

into account in playing any "acrew" or fast strokes. If you attempt to play them in the same way, that is, with the same force, as when you are using the ordinary cue, you are bound for failure. The added power in the longer lengths of wood make you "overdo" your screws and forcere every time, unless you make due allowance for the fact. This is to be done by trying to just miss the second object ball or pocket, as the case may be, on the weak side. Do not play as though you had your cue in your hand, because it is so much lighter, and therefore not possessed of anything like the driving power of even a half, which is saying nothing of a long butt.

To gauge the striking length that should extend beyond the open-arched pass head or slotted wooden head to be found on butt "rest heads," it is always advisable to walk round to that part of the table where the latter is placed. Adjust the end of the cue, and the length you judge should extend from the "rest head" with your hands. This is an old-time professional idea, which still stands good to-day. The player is thereby enabled to avoid many of those little happenings which arise, if such precautions are not taken. He is not liable to strike his ball in a "half-cooked" way, or to go over the top of it, or miss-cue on its side. These common mishaps can be avoided to a great extent. Still, it is a tax upon the best of players to be able to make use of those long "telegraph pole" sticks, and strike as they wish to do. The "strength" is so difficult to arrive at. But, awkward as the "rest" and "butt" are to most, they fall into insignificance before the spider "rest," which is a downright



(By WHALEBONE.)

FIXTURES.

- Jan. 23, Feb. 2 and 5—Takapuna J.C. Summer.
- February 3, 4—Gisborne Racing Club.
- February 3, 5—Canterbury Jockey Club.
- February 9, 10—Egmont Racing Club.
- February 10, 11—Poverty Bay Turf Club.
- February 12, 13, 14—Otahuhu Trotting Club.
- February 16, 17—Rotorua Jockey Club.
- February 16, 17—Taranaki Jockey Club.
- February 19—Huntly Racing Club.
- February 23, 24—Woodville District Jockey Club.
- February 23, 24, 25—Dunedin Jockey Club.
- February 23, 25—South Auckland Racing Club.
- March 3, 5—Wanganui Jockey Club.
- March 3, 5—Waikoi Jockey Club.
- March 7, 8—Te Aroha Jockey Club.
- March 12—Thames Jockey Club.
- March 17—Whakatane Racing Club.
- March 20, 23, and 25—Auckland R.C. Autumn.
- April 9 and 13—Avaldale J.C. Autumn.
- May 21, 24—Takapuna Jockey Club.

T. A. Williams has had his team increased by the addition of a pony by Sout.

The mare Patricia, by Patronus — La Bijouterie, is now an inmate of W. Gall's stable.

P. Conway has just taken in hand a good-looking sort of a mare by Explosive — Nettie, which is a four-year-old.

The Auckland-bred gelding Snowfoot has been accorded the honour of a nomination in the A.J.C. Doucater Handicap.

Word from the North states that the Australian-bred horse Trepine did there recently, after a season at the stud.

The new number board at Takapuna is now completed, and will be in use at the club's forthcoming Summer Meeting.

It is stated that the recent Auckland Racing Club's Summer Meeting will result in a profit of about £2000 to the club.

C. Coleman has taken the gelding Omali in hand again, after a lengthy spell.

A would-be purchaser was after the two-year-old Doughboy recently, but the price quoted, 200gs, did not lead to business.

The Strawn colt, Caruso, which accounted for a double at Ohapno on Wednesday last, was sold a few months ago for 50gs.

The horses Prophet and Doughboy are now the property of the local sportsman who races under the assumed name of Mr Bolger.

Visitors to recent country meetings are strongly of the opinion that supplementary stewards are badly wanted.

The Otahuhu Trotting Club have received several nominations for their summer meeting, which opens on February 11th. Mr Edwards' adjustments are due next week.

The Sout — Miss Annie colt, for which Sir George Clifford paid 820gs at the recent Cambridge Park sale, has reached his destination safely, and is to be broken in shortly.

Two Auckland-bred ones, in Don Hanaball and Annapolia, figure amongst the nominations for the V.R.C. Newmarket Handicap.

The gelding Celtic is fast becoming prominent at the illegitimate game, and in his schooling displays at Ellerslie of late has pleased greatly.

Arriet is greatly pleasing the track watchers at Trentham, and the Menschikov mare is reported to be better now than she has previously been this season.

K. Heaton has put Lady Frances in work again, after a lengthy spell, occasioned by an attack of influenza. The daughter of Eton bears a very robust appearance after her rest.

The N.Z.-bred mare Chamade keeps on picking up a race now and again, and at the Warwick Farm meeting in Sydney recently, won the principal event of the day, carrying 7.10, and beating six others.

The Freedom mare Kamate, which accounted for a double at the recent Otahuhu meeting, was bleeding badly after concluding an event at Ohapno last Wednesday.

Although the Jockey R. Deeley was suspended by the Auckland Metropolitan committee about a month ago, no notice yet appears in the Official Calendar, as required by Rule 20, part 3.

