

clients revile him in unmeasured terms, and place his ill-luck on a handy memory shelf which they may easily reach in the event of further anathematical language being required to help digestion. The turf writer tells a trainer or an owner a piece of unwelcome truth and his writing retreats hurriedly invaded by individuals who assure him with unnecessary vehemence that he is a malicious pervertor and a stupendous fraud. The knowledge of certain little vagaries peculiar to turf men is necessary to the financial happiness of the more or less blind army of backers, and it is the unpleasant duty of the turf writer to point them out. In return, the parties affected deem it their duty to inform him with a quite unnecessary supply of electrical language that he is a blundering blitherer, supplied with a considerably smaller supply of reasoning ability than is found in the common or garden variety of idiot. A racing professor is informed (through the apparently safe avenue of type and printer's ink) that one of his horses did not show correct form at such and such a meeting. The paper containing the observation is barely on the streets when that Master of (racing) Arts spreads himself over your office, and in language more forcible than polite intimates that you are a colossal exaggerator, with the brain of a one-eyed mosquito.

This is a digression, but it may explain why we hail with satisfaction a run over a breeding estate like Wellington Park, where highly-bred equine babies regard you with honest eyes and note with gratified interest (and an occasional kick) the favourable criticism passed on them. There is a refreshing absence of guile in baby racers, and one praises their beauty, records in print their promising appearance, and inside one short year wins or loses (generally the latter) many shekels over their turf deeds. Yes, it is a

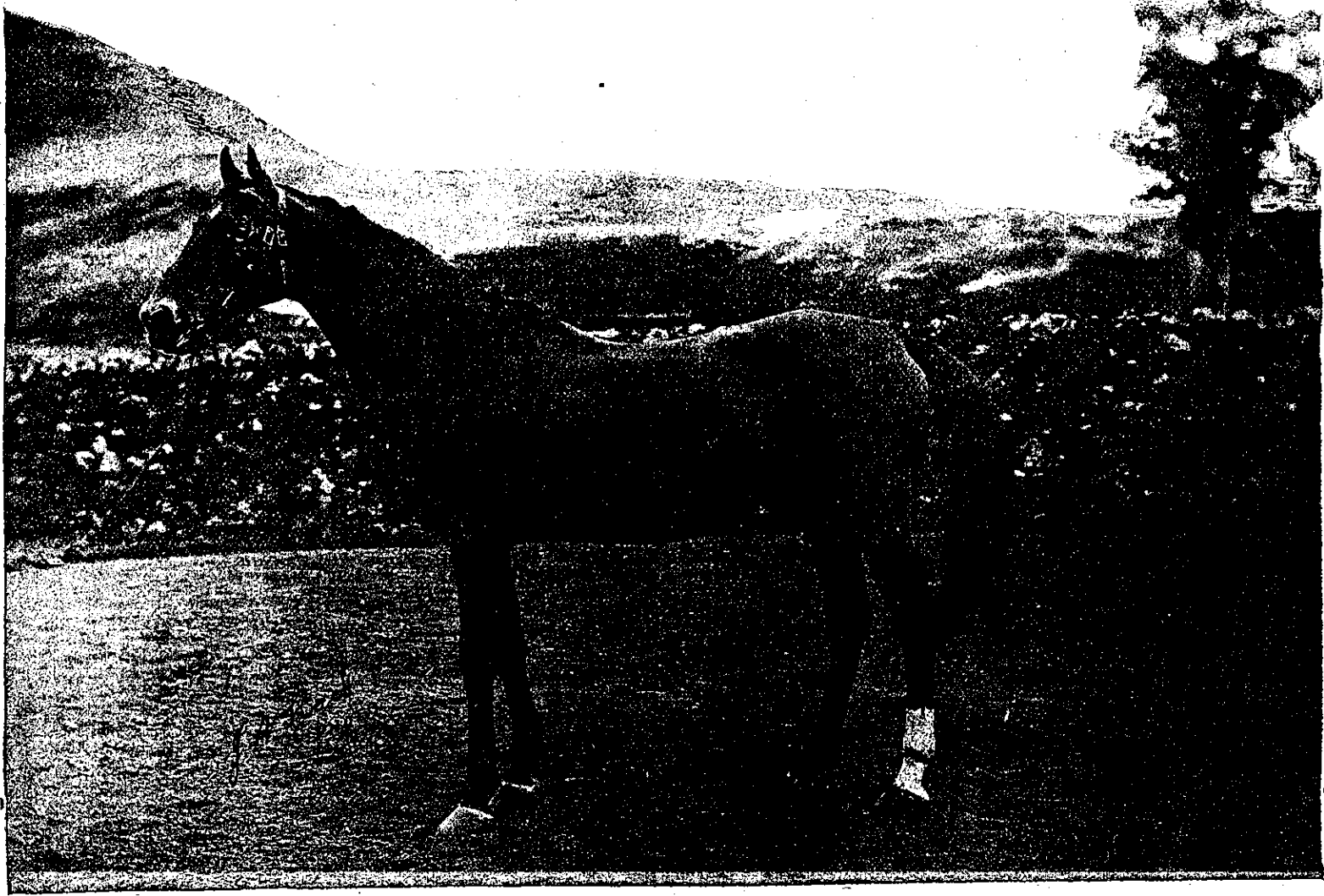
such an abundance of racing points in conformity with their choice breeding that critics will find it hard to pick out a single disappointing one. With the exception of the four late St. Leger fillies alluded to every member of the batch is well muscled, strong, and lusty looking. Mr Morrin's establishment has been dealt with so often by more eloquent pens than mine that I can afford to pass over the beauty of the estate and the appropriateness of its surroundings for the work of its owner. It would indeed be hard to find a more suitable spot for a breeding farm, or one so complete in its appointments. With naturally drained meadows, abundantly provided with sweet pasturage, the best blood it is possible to procure, and a studmaster versed in the art of successful "nicks," it would be strange if shabby youngsters passed through the Wellington Park gates, and it's odds on that the New Year sale will not disclose anything unworthy of the Stud's high reputation.

