can be induced to adopt that course when the subject is a home bred animal. Instead, they are influenced and prejudiced by their knowledge of the sire's family or the dam's family; and so it frequently happens that a yearling does not make his real market value. But there is, no doubt, another cause for the ready sale these American yearlings have had. The soundness of their legs and feet, and their excellent condition generally, have been the subject of general comment. In these respects they have surpassed the English yearlings we are in the habit of seeing. It would seem there is some special virtue in the treatment adopted at the stools in Kentucky. What is it? Perhaps somebody will kindly tell us. But we should, in this connection, bear in mind that the youngsters which have recently come across the Atlantic are what may be described as specimens, a pick of their respective backers. When making a selection for the English market, the American breeder, anxious to produce a good impression, is naturally not going to single out the worst for transportation. So it is, perhaps, hardly fair to make a comparison to the disadvantage of the native product. Still, there is no getting away from the fact that the American yearlings were, for the most part, in fine fettle order, and we need not be above taking a hint from the Yankees on the subject of breeding if there is anything they can teach us.

Reference has been made in several places to the fact that the evergreen Geo. Hodgman was present at Newmarket, where forty years ago he won the Cesarewitch with Rocket. Of those who persistently "go racing" Mr Hodgman is, without doubt, the oldest; but, says the "Sporting Times," there is still living a man who saw his colours for the first time on a racecourse nine years before Mr Hodgman won the Cesarewitch, and runs horses yet. He, too, is proprietor of a most successful breeding stud. This is Mr Waring, who ran Manifold as far back as 1849.

Singularly enough, this horse enters into Mr Hodgman's life, as will be gathered from the following extract from his reminiscences: In 1901 I was at Bedford races, and saw Mr Waring's Manifold win the Stourey Handicap, when not at all expected by his party. The performance struck me as good, and I desired to get back that night to London in order to back him for the Cambridgeshire. The train service was of indifferent character in those far-off days, and to effect my purpose I needed to reach Bletchley. There was, however, no conveyance procurable, but rather than be foiled, I ran the dozen miles, thinking then little of such exertion. From the station I took a cab to the Salisbury Arms, a public house near Charing Cross, where Davies, the 'Leviathan,' kept a list. On looking at his Cambridgeshire prices I found he had Manifold at 100 to 1.

"Davies," I said, "I think this horse will win the Cambridgeshire. What will you lay me at that rate?" "Ten thousand to 100, lad." I accepted the bet, and paid over the 100. I was then keeping a list myself on a minor scale, and next day put Manifold at 40's. To encourage business I stuck up, so that all might see it, my tip, which was:

Manifold	1
Truth	2
Arbusto	3
Faux Pas	4

A real good tip it was, seeing that Truth won, Arbusto was second, Manifold was third, and Faux Pas fourth. We doubt whether if Mr Hodgman were to place the first four in the coming Cambridgeshire he would be so near the mark as he was on that occasion.

Describing how ante-post wagering has been killed in the Old Country, "Spearmint," of the "London Sports Supplement" writes:—"According to the Scotch proverb, 'Greedy folk hae long arms,' and if that is so, the anterior limbs of many bookmakers must bear resemblance to the old-fashioned barber's pole. Anyway, while some of them in matters of personal raiment, living, and pleasures are the antipodes of all that is meant by miserly, on their business side they want everything their own way, and that 'Holdfast is a good dog,' they never forget. They mourn over a losing day as Rachel did for her children, and do their best to prevent a recurrence of the unpleasant experience by a rigidity of rules compared with which the laws of the Medes and Persians were mutable as water, and variable as woman. Sometimes I think the Turf is being run by the bookmakers for the bookmakers. They are allowed to own horses and to obtain all the privileges of ownership in the way of intercourse with jockeys. They are further allowed to run horses in their own name and to lay them in an assumed one. It is even whispered there are cases in which they bet in their own names and own horses in other men's. On a certain occasion when a favourite was held by the Jockey Club stewards, one bookmaker 'on the rails' expressed his feelings by denouncing the affair as scandalous. 'And the stewards do nothing! Nothing! Absolutely nothing! They ought to let me be a steward! I'd show them what I'd do!' And as I walked away I began musing whether the day was so very remote before bookmakers would be allowed to be stewards. The bookmakers, of course, will but snigger at these complaints, as the only remedy is not to bet. It is a remedy many are nowadays employing, though, after all is said and done, Charles Lamb was right when he said, 'Man is a gaming animal.' However, he is not anxious to play under gross disadvantages, and if preposterous limitations as to prices and restrictions as to places are not disadvantages, what are they? It is not necessary for the interests of the Turf that every bookmaker should leave a quarter of a million behind him, or even a hundred thousand pounds. In France backers appear to do very well without the bookmaker at all."

