

of God," which insured a safe conduct at the time of the festival for all strangers resorting thither, even when passing through hostile territory. For over a thousand years the games were continued, and were not abolished till A.D. 394, in the reign of Theodosius. They were held on a sacred precinct at the foot of Mount Cronus, and took place every four years, the sports lasting a period of five days.

At first, running only was indulged in, generally over a distance of slightly more than two hundred yards, and to this day the

the championship were as follows:—(1), Running; (2), Leaping, including high and wide jumping, generally with *Halteres* or dumb bells; (3), Wrestling, the great event on the programme; (4), Discobolia, or throwing the discus; (5), Throwing the Javelin. It was necessary for a competitor to win all five events before being crowned with a wreath made from the leaves of the sacred wild olive—the symbol of victory. The very greatest honors were awarded to the champion of the games, he being drawn home in state, and awarded a large sum



Hanna, Photo.,

CHAMPION GEORGE SMITH, ON HIS MARK.

Auckland.

parallel grooves in the slabs of stone at each end of the Stadium show the spot where the feet of the competitors in the footrace were planted immediately preceding the start. The competitors ran in heats of four, and then the winners in each heat competed together, the first in the final heat being proclaimed the victor. The list of winners was always scrupulously kept, the first recorded champion of the Stadium being Corcebus in 776, B.C. All taking part in the games were compelled to take a solemn oath that they had gone through ten months preparation. Other sports were gradually added, but the five chief items which carried

of money, and allowed all sorts of privileges. Among the Romans also athletic sports were greatly encouraged, and were held from the earliest times in the Campus Martius.

The great games were revived at Marathon four seasons ago, the sports being held in the presence of the King of Greece, the Duke of Sparta, and an enormous multitude of spectators. The Victorian distance runner, E. H. Flack, did well on that occasion. Although we should much like to see New Zealand represented at this year's meeting, yet all will hope for the success of Rowley in Paris.