

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT

A Famous Punch Artist.

The work of Mr Edward Tennyson Reed, the "Punch" artist, is quite as well-known to many colonial admirers of that journal as to Home readers.

He has a delightful personality. So boyish, so unaffected, so mirthful, he is so thoroughly bon enfant, as the French well put it, that his great personal popularity, apart from that of his work, is neither a matter for wonder

nor for exaggeration. Laughter is never absent when the author of "Prehistoric Peeps" is present.

In 1889 a friend of his happened to know that Mr "Punch" was looking out for a clever young caricaturist, and mentioned Mr Reed's name to Mr Linley Sambourne as that of a likely man. "Well," said Mr Sambourne, "I have known Reed for some years, but I did not know he could draw. However, tell him to send along some sketches and I'll have a look at them." Some seven or eight months later Mr Reed had a seat at Mr "Punch's" famous round-table—I believe the most rapid promotion in the annals of the paper. In the Christmas number of "Punch" for 1893 Mr Reed began the world-famous series of "Prehistoric Peeps," the idea of which grew out of one of a totally opposite nature. His original idea was to do a prophetic series of things as they will be thousands of years hence, but he found he could not work it out to his satisfaction. Then one day, pottering about a museum—a dissipation to which he is given—he had the happy thought of reversing his original intention, and the rest is, in a sense, "prehistoric history."

Great as was the success of "Prehistoric Peeps," it did not bring its author unmixed joy. Learned societies took him quite seriously as a prehistoric authority, and wanted him to read them papers. Then at dinners and other functions Mr Reed used to find great scientists sidling up to him and asking with portentous gravity whether he thought the ichthyosaurus had a vermiform appendix, or some such paralyzing question. As a matter of fact, while Mr Reed is fond of natural history, he says he is certain that there is none who knows less about the prehistoric period than himself.

Of recent years Mr Reed has been lecturing with great success on his work as a caricaturist, and has some delightful stories of his experiences while travelling about from town to town. On one occasion after lecturing at Bradford he was on his way to Dundee. In the carriage with him was a shrew, ferret-eyed little man who showed a great curiosity as to Mr Reed's identity by peeping slyly at his small baggage to see if there was any name on the label, and so on. At last the inquisitive stranger retired behind a newspaper only to emerge presently with the rather sudden remark, "Now I know who you are!" "Indeed," said Mr Reed. "Yes; I have just been reading your lecture," said the little man—a local newspaper with a marvellous ditto, recognisable portrait of Mr Reed had "given the show away." The little man wanted to know where Mr Reed was bound for, and when he learned that it was to Dundee he exclaimed, "That's strange! I'm going there myself. I run a music-hall there." Then he remarked in caustic terms upon the preference of Dundee folk for walking about at night to sitting in his music-hall, and of a sudden became very gloomy. The thought, which he at once expressed, had struck him that his audience would be still further diminished by Mr Reed's arrival. Ab-

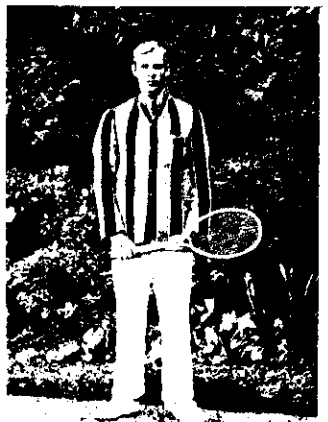
COLONIALS AT THE ALL-ENGLAND LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.



N. E. BROOKES. Singles Champion of Victoria, and probably the finest singles player in Australasia.



A. W. DUNLOP. Another Victorian representative. For many years one of the champion players of Australia. Dunlop is a New Zealander, being a member of a well known athletic family of Christchurch.



A. F. WILDING. Son of F. Wilding, the well known Christchurch athlete.



ADDRESS PRESENTED TO MR. SKYNNER BY THE INMATES OF THE COSTLEY HOME, AUCKLAND,

of which institution he has just resigned the management. This address was illuminated, engrossed and framed by inmates. Mr. Skynner was entertained by members of the Charitable Aid Board, and was also the recipient of several other presentations.