

GENERAL NEWS:

LATE SPORTING.

After lasting four days the hearing of the Wellington case, Chapple v. Plimmer, was concluded before the Magistrate on May 13. The evidence has attracted considerable local attention. The plaintiff in the case, Dr. W. A. Chapple, claimed from John Plimmer, widely known as the "Father of Wellington," the sum of £188 for professional services, and Plimmer counter claimed for £200 damages for alleged unskillful practice and undue influence. It was alleged in support of the counter claim that Dr. Chapple had acted in an unskillful manner in subjecting Plimmer, who is 92 years of age, to continual hypodermic injections of morphia and atropine. Evidence was called in support of this, but on the other hand other doctors supported Dr. Chapple's treatment. It was further alleged that Dr. Chapple had exercised undue influence over defendant in regard to certain land speculations. The evidence on all points was very voluminous. Judgment was reserved.

The Auckland Harbour Board has adopted plans for the proposed wharf for the cable steamer Iris at Devonport, between the Calliope Dock and the Victoria Wharf. The site originally selected was found to be too close to the dock, the western dolphin being within 300ft of the entrance, at a point frequently sailed over by large vessels when being docked or undocked. The site was therefore moved some 300ft to the eastward, and the construction of the jetty will be undertaken without delay. A narrow wharf, with a tee on the end, and a shed for storing materials, provisions, etc., will be built, and the vessel will make this her permanent mooring-place, the men having the advantage of the Admiralty Reserve as an exercise ground.

There has been trouble among the congregation of an Anglican church in Newtown (Wellington) over the attitude of the vicar, who decided upon the lighting of candles in the church, and eventually carried it into practice. A section of the congregation, including the vestrymen, protested against the vicar's action, and Bishop Wallis was deputationised and memorialised with a view of bringing the clergyman into line with their views. Anxious to avoid disruption in the congregation, the bishop counselled conciliatory measures, at the same time intimating that it was a matter in which he had no jurisdiction. The malcontents took a firm stand, and rather than follow the vicar in his alleged ritualistic practices preferred to transfer their allegiance to other churches in the district. A large following has sided with the vicar, who with a broad new set of vestrymen elected at the annual meeting of the congregation last week has got the affairs of the church working smoothly once more.

The recent hospital Saturday outdoor collection of £4124 in Sydney had many interesting side issues. For one thing it kept employed the whole staff of the Bank of New South Wales from early morning till after midnight. At the head office, 141 officers and eleven messengers gave up their Saturday gratuitously to the movement; no fewer than 55 were on duty at the branch offices, making a total of 207 all told. At the head office, an aggregate of £3345 passed through the tellers' hands; but the amount did not matter much, as the bank premises had to be kept open. An analysis of the £70,000 coins which passed from the public pocket to the collecting boxes on Saturday seems to indicate that the discerning man in the street has permanently fallen back, as a last resort, upon the copper currency. Out of the total receipts, copper coins constituted more than one-fourth, and this little lot weighed nearly three tons in the aggregate. There were a few bright new farthings in the copper department, most of which appear to have been extracted from sovereign purses, with a lordly air of munificence. The collectors found out their mistake at the bank, too late. At the other end of the scale it is recorded that cheques for £50, £20, £10, £5, and £1 were deposited in the boxes, to say nothing of 283 separate sovereigns—real gold sovereigns.

Lovers of a good horse will be pleased to learn that Achilles is himself once more, having recovered from his influenza trouble.

Seaton Delaval retains his place at the head of the list of sires of winning two-year-olds for this season.

Rejiskib must take a high place amongst the winning sires this season. He has had a large number of winners of various ages.

Regulation is said to be doing good work at Hawera, and may be hard to beat in the Connolly Handicap at Waunganui.

Madrigal's connections are said to have had a fair win when that mare won the Hawke's Bay Cup.

Durable and Maro arrived on Tuesday morning from New Plymouth to fulfil their engagements at Takapoua.

The long-raced First Shot looks as ever—green as in the 11 years ago, and ran two races at Ashburton in better form than he has displayed for a very long time.

Orloff, who went lame last spring while in Australia, is doing steady work again at Yuhkurst, and it is thought may stand another preparation.

Silkworm has been doing schooling work over fences at Waunganui, but is rather slow over these obstacles, as he always has been over hurdles.

Mr R. Patterson, owner of the South-Problem filly South, gave solid support to his filly when she won at Hastings last week, and as a result had a solid win.

White schooling at New Plymouth on Monday morning Pharon pulled up lame, and will not be able to start at Waunganui or Auckland meetings.

Mr F. Martin, the owner of Benefactor, is away for a trip to Germany, and will not learn of the decision of the judges of the Appeal Court against him in the Tabinia Cup for some time.

Ostlak has been tried to jump since his new owner purchased him, and it will be seen shortly how his trainer views his prospects, for there are plenty of good jumping prizes in sight.

Exmoor and Black Reynard are both reckoned to have fair winning prospects in the Connolly Handicap, though both would be better suited to a shorter course than a mile and a distance.

