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N.Z. SPORTING REVIEW AND LICENSED VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE.

THE BRUCE LOWE THEORY.

(Concluded.)

The "figure system" of breeding was inaugurated at Mr Frank Reynold's farm on the Paterson River nearly ten years before Mr Lowe started for England to publish his book. In all that time, the only horse produced there with any pretensions to class, was Melos, the best horse of his speed that I ever saw. But, with Abercorn a year older and Carbine of his own age, he was indisputably over-matched. I know of one horse here in California (Merriwa) who was bred at Tocal under this figure system, and his action was simply perfect. He has been in the stud six years, and if his get have ever won better than second money I have not yet heard of it. Frank Reynolds became so upset mentally over the failure of this infallible figure system that he was threatened with paresis, and his brother sent him off to Japan for recuperation. For a year he was not allowed to look into a book. Another evidence of Mr Lowe's impractical

way of doing things was his importation of Stromboli, a great racehorse, and a good all-round performer, but a horse whose pedigree could not be verified after the fourth generation. People over there believed Aetna and The Alpaca to be thoroughbred, because no trotting horses had ever been imported thither and their ancestry was necessarily thoroughbred. But in a strange country like this, nobody was aware of the fact, and would not breed to him. No American would have committed such a solecism. There were also grave doubte (at least, when I was there in 1888) about the paternity of Clieveden, another of Mr Lowe's importations, but it is now conceded that he was by Yattendon. Mr Garling, of Fennelly's Bazaar, offered him to me for £260 as late as May, 1890, so they could not have thought very much of him. Mr Gannon and Mr Fisher, of Brandon, both advised me against pur-shasing him, and I thought they knew more Australian horses than I did, so Ι about abandoned all idea of the purchase. And now for the book itself. No man except

one endowed with a monumental memory could have originated such a book, for a figure system would necessarily demand more memory than words. He had read over the Stud Book (and with it the Racing Calendar of England) so closely that he discovered that all the winners of the three great classic events of England took their origin from thirty-four mares, most of which were Barbs or daughters of Barb mares. I append a table of these mares from 1 to 34, inelusive, together with the number of classic winners descended from each :---

No. Name.	E.	· _	١, so	
10.	2	3	Υ Π	a l
	മ്	8	ta i	Tota
1 Tregonwell's Barb mare	14	16	12	42
2 Burton's Barb mare	9	16	19	44
3 Dam of the two True Blues	15	14	13	42
4 Layton Barb mare	7	Ξī.	10	28
5 Old Ebony (daughter of Massey's	•			
Barb)	9	9	10	28
6 Old Bald Peg	12	S	2	17
7 Darcy's Black Legged mare	9	2	3	14
8 Concyskin's mare, Bustler	8	3	. 4	10
9 Old Vintner mare	5	0	0	б
10 Daughter of Gower stallion	5	3	3	11
11 Sedbury's Royal mare	• 4	2	8	. 9
12 Old Montague mare	1	6	2	9 j
18 Royal mare	4	2	3	9

14	Oldfield mare	1	2	3	6
15	Royal mare, dam of Whynot	3	4	4	11,
16	Hutton's Spot mare, Agnes family	2	2	1	5
17	Wharton's Byerby Turk mare	0	2	8	Б
18	Old Woodcocks mare	4	8	1	8
19	Lavill's Old Woodcock mare	1	0	3	- 4
20	Dau. of Gascoigne's Foreign Horse	0	2	2	4
21	Moonah Barb mare	0	3	1	4
22	Belgrade Turk mare, whence Gladia-				
	tor	2	1	0	· 8
23	Piping Peg	1	9	1	ð]
24	Hemsley's Turk mare, whence The				
	Baron	0	0	1	1
25	Brimmer mare	1	1	1	8
26	Dau. of Merlin-Selina	1	1	1	8
27	Spanker mare	1	0	1	2
23	Dau. of Place's White Turk, whence	+			
	Emilius	1	1	0	2
29	Natural Barb mare	0	1	2	3
80	Daughter of Hawker	2	0	0	2
31	Dick Burton's mare, whence Ruler	0	0	1	1
32	Barb mare, dam of Dodsworth	0	1	0	1
33	Sist. to Honeycomb Punch	1	0	0	1
34	Daughter of Hautboy, whence Bir-				- 1
	ingham	0	0	2	2

