

cher, T. Smith, Kyrke, Williams, Green. Metropolitan: Fullback, Verge; three-quarters, Luscombe, Farnworth, Luddy, Burton; halves, Corbett, Matthews; forwards, Clarkson, Dibley, Fitzhardinge, Burge, Eagar, John Hughes, Ritchie, and Bullock.

Canterbury v. Southland.

CHRISTCHURCH, Saturday.

The Canterbury and Southland teams met to-day on a good ground in fine weather. In the first spell Southland held the upper hand in forwards, especially on the line-out, but their good work was checked by long kicking. The Canterbury backs handled the ball very cleverly, and Fryer scored two tries; after smart passing rushes. Towards the end of the spell the Canterbury forwards rallied, and, after repeated attempts, Gathorne added the third try.

In the second spell, Canterbury had all the better of the play, Southland rallies being good but spasmodic. The Canterbury forwards were getting the ball in the scrum and gave the backs every opportunity. Fuller scored and converted, and soon afterwards scored again. Southland then rallied, and Blackham and Pyle put in good runs, enabling Gennins to score between the posts. Glasgow converted. Fryer made splendid runs from the half-way and scored by himself, beating all opposition, and Deell converted. Canterbury eventually won by twenty-two to five.

Hawke's Bay v. Horowhenua.

NAPIER, Saturday.

Hawke's Bay defeated Horowhenua by 35 points to nil.

Dunedin Notes.

DUNEDIN, Saturday.

THE RUGBY FIXTURES.

A country week began to-day. Vincent beat Maniototo in all departments of the game, winning by 22 to 6. Vincent's play, both in the back and forward divisions, was quite equal to the best seen this season. Varcoe played a great game at five-eighths, and was conspicuous at centre three-quarter. North Otago (10) beat South Otago (3). It was a very poor game. North Otago won by the superiority of their forwards. The back play on both sides was disappointing.

ASSOCIATION.

The Association senior results are:—Mornington A (1 goal) v. Maori Hill (0); Southern (6) v. Roslyn (3); Wai-kari (10) v. Mornington (3).

CRICKET.

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The World's Greatest Cricketers.

By

SIR HOME GORDON, BART.

DR. W. G. GRACE.

The Grand Old Man of the cricket field has now become some such sort of personality to cricketers as was Mr W. E. Gladstone in his closing years—a titan possessing almost undiminished powers. "I have not only played with the fathers, but in many cases with the grandfathers of those now appearing in first-class cricket." W.G. will tell you in his big cheery voice. Time has not staled his interest in cricket, and to-day he shows far more keenness than many prominent amateurs younger than his own sons. He is always first in the field, always alert.

Time has softened a few rufflings in the past. It used to be said that he showed forward his own favourites unduly, but he knew better than his critics; also that when captain he kept himself on bowing far too long. Now anno domini has more or less dismissed him in that department. He was a very crafty, often very dangerous bowler; but at least once in every over he used to send down a leg ball. This was destructive to novices, but men like Barnes, Abel, or Daft punished severely. Still, there is hardly a batsman who ever opposed W.G.'s bowling with comfort the first time he met it. As a field he used to be fine, though nowadays naturally "the Big 'Un," as he is affectionately called, has difficulty in getting down to the ball. As a batsman, the secret of his success was that he always met the ball pre-

cisely in the middle of his bat. No one has ever been truthfully able to say that W.G. edged the ball away to the boundary. No, he drove or cut it with equal skill, playing it for all it was worth. His timing has never been matched. Others may have made one stroke more their own; Mr C. B. Fry the strong drive, for instance; Mr L. C. Palairet the cut; K. S. Ranjitsinhji the leg glance; but Grace never had a particular stroke. They are all his, and they come with equal felicity. Long ago he was the hero of a hundred centuries. He scored a thousand runs in May, 1895, when 47 years of age, and he, years since, had exceeded an aggregate of 50,000 runs in first-class cricket. These things no man will ever again approach, bearing in mind what wickets he formerly played on. The most marvellous fact is that in his whole career he has never earned a pair of spectacles, though G. H. S. Trotter ought to have brought it off at Lords in M.C.C. v. Australia. W.G. says that by far the greatest bowler he ever met was Alfred Shaw, and it is a fact that he has always found more difficulty in playing slow than express deliveries, which never possessed any terrors for him.

Testimonials and presentations have obliterated all the questions connected with finance. If W.G. never made London County assume quite the importance in cricket he hoped, it has been a remarkable nursery for young cricketers, to many of whom, so far as the game is concerned, he has stood in loco parentis. No one ever encouraged budding talent more helpfully than this Anak of the game. Like Mr Burnup, W.G. has always been an all-round sportsman, having marked ability at heaving, hunting, bowls, running, hurdles, and football. He knows much about racing and has lately been rapidly reducing his handicap in golf. There never will be but one W.G., and he is the corner-stone of modern cricket, the man who popularised it with the million, making his name a household word.

