



MOTORING NOTES.

(By "Sparkling Plug.")

In last week's notes I took occasion to mention a few of the dangers and difficulties of our roads in and about Auckland. Here are a few more hints or suggestions which occur to me.

Rounding Corners.—Remember to always observe the rule, "Keep to your right side." It is ten chances to one that you will meet some other vehicle or car coming towards you from the opposite direction. Nearly all roads have a slope towards the gutter (if they have one), and therefore the outside wheels will be on a higher level than those on the inside. This slope serves the motorist two purposes. (1) It helps him to round the curve, and (2) greatly lessens the risk of upsetting if he has attempted to negotiate the corner at a greater rate of speed than that at which he ought to be going.

Should the novice "hug" the corner he must keep a good look-out ahead, and in the event of not being able to see round a curve he must not drive at a greater speed than that in which his car can be immediately pulled up if required. A great many of our greatest dangers on our roads arise from other people, all owing to their indecision. Observe the people alighting from trams, and children hanging on to carts, etc. They suddenly hear the car coming up or down, and although they know that the best thing to do is to stay where they are, they make wild, senseless dives and spurts in every direction, with the inevitable result that unless the motorist has the car under the most complete control a bad accident must happen. Try to show these people the direction you intend to go, keep on it, and have the brakes ready.

Ladies (not all) who cycle are bad, too. They get terror-struck on the approach of a motor, and fall off their machines. But this one seldom sees now. Swerving horses are bad. On approaching any horse it is well to surmise that it is not under control of the person driving it; either his whole attention is absorbed by the motor-car, or he cannot drive. Slow down the car, if necessary stop the motor, and speak gently to the horse. If necessary get out, take the bridle, pat him, and coax him to pass close up to the motor-car.

In driving fast or slow do not look behind. Observe the rule of the road, that is all. At night-time sheep on the road are most difficult to see. They seem to blend themselves with the colour of the path, and they make so little noise. Therefore, motorists, beware! A very dark night is better to drive on than a night on which the moon is shining, but is obscured by clouds.

Careful driving should always be practised. Reckless driving is of no good, and courts accident. Grievances in regard to motors would have no foundation if every driver took upon himself the obligations of the road, and behaved himself as a gentleman. Let him acknowledge that the highway is public and that everyone has equal rights.

On Saturday, June 27, a large run of the Auckland Automobile Association was held. The cars met at Dr. Purchas' residence in Symonds-street, and left for Onehunga, Mangeru, Otahuhu, and Sylvia Park at 2.15 p.m. The following is a list of the cars and occupants:—Dr. Raynes (president) and Mrs Raynes, Dr. A. O. Knight and Mrs Knight, Dr. H. Owen and Mrs Owen, Mrs de Clive Lowe (driving) and Dr. Lowe, Mr E. Whitson and Mrs Whitson, Mr Moody and Mrs Moody, Dr. Purchas and chauffeur, Mr G. E. Spinks and Mr W. T. J. Bell, Mr G. Henning, brother, and visitor, Messrs. Henning. The run was a most successful one, but we would ask the hon. secretary to notify the intended hotel at which the association mean to have afternoon tea. By so doing a lot of time would be saved, and the cars would arrive home at dusk.

Dr. Purchas has bought a 4 h.p. "Oldsmobile." This is a step in the right direction. The doctor will find it easier to use than his 12 h.p. "Derranz." We notice, too, that Dr. de Clive Lowe has entirely given up his trap, and does all his visiting in an "Oldsmobile" runabout. This is as it should be. We have asked him if he finds it cheaper than a trap and horse, and were told that it costs him less than 1/ per day to do his work about town. Of course

when the visits have to be made some distance off, more oil is used, but it never exceeds more than 2/6 per day. What a saving of money! He tells us too, that he finds no difficulty with it at all, and that the hill-climbing is excellent.

Dr. A. O. Knight has almost given up his trap. We frequently see him on a "Locomobile," going his rounds. That is a pretty little car, and we think excellent for its purpose. It is noiseless, and perfect in its action. Perhaps—mind, we say perhaps—were there a condenser attached to do away with the steam it would be better. Mr Henning, so we understand, is considering the matter.