The above table shows what a student of pedigrees Mr Lowe was, and how he must have "burnt the midnight ile," as an old San Jose friend of mine was wont to put it. But his usefulness ended with that, for he was, for a man of his repute, as poor a judge of a horse's conforma-tion as I can remember. He was a great admirer of Cranbrook, who was as ugly a brute as old Jim Renwick, although an unquestionably great performer. Mr Lowe likewise trusted too much to his memory, and at times allowed it to interfere with his research and warp his judgment. If a man doubts this, let him examine the pedigrees of Sterling, sire of Isonomy, the greatest cup horse of the last forty-five years, and the only sire that has gotten two winners of "the triple crown" of three-year-olds; of St. Simon, the only horse that has gotten four winners of the Oaks, and the best stallion since Stockwell himself; and Pocahontas (dam of Stockwell), the only mare that ever gave birth to seven sires of whom four were strictly first-He will find that Mr Lowe places Sterling class. 34, St. Simon 11, and Pocahontas, "the mother of the Gracohi," at 3 on his list. When we consider that Stockwell got two winners of the St. Leger where any other horse but Touchstone, Lord Clifden, Sir Peter, and Birdoatcher got one, we should feel like giving first place to the Byerly Turk mare that produced the dam of the True Blues.

Again, Mr Bruce Lowe literally "slopped er" on Whalebone and Whisker, devoting over" nearly one third of his book to extolling the latter at the expense of the former, merely for the sake of familiarising English and American readers with Whisker's famous descendant, Yattendon, winner of the Sydney Cup. Now, I sllow no man to surpass me in admiration of Yattendon as a sire and a sire of sires. He outbred every English stallion imported to Australia during his lifetime, and headed the list of winning sires twice after his death. I rank him shead of English Melbourne, for the reason that Melbourne never got as good a racehorse as Chester, leaving the unbeaten Grand Flaneur out the question altogether. I rank Grand Flaneur as the great representative three year old of the South Continent, justas I do Ormonde in England and Henry of Navarre in America, rating the latter at least five pounds better than Ornament or Requital.

And while he devotes at least thirty per cent of his book to Whisker Mr Lowe almost ignores his sire, Waxy, or pauses merely long enough to





MR H. R. ROBBETS AS JOHN STOFEL, IN " STRUCK OIL."

damn him with faint praise," and places his top-root mare 18th on the list, in spite of the fact that Waxy's male line above has won over 30 per cent of the Derbies and St. Legers won in the past eighty years. And yet he places Stock-well at the head of all sires, regardless of the fact that he not only comes from Waxy in the main tail line, but is inbred to him no less than three times. As Stockwell was foaled fifty years ago, three Waxy crosses, then are equivalent to eighteen crosses now. Waxy not only got four winners of the Derby, two of which were Whale-bone and Whisker, but he also got from the same mare the stallion Woful, who got three winners of the One Thousand, two of the Oaks, and one of the St. Leger. But for Waxy there would have been no Glencoe, no Web, no Bay Middle-ton, and no Pocehontas. Mr Lowe gives Penelope all the credit for these three great brothers-Whalebone, Whisker, and Woful-and says: "We cannot find the excellence claimed for him (Waxy) by his numerous admirers developed in any other channel. Penelope was bred to Walton and to Election and Rubens, but did not produce a Derby winner to any of them, nor a sire of Oaks and St. Leger winners; nor did her dam Prunella produce a Derby winner to any-thing but Waxy, to whom she threw the Derby winner of 1809, Waxy Pope, sire of Canteen and the great Skylark, who won the Corinthian Stake at York with 168lb up. Yet Prunella was mated with four other sires.

