

Tod Sloan, the now famous American jockey is only 26 years of age.

A yearling sister of The Gaffer and Gaulus is being educated by Ike Earnshaw, of Randwick.

Messrs Rutherford and Chapman, two well-known Christchurch sportsmen, were present at Takapuna yesterday.

The officials of the Auckland Racing Club yesterday received an intimation from Lord Ranfurly that he would avail himself of the opportunity of being present at the June meeting.

Holocauste, the French colt that has been in such favor for the English Derby, run next Wednesday, was beaten in a race at Paris last month. The race was for three-year-olds, and his defeat has caused Holocauste to decline in favor.

At the Takapuna meeting yesterday Reconstruction broke down badly, having jarred or partially dislocated the elbow of the near fore-leg. The injury was evidently a bad one, as the horse could not be removed from the course without difficulty.

The Napier people are having a series of steeplechase obstacles erected inside their plough gallop. They will in no way interfere with training operations for other classes of horses, and it is intended that they shall occupy a permanent position on the club grounds.

The Sydney jockey, W. Delaney, now in England, did not make a promising start in the Old Country. His first mount was in the Anchor Stakes, on April 1 at Alexandra Park, on an unnamed horse by Derringer from Frivoli. The horse finished nearly last.

Fata-Morgana (Cranbrook—Sierra), Mr H. C. White's two-year-old foaled to English time, had a run in the Flying Handicap at Warwick Farm on May 13 (states the Sydney Referee). She showed a fair turn of speed for a few furlongs, but, as was only to be expected, died away at the finish. Whether she will prove any good is, of course, problematical, but, for the sake of the owner's experiment, it is to be hoped she does, as in such case, she will be given a chance on the English turf.

The Chaffe stable had a fine innings at the Takapuna Meeting. On the first day Auld Reekie, St. Ursula, and Fartan Jeannie held up the honor of the stable, and yesterday St. Elmo and Nor-West completed the tale of victory. Cannongate ran an excellent race in the Welter Handicap, and some lookers-on thought he was going to add another victory to the credit of the veteran trainer.

Drum Major ran a really good race yesterday at Takapuna. The youngster, in the hands of Burns, won as he liked, and though we cannot approve of the owners' policy in racing a young horse so frequently, we recognise that Drum Major is a sterling horse, and that at five years old he will be able to hold his own with the best jumping horses in Australasia.

Regalia paid a thumping dividend yesterday—£58 2s inside and £68 9s outside her supporters received. Merry Maid was a runner in the same race. One was nominated by Mr Handley and the other by Mrs Handley. Surely this was a case for bracketing on the machine. We quite believe that the horses ran on their merits, but it is only fair to the public that the horses so plainly in one ownership should be bracketed.

The Splinter people had bad luck on Saturday. The gelding jumped the first and second hurdles in great style and appeared to be going well. At the third jump Bellman just touched the hurdle, Drum Major knocked it a bit harder, and as it came back Splinter struck it hard and came a regular purler. He slid right in the track of Nor-West, whose first stride over the jump landed him amongst Splinter's legs. It appeared as if a terrible mix up would happen, but the Sou'wester gelding kept his feet in a marvellous manner and ran a respectable second to the sterling Bellman.

The charges brought against the Wellington police officer in connection with the recent totobet cases was heard on Monday, and after legal argument the S.M. postponed delivering his judgment on the case. On Tuesday Mr Haselden gave judgment in the case. In dismissing the charge against the defendants the S.M. said they acted under orders. The object they were employed upon was for the public good, and what they had done was done in the performance of their duty. The defendants were not mere informers in any legal sense of the word, and they ought to be protected in the performance of their duty.

An interesting statement has just been issued by "Tattersall" Adams, showing what has happened in connection with his sweeps during the nine months prior to March last. New South Wales has taken nearly £80,000 of the "place" prizes; Victoria, £35,000; New Zealand £20,000; Queensland, £17,000; South Australia, £5193; Tasmania, £2600; Western Australia, £1692; and China, £1125. There were 29 consultations held, only 12 of which filled, and the aggregate amount of the "place" prizes paid away was £184,932. Then, of course, a great deal was given in cash prizes. Four of the five "specials," drawn on the day of the race, filled.

