

The athletic carnival in aid of the Brunnerton Relief Fund was held on the Domain Cricket Ground yesterday afternoon, but too late for this week's issue, as my notes go to press on Tuesday. Notes on the meeting will appear in next week's issue.

The Oxford University Athletic Club seems anxious to abolish the hammer and weight-putting events in future Oxford and Cambridge sports. The Cambridge University Committee refused to accept the proposed alteration.

One of the events at the autumn gathering of the London Athletic Club was an eight miles walking handicap. The scratch man was W. J. Sturgess, of the Polytechnic Harriers, the amateur walking champion of England, who passed all the other competitors with consummate ease, and won the race in the wonderful time of 58min 56sec, beating the world's amateur record for this distance. Sturgess is a staunch teetotaler.

The New York Spirit of the Times gives the following interesting comparative figures of the two leading athletic clubs in England and the United States:—The London Athletic Club has 65 members on the abroad list, 72 life members, 153 active members, and 166 non-active members—a total of 456 members. The New York Athletic Club has 7 honorary members, 97 junior members, 194 life members, 216 non-resident members, and 2010 resident members—a total of 2524 members, which is more than five times as many as the roll of the London Athletic Club. The London Athletic Club last year lost 65 old members and gained 66 new members. The New York Athletic Club lost 388 old members and gained 357 new members, their transactions in either line being more than five times as great as those of the London Athletic Club. During the year 1895 the income of the London Athletic was 6,840dol 38c, and its expenditures 6,766 dol. For the same year the income of the New York Athletic Club was 780,152 dol 66c and its expenditures 728,862dol 50c.

"I'm not altogether cast down," said Billy Murphy, the ex-New Zealander, when he returned to Cincinnati, the home of his adoption, after his defeat by "Sol" Smith. "But I confess I'm about ready to quit the ring, and get back to the old goose and needle. I never was so happy in my life as the days when I was working at my trade as a tailor, and I'm going back to it. The fighting game is not all some people think it. At best it is a hand-to-mouth sort of existence, and a man is always guessing what's next on the bill of fare for him. Solly Smith is a wonderfully improved man, and there are a whole lot of them who could not stand up before him fourteen rounds. For the first time in my life my legs were dead, and I couldn't side-step after the first few rounds. I am going to find a berth at tailoring, and then take on local men for exercise."

**CYCLING.**

**WAIPAWA—NAPIER ROAD RACE.**

After being twice postponed in consequence of the bad state of the roads, occasioned by the recent heavy rains, the annual Wanderers Club bicycle road race from Waipawa to Napier took place on Saturday afternoon last, and resulted in a win for one of the limit men, A. Watson, of Havelock, who had 20mins start from the scratch men, his time for the distance (41 miles) being 2hrs 24min 20secs. Pocock, winner of the late road race from Napier to Hastings, running second, 8mins 22secs behind the winner, the third place being filled by W. Hands. Young Watson is quite a new hand at the game, only having started cycling last December, and whose first appearance it is in a race of any kind. He is only nineteen years of age. J. E. Cowell, who in 1894 cut out the distance in 2hrs 21mins, holds the coveted record.

At the last meeting of the South Australian Cyclists' Association Mr Sellars tabled an important motion, in effect that the contracting colonies should arrange a circuit and dates each season. Patronage to be refused to any inter-colonial meetings that clashed. At least one third of prize money to be allotted to first-class events.

Local amateur wheelmen will hold a road race on Queen's Birthday. The course to be from Papakura to Bishops-court, Parnell.

Mr W. J. White, of 340, Queen St., Auckland, evidently intends to keep up with the times in the cycle trade. He is now sole agent for the high-class American cycles, the "Tribune" and "Viking." They are both neat and trim machines, and capable of doing a lot of roadster and racing work. Mr White also keeps a supply of ladies' bicycles, and as the terms of the Viking Wheel Company are very reasonable, they should soon become well known locally.

Martin has challenged Megson and Payne, the two crack riders of New South Wales, to ride 50 miles. Martin will allow one of these men to ride the first 25 miles, and another to finish. Rather a conceited sort of task this. Supposing Payne were to take the rough off Martin, it seems likely that Megson would be about at the finish of the next 25 miles—that is, if he didn't get stale watching the first 25 miles. Oh, the monotony of a 50-mile race.

What has become of the recently-formed Auckland Touring Club? Don't hear of them taking any runs.

H. Thompson, the well-known Pioneer Club man, will probably retire from the racing world at the end of the present season. "Harry" was, I think, the first to ride a "safety" in the City of the Plains.

Megson and Lewis are also talking of going to England some time in May, and combined with Parsons should form a triumvirate that John Bull will have some trouble with.

Particulars of the cycling events on the Brunnerton Carnival programme will appear next week.

A correspondent says I am entirely wrong in supposing that lady cyclists have died out in Auckland. He says there are over a dozen of the fair sex now who wheel. Where?

