

the place of meeting, while one of the rules was 'that no debt should be contracted in respect of balls,' and that any member playing at dice should be fined ten guineas. Not are these the only instances in which the committee of the Hunt showed their fondness for paternal legislation, as looking through the minutes, one reads that 'rules were passed for the charges to be made by the inkeepers at the various places where the Hunt should meet, for should any imposition take place they would never again return to that place'; 'that any members being in Edinburgh on the days of the Hunt Meeting, or coming to the October Meeting, and not dining with the Hunt, shall pay one guinea to the funds,' all the apologies to be judged by the gentlemen present; 'that on February 10th 1786, Sir W. A. Cunninghame was fined a guinea for not dining, notwithstanding a written apology of indisposition, which was overruled, having been seen walking the streets before dinner'; that, 'Mr. Alexander having five buttons on his coat instead of seven was fined a guinea'; etc. The livery of the Hunt had been altered several times between its institution and the fixing of Mr. Alexander in 1822. At first it was a red hunting frock, with a green cape, to be worn in the field, with this understanding, that members of the Hunt, who bring their hounds to the annual meeting, were allowed to hunt in the dress of their respective hunts. In October, 1817, the Earl of Haddington carried a motion to the effect 'that members should wear a horn attached to the button hole of their coat,' while in 1818 it was resolved that 'the Hunt should have two coats, the one being the original dress uniform of the Hunt, and the other an undress coat, scarlet, and double breasted, with flaps for pockets, and a green cape (according to a pattern of green cloth to be lodged with the Secretary for the purpose of establishing and preserving an uniformity of color), with the uniform button of the Hunt; viz.: a silver button having engraved thereon a fox and a thistle, there being seven buttons on each side under the lappets.'

"They were stickers for etiquette, too, in other ways at that epoch, for we read of the secretary being instructed, upon receipt of a letter from the agent of a member notifying his resignation, to state "that it was not customary for them to receive any such notice except from the member himself;" but it should be added that this peremptory intimation was made just after the Club had been honoured by the visit of George the Fourth, who is not the only sovereign that accorded his patronage to the Hunt, as William the Fourth did the same, while the minutes of December 1837 record the receipt of a letter from Lord John Russell, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, intimating that Her Majesty Queen Victoria had been graciously pleased to consent to become the patroness of the Royal Caledonian Hunt Club;" and in 1843 the Prince Consort became joint patron with Her Majesty. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Club have presented several addresses of congratulation to Her Majesty as for instance 'on the birth of the Prince of Wales in 1841,' and 'on the auspicious occasion of her visit to Scotland in 1842,' or that, 'on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra of Denmark the members dined in the Douglas Hotel, Edinburgh, at 6 o'clock proceeded to view the illuminations, and re-assembled to supper at 10.'

"They seem, moreover, from the first to have 'done' themselves very well; for they gave a fee of 20 guineas to the cook over and above what he received from the inn-keeper during their annual meeting, and there are frequent entries such as 'disapprobation of the ball supper furnished at the Kelso meeting;' 'the expense of ball tickets at Perth, when no champagne was given at supper' was censured, 'while minute regulations were made as to the corkage to be paid on the Club wines drunk at the dinners.'

"It would be unfair, however, to let the reader carry away with him the impression that the Caledonian Hunt Club only existed for the purpose of wearing fine clothes and feasting; for, apart from the amount given to the races, money was granted in 1780 to the Charity Workhouse at Edinburgh, the Dispensary at Kelso, and to other institutions; while in 1793, when the meeting was at Kelso, the committee gave £50 from the funds of the Hunt for the relief of the sufferers by a fire

that had broken out during the night. The fire of patriotism also burnt in their hearts, for we read how, on December 10th, 1793, the secretary was ordered to pay immediately to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh 50 guineas, for the use of the British army on the continent—a donation that was repeated during the Crimean war; while in the years 1798 and 1799 it was resolved that 'the meeting should be suspended owing to the situation of the country at present, which prevents the attendance of many members.'

"But I am inclined to think that the most curious entry in the minutes is the following, under the date of January 10th, 1787:—'A motion having been made by the Earl of Glencairn and seconded by Sir John Whitford, in favour of Mr. Burns of Ayrshire, who had dedicated the new edition of his poems to the Caledonian Hunt, the meeting were of the opinion that, in consideration of his superior merit, as well as the compliment paid to them, Mr. Haggart (the secretary) should be directed to subscribe for one hundred copies in their name, for which he should pay to Mr. Burns the sum of twenty-five pounds upon the publication of his book.'

"Minutes as to the alteration in number of members, which was gradually raised to fifty, then to eighty, afterwards reduced to seventy, and in the amount of subscription possess little passing interest; but as far back as 1816 the duration of the annual meeting was brought down to a week, though I cannot find any date when the members ceased to meet together for hunting purposes, and when the Caledonian Hunt became very much what the Grand National Hunt is in England—that is to say, giving prizes to be run for at some ordinary meeting. But the Caledonian Hunt still exists for social purposes as well, and not only holds an annual dinner in Edinburgh and a ball at the place of meeting, but has also a Derby dinner in London on the Monday before the great race. At one time no one was eligible for admission to the Hunt, unless connected with Scotland by birth, property, or residence, though the residential clause has since been abolished; but the Caledonian Hunt, which numbers among its present members such well-known persons as Mr. Arthur Balfour (Irish secretary), the Earl of Rosebery, the Marquis of Bute, the Marquis of Queensbury, Colonel Anstruther-Thompson, Lord Melgund, Viscount Stormount and Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, embraces a wide variety of men who have little else in common, but who are all one to encourage sport."

MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

[BY PICCOLO.]

PROFESSOR CARL SCHMITT held a musical recital of his pupils, assisted by several friends, last Monday. The concert was a most enjoyable one, and reflects great credit on the professor for the way his pupils performed. When you went there you did not expect to find perfection amongst so many juvenile exponents of the musical art, and I must say that I am much surprised at the dailies trying to disparage the concert and attempt to run down Herr Schmitt, who has really done more for the Auckland musical world than any body else during the twenty years that I have resided here. The performers chiefly were very young and naturally nervous, but this might have been expected. Before going through the programme I will just make a few remarks, taking the ladies first. The lady violinists were decidedly good, but they are rather too fond of looking at their left hand, as of course they must know their music by heart, though one remarked to me we must look somewhere. The Misses Cora and Stella Alexander play far above what you might expect, but the elder of the two throws herself about too much, expressing affectation, but she will improve with age, but she had better correct this fault as soon as possible. Now for the gentlemen. Mr. Grant sang "The Monk" with no feeling, more like an automaton. The excuse was that he was nervous. Until he recovers his nerves he had better not try again in public. Mr. Stevenson in "The Silent Keys" has a good voice, but he was said to be ill and nervous, but this was no excuse for his neglect of manners, as he walked off the platform leaving his lady accompanist to follow him. The vocal trio—ladies' voices—"Hail, O Queen,

and Lady Fairest," was not well rendered, owing to the instruments being out of tune. The time, however, was good. Miss Stanton in the cabaletta from "Satanella" was rather too nervous, but will eventually prove a great acquisition to the Auckland musical world. Mrs. Hopkins in "Il Bacio" was exceedingly good. She has a charming voice, with considerable range and good enunciation. Miss T. Moran sang "Com e Bello." She has a wonderful range of voice, but is more suited for operatic than concert singing. The "Hammock Song" was very good. Mr. A. L. Edwards sang well, but he puts on too much side. The "Midsummer Day's Ramble" rendered by Messrs. Sybil and Jennie Davis was very creditable, the intonation being good, and their voices blended well together. Miss Quinn sang "Good bye, but come again" very nicely. She has a good soprano voice, well suited for ballads. Miss Stevenson played a "Reverie," and will in time become a first class violinist, as she plays with much expression and brings out a good tone. The Quintette (for stringed instruments) is an excellent composition, and was well performed, the 'Cello Solo by Miss Chew being particularly good. Miss Barron sang "The Spanish Gipsy" fairly, she has a good timbre, also good range, but her enunciation is not clear. The "March Celeste" by the Orchestra brought a pleasant meeting to a close.

ATHLETICS.

CRICKET.

GORDON v. PARNELL.—Gordon continuing their innings were not disposed of until they had made the large score of 376. Moresby, who played a dashing innings of 83, has never been seen to better advantage, his hitting being as clean and well timed as his defence was sound. Fowke played a good innings of 55. Clayton got 29. Kelly batted in improved style for 30, while Ball got 10 not out. Parnell have so far lost four wickets for 50. Mills and Walker played well for 20 and 14 respectively.

AUCKLAND v. ST. MARY'S.—Auckland with one wicket to fall resumed their innings, but were soon out with the addition of one run. St. Mary's, with the exception of Stone and Darby, did not make any stand against R. Neill and Beale. Stone played well for 26, and Darby got 10. Neill got 8 wickets for 38 and Beale 6 for 38. The majority of St. Mary's team play too slow cricket, and hardly make any use of a loose ball. Some of them also have the bad habit of getting constantly in front of the wicket, and on Saturday no fewer than three were out leg before.

GORDON II v. ALPHA II.—Gordon won by 52 on the first innings. Alpha—first innings, 42; second innings, 24 for seven wickets.

EDUCATIONAL CHAMBERS v. VICTORIA.—Chambers—first innings 32 (Hales 12); second innings 24; total 56. Victoria, 112 (Thomas 11, Laver 21, Bleakly 10, McKillop 32 not out). Victoria thus won by an innings and 56 runs.

PONSONBY v. AUCKLAND.—The former won by 59 runs.

Sir Garnet, the steeplechaser, has arrived in charge of P. Murtagh. The horse is very well.

Mr. G. G. Stead, the well-known Christchurch sportsman, and Mr. J. O. Evitt, the A.R.C. handicapper, arrived from the South by the S.S. "Manapouri."

The alterations to the steeplechase course as suggested by us some time ago have been completed. The bridge at the bottom of Crowther's paddock has been made double the width, and the flags at the stone wall have been placed further down, so as to bring the jump in a line with the sod wall, thus doing away with the nasty turn. The fences have been all attended to, and there is nothing on the course that the most fastidious person could find fault with. The seats on the grand stand have been repainted, and great improvements made to the totalisator buildings both inside and out. Other improvements outside for the benefit of the public have also received attention. The telegraph board has not been altered, as the Committee are on the eve of making considerable alterations to the saddling paddock, therefore, they did not consider it advisable to do so for this meeting.