Last Saturday's visit was made in company with my confreres of the daily Press, and after the stallions of the stud had shown off their paces our host took us through the yearling stables, the inmates of which number just three dozen. St. Leger, the Premier sire of last season's winning list heads the poll with 11 descendants (5 fillies and 6 colts), Cuirassier comes next with 10 (6 fillies and 4 colts), Castor has 9 youngsters (5 fillies and 4 colts), and the Musket horse Hotchkiss stands lowest in the tally with a quintette (1 filly and 4 colts). The returns quoted total 35, and a filly by Brigadier from The Jilt brings the record to just three dozen. Last year the total was 27, and the year before 31, while the 1892 catalogue showed a main of 20. Compared with the results of the last couple of years, the present figures show that St. Leger and Cuirassier

a promise of great development over the loins. Last year Castor gave Cissy a colt foal, Daystar, and the coming season will show what the nick of Zealot's son on a daughter of Musket is capable of. A glance at the Stenning string in work at Ellerslie proves that Cissy threw a slippery one in October of 1893 and her second foaling should show up equally well. Daystar's sister is quiet and sensible to a degree and should give rise to keen competition next January. The price of the Castor—Cissy youngster at the last sale was 280 guineas. Box No. 2 holds a Castor—Pungawerewere filly, chestnut in colour. She is later in her foaling date than the Cissy youngster whom she resembles very much in the dignified contempt she displays for intruders. This yearling represents the first mating of Castor with the daughter of Golden Grape and Atalanta. "Punga" gave a proved one to Nordenfeldt in the shape of the Auckland Cup winner Crackshot and we are led to believe that her Hotchkiss pledge of affection, Osculator, is several cuts above the ordinary. Besides the pair named she has produced amongst others the Musket horse Tetford, Deadshot's dam Katipo, West Australian, Brigadier, and Pugerewere. I am aware that Pungawerewere's Dunedin Cup of 1876 was a trifle unexpected and that while on the turf she was not too reliable. Although she had the pace Punga was not always willing to shoot it out, but her little failing in this respect has not been transmitted to her progeny as witness the readiness to gallop on the part of Crackshot (a Canterbury and Auckland Cup winner), Tetford (a Wanganui Cup victor), and St. James (Dunedin Cup) to say nothing of Brigadier's sound racing. Punga's latest offspring is very evenly balanced and has a steady business-like appearance. Box No. 3 contains a Castor—Welcome Katie filly

