

born are loath even to grant it that. They hold with the pertinacity of conviction that in the matter of the appendix the safe side is the outside. The doctor are as ready as so many Supreme Court Justices to grant certificates of reasonable doubt as to the docility of the appendix. That is all the surgeons require. Out it comes. They tell you they never knew an appendix that was once successfully removed, to do anybody any harm, whereas in many instances appendices that were left in have made trouble. I heard a big healthy surgeon say the other day that if he were going on a long trip—say around the world—he would seriously consider the expediency of having his appendix out, merely to reduce the chances of being sick in an inconvenient place. That the appendix is of any physiological use, or is anything better than a little stick of dynamite awaiting detonation, they have no idea.

Lacking all authority that comes from technical knowledge, you or I cannot argue with the medical brethren about it, nor would we hesitate to be guided by their judgment if our own appendix got to aching. But I do not believe that the appendix is having fair treatment, or that in twenty years from now the detail of evisceration which deals with it will be so popular as it is at present. That individuals may have physical defects which surgery can relieve, we all know, but it is quite credible that all human creatures, fashioned, as we are still taught to believe, in the image of their Maker, have this universal defect of an unnecessary and irresponsible little gut which exists only to make trouble? A London doctor, Sir William MacEwen, said to be a man of high distinction in his profession, is cited as having come out in defence of the appendix, and in contradiction of the idea that it is wholly bad. He expresses conviction that it has an important function in assisting digestion, and is the favourite home of micro-organisms which are particularly useful in attacking imperfectly assimilated nourishment. These opinions sound respectable. Everyone should be glad Sir William has avowed them. If he can establish their validity it will be a useful public service. The appendix operation is comparatively new. There has not been time yet to establish the fact so confidently asserted, that a man without an appendix is a better man than one who has one. I don't believe he is quite so good a man—so there!

The Vogue of Skating.

Roller-skating is undoubtedly the "craze" of the moment in Auckland, to use a word very much affected by the

young person of to-day. If anything has a somewhat pronounced vogue the young person calls it a "craze," which is the favourite word in her vocabulary of slangy exaggeration. "Excitement" runs it very closely however. The coming party, ball or what not, is referred to by her in her own expressive way as "the next excitement." How one would like to hear a certain Dr. Trench, some time Dean of Winchester, on this modern application of these two words. But to return to skating. In spite of the fact that it is summer, and particularly summery at that, the rink is filled nightly with citizens of renown and otherwise, all ardently following this essentially winter pastime. "Alike all ages." Not only do the young and thoughtless struggle vigorously with the elusive skate, which always wants to go in the other direction, but "dames of ancient days" and their worse halves shoot in and out among the small fry with spasmodic and unaccustomed, and often unexpected, velocity. One devotee in particular earned my unqualified admiration—for her pertinacity. I would not like to say she "frisked beneath the burden of three score," but she was within a pound or two of it, in sporting parlance. I don't know which were the more praiseworthy—her attempts to acquire the graceful art at her time of life, or the attempts of the perspiring attendant to maintain his own perpendicular and that of his fair but bulky partner. Yes, they are all bitten very badly, from the busy professional gentleman and staid man of business down to the young thing who gurgles, "Oh, I know I shall fail" about fifteen times every round, and proves her words twice as often. It has one advantage, however—it makes people perfectly natural. You can't fix your attention on the vagaries of eight wheels, which evince a strong desire to lake as many, if not more, different direction at one and the same time, with a leave-the-floor-together feeling thrown in, and wrap yourself up in that cold mantle of dignity which is so essentially English. Another point in favour of this new pastime—or, rather, the recrudescence of a very old one—is that it makes people more handy with their feet, to use a Mr. Doolleyism. If you have once learned to skate, you can always rest assured you walk better, and that you run less risk from losing your equilibrium when your heel makes the acquaintance of a lurking banana peel.



RACING FIXTURES.

March 1—Tukano Racing Club Annual.
 March 2 and 3—Wanganui J.C. Autumn.
 March 3 and 4—Westport J.C. Autumn.
 March 7—Akaroa County J.C. Annual.
 March 11—Nairn J.C. Annual.
 March 17 and 18—Obitnemard Jockey Club Annual.
 March 18—Northern Waera R.C. Autumn.
 March 30 and April 1—Wellington R.C. Autumn.
 April 1 and 5—Aronvale J.C. Autumn.
 April 23, 24, 25—Auckland R.C. Autumn.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Manukau."—Armitage was not a starter in the last Egmont Cup.
 The South Auckland Racing Club's annual meeting takes place next Saturday.
 W. Kirk rode six winners out of seven races at the Waikato meeting on one day.
 Madeline Gun is in work for the Manawatu Stakes, and is said to be doing well.
 General Average, Strathavon, and Poly-tactis have been scratched for all engagements.
 For winter the Dunedin Cup Ghoocha has been raised 90 in the Wanganui Cup, the weight now being 7st 10lb.

In England this year H. Marsh is training eighteen horses for King Edward. Half of them are by Persimmon.

Strathavon has been enjoying a few days' spell at his owner's place at Otahuhu before going back to J. Rae's.

J. Cuafo, jun., brought back with him from New Plymouth a three year old filly by St. Clements.

Hakaria and The Needle were brought back from Christchurch Sunday, after their successful trip to that district.

Notorious did not return from New Plymouth as stated. He is to go on to Wanganui to fulfil his engagements there.

The course at Rotoura was very fast, and some good times were recorded in consequence.

Lady Love, the well-known trotting mare, has been presented by her late owner to W. A. Scott, the well-known trainer.