Harris, the English crack, has accepted Martin's open challenge to race any cyclist in Australia. He stipulates for best out of three heats for £25 aside, distance one mile. Harris also challenges the owners of the trotting horses Mystery or Osterly, over a mile, best two out of three, for £25 a side. The race to be decided on Richmond (Melbourne) Racecourse, which is not a grass track, and is always kept in splendid order.

He: "Shall we try the tricycle or the buggy this morning, Laura?"—She: "Either, George. I'm yours for wheel or for whoa."

"Choppy" Warburton, who trained J. Michael, the invincible Welsh wonder, believes in good malt beer and tea, taken in moderation, when in training. He will not allow those under him to smoke, as it affects the bronchial tubes. Michael's latest victory was over Jacquelin, the fastest sprinter in France. The Frenchman was badly beaten in two races out of three, Michael winning each in record time. Warburton has backed Michael to give any man in the world 50 metres (about 55yds) in 10 kilometres (6 miles 375yds).

Cyclists have now become such a numerous and important body that they may rightly expect hotelkeepers to show some special consideration for their comfort (says a Sydney paper). Just as stabling accommodation is provided for horses, so similar accommodation should be provided for cycles. All that is wanted is a shed with racks in it, so that each machine may have a separate stand of its own. The sooner this becomes general the better it will be for wheels, wheelmen, and the hotelkeepers generally. A cyclist is usually in possession of a good-sized appetite, and he does not want to be injuriously affected by worry over his machine while he is eating his meal.

An automatic cycle saddle has been placed on the English market. This saddle always keeps a horizontal position, no matter whether the rider is travelling up or down hill.

Parsons and Martin are to race another match, 50 miles, for £50 miles aside.

At the Porta Benefit, Don Walker lowered the quarter-mile record put up Zimmerman from 30 4-5sec to 28 1-5sec.

Parsons was beaten by Harris in a mile scratch race at Ballarat, and was again second the same afternoon in a half-mile flutter, he failing to concede 60 yards to a rider named Anderson. Time, 1min 5 2-5sec.

Parsons is to take a benefit at Melbourne on the 18th prox., and Megson and Lewis will take one at Sydney on the 25th inst.

The growth of cycling in France may be gauged by the tax office figures; as follows:—1893, 132,276 machines; 1894, 140,080 machines; 1885, 170,000 machines. The amount realised by the tax last year was 1,700,000fr.

**FOOTBALL.**

**AUCKLAND RUGBY UNION ANNUAL MEETING.**

This meeting was held at the Metropolitan Hotel on Friday night last. There was a large attendance of delegates, Mr A. E. T. Devore (president) being in the chair. We regret that pressure on our space this week will not permit of the report being published in full, as we should have liked. However, it is satisfactory to note that in terms of the resolution passed at the last annual meeting the sum of £200 had been paid over to the ground fund trustees, making a total now in their hands, including accrued interest, of £768 8s 2d. The union has a credit balance of £33 5s 3d, apart from the ground fund. Visits are expected during the season from the Queensland and Taranaki teams, and possibly Wellington and Otago, and such high-class matches should be a big draw, and consequently augment the funds of the union.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Mr A. E. T. Devore (re-elected); vice-presidents: Messrs. C. H. Hesketh, T. Henderson, and H. G. Kissling (re-elected); secretary, Mr G. H. Dixon (re-elected); treasurer, Mr C. E. McCormick (re-elected); management committee, Messrs G. Pilkington, A. G. Kissling, J. C. Webster, F. J. Ohlson, and F. W. Edwards; auditors, Messrs. J. Bancroft and Thomas Macky, jun. (re-elected). Mr A. E. T. Devore, in thanking the union for re-electing him to the position of president, briefly referred to the past season's doings, the terms of equality on which the several teams under the district scheme stood, and the favourable future that greeted them in the matter of the prosperity of football in the province of Auckland.

In accordance with a notice of motion standing in his name, Mr Baume (Grafton) moved, "That that portion of the Grafton District boundary line, from Cucksey's store and Fairfax Road be altered, so as to follow the road extending from Cucksey's store in a straight line to Fairfax Road, instead of following Owen's Road, as at present." Mr Baume spoke at some length to the motion, and pointed out that while the deviation would not materially injure the other districts, it would give Grafton ten other players, which were badly needed, in view of the recent alteration, which robbed them of ten of the senior players. Mr Ohlson seconded the motion. On behalf of the Suburbs, Mr J. Leahy objected to the proposed alteration, and Mr H. G. Kissling also spoke adversely to any alteration being permitted. On being put to the meeting the voting was equal, and the chairman's casting vote being given against, the motion was lost.

On the motion of Mr C. E. McCormick, seconded by Mr G. H. Dixon, Mr T. Henderson was elected a life member of the Union, in recognition of his valuable services for many years past.

It has been decided to form a Rugby Union in Coromandel.