In the matter of galloping horses on the training tracks, in England they do things much different to what they do in the colonies, for whereas we are accustomed to witness all sorts of reversals of form on the tracks they generally do not like it there. Recently in the Old Country, All Black badly beat Yentoi in a trial a few days before the Cesarewitch, but in the actual race the latter won, while the former was unplaced. After the race, considerable public comment was occasioned, and Lady de Bathe wrote to the Press as follows:—

"Regal Lodge, Rentford, Newmarket.

"The explanation of the Yentoi and All Black gallop is that the trainers of the respective horses were at cross purposes. F. Darling was under the impression that the horses were simply to work together, while Brewer arrived on the scene prepared for a trial, of which my trainer was unaware until after the gallop. Indeed, Yentoi was not even given a preliminary canter, so it is little wonder that he choked, and was eased after going one and a-quarter mile at the unexpected pace.

"What weight All Black carried I do not know. I feel strongly that horses of different owners engaged in a big handicap should not be tried together, and I should not for a moment allow it. I give this information to some members of the Press, as well as others who inquired. For myself I always held the opinion that the public trial with Glacis at Doncaster was good enough for those who believe their eyes rather than their ears.

"It is surprising that any student of racing could so confuse form as to believe after that performance that All Black cracked heels and all could have beaten him on his merits by 15 lengths! The hundreds of letters and wires that I have received from all sections of the public prove that they at least were better judges."

To this the Special Commissioner replied:—

"Lady de Bathe has been good enough to favour us with an explanation of the circumstances connected with the gallop in which Yentoi and All Black took part a week ago. It is an interesting but scarcely a satisfying epistle. There is still much that seems to require explaining. We are told that the trainers of the two horses were at cross purposes. Whereas Fred Darling thought the animals were merely going to work together, Brewer was under the impression that they were to have a serious trial. Did anybody ever hear of such an extraordinary muddle! When did Darling learn that Brewer had made a mistake, and when did Lady de Bathe ascertain the true facts of the case? These questions are pertinent, because there has been no contradiction of the statement that her ladyship at Kempton last Saturday backed All Black to cover the money she had on Yentoi. Why should she have feared the Park Lodge candidate when we find her writing so scornfully of All Black, 'cracked heels and all'? The fact of the matter is the explanation vouchsafed has intensified the mystery surrounding the gallop. Now that we have heard the story from one side, it would be particularly interesting to learn what is the other side have to say on the subject. Indeed, I may go so far as to say it is their duty to the public as well as to themselves to amplify the details. I fancy, however, there is not much chance of their being induced to speak, for they seem to desire that the matter should rest where it does.

"With regard to Lady de Bathe's reference to the race at Doncaster, in which Yentoi defeated Glacis, I, as one who came to the conclusion that the result was not quite what it should have been, cannot accept the rebuke she administered, either in humility or otherwise. There is sound sense in her advice that people should believe what they see rather than what they hear. The mischief of it is that I thought I saw sufficient at Doncaster to convince me that Glacis would beat Yentoi in the Cesarewitch. I am quite certain I saw sufficient on Wednesday last to convince most people that Glacis would have won the Cesarewitch but for being so hopelessly boxed in until the race was virtually over. Lady de Bathe is justified in taking a pride in Yentoi. He is a good horse, and may develop into a better one; but he has a lot of leeway to make up before he can be placed in the same class as Glacis."