The death of lightweight riders will probably be felt at the Wellington meet-

ing, where so many of the entrants are handicapped at the minimum. There are a lot of anxious inquiries for capable lightweights.

The Summer Cup winner Miss Mischief, which went amiss after winning the Goodwood Handicap, is still located at Greenlane in charge of H. J. Ross, the daughter of Treadmill not having sufficiently recovered to be shipped South.

In connection with the Hutt Park Race and Club's pony meeting next week, the management has decided that all horses competing will be examined by a veterinary surgeon, and also by a farrier, to see that they are not too heavily shod.

The stewards of the Waikato Trotting Club held an inquiry into the running of V.S. at the Hamilton Trots. At a meeting last week, Scott, the owner, made an explanation, which was considered satisfactory, and it was decided to take no further action.

It is stated the next work contemplated at Ellerslie by the Auckland Racing Club is the enlarging of the saddling paddock, and by the means of the ground between the bridge to within a line of the boxes, on which portion an up-to-date tea kiosk is to be erected.

The cross-country horseman E. J. O'Brien had a narrow escape from what might have been a serious accident at Ellerslie last week, when Don Quex fell with him. The horse turned a complete somersault, rolling right over O'Brien, who fortunately got off with a shaking and a bruised arm.

In order to prevent the overcrowding of the press room at Trentham during the Wellington Racing Club's meetings, the Wellington pressmen have formed a body, of which Mr W. Conroy has been elected chairman and Mr Beasley vice-chairman, to deal with the question.

Brobrikoff is not engaged in any event on the 31st day of the Wellington Racing Club's meeting, but he is located at Trentham, and may be seen with the colours up before the meeting closes. It is stated that Mr Lowry intends shipping Brobrikoff en route to Sydney after the Wellington meeting.

In England it has been decided by the National Hunt Committee to use numbered saddlecloths at their fixtures. The jumping meetings in England, where the event is held under National Hunt rules. It is anticipated that the stewards of the Jockey Club will also provide for the use of numbered saddlecloths when the flat-racing season again comes round.

At a recent country meeting a well known performer was nominated under his pedigree only, and without a name. The name was sent after the acceptances, and the horse was duly on hand to fulfil his engagement in England, where the owner could allow him to start. Probably the owner will get a surprise when he is called upon to pay the fine to which he is liable for nominating a horse without a name.

A well-known pincoller was victimized to the extent of his license fee at the recent Ohapno meeting. When he arrived on the course he was bailed up by an individual for his fee for the right to bet, which he paid, but shortly after he came round again, and the secretary came round to collect the fee, and then it was discovered that the "loan" had been had by the "lamb."

The acceptances for the various events at the Takapuna Jockey Club's summer meeting are considerably better than was generally anticipated. Twelve have paid up for the Cup, which bears a very open aspect, and should produce a good race. The largest field is in the Perry Handicap, for which 16 have been left in, but all the races look like promising two-dividend events, and present appearances everything points to a reward gathering.

During the week the stewards of the Auckland Trotting Club held an inquiry into several cases in connection with their recent summer meeting. W. O'Grady, for alleged interference in the President's Handicap Trot on the concluding day, was fined £2 and severely cautioned. A matter in connection with the training of Viscount was investigated, and the explanation offered accepted. The inquiry into the alleged interference which brought down John Harold was adjourned to enable further evidence to be taken.

The Metropolitan Committee held a special meeting last week, to consider the suspension of the Jockey R. Deeley. The meeting was successful with his appeal against the sentence imposed upon him by the Takapuna Club last December, but since then the North Canterbury body have reopened the case, and imposed a twelve

months' suspension. Against this decision an appeal has been lodged on behalf of Deeley, and the Metropolitan Committee decided to hear the appeal on February 1st. Deeley's license to be suspended in the meantime.

Though we do not look for non-triers at Randwick, where the prizes are all well worth winning, it must be confessed there was room for doubt as to the bona fides of some of the competitors at the recent meetings. I am quite aware (says "Pilot" in the "Referee") that many racegoers discover a "dead" run in nearly every horse race, but it really did seem that, without their feelings being unduly hurt, a few owners might have been questioned by the stewards. Possibly indifferent riding was the trouble, but, whatever the cause, an inquiry of two would not have been out of place.

The New Zealand bred Soultline and Tanager met for the first time in India last month, in the December Plate, a weight-for-age event, run over seven furlongs, at the Calcutta Third Extra Meeting. It was thought that Tanager would extend Soultline, who was an odds-on favourite, but such was not the case, as Soultline always has him on his feet, and he was easily. Eubolus finished third, and the placed position included Fizz, who afterwards won the Viceroy's Cup. Soultline was regarded as a certainty for the Trials, run on the first day of the Viceroy's Meeting. Kathrapan won the Coruhian Plate on the same day, and Five Crown, another well known Australian, was unlucky to lose the Maiden Handicap, for which he was an even-money favourite, but he did not, after being badly shut in at the distance.

