was most successful, winning everything he started for. He won the Old Boys' 100 yard race from scratch, also the 220 yards for members of the D.A.A.C. He had not entered for the Old Boys' Half-mile race, but ran it merely to try and break the record. This he failed to do, but won the race, however, from scratch in 2min 15secs.

THE following are the results of each competition:—  
Throwing the cricket ball: Scott, 88yds, 1st; Williams, 2nd. High Jump: Scott, 5ft 4in, 1st; Williams, 2nd. Long Jump: C. Williams, 15ft 3in, 1st; Scott, 2nd. Long

Jump (for juniors): Siedeberg, 1st; Brown, 2nd. 100yds. (under thirteen): Maitland, 1st; Marks, 2nd. Half Mile: Williams, 1st; Gregg, 2nd. 100yds. (under sixteen): R. Gregg, 1st; Stephens, 2nd. 100yds. open: C. Gregg, 1st; E. Williams, 2nd. 220yds. (D.A.A.C.): Lowe (scratch), 1st; Parlane, 2nd. 220yds. Koyse, 1st; Macassey, 2nd. 100yds., Old Boys: Lowe, 1st; Nicholson, 2nd.; time, 11secs. One Mile Walking: McDougall, 1st.; Macassey, 2nd. 150yds., Carisbrook C.C.: G. M. Bell, 1st.; Fisher, 2nd, time, 16 2 5/8 secs. Quarter-mile open: Adams, 1st; Gregg, 2nd. 120 Hurdles: E. Williams, 1st; Roberts, 2nd. Mile Handicap: C. Williams, 1st; Howe, 2nd. Quarter Mile (under fifteen): Hotop, 1; Siedeberg, 2nd. 150 Yards Open: Koyse, 1st; Gregg, 2nd. Half-Mile (old boys): Holmes, 1st; Landels, 2nd. 250 Yards Consolation: Fulton, 1st; Stephens, 2nd.

CHRISTCHURCH MUSICAL SOCIETY.

THE Christchurch Musical Society, after a struggle for some years against adverse circumstances, seems to be making a gigantic effort to right itself. We hear the lately-appointed secretary, Mr T. Garrard, is full of energy and tact, and worked very successfully some years ago for a kindred society in Wellington. The year has started well by clearing off £32 of the old debt, the proceeds of the ladies' leap year concert being devoted to this end. It is also intended to popularise the concerts, while studying to cultivate the taste for good music, to vary the concerts by giving one or two miscellaneous ones during the season. An open night is to be instituted the first Tuesday in every month, when after an hour's practice, songs, duets, and solos will be given by the performers, so that new talent may be discovered. This example might well be followed by other societies. There is, no doubt, plenty of talent lying dormant. It is too much the practice to run a willing horse to death, this no doubt often being done to save the conductor trouble in working up young recruits. On these nights a member may introduce one friend by ticket from the Secretary. The new President, Mr Justice Danniston, is apparently taking much interest in its welfare, and we wish them success.

FAIR YEARS OF CHILDHOOD.

FAIR years of childhood, as ye now recede  
Further and further, dearer love I you:  
O ye are tainted with a rosy hue!  
Fair years of childhood, how my heart must bleed  
Because ye ne'er return. O, fair indeed  
Were these bright years—alas! I never knew  
How fair ye were, how innocent and true.  
Blithely the days sped on by brook and mead,  
And gentle friends were round me every day.  
I dreamt of the great world that lay afar,  
I heard the march, the tread, the clang of war:  
I saw the glittering pageants in my play.  
Vision of childhood! come again once more,  
And manhood's cares shall fly and all this weary lore.  
ANDREW M. LANG.

A CITY OF TRAGEDIES.

CONSTANTINOPLE is the place *par excellence* for mysterious tragedies, and, incredible as it may appear at the close of this matter of fact and nineteenth century, great men of European reputation are put out of the world almost every day without attracting any unusual attention. The last victim has been Ali Saib Pasha, Minister of War, who the day before his death had a long interview with the Sultan, partaking of several cups of coffee at the palace. A few hours later he was found a corpse at his own house. Some say that it was a case of suicide, but the latter is a crime which is absolutely repulsive to every true believer in the Prophet. Others again say that he died of heart disease, while the majority allege that his death was due either to a cup of coffee or a bowstring. He is but one of a number of prominent statesmen who have thus come to an untimely end.

To this day no one knows what has become of Midhat Pasha, at one time Prime Minister and famed throughout Europe as the most enlightened of Oriental statesmen. The last heard of him was that he had died in exile at Mecca. An equal mystery surrounds the present condition both of the ex Khedive Ismail of Egypt and the ex Sultan Murad. The death of both has frequently been rumoured throughout the city, while if they are alive their fate is but little better, for they are close prisoners in the palaces which have been allotted to them.

Grave doubt exists as to whether Murad has ever been seriously insane, and it is popularly believed that he was merely declared demented and incapable of governing because the Sheik U Is lam, together with the Sultas, was convinced that he was about to inaugurate all kinds of western reforms. The present Sultan's tenure of the throne depends entirely on the mental condition of his predecessor. For if the Sheik U Is lam were to declare to-morrow that Murad had recovered his senses Abdul Hamid's prestige and authority, both spiritual and temporal, would be at an end. Under the circumstances it is scarcely surprising that the Sultan should look forward with feelings of relief to the eventuality of Murad's death.



Wrightson & Binns, photo., Wellington.  
A. C. REAUCHAMP, Trainer. W. H. ARNOTT,  
Champion Professional Hurdle Racer.