TAKAPUNA RACES.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—How much longer are we expected to wait for some improvement in connection with the working of the totalisator at Takapuna and other courses? I was at the races on Saturday last; the scramble to get to the machine was bad enough, but the delay in paying out was infinitely worse. Anything seems good enough for the apathetic Aucklander. I had to collect a dividend on the last race, and I did not reach home (near Newmarket) until 7.45. Investors pay for the privilege of betting with the "tote" and should, at least, have proper facilities. Many prefer the bookmakers, and the clubs will have only their own short sighted cheese-paring policy to blame if the machine is abolished. Racegoers are beginning to ask whether it would not be a change for the better if all race meetings were held at Ellerslie. Its best friends cannot say that the Devonport course is a good one, the bumping, intentional and otherwise, on Saturday was alarming, and in at least one race that apparently incurable malady "Sleeping sickness" made its appearance. Whatever the other faults may be at Takapuna, an attempt to improve the working of the tote," the paying out department particularly, would satisfy.—I am, etc.,

ADVANCE.

[In connection with the delay in paying out complained of by my correspondent, there was certainly a delay after one race, owing to one of the electric bells which give the signal going wrong, but, otherwise, there was no crushing or any other trouble at the machines.—Sporting Editor.]

(To the Sporting Editor.)

Sir,—In Saturday's issue you publish an extract from an American paper re the tough riding of the jockeys there. Now, Sir, do you not think the local writers would be doing the public a favour if they were to take up this subject. The public are the backbone of racing, and I think it is a shame the way the racing officials apparently close their eyes to the dishonest practices that take place on tracks around Auckland. I have seen more crossing on the local tracks in eight days' racing than I have seen in three months' racing than Oakland (Cal.) track. And they race six days a week there. At Ellerslie I went over to the starting post on several occasions, and at each start there were two or three bad cases of crossing. And I notice there is a primitive arrangement for keeping the horses away from the rail. Why not have the false rail, the same as is used on some of the Australian tracks? Another thing I notice, the starter is jumping up and down. When he is on the ground, the horses are all lined up; directly he gets on his stand half the field are the wrong way about. Now, surely the club can afford to give him an assistant. On tracks that I have visited in Australia the clerk of the course gives him a hand; and in California the starter has two assistants. Surely, it is about time for these Rip Van Winkles who hold the position of "officials," to shake off this sleeping sickness. There is another thing that is very glaring that is the number of non-triers. At Takapuna there was one race in which it was most barefaced. Yet not a word was said. Then, again, previous to coming here, I was led to believe that in racing matters New Zealand was in the lead. But if Auckland is anything to go by, then I guess New Zealand is like the Duke of Plaza Toro, who led his field from behind. I trust that you, Sir, will take up this subject of dishonest practices just for the sake of your innocents at home.—I am, etc.,

AN INNOCENT VISITOR.

[For the benefit of my correspondent I may say that the various writers throughout New Zealand have been hammering away at foul riding and inconsistent running for some time, and still have hopes of getting stipendiary stewards appointed.—Sporting Editor.]

✦ ✦ ✦

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

CHRISTCHURCH, Tuesday.

The tracks at Riccarton, in consequence of the continuous dry weather, are very hard, and quite a number of horses are showing signs of soreness.

White Cockade has made a speedy improvement from the effects of his recent accident, and is to be put into work again this week.

Goldbeater has also thrown off the effects of his Wellington mishap, and is doing light tasks again.

Beckwell, the form of which in public has been of a disappointing nature, has been added to the list.

Sea King has not done much work since the November meeting, and he may not race again till the autumn rolls around.

British Peer, which raced at Timaru last week, has joined T. Cotton's team at Riccarton.

Husbandman's success in the St. Andrew's Handicap at Feilding makes his running in the Canterbury Cup hard to account for. In the latter event he was beaten before going a mile, and on that form seemed harshly treated in the Feilding race. Evidently the C.J.C. Derby winner was feeling the effects of his earlier exertions at Riccarton. His victory is sure to bring him into great demand for the Great Northern Derby, as there was a lot of merit in it.

