

**TIRITEA (CURRIER). One and three-quarter mile.**  
 Whimper 9.0 ..... 1  
 Whingot, 10.6 ..... 2  
 Laena, 9.9 ..... 3  
 All started. Gold Bird fell, Won by two lengths. Time, 2.15 2-5.

**HIDDEN HACK, six furlongs.**  
 Fardana 6.10 ..... 1  
 Dayher, 7.1 ..... 2  
 Flybreak 7.11 ..... 3  
 Scratched: Eucene. Won by a length. Time, 1.14 3-5.

**LIVERPOOL HANDICAP of 300sovs. One mile and a furlong.**  
 M. Ellerton b. m. (W. Young), by R. L. Amrose or Grand Circle—Sequin, 8.10 (W. Price) ..... 1  
 F. Hall's Obligate, 7.13 (Berry) ..... 2  
 J. Harle's Byron, 8.1 (Olliver) ..... 3  
 Also started: H.H. 7.12, Allegory 7.9, Mangrove 7.2, Waiakau 7.0, Semphore 7.0, Arion 7.0, Seatotale 6.10, Vindino 6.7. Obligate was favourite. Time, 1.54 1-5.

**TALMERSTON STAKES (Seventh of 500sovs. Six furlongs.)**  
 T. O'Neill's ex. Gladie, by St. Clements—Daisy (Unger, 8.10 (W. Young) 1  
 Mr. Higgins's Ermengarde, 7.13 (A. Olliver) ..... 2  
 J. R. McDonald's Styx, 8.4 (R. Olliver) ..... 3  
 Also started: Vibration 7.12, Allegory 7.9, Adelia 6.4, Peronilla 7.4, Ogier 6.9. Adelia was favourite. Time, 1.14 2-5.

**TERRACE HACK WELTER HANDICAP of 100sovs. Seven furlongs.**  
 A. E. Douglas' bk in Manutan, by San Fran—Queensthorpe, 8.0 (A. Olliver) ..... 1  
 B. J. Gibson's Vibration 8.0 (W. Young) 2  
 Wire Powne's St. Bees, 8.11 (C. Emerson) ..... 3  
 Also started: Lucerne 9.9, Rangikapu 8.5, Ngakau 8.5, Mouldine 8.2, Lady Nola 8.2. Lucerne was favourite. Time, 1.20 4-5.

**AWAPUNI HANDICAP of 200sovs. Six furlongs.**  
 Mr. Longergan's br in Blue Lake, by Royal Fusilier—Blue River, 9.0 (Sid Reid) ..... 1  
 W. Nield's Peronilla, 7.7 (Emerson) ..... 2  
 J. McLaughlin's Eucene, 6.10 (Hunt) ..... 3  
 Also started: Herula 8.5, Prosper 7.12, Pirival 7.12, Rangikapu 7.11, Mount Victoria 7.8, Manauka 7.2, Sanginary 6.10, Seaweed 6.7. Blue Lake was favourite. Time, 1.15.

**HIMITANGI WELTER of 150sovs. Seven furlongs.**  
 E. Penfold's ch g Kina, by St. Ambrose 1  
 Seashell, 8.0 (Emerson) ..... 2  
 J. McDonald's Monte 8.0 (W. Young) ..... 3  
 bank ..... 4  
 H. Whitney's Ceylon 9.9 (Sid Reid) ..... 5  
 Also started: Bonnie Boy 9.4, Bracken 8.13, Lord Benown 8.11, Lady Kilberna 8.3. Bonnie Boy was favourite. Time, 1.28 4-5.

**LIVERPOOL HANDICAP.**  
 Sea Queen ..... 1  
 Obligate ..... 2  
 Byron ..... 3  
 (Won by a length. Time, 1.54 2-5.)

**MANAWATU STAKES.**  
 Gladie ..... 1  
 Ermengarde ..... 2  
 Styx ..... 3  
 Also started: Vibration, Imagination, Adelia, Peronilla and Ogier.