The victory of Contrast over Le Var, Gnullo, Paul Ery, Forest, Vigorous, and Diffidence in the South Australian Jockey Club's Elder Stakes, a weight-for-age event, is described as the surprise of the season in Australia. Contrast is a five-year-old and is by that once famous horse Comotion, and is owned by Mr J. B. Pearson. She paid a dividend of £36 12s, and on the second day of the meeting she demonstrated that her Elder Stakes victory had been no fluke, as she won the Adelaide Cup of 1500 sovs, beating fourteen opponents. On this occasion, however, she was much better supported, as out of £5676 15s on the machine, £1350 10s had been invested in her favor. Her dividend, therefore, amounted to only £3 16s, a very small one indeed considering the quality and size of the field. She carried 7st, the top weight being Le Var with 9st 2lb.

Tangahoe was struck out of the Auckland R.C. Hurdles (states The Mail), he having been nominated without the consent of his owner. Such being the case the Wanganui Club, for whose hack hurdles the horse was nominated, decided to allow the horse to start. Their regulation stipulated that a horse could not be nominated if he had been nominated for an open handicap elsewhere within three months previously.

THE NORTH NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL MEETING.

[BY PETRONEL.]

The Auckland Racing Club may be congratulated upon the general entries for the forthcoming cross-country meeting, for though the nominations might have been more numerous the class of jumping horses competing is undeniably good. In the minor events the entries altogether total 197, which, with the 22 nominated for the Grand National Hurdles and the 25 entered for the Great Northern Steeplechase, makes a grand total of 244 nominations received by Mr Percival. On Friday last the acceptances for the big races came in, and it was found that only six horses had dropped out of the Grand National Hurdles, while sixteen out of the original twenty-five entered for the Great Northern Steeplechase had cried content. The withdrawals from the National are St. Kilda, Cairo, Little Billee, Anita, Kapai, and Pyroxylin. The defection of St. Kilda, Kapai, Little Billee, and Anita was to be expected, but Pyroxylin had been doing good work over the sticks, and some people expected to see him perform well with his light burden. He, however, is engaged in the Maiden Hurdles on the second day, so perhaps it has been found that the mile and three-quarters will suit him better than the two mile course. Cairo is out because of an accident. He slipped up the other day in soft going, and strained some muscles. This is a pity, for the Gipsy King gelding had a very favorable weight, and would undoubtedly have run a good race. I am under the impression that we did not see quite the best of Cairo at the Ellerslie Autumn Meeting, and had he remained fit and well I should have taken Mr Peachey's gelding as one of the likely ones. Dummy, with all his weight—and he has plenty to carry with 11st 10lb up—is still in the race, and probably he will be running on when a good few of the light-weight division have had enough. The Mute's son would have been nominated for the Wanganui meeting, but it was found that he could not be prepared in time, owing to his enforced absence from the training track. His mishap cannot have affected him very seriously, however, or he would not have been left in the National and in the Great Northern Steeplechase. The Takapuna running showed Bellman to be in rattling good form, but I think the Tetford gelding can be made just a trifle better by the time the big hurdle race comes along. After Splinter fell Bellman had matters all his own way, and he proved decisively that the rumours as to his inability to gallop in the mud were all wrong. Saturday was a heavy day with a vengeance, and Mr Hannon's chestnut was not in the least troubled by the holding state of the track. Bellman met Nor-West with a stone the best of it at Takapuna, at Ellerslie Bellman has 3lbs less to carry, and Nor-West has 7lbs taken off. There is still a difference of 10lbs between the pair, and at that I believe Bellman holds Nor-West in perfect safety. Splinter's fall causes a feeling of distrust. The Nator gelding may go over again for as he flies his hurdles the slightest touch is liable to topple him over. Then again Splinter has not got through such a tremendous lot of work over hurdles, and though a fast horse on the flat he has before now had to be stopped in his work when in preparation for a jumping race. He certainly looks as fit as a fiddle, and with the careful attention he is receiving at Frank Macmacemin's hands, he will probably go to the post in splendid fettle, and he will be a well backed horse too. Good accounts of Whangaroa, Kanaka, Marina, and Hangfire have been received and I believe some of the superstitious order of backers have picked on Whangaroa, as a ship bearing that name was the first to bring news of the missing steamer Perthshire! The Wanganui running shows that Marina is entitled to the very greatest respect for the Grand National Hurdles. I have a liking for Shylock, for the Wapiti gelding battles all the way through his races, and he has a very nice turn of speed. Mayday is a mare that will run a very good race. I suppose it is a question as to which is the better, Kanaka or Mayday, but I shall not be surprised if the mare is started in the Hurdles and Kanaka reserved for the Steeplechase. At the present time I like the chances of BELLMAN, KANAKA, MAYDAY, MARINA, and NOR-WEST. As was expected, Rhino did not accept for the Great Northern Steeplechase, and others who have fallen out are Cairo, Claymore, Perform, Kapai, Ned Kelly, En Avant, Consort, and Hirstland. These withdrawals leave sixteen acceptors, exactly the same as the National Hurdle Race has. Dummy, with 11st 11lb, has 12lb more than he carried to victory in the New Zealand Grand National last year, and if he can carry the weight to victory over the trying Ellerslie course he will add glory to his already distinguished reputation. Of the tried performers his most dangerous antagonist, Rhino, is out of the way. The old hands remaining in are Nor-West, Mies Nelson, Maggie, and Muscatel. All these know the Ellerslie steeplechase course, and may be relied upon to negotiate its difficulties in safety. Old Mangere would probably have done better to have stayed on the other side, but he is another who should have no trouble in getting over the jumps and climbing the hill. Kanaka and Muscatel are very fairly treated indeed. The first-named is a beautiful chaser, and I expect him to handsomely beat all the Auckland horses. On their Takapuna running he should hold Nor-West easily, and Nor-West I take to be the best of the Auckland