Poneke defeated East Christchurch at Christchurch on Saturday by 29 points to nil. Two or three of the Poneke's have to thank the Oriental "push" for many of the tricky points of the game which they (the Poneke's) are continually "ringing on" to their opponents. What the "Cottage push" don't know is harmless. George Lusk, who scored the majority of the points for the Poneke's, is not unknown to Aucklanders. He is a very fast man, and can get to the end of 100 yards in very near 10sec—if the odds are good enough! Anyway, when Lusk and his mates, Galloway and Davidson, are included in a team, the prestige of the Poneke's is pretty well looked after.

Union (Christchurch) beat Linwood (Christchurch) last Saturday by 8 points to nil.

The Feilding Club, which will be on tour shortly, will play Wellington on the 25th, Greytown on the 28th, and Masterton on the 30th.

It seems to be a trifle early yet for football matches of any importance, as half the players have not found their "legs and wings" yet.

**POLO.**

The annual sports and races in connection with the Auckland Polo Club, will be decided at Potter's Paddock on Saturday afternoon, and granted there be fine weather there is sure to be a large attendance. The first of the eight events starts at 1 30 p.m.

**AQUATICS.**

**CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA AT PICTON.**

The following are the full results of the above regatta:—

Maiden Clinker Fours, one mile and a half.—Picton Rowing Club—H. Western (bow), A. Western (2), A. Smith (3), C. Fredericks (stroke), and Bartlett (cox), 1; Canterbury Rowing Club, 2; Wellington Rowing Club, 3. Time, 11min 45sec.

Junior Clinker Pairs, one mile.—In the final heat Picton rowed over, and took the first prize, Nelson declining to start.

Champion Pairs, one mile and a half.—Canterbury Rowing Club—J. Y. Daly (bow), F. J. Cowlshaw (stroke), 1; Wairewa Rowing Club, 2; Blenheim Rowing Club, 3; Wellington Rowing Club 4; Star Boating Club 5. Time, 10 min 46sec.

Junior Outrigged Fours, one mile and a half.—Picton Rowing Club 1; Star Boating Club, 2; Canterbury Rowing Club, 3.

Ladies' Plate, in outriggers, one mile and a half.—Wellington Rowing Club—T. Spence (bow), J. Bourke (No. 2.), F. Wolff (No. 3), J. R. Crawford (stroke), F. James (cox), 1; Star Boating Club, 2; Picton Rowing Club 3. Time, 9min 34sec.

Champion Double Sculls, one mile and a half.—Wairewa Boating Club—C. Chapman (bow), W. Reed (stroke), 1; Wellington Rowing Club—C. Poll (bow), F. B. Young (stroke), 2. Time, 9min 30 4-5sec.

Champion Sculls, one mile and a half.—Wairewa Rowing Club—C. Chapman, 1; Picton Rowing Club—H. McCormick, 2; Wellington Rowing Club—P. Grahame, 3. Dunedin Amateur Boating Club—J. McGrath also started. Time, 10min 10 1-5sec.

Champion Fours, two miles.—Queen's Drive Boating Club.—H. Pritchard (bow), J. Yeoman (No. 2), W. Porter (No. 3), T. Wright (stroke), J. Ward (cox), 1; Blenheim Rowing Club, 2; Wellington Rowing Club, 3; Star Boating Club, 4; Union Boating Club, Wanganui, 5.

The Queen's Drive Club crew (Port Chalmers), winners of the Champion Fours, and C. Chapman (Wairewa Club, Canterbury) have since been selected to represent New Zealand in the Inter-colonial Fours and Single Sculls to be rowed on the Paramatta River (Sydney) next month.

**YACHTING.**

The Annual Cup Race, under the auspices of the Napier Sailing Club, took place in the Inner Harbour on Monday last. A full-sail breeze was blowing from the sou'-west, accompanied by a drizzling rain, which made things rather unpleasant; but in spite of the inclement weather the following first-class yachts faced the starter, viz., Gondola, Irene, Iolanthe, Darling, and Sea Bird. At the sound of the second gun, the Iolanthe bore away with the lead, followed by the Gondola, Darling, Irene, and Sea Bird in the order named. On the lead up to Kopuki the Gondola passed the Iolanthe and rounded the buoy first, with the Sea Bird second and Irene third. These positions were maintained on rounding the Maori Head buoy. On the beat from the last-named buoy, the Irene and Sea Bird, owing to a shift of wind, managed to alter their positions somewhat, and the Irene passed the Quarantine buoy first, Sea Bird second. The Gondola, however, soon picked up what she had lost, and after this stage of the race the issue was never in doubt, the positions at the finish being Gondola first, Iolanthe second, Sea Bird third. On time allowance the Sea Bird won by 3min 40sec, Gondola second, and Iolanthe third. The race from start to finish was a closely contested one, the yachts finishing within a few minutes of each other. The Sea Bird, the winner, belongs to Mr J. Northie, and was built by him last year. Messrs Canning and S. Riddell acted as starters and judges, and great praise is due to them for facing the weather on such a day.—Hawke's Bay Herald.