visitings, but after several failings she had the luck to hold to Mr Morrin's pet sire, Castor, and that holding has resulted in a very pretty piece of horseflesh. This young gentleman occupies a box famous in the history of Wellington Park, for it has housed all the top-sawyers. When I visited the stud this time last year, the Castor—Cissy colt, Daystar, was the occupant of this box, and I remember noticing some pencil marks on the door which proved to be a sum totalling of 7,600 guineas. That represented the sum of money paid up to the end of 1894 for the youngsters who passed the first year of their lives within its walls. The 280 guineas paid for Daystar brings the tally up to 7,880 guineas, and when 1896 opens a further respectable addition should result. If he proves worthy of his box the son of Carbine's sister will do, and though I am not going to pick him as the clipper of the Park lot, there is ground for saying that he stands pretty well up in the list. He is a very promising looking rangy brown colt, clean limbed, with fine head and neck and good barrel. His looks approach perfection, and the breeding would pass that stage were it possible. This youngster forms the first of the Turf Nomenclature Competitions promoted by the SPORTING REVIEW of which more anon. On looks he will be more than worthy of the best name suggested. The Lady Walmsley colt's next door neighbour is a son of Castor and the famous Musket—Locket mare Necklace (dam of Swordbelt, Miss Letty, Collarette, and Cravat). This colt is bay in colour with white hind feet, and should develop into a very powerful racer. He is a very large and well furnished youngster, with good flat legs, big joints, and altogether has an appearance of great power and stamina. Last year the Messrs. Duder, Bros. gave 200 guineas

The Premier Sire of Season 1894-95.



ST. LEGER (imp.), 1881 (by Doncaster—Atlantis).

N.Z. Photo-Process Co.

treat to spend a day away from the bewildering study of handicaps, the placating of wild-eyed office visitors, and the misleading sights and confidences of the training track, and in no quarter is the treat so varied as at Wellington Park. Last Saturday I visited the home of St. Leger, Castor, and Co., at the invitation of Mr Morrin, who assured me he had one of the best, if not the best, batch of rising yearlings he has ever offered at the January sales. Before describing the numerous parcels of racing mystery shown me during my visit last Saturday, let me say that Mr Morrin does not deviate from the path of Truth when he claims unusual excellence for his latest horse crop. Taking the yearlings individually and collectively they certainly beat the last two Park harvests. In one or two instances, or four to be accurate, the rising yearlings of 1896 are a bit small, but when you are dealing with thirty-six youngsters it is a wonderful percentage to find thirty-two grandly grown and well-nigh perfectly proportioned colts and fillies. This year the Wellington Park bunch is unusually forward, and in view of the season we have experienced the wealth of growth to be found in Mr Morrin's yearling boxes is remarkable. Excluding a quartette of late St. Leger fillies all the youngsters are so splendidly grown as to excite comment even in connection with the Park Stud, where the undersized business is practically unknown. The present lot are to my own knowledge collectively superior to those of 1893 and 1894, and men who possess a longer acquaintance of Wellington Park than I do are confident that in no year has so good a batch been grown on the slopes of Mount Wellington. For general uniform excellence the writer has never seen their equals. While among them some half dozen certainly rank in the very first flight, yet all show

have advanced most in the number of gets. Two years back St. Leger had a solitary representative, last year he had a couple, now he has eleven to represent him. And as his breeding mates in the present production include Sapphire (dam of Bluefire and Mannlicher), Bangle (dam of Casker), Aida (dam of Impulse and Abel), Hazel (dam of Hazelmere), and Balista (sister to Artillery and Hilda and half sister to Strathmore), there is every reason why the son of Doncaster should keep well up in the list of winning sires. He had no youngsters to help him in achieving the position of premier in this year's stallion list, so when his present running representatives are supplemented by the yearlings under reviews his opponents should find it hard to shake him from the top of the tree. Cuirassier's total (5) at last year's sale has been doubled, and it is pretty safe to prophesy big things for Trenton's brother now that he is receiving the assistance of such mares as Bianca, Albatross, Ouida, Radiant, and Rose of Wellington. Castor has one youngster less than was the case last year, and Hotchkiss has two less, while his main shows a decrease of eight compared with the figures for the 1894 sale.