A. Hall was engaged to ride Slow Tom in his Auckland engagements, but was not required at Otaki, so it is probable that the services of another horseman will be secured.

Sam Higgett, who used to train The Peer, Patriarch, and Minerva, is still located at Riccarton, and leases his boxes to his trainers, but does not follow his profession now.

As a result of striking a hurdle while schooling at Hivera in company with Limeshow, the jumper Havana injured one of his hind legs, which will, it is thought, not prevent him starting at Waunganui.

Mr H. Fitchender will have 15 yearlings in the sale list next spring, most of them by Finland, though Seaton Delaval, Francisco, Fortunoso, and Explosion are also represented.

Half-brother, the New Zealand Cup winner of 1902, is doing good work at Waunganui, and there are many unlikely things than seeing him returned a winner during the winter months.

Reduction, who raced in the Ashburton R.C. pony events last week, is a daughter of Moderation, but her success was not generally anticipated in the prohibition district.

During my trip South last week I saw several promising yearlings and foals by the Carter horse, the jumper Alby, by this sire from Pleasure-seeker, rising two years old, looks likely to race with credit.

Though there was no great merit in Rose-shorn's win at Hawke's Bay, his performance was sufficiently impressive to satisfy most of those who witnessed it that he will prove good at the game.

Sardonyx, the Saracen—Leoline gelding that raced at Avondale recently without success, was taken from Gisborne to Hawke's Bay, where he won two races. Mr P. Hawker purchased him for £175 after he had won the first, on behalf of J. Gravestock, by training him with his own horse, Gravestock's name in his second race.

It is believed in some quarters that more than one of the hurdle horses that ran at Hawke's Bay were out for a "look on" in view of events further afield. An observant visitor remarked to the writer that horses should be given their schooling in private.

Since being placed in E. Tilly's hands, Krenlim, who was purchased by Mr Dupuis Thompson, has been schooled over the batteries, and shaped very well for a beginner. The ancient Rubenski gelding Goldspur looked as if he were going to win the Ashburton on Thursday last, and can still gallop fast.

The Southern-bred gelding Slow Tom will likely be brought to Auckland by F. Holmes, who trained Liberator, and rode that gelding in his races in Auckland some years ago. Tazart is busy breaking a number of yearlings for Mr Reid, and may not be able to make the journey North himself.

The defeat of Machine Gun by Boris in the Hawke's Bay Stakes only emphasises what I have repeatedly said about the son of Horekiss, that he cannot get a distance beyond five furlongs where the opposition is first class. In ordinary company six fur-

longs is not beyond him. It is a great pity that such an otherwise fine colt should be affected in his wind, for he is master of weight.

The Hawke's Bay Jockey Club have caused to be highly pleased at the success of their recent meeting. Let us hope that it marks a turning point in the tide of adversity which has so long perturbed them. The next meeting, the winter steeplechase fixture, comes rather close, perhaps, but it is evident from the nomination list that the meeting will be well patronised by owners. Durable and Maro are a pair of horses that have travelled between New Plymouth and Onehunga more often probably than any others that have raced, and have become quite accustomed to being shipped and have never had a really bad sea-trip between the two ports, but on one occasion last winter a bad passage was experienced between Wellington and Lyttelton, and Durable was the only horse that came through unscathed, while Maro, who is now a very hard, and it would appear that Mr George's horses are well named.

The statistics showing the winnings of the two year olds during the past season should be interesting, when they make their appearance, but they can be anticipated to the extent of saying that the Auckland-bred colt Silkworm, half brother to Hokooro, will have a substantial lead in stake earnings over other yearlings, his winning money to close on £1800. Stronghold, a less brilliant but a useful colt, comes next with something over £1000 to his credit, and after him the good-looking Golden Lily, the first of Multiflor's progeny. Then comes Boris, a son of Sphynx, who had fewer opportunities than most of his age. Tessera, Aliso, and Beau Seaton follow in order of windings. As to merit, there is no doubt that Silkworm owes his place to his excellent and auspicious start, but his age has what he has performed, and there is no doubt that he would have added to his fame had not an accident sent him into retirement. A number of promising colts have not raced at all, and others have raced but little, and it is possible some fair horses may develop from the juvenile ranks, but take them as a whole, their form has not been high class.

Durus, the dam of Lasting, Durable, Maro, and Matarua has had ten foals in ten years, and the four named are the only ones that have raced. Lasting dropped dead while racing at Hawera two years ago, and her progeny by Vanguard and Australian died respectively at a few days and four days of age, and a foal by Sylvia died at Napakura. Mr George has a three-year-old full sister and a two-year-old full brother to Durable, and a colt foal by Soul from the mare, who is certainly the most successful of mares got by the Tugal Cahn horse Armorer, and a lucky mare, successfully over all distances up to two miles. Conduite, dam of Durus, had eleven foals, ten of which raced, and nine of the number with success, the other not yet having been tried in public. Her records these for the family. Elter, dam of Conduite, was a prolific mare, and left quite a number of winners also.