When driving a hoppled pacer at Plumpton Park on Saturday morning, J. Price, the well-known trainer, got a nasty fall, and the injuries he received were so serious as to necessitate his removal to the hospital.

Several Riccarton trainers intend paying Westland a visit at Christmas, and they should not come away empty-handed. Amongst the candidates likely to make the trip are Armamento, Contender, Ruapehu, Tsirshar, and others.

Satisfactory acceptances have been received for the Hororata Racing Club's annual meeting, which takes place on Thursday next.

Probable is feeling the effects of his exertions at the Timaru meeting, and will probably be given short respite. His engagements at the Christchurch R.C. meeting, which takes place on the 16th inst., have been cancelled.

CHRISTCHURCH, Friday.

R. O'Donnell, who trains for W. and G. Stead, intends taking Nautiform and Nobel to Auckland, but he will not leave till after the Christchurch Racing Club's meeting.

F. Holmes has had an addition made to his string in a well grown three-year-old by Sant Ilario from Blythesile.

Heorthen, who put up such a great fight in the New Zealand Cup, is galloping in great style again. She will be a competitor at the Christchurch Racing Club's meeting, and then go north to fulfil her engagements at Manawatu.

Motoa, who was purchased on behalf of Mr S. Nettlefold last week at 1000gs, was shipped to Melbourne yesterday. The Conqueror gelding will go into D. J. Price's stable.

The Lark was decidedly lame after running in the St. Andrew's Handicap at Feilding, and this will probably preclude his taking part at the A.R.C. meeting.

Sunglow, who is of delicate constitution, did not do well at Feilding, and this led to Mason withdrawing her from the Great Northern Derby.

Filtaway did not run up to expectations at Feilding, disappointing her trainer on both days. Though a particularly brilliant filly on the tracks, she seldom does herself full justice with the colours up.

The services of G. Price have been retained for Diablo in the Auckland Cup.

Signor will not be a competitor at the Auckland Racing Club's summer meeting, and it is quite probable that he will be taken over to Australia.

D. McCardle, a light weight horseman who has seen service in Australia, South Africa, and India, has taken service with D. Roberts.

Stratagem and Sharpshooter left for Auckland on Thursday. On arrival they will join other members of the Cloketore team, under E. Cull's charge.

Glencullach, Sister Annie, and the two-year-olds Kilwinning, Fashakyle, and Applegarth, will do service on behalf of Sir George Clifford at the Manawatu meeting. All of them have been getting through serviceable tasks, Kilwinning in particular galloping well.

First class nominations have been received for the Plumpton Park Trotting Club's summer meeting, which commences on Boxing Day.

Compared with the bill of fare issued to owners last January, the programme for the forthcoming Cup meeting of the Wellington R.C. shows an increase of 1350sovs.

Mr T. Cameron's starting on the second day of the Feilding meeting was quite up to his best form, and on this account the second day's racing was very good. There does not seem to be the least doubt that there was a conspiracy among certain jockeys on Monday to get rid of Mr Aldworth, a real good sportsman, and a man of the type required. Still the jockeys did not want him, and there was trouble in the first race. It seems unfortunate that the stewards did not take a hand in stopping the vagaries of jockeys, which only ended when, after a most unjust and ungenerous display on the part of a section of racegoers, Mr Aldworth resigned his position.

There was not a great deal of interest taken in the Hororata R.C. annual meeting on Thursday, the attendance being small, and the field of very ordinary nature. Helianthus, a four-year-old daughter of Finland and Clytie, made some amends for her many disappointing displays by crediting Mr H. A. Knight with the Hororata Cup. Contender was made favourite, but he could never get to Helianthus, who was in front practically the whole way. Hilarity, who was but recently mated with Terraplin, effected a surprise by pulling down three better fancied candidates in the Ranger Plate. Farley Grove being the only one to threaten danger. Later in the afternoon Farley Grove showed to better advantage by winning the Welter Handicap from Zetland, Tesseva, and four others. Whirlwind scored a rather unexpected win in the Halton Stakes, two better fancied candidates in Cerise and Blue and Silkweb following her home. The meeting passed off without incident of any kind, but beyond affording a pleasant outing it had little to recommend it from a sporting point of view.