**TARATAHI-CARTERTON CLUB.**

Glorious weather prevailed for the Taratahi-Carterton Racing Club's annual meeting. The attendance was large and the racing good. The totalisator receipts amounted to £747, an amount £624 last year. Results are as follows:—  
 Trial Plate.—Astral 1, Miscandae 2, Elevated 3. Scratched: Apoclyptic, Sir Saracen, Cadonia, Aberrood, Courtley, Alofa and Conziska. Time, 1.3.  
 Delvredere Hack Handicap.—Amber and White 1, Mrs. Vee 2, Wild Care 3. Scratched: War Queen, Vanthes, Royal Maid, San Port. Time, 1.16.  
 Wairarapa County Cup Handicap.—Sir Knox 1, Undecided 2, Bally Shanoun 3. Scratched: Leapok. Time, 2.10.  
 Taratahi Hack Handicap.—Merry Gey 1, Ironway Girl 2, Sir Saracen 3. Scratched: Borsl, Courtley, Knightly, Mary. Time, 1.2 4-5.  
 Railway Handicap.—Negative 1, Full Rate 2, Longstep 3. Scratched: Leapok and Beacon. Time, 1.18.  
 Gladstone Hack Welter.—Over Rate 1, Big Blast 2, Royal Maid 3. Scratched: Regained. Time, 1.20.  
 Dash Hack Handicap.—War Queen 1, Offer 2, Merry Land 3. Scratched: Panthea, Miss Vera, Elevated, Merry Valet, Apoclyptic, Conziska. Time, 1.16.

**BELMONT STUD SALE.**

The first of the season's bloodstock sales was held at Ellerslie on Saturday, when the dispersal sale of the Belmont Stud, according to instructions from the executors in the estate of the late Mr. James Routson, took place at Mr. Frank Macmanus's stables. There was a good attendance of sportsmen at the ringside, including a number from Australia.  
 Following is an account of the bidding:—  
 Montoria, b. m. 4yrs, by South—Pretoria, Mr. W. Ryan (for a Sydney purchaser), 375gns.  
 Delvredere, b. g. 2yrs, by Thorough Apollo—Pretoria, Roultson Bros., 300gns.  
 Brown gelding, 3yrs, by South—Lady Winkle, Mr. J. Clewson, 300gns.  
 Bay mare, 4yrs, by Neaton Dehaval—Pretoria, Roultson Bros., 300gns.

Brown filly, 2yrs, by South—Pretoria, Mr. R. H. Madill, 275gns.  
 Bay gelding, 2yrs, by South—Lady Winkle, Mr. S. Alexander, 150gns.  
 Brown filly, 1yr, by Marble Arch—Pretoria, Roultson Bros., 300gns.  
 Pretoria, b. m, by Culcasser—Winkle, served by General Latour and with foal at foot, R. H. Madill, 160gns.  
 On account of Mr. J. Tooman was also sold the brown filly Blue Rose, 3yrs, by Glutes—Pansy, to Mr. W. Moore, for 300gns. Monodon and Monotone, on account of Messrs. H. Luing and F. Macmanus, respectively, were passed in at 20gns.

**AUSTRALIAN RACING.**

**A.J.C. SUMMER MEETING.**  
 SYDNEY, December 26.  
 The following are the results of the Australian Jockey Club's races, run at Randwick to-day:—  
 December Stakes, five furlongs.—Athenic 1, Bakel 2, Berragon 3. Five horses started. Berragon was sore, and was last away, and he tailed off at the end of a furlong. Athenic was the first to move off, and was followed by Bakel and Zlatar. On entering the straight Berragon commenced to recover his leeway, and finished fast. Won by four lengths, with half a length between second and third. Time, 1.53.  
 Summer Cup, one mile and one furlong.—Albion 1, Embrace 2, Moorilla 3. There were seventeen starters. Limglight, Angeleque, Mandova, and Embrace formed the leading division until half a mile had been covered. Albion and Moorilla then took charge. Albion came away at the distance, and won by three lengths. Moorilla was a length behind Embrace. Time, 2.48 1/2.

**VICTORIA AMATEUR TURF CLUB.**

**MELBOURNE, December 26.**  
 The V.A.T.C. Meeting was held to-day. The following are the results of the leading events:—  
 Popetown Cup.—Abdicator 1, Blad 2, Blind Harry 3. Thirteen horses started. Won by half a length. Time, 2.24.  
 Oberon Steeplechase.—Kia Ora 1, Canadian 2, Alcan 3. There were nine starters, including Don Quex. Won easily. Time, 3.51.

**DOUBLE DEAD HEAT.**

Advice has been received that the Viceroy's Cup, run at Calcutta yesterday, resulted—Mayfowl and Brogue, dead heat, 1; Gunboat and Hilarity, dead heat, 3.

