

appearance, paces, and manners best adapted for carrying ladies with ease and comfort." How often was this overlooked—sidebones, etc., passed muster—but what can you expect?

We will take Brigadier first. He was the only entry in his class, and even if there had been more he would have taken the prize as the best entire.

Class 2, best colt, two-years-old, one entry. Rufus, ch c, by Parthenopeus—Prima Donna. He ought not to have received first prize, even if he had received any, as he was only a moderate colt.

The same remarks apply to class 3, for yearlings, for which there were only two entries.

Class 4, for brood mares. There were only two entries—Katipo, and a brown mare by Somnus, dam Flora. The former is rather a nice mare, but deficient in bone. She had, however, a good barrel to carry her foal in, and had a nice foal by Brigadier at foot. If second prize had been awarded to her it would have been sufficient.

Class 5, for the best two-year-old fillies. There were three entries. This was a miserably poor lot. However, the judges awarded first prize to Mr. Paul's filly by Sword Dance out of Woodnymph.

Class 7, for the best pair of horses over 15h. 2in. Only one entry—Mr. H. B. Morton's bay horse and mare. A very poor pair, but should not have been awarded the prize, as there was no competition, and the pair were devoid of merit.

Class 8, for the best pair under 15h. 2in. The prize was awarded to Mr. John E. Taylor. They matched in colour and size, but that was all, as they could neither step or go well together.

Classes 9 and 10, for horses under and over 15h. 2in. had fair entries, and I suppose the best got the prizes, but as I could not get near them, and in the afternoon they were so mixed up, I will not pass an opinion.

Until we come to class 16 there was no competition. This was for mare or gelding suitable for Indian Cavalry re-mounts. Colonels Carrie and Dawson may have been right in their awards, but I must say that if they were the cavalry must have greatly altered in the service since my day.

The roadsters were a fair lot, but not having the privilege of seeing them tried I can pass no opinion. All I can say is that the finest-looking horse on the ground was one ridden by a Mr. Coates, who I am told came from the Waikato. With the exception of his head (which he carried well) being rather coarse, and having a Roman nose, he is the best I have seen for many a long day. The next best was ridden by another Waikato settler. On asking why they did not exhibit, the answer was he did not like the judges.

The same remarks apply to class 21, for ladies' horses—not having the *entrée* I did not see them tried.

Mr. J. Abbott exhibited a perfect little gem, Nimrod, in the entire pony class under 14h. It has often surprised me how this gentleman manages to pick up so many good ones, as he has not had much experience in such matters. There were several other nice ponies, but I cannot go into them, as I did not see them properly tried.

The draught stock were miserable in the extreme, and, as an old Lincolnshire farmer said to me, they were not fit for a market team. The judging of this class shows the necessity of having competent judges with a veterinary surgeon, as several had sidebones, and the sooner the Government impose a tax on stallions the better. Messrs. Winstone's Never Mind Him got the first prize. He is a moderate horse, described as being got by Wellington. (imp.), and bred by Mr. Boag of Canterbury.

I shall now leave the remainder of the horse stock alone, as I have not time to go through them all.

The cattle, taking them as a whole, were good, but the judging decidedly bad. Some competent judges were with me and expressed the same opinion. The competition was limited, Messrs. Maclean, as usual, taking all the prizes for Herefords, as well as for some of the other classes.

The Jerseys, Alderneys, and Channel Island breeds, as far as Jerseys and Guernseys went, were well represented, but, as I have often said before, what are called Alderneys in the Colonies are really Guernseys, the true

Alderney breed being very scarce, and it is many years since I have seen one of this class. The judging was worse than usual.

The show of sheep was only limited. There were two or three pens of good Lincolns. Leicesters I know nothing about, while it struck me that the Southdowns had either run out or gone astray. Knowing nothing about the other breeds, I leave them alone.

There was only a small show of pigs, some of them being of a very good class, especially the white Yorkshire, but I am a better judge of them on the table.

The implements, dairy produce, etc., I deputed to someone else, but he got with the ladies and disappointed me.

There were some useful vehicles on exhibition, exhibited by Messrs Cousins and Atkin and others. One in particular, an omnibus made for Patterson and Co. by Cousins and Atkin, and if the driver had only been exhibited it would have taken a special prize.

The dog show was a poor exhibition, and the judges' awards were worse even than at the last show. Space will not allow me to go thoroughly into them. The collies appeared to be of a more serviceable kind than those shown at the dog show, not being so much of the bench kind, but some of them exhibited were not of the true type. The fox terriers were very poor; the winner perhaps was the best, but the only good thing about her was her head. She had crooked legs, was deficient in bone, and had bad feet.

The poultry show was only moderate, and I do not intend to go into it, as the only kind I understand are the games, and there were none of the kind I remember. They were all too leggy. My opinion of what a game should be, and what Lord Waterford liked, is: The beak strong, curved, long, and sharp; head long and sharp, with the face and throat lean and thin; neck long, strong, and well arched; back short, and very hard, both in flesh and feather; broad at shoulders, narrow at tail, and rounded at the sides; breast broad and very hard, the rump should be narrow, neat, and short, the saddle feathers close, hard and short; wings very strong, and just of a medium length, well rounded to the body, and carried neither high nor low, but so as to protect the thighs; thighs short, muscular, hard, and firm, placed well apart; legs short, and spurs low down, long, sharp, and rather thin, a little curved upwards, and not turning in too much; feet broad and spreading, so as to give them a good hold.

