

BREEDERS OPPOSED TO HANDICAPS.

The running of the Hunter Handicap at New York last week gave the breeders, many of whom are now in the East, ample opportunity to criticise the present tendency in the racing world to handicaps rather than weight-for-age races (writes S. B. Weems in the *Breeder and Sportsman* of October 21). This switch to the handicap theory began some eight or ten years ago, when many of the valuable fixed events at weight-for-age conditions proved to be virtual walkovers for the two or three best horses of the year. There was then a clamor for handicap conditions. It was argued that the weight for age conditions deprived the public oftentimes of good contests which might have been obtained through a handicap adjustment of weights which would have placed the champions on a more equable footing with the lesser lights of the turf, and so brought out good fields and provided good racing.

The breeders and those interested in breeding advanced the counter argument that when a man bred a first-class racehorse it was right and proper that his horse should have an earning capacity—that he should not be weighted out of valuable races just because he happened to be a good horse. Much might be advanced in support of both sides of the controversy. There can be no doubt that a fair portion of handicaps are necessary in order to make good racing.

But a certain percentage of weight-for-age races for the three-year-olds is absolutely indispensable as a guide to successful breeding. The three-year-old colts are now tolerably well taken care of with the Withers, Belmont, Realization, Brooklyn Derby, and a few minor fixed events but the fillies have absolutely no genuine tests of merit at weight-for-age, and it is therefore a pity that an old classic event like the Hunter, which was originally intended to give a line on breeding in the way of providing a test for the three-year-old



Photo by A. L. Cleave, Ellerslie.

On the Lawn at the Coromandel R.C. Meeting.



Photo by A. L. Cleave, Ellerslie.

Coromandel R.C. Meeting—When the Heart is Young.

fillies, should have been changed to handicap conditions.

The turf needs a series of weight-for-age events for three-year-old fillies, just as for the colts. The Withers, Belmont, and Realization pretty well determine the best of the three-year-old colts. There is no such test, however, for the three-year-old fillies, and it is almost impossible at the end of a season to determine accurately which one of the three or four fillies may be the best of the year. The Jockey Club could render a service to breeding by changing some of the filly events back to their original weight-for-age conditions.



AT ELLERSLIE.

Thursday, Nov. 30.

On a fine morning St. Paul commenced proceedings by running twice round on the tan at three-quarter pace. He had Conspirer as a companion for the first part of the journey. Zealous accompanied by St. Elyn galloped over five furlongs in 1min 6sec. Lady Avon tackled Bluecap over a similar distance on the grass, and the filly finished in front. Picklock and St. Innis ran six furlongs on the plough, the former finishing ahead in 1min 17sec. St. Ursula beat Auld Re-ke once round on the tan in 1min 56½sec. Lillie and Jim Kean covered a mile and a quarter in company the distance occupying 2min 12sec. Lætitia beat Hastings over six furlongs on the grass in 1min 15½sec. Knight of Athol, looking none the worse for his Coromandel exertions,

traversed once round on the grass in 1min 55sec. Pokomoko beat Admiral Hawke and Firefly over a round on the grass in 1min 56sec. Red Lancer out out six furlongs in 1min 16sec. Seahorse with Cadiz ran a circuit in 1min 58sec, the Cup winner was looking and moving well. Rosiphele beat Panacea in a five furlong dash in 1min 5½sec. The Afghan moved well in a six furlong gallop out out in 1min 17sec. Swiftfoot, The Slave, Crusade, Bar the Door, Record Reign, Splinter, Miss Blair, Tim, St. Clements, Blue-jacket, Nor' West, St. Peter, Cabalter, La Gloria, Wa orongo mai, Beddington, Aleger, St. Aida, Thelm, Evening Wonder, Favona, Hengist, Wellstock, Coronet, Doneraile, Shylock, P'ayntree, and other horses did useful exercise after breakfast. Kettle-drum ran five furlongs in 1min 3½sec, and Sultan ran five furlongs in 1min 2sec. Paul Seaton beat St. Olga and Balbirnie over six furlongs run on the plough in 1min 16sec. Ohuri beat Lena over six furlongs. Tolstoi, Courtier, Rex, Guardsman, Dingo, Ella Delaval, Corporal, Volcano, Verdi, St. Ona, Minerva, Crusado, Blue Paul, Kitty Flynn, and some others were out and cantered steadily.

Racing Results.

FEILDING J.C. SPRING MEETING.

FIRST DAY—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

The Spring Meeting of the Feilding Jockey Club was held on Wednesday and Thursday in last week. The weather was fine and there was a good attendance. The results are as follows:—

FLYING HANDICAP. Six furlongs.

- Gowrie, 7.13 1
- Osborne, 7.2 2
- The Miller, 7.10 3

Coin was scratched.
Won easily. Time, 1min 17½sec. Dividend, £2 19s.

MAIDEN HACK PLATE. One mile and a distance.

- Silverlock 1
- Fiona 2
- Punui 3

Other starters—Handy Boy, King's Guard, Ika, Sudor, Aotea, and West Guard.
Time, 2min 8 1-5sec. Dividend, £7 14s.

ST. ANDREW'S HANDICAP OF 200 SOVS. One mile and a half.

- Crusoe, 8.8 1
- Ambrosia, 7.3 2
- Daphne, 7.0 3

All started.
Won by half a length. Time, 2min 48 1-5sec.
Dividend, £2 13s.

SPRING HURDLES OF 65 SOVS. One mile and three-quarters.

- Light, 9.0 1
- Hangfire, 11.1 2
- Watershot, 9.3 3

All started.
A great finish. Won by a head. Time, 3min 25sec. Dividend, £19 5s.

WAITUNA HACK HURDLES. One mile and a half.

- Verbena, 9.3 1
- Rimlock, 9.13 2
- Rongotea 3

Time, 2min 59sec. Dividend, £6 1s.

HACK FLAT. One mile and a quarter.

- Uila, 8.4 1
- Philanthropist, 8.2 2
- Whitney, 7.4 3

Dividend, £4 10s.

KIWITEA STAKES. One mile.

- Falka 1
- Jadoo 2
- The Miller 3



Photo by H. Cooper, Ellerslie.

Snapshot at the A.A. and C.C. Sports

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