Next Saturday, July 24, the Association will meet at Devonport Ferry to catch the 2 p.m. boat to Devonport, run to the Lake, afternoon tea, and home by the 5.30. We trust to see a full muster of motors.

FOOTBALL.

ACKLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS.

WINS FOR CITY, NORTH SHORE, AND PONSONBY.

The second round of the Rugby Union championship matches was commenced on Saturday, when the match between Newton and City attracted a large crowd at Alexandra Park. Those who expected a close and interesting game were disappointed, for although the teams played a stubbornly contested draw when they met in the first round, City had an easy win on Saturday by 22 points to 4. Newton's form was distinctly disappointing. On a 2-2 ground Suburbs suffered defeat at the hands of North Shore by 5 points to 3. Ponsonby defeated Parnell somewhat easily by 12 points to nil.

COUNTRY FOOTBALL.

THAMES.

The senior Thames match on Saturday was between Thames and Rovers. In the first quarter of an hour Rovers carried the ball over the line, scored a try, but missing it, Hayward scored. Duffy failed to convert. A little later Keating started a passing rush, which ended in J. Houghton scoring. Duffy kicked a goal. Joanson scored a goal from the field, and E. McDuff scored a try, which Duffy did not convert. In the second spell Hayward scored for Rovers, and Duffy converted, Rovers thus winning by 20 points to nil. In the first junior match Rovers II, defeated Native Rose by five points to nil. Sullivan scored a try, which Newland converted.

In the second junior match Mezzles scored a try for True Blue, and Smith converted it. Pearson scored for Rovers III, the try being converted by Gribble. Later in the game Rovers III, disputed the referee's decision, and left the ground, True Blue claiming the match.

PAEROA.

The senior football match on Saturday afternoon was an "A" and "B" practice match in view of the representative match next Saturday with the Fisco Union. There was little good play, and only 12 men on each side could be mustered. The junior contest East v. West resulted for the third time this season in a draw, neither side scoring. The game was a very good one, being sternly contested right through.

SOUTHERN MATCHES.

WELLINGTON FOOTBALL.

There was perfect weather for Saturday afternoon's games, and the grounds were in fairly good order. The meeting of Petone and Melrose drew a big crowd to the Athletic Park. The suburban team won, after a keenly contested struggle, in which some excellent phases of forward play were shown, by 12 to 6. Five minutes after the start of the game the Pe-

GOLF NOTES.

(By Stoney Dead.)

Last Saturday our players were promised a good going day. There had been no rain since Thursday, and Friday was a nice fine day with a southerly wind, and every one in Auckland knows that a southerly wind is the wind to dry up the ground; but, unfortunately, just immediately before the time for play, a very heavy shower came on. The result was that while one could say that the ground was fairly dry, yet it had that half-inch of wet surface that just made one slip when playing a full shot. It is on days such as Saturday that these players who play the correct half-swing, so strongly advocated in the Old Country for those who take up the game after the first: blamé of youth is over, score over their full-swing antagonists. The half-swing golfer stands firmly on his feet, when the full-swing player is literally "all over the place," and if the latter has not got the eye of a champion he is lucky to hit the ball at all. His feet slip in his up-swing, and again in his down-swing, and his equilibrium is disturbed; consequently, instead of getting his weight into propelling the ball, it actually detracts from the swing of his arms. Of course, it is said that if the full-swing player has proper nails in his boots or shoes, he ought not to slip or slide, but my experience is that no arrangement of nails or spikes ever sold will prevent him from slipping on such a day as Saturday. I am not to be taken by these remarks to give as my opinion that a half-swing is better than a full-swing. Circumstances, and courses, always alter opinions, and I do say that on Saturday, on the Auckland golf links, the half-swing player had the advantage over the full-swing player. But on a sandy course, which One Tree Hill is not, the conditions existent on Saturday never arise. No matter how much rain may have fallen, a sandy course never gets "greasy."