HAIGH.

Schofield Haigh has been one of the modern pillars of Yorkshire cricket for 12 years. Like Wilfred Rhodes, he began cricket with engagements with Scotch clubs, and he has proved a great colleague to England's foremost bowler. It may be said that in years when Hirst is not at his best with the ball, Haigh is. Though he looks strong, the strain of a season has once or twice told on his skill, and for some time after his brilliant overture against the Australians in 1896, he hardly trained on. It was in 1900 that he leapt to the top of the tree.

"Schofy," as he is known to countless friends in the world of cricket, emphatically plays the game for his side. Few Yorkshiremen show the selfish cricket which is too often characteristic of other teams, and Haigh less almost than anyone. He is quite as pleased when Rhodes and Hirst come off as when it is his own day out, and he always impresses me as a bowler who works splendidly with the man in charge of the ball at the other end. In early days there can be no doubt that the tremendous plunge with which he made his delivery needed moderating. When this was done he bowled with greater comfort, though in the following year he was much troubled by his knees. The first time he went to South Africa, Haigh was terribly destructive, taking over a hundred wickets for only eight runs apiece. When he was dismissing Western Province with almost as much facility as though he were shelling peas, an enthusiastic Tommy in the crowd, as Captain Blouie went in, shouted, "Give him a chance, Haigh; he's an army man." However, the Yorkshireman bowled him neck and crop first ball. One of the trophies he brought home was a Kruger sovereign, presented to him by Mr. Abe Bailey.

Like Rhodes, Haigh has gradually trained on until he has become a capital bat. He plays hard on the ball, and has a dogged determination of the type that pulls a side out of a tight place.

In pace he is not quite a fast bowler, but he varies his speed well, and his very fast ball is sometimes a "ripper." His off break is, however, the most deadly, for he can on occasions pitch a ball outside the off stump and hit the leg one. For weeks Mr. J. J. Kelly, the Australian wicket-keeper, talked of the ball that bowled him at Sheffield on the last tour, and it is not easy to impress "Mother." Last year Haigh accomplished several fine performances, notably his 13 wickets for 40 runs in the Warwickshire match at Sheffield. His average for the season of 102 wickets at a cost of 12.82

brought him to second position in the first-class averages. There are few bowlers whose arm it is more interesting to sit behind. He is a general favourite, all the more liked because "he never puts on frills," and never shows slackness.

HOCKEY.

Wairarapa v. Nelson.

On Saturday, the hockey representatives of Wairarapa and Nelson met at Masterton, and the game resulted in a win for the Wairarapa team by one goal to nil. The game was uninteresting, no score being registered in the first spell, the only goal scored in the game being secured by Rue in the second spell. Nelson lost many chances through bad shooting. Poor combination was shown by Wairarapa, and their forwards did not pass well, while the backs, with the exception of Hall and Boyd, were weak.

Thames v. Auckland.

Great interest is being taken in the forthcoming shield match against Auckland on Saturday next, and the Thames players are determined to make a strenuous effort to secure the championship shield. The following team has been selected:—Atoa, Menzies, full-backs, Rockley and Driver; half-backs, J. Griffin, L. Whittaker, A. Brookes; forwards, Thompson, Martin, Grim, Brownlee, and Hosking. The forwards are a fast lot, and the backs hard hitters.

ATHLETICS.

Australasian Athletes Fall.

LONDON, July 8.

The New Zealand athlete, H. St. A. Murray, who is one of the Australasian representatives for the Olympic Games, had a couple of "pipe openers" at the London Athletic Club's summer meeting at Stamford Bridge last Saturday, but his displays on the flat and over hurdles were extremely disappointing. He showed neither pace nor good jumping, and is evidently still far from fit. His first appearance was in the Mile Relay Race, in which eight L.A.C. men were opposed to a like number of "Olympians." The international team was composed of V. Duncker (South Africa), R. Kerr (Canada, amateur champion), K. Lindberg (Sweden, amateur champion), H. St. A. Murray (New Zealand, amateur champion), R. F. Walker, S. Buddo (Canada), and F. Lukeman (Canada).

The L.A.C. "society" comprised H. Montague (440yds British champion), E. H. Ryle (inter-Varsity winner, 1908), H. S. Harmer (champion of Essex), A. E. D. Anderson, J. B. Densham, L. J. de B. Reed, L. F. Tremmer, and A. Abrahams. It was a great race. Kerr gave the combined team the lead by beating Anderson by eight yards. Walker followed by leading Harmer, but Ryle gave L.A.C. the advantage by running away from Duncker. Abrahams then beat Murray easily. Densham led Sebret, Tremmer did ditto to Buddo, and Reed led Lukeman to the last man, Montague, who started with a three-yard advantage of Lindberg. This he held to the end, finishing a great winner, and giving the L.A.C. the victory. The time of the winning team was 3m. 5 1-5s, which gives an average for each man's 220 yards of less than 23m 1 5s.

