

You do not often see a first-class German race-horse, and if the Government did not purchase largely from other countries the horse supply would soon fall short of army requirements. With regard to New Zealand, who can say that racing flourishes? All our best horses are leaving the Colony, the whole place is inundated with mushroom meetings, the breed of horses is fast deteriorating, and in a few years there will be nothing but weeds to be got. Look at the countries where the totalisator is not allowed. What country in the world can compare with England either in her breed of horses or in racing? Then come nearer home. Are not Victoria and New South Wales far ahead of all the other Colonies in racing and all kinds of sport? Then, again, which Colonies have the best horses? The Walers, as they were called, have long left their name, not only in the Eastern Empire, but as far west as the plains of the Crimea. It is to be hoped that it will be a long time before the machine invades either Victoria or New South Wales, and the sooner it is driven out of the other Colonies the better.

THE Auckland Trotting Clubs appear to be trying to steal a march on one another, each claiming to be the senior club. The Auckland Trotting Association, at their general meeting, declined to affiliate with the New Zealand Trotting Association, and made rules of their own and advertised their programme for a meeting to be held on September 6th. Suddenly the Northern Trotting and Pony Club springs into existence, affiliates with the New Zealand Trotting Association, and announces that it is the senior club, and that any horses starting at a trotting meeting not under their rules will be disqualified. The Avondale Club, that first originated the idea of having trotting races, is, it appears, ignored altogether. The idea of affiliating with the New Zealand Trotting Association, whose head-quarters are at Christchurch, is a bad one. In the first place, they are too far away to be of any practical use; secondly, from what we can gather from Southern files, they are not able to manage their own affairs, much less others. The threat of disqualifying horses and ponies running at meetings not under control is of little consequence to Auckland owners, as if they found they had a good horse they would certainly not take him South, but to Australia, where they could win more money racing him, or if desired to sell, get a longer price. Auckland has not a sufficient number of trotting men or horses to support three clubs, so it is a pity to see any wrangling over the matter, as trotting properly carried out will improve the breed of harness horses and hacks. We therefore beg to make the following suggestion: That the different clubs interested in trotting and pony racing should elect three or more stewards; those elected to form a club, to be called the Auckland Metropolitan Trotting Club. They should draw up rules and regulations for the whole province, settle all disputes, arrange the different programmes, and be a court of appeal, similar to what was proposed at the Racing Conference lately held in Wellington. Then, by ignoring the New Zealand Trotting Association, there would be some good sport in Auckland, all animosity be done away with, and the best managed trotting club would receive the most patronage and eventually become the leading club.

#### MELBOURNE CUP—CONTINUED.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THERE are ninety-one horses in the Melbourne Cup that are weighted below 7st. 7lb. The majority of them have no pretensions to win a race of this description. Why they are left in is only known to their owners and trainers. From what I can learn there are more unsound and inferior horses in the Cup this year than has ever been known. The field is not likely to be a large one, but will be a strong one. In continuing my analysis, I shall only touch upon those horses that have some kind of a show. Whimbrel, 7st. 5lb., is talked about as being a good thing. His owner, D. O'Brien, is not only a clever trainer, but he is also a thorough good judge of a horse, and it would not surprise me if Whimbrel became a great favorite before the day. Medallion, at the same weight, is another three-year-old that has a great show,