✦ ✦ ✦

T.J.C. SPRING MEETING.

The concluding day's racing in connection with the Takapuna Jockey Club's Spring Meeting was held at the North Shore on Wednesday afternoon. The weather was beautiful, and there was a good attendance. The racing was of an uninteresting character throughout, the fields being exceptionally small, and there were only 42 runners in the eight events, a very low average. Considering the small fields, speculation was brisk, and, during the afternoon, the sum of £6383 was passed through the machines under Messrs W. Bloomfield and Co., which, added to the amount handled the first day, gives a total of £14,112 10/ for the meeting, a decrease of £878 on last year. Bookmakers' fees for the gathering totalled £575.

Mr W. J. Ralph officiated as judge, and Mr C. O'Connor as starter, the latter gentleman being in good form.

The general arrangements were well carried out by the officials under the secretary, Mr R. Wynyard, but the programme was unduly drawn out, and it would have given greater satisfaction had the races been started closer to the time stated in the official programme.

Mrs J. Gallagher had charge of the catering arrangements, which were carried out efficiently, and during the afternoon the Auckland Mounted Rifles Band, under Bandmaster Whalley Stewart, rendered a musical programme.

KAWAU HANDICAP HURDLES of 100 sovs. Distance, one mile and three-quarters.

J. B. Williamson's ch g Okaihau, 4yrs, Salvadan—Orini, 9.0 (McKinnon) 1
W. H. Mobberley's b g Waihekau, aged, 9.6 (Baker) 2
J. G. Sutherland's br g Luscombe, 6yrs, 11.4 (Cowan) 3

Also started: Hautapu, 12.8; Kotiti, 9.0.

Hautapu got away with a flying start, but when the second fence was reached Okaihau was in charge, and he piloted the field along the back, followed by Hautapu, Luscombe, Waihekau, and Kotiti in that order. Hautapu was beaten when the stand was reached, where Luscombe was almost on terms with Okaihau, which, however, drew out along the back, and from that out was never troubled, winning at the finish by two lengths from Waihekau, which finished fast, and beat Luscombe by two lengths for second honours. Kotiti and Hautapu were some distance away together, last. Time, 3.20 2-5. Luscombe was favourite.

STANLEY HANDICAP of 100sovs. Distance, four furlongs.

Hon. J. Carroll's br m Tarina, by St. Clements—Aka, 6yrs, 7.3 (Deeley) 1
R. Hannon's ch m Miss Winnie, aged, 8.9 (Brady) 2
C. Nicholson's br g Lucio, 6yrs, 8.0 (Brown) 3

Also ran: Lady Frances, 7.4, and Mentira 6.11.

Miss Winnie was first to move, and joined by Tarina, the pair made the running, followed by Lady Frances, Lucio, and Mentira. Tarina had slightly the best of it as they turned for home, and drawing out in the run to the post, finished up a winner by a length and a half from Miss Winnie, which was half a length in front of Lucio, with Lady Frances close up, fourth. Time, 51 2-5s. Lucio was favourite.

SPRING HANDICAP of 150sovs. One mile.

S. G. Lindsay's br h Royal Scott, 4yrs, by Scott—Bavaria, 8.9 (E. Brown) .. 1
J. C. Colbeck's b h Advocate, 4yrs, 7.13 (Deeley) 2
R. W. Duder's b g Tui Cakobau, aged, 7.7 (McMahon) 3

Also started: First Gun, 7.4; Millie, 7.3.

Tui Cakobau was the first to find his feet, and when the stand was reached had a slight advantage of Millie. Then came Royal Scott and First Gun, with Advocate last. Going along the back Tui Cakobau was still the pilot, and, with the exception that the field were closer together, there was no change in the position. Tui Cakobau was first to turn for home, but when fairly in a line for the post Royal Scott