In the 440yds Hurdles, Murray (scratch) gave an ignominious display. He was opposed by Crumps of Blackheath (18yds start) and Stupart of South Africa (7yds) in the first heat. The New Zealander hit the first hurdle hard and came a regular cropper at the second. Crump also came down, but he was up again in an instant, and with Stupart not finishing, the Blackheath man won as he liked. The final was won by Groenings (scratch), of the L.A.C., in 59s, Densham (scratch), also of the L.A.C., finishing second, three yards away, with Crump, 18 yards off, third.

The only other Australian to take part in the sports was J. W. Lynch, of the Sydney A.C., who failed to get a place in his heat in the 100yds handicap, which was won by the Canadian, Robert Kerr, from the one yard mark in 10s.

Two New Zealanders took part in the Scottish Amateur Athletic Championships, decided at Edinburgh last Saturday, to wit, E. F. Mackenzie, who is now a student at Edinburgh University, and A. Halligan, an ex-New Zealand champion, who is now residing in the West of Scotland. Both ran in one event, only, namely, the 120yds hurdles. Halligan was strongly fancied for this event, but he ran in indifferent fashion in the final,

being beaten by two yards by Watson, of Dundee, who won in 17s, and a foot by his compatriot, Mackenzie.

What Becomes of an Athlete?

DOES HE DIE YOUNGER THAN OTHER MEN?

In the public schools thousands of boys are competing in athletic games, and are systematically trained for these contests. Their teachers are sure that the effect of this physical exercise and training, conducted under their supervision, is good. They like it, also, because it makes the boys more interested in their schools, thus making of play a feature of school work. And during the succeeding years of their school life thousands of these young competitors in athletic sports—some, at least, who have won some distinction in the contests—will work with eager striving to develop their strength and skill to surpass their fellows in such feats as the multitude applaud in the trained athlete.

These boys, their parents, and their teachers are interested in what becomes of the athletes. Few of the boys will devote their lives to winning fame and money as professional sprinters or football players or weight throwers. The small lad who sees the gymnast at the circus dreams of himself doing the same daring feats to the plaudits of the multitude—but his career is different.

The professional gymnast, the great weight-lifter, the professional "strong man" exhibiting his muscular marvels daily, are notoriously short lived. At the other extreme is the man who has grown up without physical training, whose lungs are weak, and whose whole body is frail from lack of muscular development. He illustrates what an educationist and athlete said recently in an address to schoolboys: "You cannot expect to be successful in life, however well you may be educated, unless you have a sound body. You will also need those mental qualities of quickness, determination, and nerve which athletics develop. You can only acquire these by practice in your youth."

Midway between the extreme of the professional gymnast or athlete who continuously strains heart and muscle to their utmost limit of endurance, and the man who has neglected his muscular development, lies the class that has lived in the way to gain bodily health and efficiency. In this class, according to the best authorities, are many great athletes, who are living useful lives and enjoying the best of health.

DANGER TO THE HEART.

But there is a reverse side to this picture. It is that of the athlete whose muscles have grown powerful at the expense of his heart, and many instances are cited by physicians to prove the dangers of careless and excessive athletic training. The athlete who finds too late his heart has been irreparably injured by the strain he has put upon it, has had many warnings of the injury he has done himself. He has not heeded them, and pays the penalty with his life at an age when he should be at his best in physical power.

A well-known doctor, who has had much to do with athletes, says: "Sometimes the aortic valve gives way, or the heart becomes enlarged; but you must remember that all athletes have enlarged hearts, the result of the exceptional work they are called upon to do. That is not unusual. Do not all the other muscles increase in size as a result of exercise, and are we not glad to see them do so?"

"The life of a racehorse is longer than that of the ordinary horse. This I know to be a fact, for I have made a study of the subject. Consider the strain which that animal undergoes. After its racing days it is sent to be the head of a large breeding stable.

"Once in a while an athlete drops off, and then we hear the warning 'Beware of the enlargement of the heart.'"

Another medical man who was a great runner in his day said a few days ago: "Hypertrophy of the heart is the result of the continued excessive over-indulgence in athletics. It seems to me, that a warning would be timely. Boys at school, college men, athletic club members, alternately train and race to the limit of their endurance, from a few months, then lay off and dissipate in all manner of ways for the greater portion of the year. The effect eventually is on-