Those who invest money through totalisator departments on meetings far afield should display the utmost care in writing clear instructions, but one is constantly hearing of cases which make it abundantly clear that "binary care is not always of caken," and the inevitable result is that heart burnings follow, and people who make mistakes blame everyone but themselves, who are most unwarrantably at fault. Some instances may be mentioned. Two black geldings recently wired the secretary of a racing club to invest £5 for them on a certain horse for the Andrew's Handicap. The horse was engaged in more than one race, but no race called the Andrew's Handicap, the secretary promptly wired asking the sender of the money for the name of the race he wished the amount invested on, but having left by train for another district for a blissful ignorance of the fact the money was not on, the sender imagined that he was some £35 in credit with the club, and on learning that his fancy had won, and deciding to play up part of the winnings on another club, the second day he wired his instructions for various horses for various races, adding money in hand. The club certainly had £5 in hand, but not sufficient to put on all the horses, and wired back to that effect, and awaited instructions. The wire did not reach the office of the secretary, who had returned to his home by train. Some of the horses won, and results becoming known to the investor who was acting, himself and a friend, there was much jubilation. In due course both wires reached him, and fancying that they had been wrongly dealt with, they got to town with all speed, and besought the totalisator department head of the club, and there received undoubted proof of the fact that they had not been dealt with as they wished, and they were forced to admit that it was all their own fault that they were not very considerably in pocket instead of being expected out of pocket. Another case with another club, the same punter who was fancied a horse for a hurdle race, and sent a letter with ten pounds to be invested on it. The letter did not reach the secretary till the morning of the second day, and he did not mentionly find or send the race. The horse had won the hurdle race on the first day, and the money went on the second day, when it ran and lost. This was bad luck on the punter, of course, as he had to wait till the second day for the horse to arrive in time. The secretary was not blamed in the matter, whereas any blame was attachable elsewhere. The punter lost his £10, and should have won £20. In the Commission a telegram was mutilated through the sender's writing of the words "and four" being read, and sent as "you," and a good dividend was thus lost.

Current Verse.

When Yer Ma an' Me Got Tied.

(T. R. ANDREWS.)

They wa'n't no fuss an' feathers, an' their wa'n't no great parade, Ner ther wa'n't no weddin'-breakfast, ner no weddin'-marthen played, It wa'n't no High Noon weddin'; 'twas dark as Bambo's hide, 'Cause yer grandad wa'n't invited when yer ma an' me got tied. They wa'n't no string o' kerriages lined up in front to do the deed, But jes' my old red sulky with th' gray, Durc hitched afore; An' yer ma slid down a bed-cord while I held my arms out wide So's to catch her ef she stumblid, when yer ma an' me got tied. We didn't give no invites, an' ther' wa'n't no kinfolk there, But you couldn't jes' have called it a quiet-like affair, Fer her dad wa'n't far behind us, an' th' gray mare like to died. A-scootin' fer th' parson's when yer ma an' me got tied. Th' parson didn't wear no robe, nor none too many clo'es, Jes' pants an' coat an' night-cap an' th' specs upon his nose; An' some folks of his was present, so's it couldn't be denied That th' thing was did all hunky when yer ma an' me got tied. They wa'n't nobody weepin' ner a-shakin' hands around, But jes' about th' finish ther' come a smasulin' sound, An' yer grandad struck th' weddin' jes' 'm to time to kiss the bride. An' his langwidge—it was awful, when yer ma an' me got tied.

When We Must Part.

(MARTHA S. LIPPINCOTT.)

When you must pass beyond, dear heart, Into the realms above, Will you then sometimes think of me, And of our endless love? Oh! will our spirits still commune And seem to e'er be near? Unless 'tis thus, oh, how can I E'er be resigned, my dear? The world will, oh! so lonely be, When you are not around. No happiness for my sad heart On earth can then be found. Oh! how the thought of parting, love My soul with anguish fills; 'Tis hard to feel that it is all As our dear Father wills. We wonder why two hearts in one Cruel death must separate, And why to both go home at once Could not be love's best fate. No, no! our spirits cannot part; Sweet memories remain To keep you in my heart, till both Shall live eternal gain.

Epitaph.

(J. E. BAITON.)

The field where men for little trophies vie, The hollow acclamation lightly won, Allured him not; he loved the quiet sky, Wide spaces, and the universal sun. His spirit, native to the mountain air, Stumbled through marshy valleys down to death; Broken in frame, he smiled to cheat despair And strove to sing with him, impeded breath. He lies beneath; in life he vainly tried To breathe large notes upon a flute too slim; Unfettered captives filled him till he died; Pray for his soul; his songs are dead with him.

Arrangements have been completed by the New South Wales Government (says an exchange) for the warship Dart to act as tender to the training ship Sobraon. The Dart is well known on the Australian station as surveying ship. She will be loaned by the Admiralty to the New South Wales Government, and will be handed over in the course of a few days. Executive officers will be appointed, and the Dart will be manned chiefly by boys from the Sobraon. It is intended to make periodical trips off the coast with the lads, the object being to afford them the necessary training to fit them for the mercantile marine. The Dart was originally an English gentleman's yacht, and was purchased by the Admiralty for surveying purposes. She is a schooner-rigged vessel of 470 tons.