**PORT ADELAIDE CUP.**

**ADELAIDE, November 26.**  
 The Port Adelaide Cup, which was run to-day, resulted as follows:—Balmoral 1, Postol King 2, Tinbrook 3. There were twenty starters. A great bush. Won by half a head, Tinbrook being half a length away, third. Time, 2.25.

**ADELAIDE, December 27.**  
 The Croydon Welter Handicap, run to-day, resulted as follows:—Starphooter 1, Specimen 2, Master Kocan 3. There were 10 starters. Won by two lengths. Time, 1.42 4-5.

**BRISBANE RACING.**

**BRISBANE, December 26.**  
 The Newmarket Handicap, which was run to-day, resulted as follows:—Boutan 1, Lettie 2, Janine 3. There were nine starters. A hot finish, the placed horses being separated only by necks. Time, 2.36 1/2.

**The Wrong Man.**

A good story is told about an interviewer who got hold of the wrong man, with amusing results. An Australian liner arrived at an American port, with a well-known Antipodean divine and the proprietor of a big Australian hotel. By an accident of introduction the pressman mistook the hotelkeeper for the divine, and forthwith proceeded to interview him. Next morning the clergyman was horrified at finding an interview in which he figured as a gentleman handicapped with distinctly festive and sportive predilections. What he read was that after he had partaken of several "Scotch highballs" (whisky and soda), and enjoyed some excellent cigars, he talked fluently and picturesquely of the Melbourne Cup race, the coming fight between Bob Fitzsimmons and "Pompadour Jim," and other matters concerning the world of sport.

**TO AUSTRALIAN VISITORS.**

**J. MACKAY**  
 CORNELL ALBERT AND WYNDHAM STR.,  
 is showing a very Special Line of Riding Saddles, which for Quality and Price are unequalled for value in the city. They are made under my personal supervision, and you are invited to call and inspect before purchasing elsewhere, as I can guarantee satisfaction.

**GOLF.**  
**The Self-taught Golfer.**

**SOME OF THE PITFALLS THAT AWAIT THE NOVICE.**  
 (By MARK ALLESTON.)

I do not think that very many people become golfers because of a fixed determination or malice aforethought. A few, indeed, do because their doctor tells them to, or because golf is the fashion, or because (and these are the rarest) they realise that, of all games, golf presents the greatest number of opportunities for enjoyment.  
 The rest take to golf as some people take to drink. They are induced to play a stroke or two, and these strokes lead to a round, and that round to many rounds; and before the victim knows where he is, all that matters to him in heaven above or earth beneath is the hitting of a ball well and truly, and the lowering of his handicap.  
 It is rather a pity, from one point of view, that the golf habit, like the drug habit, seizes upon its subject in this insidious manner. Let me explain why.  
 All sorts and conditions of people who have hitherto known golf only as it is interpreted by the comic press meet some indulgent friend who invites them to a game. Protestingly, half contemptuously, they accept the invitation, and in nine cases out of ten they are inoculated. The golf microbe has them in its power.  
**A Life of Futile Hope.**  
 They continue to play strenuous and inefficient golf with whomsoever they can beguile. If they be conscientious people they will play solitary rounds by themselves, or even practise the shots that are most difficult to them: And one day they will get a handicap and take part in matches, and (I regret to say it) the rest of their life will be one long regret, and a series of futile hopes.  
 The reason of this horrible fate is because these people have been content to teach themselves. They have hugged to themselves the delusion that golf is quite an easy game, that anybody ought to be able to hit a ball with a stick with a bit of wood or iron at the end of it. When they fail to hit the ball to their own satisfaction they blame this, that, and the other circumstance. They refuse to believe that there is a right and a wrong way of hitting the ball, and that the right way can rarely be attained by intuition.  
 Golf is an extraordinarily fickle game, and one day it will delude these people into thinking that they really have mastered it, while the next it will convince them that the difficulty which a camel must experience in endeavouring to enter the eye of a needle is nothing compared to the difficulty of hitting a golf ball towards a green.  
**Perils of Ignorance.**  
 Most of this difficulty is due to ignorance. The majority of beginners have been told, or they have read in books, that in playing a stroke one must not move one's body, or drop one's right shoulder, or move one's head, or snatch in one's arms, or do any of the other half-dozen things one is so curiously apt to do. And these dear souls do their best to put into practice the knowledge that is theirs, and they fail simply because they lack the—  
 . . . power the giffle gie us  
 To see ourselves as others see us.