The practice of running off dead-heats in India does not meet with the approval of the "Indian Mauter's Gazette," which in a recent issue said:—"The Continental rule concerning dead-heats is one that might with advantage be substituted in our present clumsy Indian rule, which has been so much criticised and which is undoubtedly bad. On the Continent it is sudden death; that is, there is no run-off under any consideration, and the horse is compelled to divide and, if there is a trophy attached, they draw for it. This is a far more sensible rule than ours, which makes the dead-heat a new race, and which, in our opinion, so far from protecting the public, is offering a direct inducement to a dishonest owner to put them in the cart. For instance, if the owner of one of the dead-heaters had backed his horse at short odds in the original contest, and his animal was asked to accept a miserable price after the run-off, it would pay him to stop his horse and back the other, and he could make such a certainty of it that he could go on doing it at 10 to 1 and 10 to 100, and, in fact, stock and barrel. The Continental rule has another thing to recommend it, so far as India is concerned, in that we are of opinion that asking a horse to run two severe races in one afternoon, and possibly with a very short interval between, is a mistake. It would be better from every point of view to make all dead-heats final, and compel owners by racing law to divide."

A Wellington writer says: "Numerous complaints are to be heard with regard to the state of the training tracks at Trentham, and having inspected them only yesterday, I am not in the least surprised at this. The only gallop fit to work on, namely, the one to the right of the main stand, had been becoming a bit bare and hard, and a request was made that it should be given another dressing of tan, or be in some other manner put in better shape. During the last day or two portions of the straight at either side of it have been covered with sawdust, which has been put on so thickly as to render the going quite unsafe. Inquiries have been made, and it is found to have the sawdust spread considerably thinner, but several of our foremost trainers are of opinion that sawdust should not have been used at all, tan being much preferable. Any way, the sawdust is now there, and what is now required is to thin it out and give the track a good sprinkling with the aid of a water cart every evening. During the past few winters had another cause for complaint, in the fact that the only available track—the grass gallop, is too rough to be of much use—was harrowed only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and, thus, when the grass was cut on the mornings, it was rough and uneven for "fast" mornings. Every effort is now being made to remedy matters, but it is a pity that the management, which is so thorough and popular in all other respects, should have lain itself open to censure in the manner indicated."

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

CHRISTCHURCH, Saturday. After three days' rain, the weather cleared on Friday, and the Riccarton tracks are again in excellent order. With so many horses away at Wellington matters are somewhat quiet here, but they are bound to liven up on the conclusion of the Northern fixture.

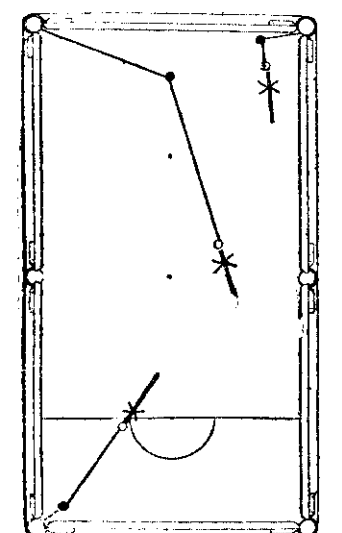
The entries received for the Canterbury Jockey Club's summer meeting are about up to the average for that fixture. There are, however, a few "bush" entries, and it looks as if the fields will be lacking both in size and quality. Somehow this meeting does not seem at all popular with outside owners.

Mr. Harry Thompson has been appointed starter for the North Canterbury Jockey Club.

Summons have been issued by the police against a number of Christchurch book-makers for standing in the street on the day of a recent race meeting for the purpose of betting.

Grand Sam, who was recently purchased by Mr. F. Glasgow, has an opportunity to earn distinction over hurdles.

Reports from Wellington state that Danbo is suffering from a cold, and unless he improves rapidly, he may not be started at Trentham. This is unfortunate, as many



Shows at which the average player uses the "rest" or pitches himself against the side of the table, standing on tiptoes on the front leg—a decidedly wobbly position.

terror. This implement derives its name from the fact of its being set with such long legs. It is requisitioned only when the player's ball lies on the other side of a ball and nearly touches it (or, as in snooker's parlance, when the two do actually touch). Being unable to strike his ball, even with a "bridge" formed on the very tips of his four fingers, and all other parts of the bridge hand off the table, he is forced into playing with the spider "rest." At the best he can only strike somewhere up at the top of his ball, and coming down a bit, as the cue does, there is always a chance of a miniature curly mass occurring to spoil your shot. It is absolutely fatal to try and play with "side" when you are using the deceptive spider "rest" without you are an expert. To be able to gauge and allow for the swerving effect it creates. Thin balls is the thing to make a sure of your shot as it is possible to do with every kind of "rest" or "butt." But with the spider "rest," this middle of the ball stroke is nothing short of a first principle which must never be disregarded. By steady practice, however, and a better acquaintance with the different instruments, the amateur can gain a nice knowledge of their peculiarities, which should stand him in good stead in the moment of need. Above all, though, do not forget to make due allowance for the extra length and weight of the "butts."