but until it is known whether he remains in New Zealand or not he had better be left alone. Gatling is a three-year-old that promises well. He only performed once last year, when he ran second to the mighty Titan. Grosford, 7st., nominated by Mr. Lamond, is only engaged in the Melbourne Cup. He on more than one occasion last year showed a liking for a distance of ground, a thing so necessary in a young one, that I should not be surprised to see him come to the front in the betting before the day. After going through the remaining horses, I find a number that have no book record worth mentioning. The others are three-year-olds, that at the present time you may say are "untried," and are therefore left in until something definite is found out about them. Of these I only fancy Forty Winks and Tormentor. The former is the property of a very clever man, Mr. H. Oxenham. His two-year-old performances warrant the belief that he has shown his stable that he can gallop; therefore if he is a big improving colt he would have been thrown by until the spring and then roughed up. Tormentor has never appeared in public, but he belongs to a strong stable, and it must be remembered that some time ago Mr. Brodribb took £20,000 to £1,000 that Hickenbotham trained the winner of the V.R.C. Derby and Melbourne Cup. At the first glance it seemed that that meant Titan and Titan or Titan and Carbine. As far as I can learn, the stable has Titan and Tormentor in the Derby and Carbine, Prince Consort, Tantallon, Titan, and Tormentor in the Cup—so the bet looks better than it did at first. In choosing ten against the field I am getting a long way the worst of the odds, as it should be nearer twenty. However, I will chance it, and select Melos, Singapore, Tantallon, Matador, The Admiral, Dunkeld, Grosford, Gatling, Whimbrel, and Forty Winks. When the next forfeit is due there will be a great weeding out, and it will be easier to separate the horses.

#### THE NEW ZEALAND CUP.

[BY NORDENFELDT.]

#### NEW ZEALAND CUP

| RUN NOV. 4.] |       | [TWO MILES.  |       |             |     |
|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------------|-----|
|              | st lb | st lb        | st lb |             |     |
| Tirailleux   | 9 6   | Aronoel      | 6 12  | Liquidation | 6 5 |
| Mer. England | 9 2   | Wolverine    | 6 11  | Reprisal    | 6 4 |
| Occident     | 8 13  | Wayland      | 6 10  | Lenore      | 6 3 |
| Dudu         | 8 9   | Crackshot    | 6 10  | Fitz-James  | 6 0 |
| Recluse      | 8 0   | Freedom      | 6 9   | Meta        | 6 0 |
| Cynisca      | 7 12  | Strephon     | 6 9   | Kotaku      | 6 0 |
| Whisper      | 7 12  | Moraine      | 6 9   | Richlake    | 6 0 |
| Medallion    | 7 9   | Hazel        | 6 7   | Bay King    | 6 0 |
| St. Andrew   | 7 9   | Q. of Trumps | 6 7   | Emmason     | 6 0 |
| Jet d'Eau    | 7 7   | Catamount    | 6 7   | Mariner     | 6 0 |
| Thackeray    | 7 2   | St. James    | 6 7   | Cannonade   | 6 0 |
| Mas. George  | 6 12  | Katinka      | 6 5   | Corolla     | 6 0 |
| Mejidie      | 6 12  | Pique        | 6 5   |             |     |

Now that the acceptances for the New Zealand Cup have been received, and owners are beginning to back their horses for that event, a review of the chief performances of the different animals engaged, together with anticipations as to their future movements, will be of interest to my readers. Before commencing to criticize the handicap minutely, I shall unhesitatingly declare it as about the worst production that I have ever seen emanate from the combined resources of the three gentlemen who handicap for the Canterbury Jockey Club. Surely an unpardonable mistake was made in the handicapping of Mr. Redwood's colt Dog Rose. Fancy handicappers excusing themselves for their blundering by stating that they were unaware of the colt's age, and considered him a year older than he really is. They cannot have gone to much trouble to find out, as the record of the only performance the colt made clearly sets forth his age. And if they have been equally at fault in other details of the handicap we can only suppose again that they have failed to look up previous performances. Tirailleux, 9st. 6lb., rightly heads the handicap, having gone through his three-year-old career without once having suffered defeat. He is in my opinion an over-estimated horse, some people going so far as to rank him alongside of the illustrious Carbine. I take his best performance to be his Canterbury Cup victory, in which he carried 7st. 6lb. over two and a quarter miles in the excellent time of 4 min. 3 secs., beating Scots Grey and Dudu. His performance in the Onslow Plate was also a meritorious one, but in the other races in which he ran he had absolutely nothing of any consequence to beat. His previous form made the New Zealand Cup last year appear a "moral"