The horticultural department attracted a good deal of attention, especially among the ladies, but as I understand nothing of that kind of thing I leave it alone.

The only other parts I shall notice are the jumping contests. Not being allowed inside the enclosure, though I attempted to pass several times, I am unable to give the heights. However, the jumping was good, but the ridership was poor, and if riders had been changed a better record would have been made.

The greatest blunder was made in the jumping matches for amateur riders. Mr. Percival was awarded first prize. Surely this must have been either favouritism or ignorance. What would his father, or his brother-in-law, two of the finest horsemen in the Midland Counties of England, have said to have seen him riding a trained hunter over hurdles with a rein in each hand? Tom Brown was also on a trained horse, and rode like a mountebank. The real contest should have been between Messrs. Dawson and Tonks. The former had the prettiest seat, but the latter the best hands and use of his legs, so the first should have gone to Tonks and the second to Dawson.

In conclusion, I can only say that I hope the show was a pecuniary success, and that next year the Mangere farmers will have another under better management, as they are the jolliest and pluckiest lot of fellows in Auckland, though until lately I knew, but few of them, but some I now find come from the old county.

PICADOR.

Two swells quarrelled, and one expressed himself thus: "Why, do you mean to call me a liar?" "No, sir," said the other, "I should not like to call you a liar, or any gentleman a liar. At the same time if I met you walking with Ananias and Sapphira, I should say you were in the bosom of your family."

ELLERSLIE TRAINING NOTES.

ON Monday George Hope was the first out with his team. Patchwork was sent twice round the plough slow, and Quadrant went a similar journey at half pace. Fishmonger went three revolutions of the same track at a good sound pace, and his stable-companion Moderator moved twice round slow. Tamora put in two circuits at an even pace, while Sentinel and Brown Bess worked in company. Hedger had The Dancer out, and he went once round the plough, and Antelope was despatched for double that distance, moving freely. Priscilla did steady work.

ON Tuesday all the work was done on the plough. Tamora was given strong work, going two rounds in good style. Fishmonger was given three revolutions, but Patchwork, Quadrant, Antelope, Moderator and Priscilla were each restricted to two rounds. The Dancer was exercised alone, and put in one circuit. Harrison's team did not work, and are in physic.

ON Wednesday only gentle exercise was indulged in.

ON Thursday Capella and Ma Boughal were sent twice round the trial track at a good pace, both moving well. Patchwork trotted twice round the tan gallop, and Priscilla moved very freely in a fast gallop of a mile on the trial track.

VOLUNTEER NEWS.

[Volunteers and others are invited to contribute to this column. All communications should be addressed to "Carbine," and left at the office of this paper not later than Wednesday in each week.]

[BY CARBINE.]

ON Saturday last there was a splendid muster of the "A" Battery at the Mount Eden Range, under Capt. Geddes and Lieut. O'Brien, over two-thirds of the company being present. The annual volley and independent firing was gone through. The correct returns of the shooting I have been unable to ascertain, but judging from hits on the target they ought to be well up in the prize list.

The officers of the Wanganui Garrison have instituted a series of popular entertainments for the purpose of liquidating outstanding liabilities of the Drill Hall. The Naval Artillery give the first performance this month, the Wanganui Rifles follow in December, and the City Rifles in January next.

Sergt. Zeferino and Corp. Trinidad Martinez were executed at St. Lazaro Plain, Mexico, on October 1st, in the presence of the whole garrison, which formed in a parallelogram, the sides measuring three-quarters of a mile square and the ends one half mile. Twenty-two soldiers fired at them, and they fell at the first shot, but each was shot through the head afterwards. The garrison, after the execution was over, marched past the bodies and were commanded to look at them. The crime for which these men were executed was for the murder of Lieut. Calapiz Santiago, of the Custom-house, two months ago.

The first Military Tournament held in Wellington came off on the Hutt Racecourse last Monday, it being a great success, over 4,000 being present. Before the tournament commenced an inspection of the local volunteers was made by Lieut.-Colonel Hume, the muster being an excellent one, 407 out of a total strength of 494 being present. As far as is at present known the amounts won by the various corps are:—Rangitikei Cavalry, £23 5s; Permanent Artillery, £21 5s; Ashburton Rifles, £14 10s; "D" Battery, £13 10s; Wellington Navals, £5 10s; H.M.S. Curagoa, £5 5s; City Rifles, £5; Petone Navals, £4; Torpedo Corps, £4; Heretaunga Mounted Infantry, £7 7s 6d; bugle boys, 15s.

More dissatisfaction seems to prevail in volunteer circles through the letting of the Drill-shed to the Sunday School Union, and doing them out of their weekly drill. It appears more so with the Ponsonby Navals, who were called to parade last Monday, and on going to the shed were told they were trespassing. Surely the officers must be to blame here, for the shed could not be let out on hire before they were consulted in the matter. If this is not enough to sicken anyone giving their time gratis, and being expected to put in all their time learning gunnery and torpedo drill to pass a Government examination at the end of the year, I don't know what is.