Coming to the youngsters themselves we first looked into the boxes devoted to

CASTOR'S PROGENY,

and leading off with the fillies, box No. 1 disclosed a beautifully built daughter of Cissy the handsome sister to Cuirassier and Trenton. If ever a mare was entitled on breeding and good looks to throw clinkers, Cissy is the article and there's no question about the young'un Castor has given her. Bay in colour and marked with a star this filly has a great range underneath, a level back, is well coupled, has fine quarters, and

and therefore a full sister to Leda and half relative to Ben Godfrey and Tulloch. The Zealot horse throws them big to the daughter of Musket and Dundee's Katie, both Leda and the 1893 colt (purchased by Mr W. Adams) being on the large side. The filly of this year is all brown and is one of the biggest youngsters of the whole establishment and in point of quality as good as the most of them. She has plenty of length, is well ribbed up, with good quarters, and is splendidly let down. Her dam was never raced, but her pedigree is good enough to dispense with turf achievements, for was she not sired by Musket from a Dundee mare that goes back on the dam's side to Phyrne one of the pearls of the English Stud Book. In the next box we come across a daughter of Castor and Victoria and consequently a full sister to Planet. This filly has Castor's head to a tick and though perhaps not quite so lengthy as the others shows substance and muscular development much above the average. In conformation she resembles her dam, the Fève mare Victoria, and though not a very big one has lumps of quality and stands on well out supports. Her back is straight and the quarter development promises well. At the '94 sale a Hotchkiss—Victoria filly quitted at 50 guineas and should the lot under review be obtainable at anything like that figure it will be a bargain. The remaining Castor filly claims Lioness as dam, but she was in one of the out paddocks and was not produced. That completes Castor's daughters. Now for his colts. The first to be looked over was a real clipper and seeing that Carbine's sister, Lady Walmsley, is his dam it would be a piece of in-differable cheek on the youngster's part if he did not show up in a fashion worthy of such blue-blooded descent. Up to now Lady Walmsley has been unlucky in her

for a filly resulting from a similar mating, and this year's youngster, being a colt, should get up to and beyond that figure before Mr Philson allows his hammer to fall. Like most of the Castors, the Necklace colt has a pleasing amount of dignity about him. Coming from such a dam he should also possess a big allowance of pace to counteract his placid, dignified demeanour, for Necklace unquestionably was one of the best mares that ever sported silk in New Zealand. Castor on Hilda is responsible for the colt occupying the next box, and a rare good one this youngster is. Northerners are familiar with the fine work shown on the racing track by Hilda. It will be remembered the daughter of Musket—Ouida was put to Castor rather late just after she was taken out of training, and missed to him, but her next effort to the Zealot horse was successful, and the last sale saw the result, a brown colt, purchased at 135 guineas. That youngster is now learning the rudiments of his education in Chaffe's stable, and has been named Antares. In all probability his brother will prove a better quartered animal than Antares, although it cannot be said the latter has any marked failing in that direction. This yearling has a nice length, a bold shoulder, and strongly marked driving capacity. The last of the Castor colts is from the Musket—Rosalie mare, Lady Wellington. He is a trifle on the small side, but is very evenly made.

THE CUIRASSIERS.

The sons and daughters of Cuirassier were next inspected, and right well has Trenton's brother acquitted himself. Right through, the ten youngsters sired by him show power and stamina. Cuirassier's partners last season included such good ones as Ouida (dam of Artillery, Balista,

Tilbury driving gloves reduced from 6s 6d to 1s 6d at Geo. Fowlds' great sale