for him on paper, but I fancy that if started this year he will not be one of the first three favourites. Merrie England, 9st. 2lb., has already been heavily backed and at the time of writing rules as first favourite. I may be considered bold in declaring my belief that this colt is Tirailleux's superior, but I shall expect him to prove so if they meet this season at weight-for-age. Merrie England proved his excellence in the Great Autumn Handicap, when he put up 9st. 1lb., and easily beat Dudu over her pet distance of a mile and a half, in the good time of 2 min. 39½ secs. Although I expect to see the colt run very prominently in the race in question, and beat all the top weights, I am doubtful whether he will prove himself equal to the task of defeating some of the younger division. Occident, 8st. 13lb., follows in the list, but I don't fancy his chance in a race of this description. In the Exhibition Cup he beat a lot of moderates, the only horse approaching first-class being Scots Grey, who was generally supposed to be out of form. I think the stable have something better in Mariner. Dudu, 8st. 9lb., is a consistent performer, but as yet she has not succeeded in getting to the end of a two mile race. She failed to gain a situation in the same event last year with 5lbs. more, and as she is getting no younger I shall pass her by. Recluse, 8st., has been on the sick list, and although he is now in work he cannot possibly be ready in time. On paper form, however, he is leniently handicapped. Cynisca, 7st. 12lb., won the Wellington Cup last season with 7st. 1lb., beating Dudu by a head. She now meets the Somnus mare on 12lbs. worse terms, but she will probably have improved with age, and may be dangerous in the Cup. However, I do not like the Apremont breed over a distance of ground, and shall not recommend my readers to support her. Whisper, 7st. 12lb., is in the same stable, but as yet she has not shown any partiality for a long journey, and, albeit she got fourth in the same race last year under the same weight, I pass her by. And now I come to Medallion, 7st. 9lb., the colt which I select at the present time to do the trick. The colt has breeding, good looks, and excellent performances to recommend him. His victory in the Maiden Stakes at Flemington last Autumn when he ran a mile and a quarter, beating First Boolka, Utter and eight others, in the fast time of 2 min. 9½ secs., stamped him as a racehorse. He also carried 8st. 10lb. over six furlongs in the good time of 1 min. 15½ secs., in the race for the Canterbury Champagne Stakes beating a really good field. At present everything points to his remaining in New Zealand, in which case I shall expect to see him follow in the footsteps of Manton and be returned the winner of the treble event. He meets Merrie England at weight-for-age, while the other crack four-year-old, Tirailleux, has to give him three pounds according to the same scale. It is generally acknowledged that all things equal, a good three-year-old will beat a good horse of another age under the present scale of weight-for-age, and I shall expect to see Medallion beat both the top weights. St. Andrew, 7st. 9lb., is badly treated in being placed on the same mark as Medallion, and although a good performer I don't fancy his chance. Jet d'Eau, 7st. 7lb., has been supported to win a lot of money by the stable, and must therefore be labelled "very dangerous." I am not one of those who fancy the chestnut son of Cadogan and Waterwitch, and if that was his true form in the last Auckland Cup, then I am convinced that he has no show in this event. A little bird, however, whispers that it was not! If it was, and he was found wanting, then why has he been bottled up, instead of earning his oats by flying at smaller game? It must be remembered that the stable is also represented by Tirailleux and the three-year-old colt, Mejidie. Thackeray, 7st. 2lb., is well handicapped, but the betting market tends to show that the stable has something better in Crackshot, and therefore he may not be a starter. Master George and Mejidie are untried, and it is impossible to form any idea of their merits. It is quite possible, however, that in Mejidie, who is by St. Leger out of Rose Argent's dam Rosette, Mr. Gollan has a good colt. His breeding is undeniable. Aronoel is a well-performed filly, but I cannot stand her in this race. Wolverine, 6st. 11lb., has been given a great chance of distinguishing himself, and as he is reported to be very well I cannot ignore his chance. On one occasion last season he gave weight away to both Occi-