In looking over the list of Derby winners, I I find only Sir Peter and Waxy that have gotten four, and Herod the despised Herod of Mr Lowe's book, was the grand-size of each of these two noted sires Mr Lowe claims Eclipse as the best line beyond cavil, and I agree with him, but, unlike him, I do not attribute the merits of Eclipse to the Darley Arabian, of whose male line he is the sole exponent. Eclipse had twice as much of the blood of the Godolphin as he had of the Darley Arabian; and had four crosses of the Lister Turk, a horse quite equal to the Darley Arabian, and, in my beief, superior to the Byerley Turk. do not either agree with Mr Lowe on the Derby, St. Leger or Oaks, as the supremetest of merit else where would some of our best stallion. Sultan ran second to Tiresias in the Derby in 1819, and I never saw the name of Tiresias in the pedigree of any great stallion except the sire of Malua. But all the world knows Sultan and his great sons, Glencoe, Bay Middleton, and Clarion. Sir Hercules ran third in the St. Leger to Rowton and Voltaire, but who ever saw the name of Rowton except in the pedigree of Vicago? Yet Sir Hercules is the mule line ancestor of over 1000 horses above the rank of a 1853 1851 1851 selling plater. Blacklock ran second to Ebor in the St. Leger of 1817, yet nobody hears of Ebor, though Blacklock's male line is now st the head of the English turf through Vedette, Galopin, and St. Simon. Irish Birdcatcher never started for either Derby or St. Leger, yet he ranks next to Touchstone, who won the St. Leger and two Ascot Oups. Lanercos could get no better than third to Charles XII. in the Leger, yet he got one winner each of the Oaks and St. Leger, and two of the Doncaster Cup, while the dead heater never got a stake horse in all his life. Rataplan ran third to West Australian and The Reiver in the St.- Leger, but he got two racehorses and five

S. k. Hands erchiefs, 3d, 6d. 9d.

high-class brood mares to the Went's one. Coming down nearer to our own times, we find that Tristan was unplaced to Iroquois in both the Derby and St. Leger, but, at five years old, could give either Foxhall or Iroquois five pounds and a eating at any distance above a mile and a quarter. So much for classical winners.

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So it would appear that, in the past fifty-eight cears, more than half the Derby winners and more than one-third of the St. Leger and Oaks races have been won by the get of horses that won no classical event. This is somewhat injurious to Mr Lowe's theory of classical races as the supreme test of a horse's merits. I think there are at least four winners of the St. Leger, during that period that I have overlooked -- Van and there's Nutwith and The Lambkin also, which brings the St. Leger list up to 27. The further you search the more firmly you will be persuaded that breeding classical winners from classical winners is no even money shot.

I look upon Mr Lowe's book as one that is entertaining, as it contains many things that I never knew before. But I pity the man who takes it as a guide for breeding operations. One day, out at Santa Anita, Mr Baldwin wanted me to go to work and adapt the American mares to a system similar to that of Mr Bruce Lowe. I told him I had neither the time nor patience to go to work on what not one man in ten could clearly comprehend, and that I was not in the habit of advocating propositions in which I did not firmly believe myself. In my belief the late Lord Falmouth forgot more about breeding than poor old Bruce Lowe ever knew in all his sweet and irreproachable life.

Look at the great sizes that won neither Derby nor St. Leger since 1840, and then tell me whether it is worth while to breed solely from the lines of mares that hav originated the во сашес classical winners. Here's another table for you :ege. Deby. Bt. ege Horses' Name Chief Event Wor Oala,
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 Colwick
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 1831
 Slave
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 1832
 Epirus...
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 1836
 Hetman Platoff
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 1838
 Birdcatcher
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 1833
 Mildourne
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 1833
 Mildourne
 ...

 1833
 Mildourne
 ...

 1835
 Melbourne
 ...
Brighton Cup Chester Cup ... Grand St'd Plate, Ascot Northumberland Plate Doncastor Cup ... Kildare Plate Liverpool Cup ... 2nd in Derby Manchester Cup ... City and Suburban Goodwood Cup ... Lincoln P.ate Doncaster Cup ... Queen's Vase Goodwood Cup ... 2nd in Derby 1002320000100110001 •••• ...

MISS MAGGIE MOOBE AS LIZZIE STOPED, IN "STRUCK (IL "

Melbourne Ion Rataplan Adventurer Kingston Buccaneer Sweetmeat Parmesan Monarque King Tom Marsyas Vedette Speculum ••• 2 Doncaster Cups Goodwood Cup 2 Chester Cups Liverpool Cup City and Suburban (barnion Beau 1865 Speculum 1854 Learnington 1874 Arbitrator 1872 Hampton 1873 Springfield ... 1861 Scottish Chief 444 Ō 0 1875 Isonomy 1881 St Simon Ascot and Goodw'd Cups. 1 8 50 21 21

Total

1854

Messre Stephen Sanford and Sone, of Amsterdam, N.Y., have taken up to is fad, and are going to mate their mares according to the Bruce