By watching a fooler play one stroke a competent teacher will be able to diagnose his ailment. He will prescribe his treatment, and the worst of the remedy is that the sufferer will, more likely than not, find it almost worse than the disease. His bad habits will have become second nature to him. To pull in his arms, for example, will seem to him the most comfortable way in which to play the stroke, and to thrust them out will be an irksome and awkward exercise. He will, accordingly, have to unlearn all that he knows of golf before he begins to learn the correct method of playing the game.  
 That is why the casual and desultory way in which people "take to golf" is to be deplored. They would save themselves a great deal of unhappiness if, right at the beginning, they received proper tuition from a competent teacher. I distrust amateur teachers. As the tag goes, the advice that one gets for nothing is seldom worth more. The pro-

fessional teacher is more conscientious, more tolerant, and less irritable than the friendly amateur. We are also more inclined to pay strict attention to his precepts. Because we want to get the value for our money we are careful to do as he tells us.

**The Crux of the Matter.**

In short, I advise all those hosts of people who are introduced to golf for the first time to take the game seriously, and to learn it from the direct instruction of one who knows how to teach it.  
 Those who do not wish to take all this trouble may cast my own words in my teeth, repeating that golf is a game, and that we should play golf for the sheer fun of it. I urge in return that a game is all the better game and all the jollier fun if one can play it so that one's recreation is not a series of trials and blasted hopes. To the confirmed fooler there is really very little fun to be got out of a round of the links. On the contrary, it is an ordeal that brings into prominence the frailties of his character. On the other hand, the player who is not continually in doubt whether he will even hit the ball, not to mention hitting it in the right direction, has so much worry on his mind that he has no thoughts to spare on the beating of his opponent.  
 Golf is a serious business only to those who take it lightly. It is not the game for a summer flirtation. The player is wedded to golf after the briefest courtship. He takes it up for better or worse. It is notorious that he will endow it with nearly all his worldly goods. The golfer does not mind how much he spends on his game. He will do well by beginning with the expenditure of a few half-crowns on lessons in the art.

**A Model Election.**  
**AN ELECTORAL EXPERIMENT.**

An interesting model election to test the system of voting known as "proportional representation" was recently carried out among members of the House of Commons. The election was arranged by the Parliamentary Committee for Proportional Representation, the object of which was to secure representation for minorities by grouping constituencies and allowing the elector a selection from a list of candidates. For the model election Birmingham was taken as an example. The following were the candidates:—Mr Asquith, Mr George Barnes, Mr Thomas Burt, Sir E. Carson, Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr Dillon, Mr Lloyd George, Mr Ramsay MacDonald, Mr Bonar Law, Mr William O'Brien, Captain Pretymann, Mr John Redmond, Mr F. E. Smith, Mr Wedgwood, Mr J. W. Wilson.  
 Of this number seven were elected. The system of voting is complicated. A candidate, to ensure election, has not to poll a majority, but only a certain proportion of the votes cast. Each voter indicates in order his preference for each candidate. The returning officer eliminates the candidates lowest on the poll one after the other by transferring their votes in accordance with the wishes of their supporters to the candidates indicated as next preferences. This process is continued until the required number of candidates have been declared elected. The first votes were cast as follows:—  
 Law 106, Asquith 96, Carson 13, Wedgwood 13, MacDonald 11, Redmond 10, George 7, Burt 4, Wilson 3, Barnes 2, O'Brien 2, Cecil 1, Smith 1; but after the counts and recounts—12 in all—the elected were: Messrs Asquith, Lloyd George, Burt, Law, MacDonald, Carson, and Smith—four Ministerialists and three Unionists.

The experiment was hardly a success, and it was to be feared that it did not make many converts to "Proportional Representation" among the members of the House of Commons, though many M.P.'s are quite ready to admit that the system of parliamentary election is open to improvement. As matters stand at present it is, for example, quite possible for a smaller number of voters than the Opposition. Also it is possible under existing electoral conditions for one man to poll fourteen or fifteen thousand votes, whilst another, exercising the same power in the division lobby, draws his £400 a year because five or six hundred free and enlightened electors saw fit to put a cross against his name on their polling card. Which is really a most ridiculous state of affairs at this stage of England's history.