I have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of complimentary tickets for the Tukano and South Auckland meetings.

Lady French has been leased by her owner, Mr. A. Hughes, to Mrs. Tolson, wife of the well-known trainer, T. Colton.

Miss Lottie was very sore after her exertions in the Rotoura Cup, and was unable to start on the second day of the meeting.

Two well-known local penitentiaries are billed to engage in a wrestling match, catch-as-catch-can style, at the Devonport Fair to-night.

King Edward has secured a nomination for Flying Fox, and one of his mares is to be mated with St. E. Blanc's champion stallion this season.

Mr. Brady, who came into conflict with the stewards of the Otahuhu Trotting Club last Wednesday, is a farmer at Otahuhu, and not a trainer.

A large number of Aucklanders who were present at the Rotoura meeting stopped at Okoroire on the way down to attend the Okoroire races, which are being held to-day.

The King's steeplechaser Ambush II. dropped dead while being exercised. Ambush II. won the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase in 1900.

Mr. R. Armitage purchased a two-year-old colt by Daystar during his visit to New Plymouth. The youngster was brought from the South last Saturday.

Mr. B. Armitage disposed of Miss Alice the Egmont Racing Club's summer meeting. Mr. Cooper was the purchaser, but the price paid did not transpire.

Numa changed hands during the progress of the Egmont Racing Club's meeting. He ran in A. Hall's nomination in the Normanby Welter, in which he ran second.

Golden Hands cut herself badly while contesting the Railway Handicap on the opening day of the Rotoura meeting, and had to be withdrawn from her engagements on the second day.

Idana's name was wired through by the Press Association as running second to Chola in the Normanby Welter, but this was an error, as Numa filled that position, Idana being third.

Golden Vein, whose name was accidentally omitted from the list of horses weighted for the Stewards' Handicap at the Wanganui meeting, has been allotted 9st 2lb.

Kilney Pal, who has been made favourite Gane after time in various events at Epsom, has at last managed to win a race, she accounting for the Pony Trot on the opening day of the O.T.C. Meeting.

Bookmakers doing business at Epsom on the opening day of the Otahuhu Trotting Club's summer meeting were badly worsted by the punters. It is stated that it would take £1000 to cover their losses on the day's business.

The connections of the Auckland mare, Lady Annie, were asked by the stewards of the Egmont Racing Club to explain that mare's running in the Waimate Handicap on the second day of the meeting. The explanation was considered satisfactory.

The Sydney mare Laybreak gave a greatly improved display in the Otahuhu Trotting Cup, which she won, to what she showed in her essays at the Auckland Trotting Club's meeting at Christmas time. Probably she is thoroughly acclimatized now.

Out of respect to the memory of the late Mr. George Richardson, whose death took place on Tuesday last week at Napier, horsemen and trainers were urged during the progress of the Poverty Bay Turf Club's meeting.

Mr. D. McKinnon sold his promising three-year-old filly during the progress of the Rotoura meeting. The purchaser was a Mr. Schmidt, and the price paid 300 guineas. He goes into D. Moran's stable.

V.S., an good black pointer by Viking, was nearly bringing off a surprise in the Maiden Trot at the Otahuhu Meeting. Had he trotted kindly instead of running all over the course, he probably would have won.

In London last month the owner of a racehorse was sued for £8, which included £4 for champagne supplied to the horse. A defence under the Tipping Act of 1751 was put in, and Judge Gwynne struck out the price of the champagne.

Fashionable, who has not raced for two or three months, was on the scene again at the Otahuhu Meeting. Fashionable, who is looking a lot lighter than he has ever seen him, was the favourite for the Pony Cup, but could not get nearer than third.

Pearl Keckle's absence from the Egmont meeting was due to the mare badly straining herself on the near side of the hind end. She had had luck also with San Paulo, the little son of St. Paul wrenching his knee on the eve of the meeting, which necessitated his withdrawal from his engagements.

The Tukano Racing Club's annual meeting takes place next Wednesday. March 1. Good acceptances have been received, and the gathering promises to be a successful one. A special train has been arranged for, particulars of which will be found in our advertising column.

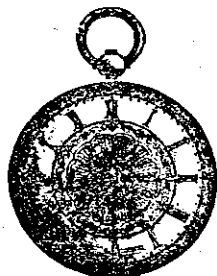
Though Secret Society finished second to Pallas in the Dunedin Jockey Club Handicap, that gelding is sadly out of form, as Pallas conceded him the 2000 Guineas, and Pallas, however, putting up a fine performance, one of the best of his useful racing career.

The announcement that His Majesty has purchased the Grand National winner of 1904, from Mr. S. H. Gillan, has a particular interest for New Zealanders, since Madras was bred in this colony. That carry the Royal colours of our King will credit will be the wish of every true sportsman.

Notwithstanding the big counter-attraction in the form of the band's camp on Saturday, at which it was estimated there were 20,000 people present, the amount put through the machines on the opening day of the Otahuhu Trotting Club's meeting was nearly equal to that of the corresponding day last year.

A Gisborne horseowner, who is very popular, was receiving congratulations from friends at a bit of unexpected luck that came his way, when another owner came on the scene and remarked, "And what a big dividend his horse paid." "Yes," said the owner of the winner, "it was a fine dividend, but then I only win at long intervals, and your horses win often."

Frank Ross suffered a severe loss by the death of St. Rowan, who broke his neck when he fell at Rotoura. St. Rowan was a useful horse for country meetings, and occasionally picked up a stake on the metropolitan courses, and his loss, coming at a time when the country gatherings are



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