horses we know. Splinter has nothing to carry, but he has yet to earn brackets over country; while Dingo, who is always said to be going to astonish the racing world, has not yet done anything to recommend him for such a race as the Great Northern Steeplechase. Muscatel had 6lb more to carry this year than she won with at the last A.R.C. National Meeting, and as she is accomplishing good work it is evident that she must command great respect. Probably this year's field is of superior quality to the runners engaged in the '98 Steeplechase, but I think Muscatel will be very close up at the finish of the race. She is a pretty jumper, and can race on the flat. By her win at Wanganui she incurs a 5lb penalty, but even this does not put her out of court. Amongst the light-weights Kaitoa is performing excellent work at Ellerslie, and Crusado has done very creditably in public. Riot has very little to recommend him, and the "foreigners" I want to know more about before taking them on my side. So far I think the winner will come from KANAKA, MUSCATEL, DUMMY, and CRUSADO.

Racing Results.

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

SECOND DAY—WEDNESDAY, MAY 24.

The second day of the Takapuna Jockey Club was not favored with Queen's weather, the sky being overcast and the going heavy. The attendance, however, was good. Results:—

HACK HANDICAP.

Corporal, 8.4, Tate ... 1
Wellington, 8.12, Gallagher ... 2
Hamo, 7.10, Satman ... 3

Other starters—Castaside, Quilted, Waitress, Reconstruction, Puriri, Tiki, and Dorothy II. Won on the post by a head. Reconstruction broke down badly, and was, with difficulty, removed from the course. Time, 1min 40sec. Dividend—Inside, £9 12s; outside, £8 4s.

SECOND HANDICAP HURDLE RACE, one mile and three quarters.

Drum Major, 9.0, Burns ... 1
Shylock, 10.2, Phillips ... 2
Tim, 10.8, Fergus ... 3

Other starter—Straybird. Drum Major made the running all the way and won by two lengths, five lengths between second and third. Time, 3min 33sec. Dividends—Inside, £4 19s; outside, £3 18s.

BRITANNIA HANDICAP.

Crusade, 6.12, Satman ... 1
Cuirasette, 8.2, Buchanan ... 2
Auld Reekie, 7.7, Chaffe ... 3

Other starters—Red Lancer, Firefly, Porangi Potae, and Brilliant. Won by two lengths, a length between second and third. Time, 1min 52sec. Dividends—Inside, £8; outside, £8 10s.

SECOND PONY HANDICAP, five furlongs.

Edison, 7.7, Tate ... 1
Ranguru, 8.0, Gillespie ... 2
Trooper, 6.12, Stewart ... 3

Other starters—Lena, Nithmount, Cuisine, Roy, Francis, Clansman, Botfly, and Lady. Won by a neck. Time, 1min 10 3/5sec. Dividends—Inside, £22 12s; outside, £13 18s.

VICTORIA HANDICAP, six furlongs.

St. Elmo, 8.10, Duff ... 1
Lillie, 8.6, Gallagher ... 2
Cuirasette, 8.12, Buchanan ... 3

Other starters—Firefly, Partan Jeannie, Picklock, Manutake, Lufra, The Archer, Jack, Tiki. Won by half a length, a neck between second and third. Time, 1min 24 3/5sec. Dividends—Inside, £12 10s; outside, £13 6s.

HANDICAP STEEPLCHASE, about three miles and a half.

Nor-West, 12.8, Hall ... 1
Glenora, 10.6, Burns ... 2

Other starters—Riot, Dingo, Riffe, Kaitoa, Crusado disqualified. Crusado finished first, but protest was entered against him on the ground of a cross in the straight. After a lengthy investigation the stewards disqualified Crusado, and awarded the race to Nor-West. Time, 8min 8 4/5sec. Dividends—Inside, £5 6s; outside, £5 7s.