A great deal of misconception arises about this question of full and half-swing. When a beginner takes up golf he invariably, whether he be old or young, tries to acquire the full-swing, copied from a young man who has played the game from youth upwards, or who is so naturally lithesome that he has learnt a perfect full-swing after he has passed his teens. Ninety-nine men out of a hundred who start the game after they have reached twenty-five are prevented, by reason of their physique, from acquiring a perfect full-swing. The majority of those under twenty-five are not fitted by nature to develop a perfect full-swing. Yet, it is a strange fact that nearly all professionals attempt to teach their pupils a full-swing, no matter what their age may be. The professional can do a full-swing, and he naturally thinks that he can teach his pupil to do the same thing; but he is oblivious of the fact that he started swinging a club when he was a lad of fourteen, and he is now teaching a gentleman of forty. When one starts young one's muscles are developed in the right way, and one can do the same thing when one is getting on in life. The man of forty has never trained his muscles, and forty-year-old muscles do not flow the pranks that fifteen-year-old ones do. The professional fails to realize this, and consequently does very little good to the pupil. If he had appreciated the fact that his pupil was not his own age he might have turned the matter into a first-class player. It is absurd to teach the man with a chest of 40 inches and waist of 45 inches the same style as the man with a chest of 34 inches and a waist of 35 inches. But it does not follow that because a player adopts the half-swing style that he must never expect to rise to be a first-class player.

There are a number of players in England who play with the approved half-swing style who would hold their own with any player in New Zealand. On the other hand, there are a great number of the members of the Auckland Golf Club who might improve their game out of all expectation. These are they who attempt to play with a full-swing. At the end of their full-swing they have all their weight on their right leg. That means that, instead of rising the weight of their body to drive the ball, they are actually making their body-swing reduce the power of their shot. The long driver at golf is the man who gets his 12 stone into the ball, and he does it by getting all the weight of his hips and the sinews of his legs into his shot. If the body-swing is in front of the arm-swing, or the weight of his body on his right leg at the end of the stroke, he has played the shot exactly the opposite way that he intended. He meant his body-swing to propel the ball, whereas it has actually lessened its power. Perhaps, after all this talk about half-swing, it is only right for me to explain what is a true half-swing.

The player draws back his club from the ball in an even swing, with the arms well away from the body and the club sweeping the ground on the back-swing. The club is not allowed to go above the horizontal. There is a perceptible pause at the end of the back-swing, and then the club starts to move towards the ball, and is moving at its maximum pace after the ball has been hit. The position of the body is stationary, but not rigid, till after the ball is hit, and then everything is let go to follow on. It is absolutely surprising to see the distance of such a shot. A man of thirteen stone who plays his half-swing correctly will out-drive the most perfect full-swing on the part of the ten stone man. Then, again, the half-swing man scores in the certainty with which he hits the ball. He has no slipping to reckon with. He does not hit the ball from a 6-foot swing, but from a 3-foot swing. His eye does not have to direct the alterations of the swing made necessary by the movement of the body. The only player who has a proper, but not a perfect, half-swing that I have seen on our links is a Melbourne player. I can commend his style to most of our "juniors."

The final for Mr Hanna's prize was played on Saturday. Mr Hooper maintained his form, and beat Mr Peele by 3 and 2.

The Australian championship was brought to a finish at Adelaide on Saturday. It was won by Mr Souter, of the Murrumbidgee Club, Sydney. The runner-up was the old champion, Mr Howden, of Melbourne. Mr Souter has been playing in rare form lately. Judging by the fact that he tied Mr Simpson's Botany record a short time ago his could not have been a fluky win. Hutchinson, the young North Berwick "pro," is playing at Botany, but the best round he has put up so far is a 79.

There was a Senior and a Nursery Handicap at One Tree Hill on Saturday. Mr H. T. Gillies came in an easy winner for the Senior. Though his return was not a good one, yet he deserved his win by his steady play and forethought. The Nursery attracted a large field, and the winner proved to be Mr C. Heather, who returned a score of 91.

Clark's B. S. Pills are warranted to cure Gravel, Pain in the Back, and all kindred Complaints. Free from Mercury. Established upwards of 30 years. Is now in 64 cases, of all Chemical and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World. Proprietors, The Lippincott and Medical Chemical Drug Company, Lancaster, England.

Advertisement for Tower's Fish Brand Waterproof Clothing. Text: 'THE BEST WATERPROOF CLOTHING IN THE WORLD. BEARDS AND TRADE MARK. TOWER'S FISH BRAND. MADE IN BRITAIN OR FRANCE. TAKE NO SLACK IN SUBSTITUTES. A. J. Tower Co., Mfrs., Boston, Mass., U.S.A.'