WELTER HANDICAP

Regalia, 7.10, Hodson ... 1
Crusade, 9.0, Sceates ... 2
Acone, 10.5, Taylor ... 3

Other starters—Cuirasette, St. Gordon, Tiki, and Leo. A close finish. Dividends—Inside, £58 2s; outside, £68 9s.

DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

FIRST DAY, MAY 24.

The weather was wet, but the attendance good. The following are the results:—

HACK HANDICAP.

Witchcoast ... 1
Silver Crest ... 2
Vulcan ... 3

Scratched—Hipponus. Dividend, £4 10s.

HURDLES.

Waikaita ... 1
St Hiko ... 2

Scratched—Pioneer. Only two finished. Dividend, £4 1s.

BIRTHDAY HANDICAP.

Starshot ... 1
Skirmisher ... 2
Malatua ... 3

Scratched—Jupiter. Time, 2min 54sec. Dividend, £3 10s.

Table with columns for race names and dividends. Includes MAIDEN, WELTER, SELLING, and TRADESMEN'S HANDICAP sections.

THE WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

Wet weather was experienced the night before and on the morning of the races, but it broke fine about noon. The track was wet but not extra heavy. The attendance was good. £6906 went through the machine, which was an increase of £1842 on same day last year. Results:—

FLYING.

Leda, W. Holmes ... 1
Female Franchise, Murray ... 2
Toa, Jenkins ... 3

All started. Won easily by a length and a half. Time, 1min 19 3/5sec. Dividend, £19 17s.

WANGANUI STEEPLCHASE.

Muscatel, Johnson ... 1
Whangaroa, Cochrane ... 2
Bradshaw, Higgins ... 3

Scratched—Watershot. A pretty race. Hilda II. and Barbarossa fell at the water jump. Kanaka and Tally-Ho fell at the second to last jump. Won by two lengths. Time, 6min 29 4/5sec. Dividend, £6 7s.

HUNTERS' STEEPLCHASE.

Stilts, Christie ... 1
Robin Hood, Vallance ... 2
The Clown, Gordon ... 3

Also started—Electro. Good finish. Time, 7min 10sec. Dividend, £3 1s.

HANDICAP HURDLES.

Marina, Arnott ... 1
Nipapu, Higgins ... 2
Nayborn ... 3

All started. Won easily. Time, 4min 8 1/5sec. Dividend, £2 17s.

HACK HURDLES.

Derry, Peters ... 1
Woolloomooloo ... 2
Frost ... 3

Won by half a neck. Time, 2min 59sec. Dividend, £3 8s.

SUBURBAN STEEPLES.

The Friar, Johnson ... 1
Venture ... 2
Highlander ... 3

Kanaka, Barbarossa, and Bradshaw were scratched. Won by two lengths. Time, 5min 43 1/5sec. Dividend, £3 5s.

HACK FLAT.

Dartmoor, Holmes ... 1
Southernly Buster ... 2
Coralinn ... 3

Dormant was scratched. Won by a length. Time, 2min 7sec. Dividend, £2 18s.

After the Races.

THE TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB'S WINTER MEETING.

[BY ATLAS.]

THERE is no doubt that the Takapuna Jockey Club is one of the most important of the country clubs in New Zealand, and when anything happens to mar the success of its gatherings the interests of the sport suffer, and the sporting community are disappointed. They were a little bit more than disappointed on the first day of the Takapuna Club's Winter Meeting, for, speaking personally, the feeling of disappointment merged into disgust when pitiless rain fell heavily just as the first race was being run, and revisited us at intervals during the afternoon. Wet coats, Takapuna mud, and a stiff cold breeze are not pleasant conditions under which to hold a race meeting, and would knock the enthusiasm out of even a Salvation Army man, but somehow the love of the sport is too strong for wind and weather, and fully 2000 people braved the elements and witnessed the racing. The course, which up to Friday had been in splendid condition, became sloppy, but that did not prevent some of the races being well contested, and some exciting finishes were witnessed, while the only mishap to note was the fall of Splinter in the Hurdle Race. It looked an ugly fall, but the horse and rider escaped, and Splinter's backers mourned. Mr R. Wynyard's arrangements were complete, and the programme was carried out with precision and correctness. Mr Frank Lawry, M.H.R., occupied the judge's box in the absence of the Hon. E. Mitchelson, and had two close finishes to decide, and under the exciting circumstances it is not surprising that some criticised