

into place by his mates. A fine run by Masefield ending in a try was the best individual feat during the game. Madigan and Penalligan (who played a staunch game) scored the tries for Grafton, and took both places. The first from a difficult angle was only a moderate attempt, but the second, which was by no means easy, was a splendid shot, just outside the post and at the right elevation.

GORDON v. AUCKLAND resulted in a win for the former by six points (goal and 4 tries) to three (goal and 1 try). Auckland had rather the best of the first spell, being a good deal in their opponent's twenty-five. Gaudin very soon scored, and placed a good goal from a difficult angle. Play continued mostly in Gordon's territory until towards the end of the first spell when Auckland were driven back, and some good passing among the Gordon backs resulted in a try obtained by Otway. Jervois took the place, but the ball went low and wide. In the second spell (30min spells) Gordon staying better pushed Auckland throughout, although several good rushes were got on. Smart after a good run scored, but Macminamin failed to improve. Next Cooke distinguished himself by a magnificent run from Gordon 25, passing everybody and touching down. The score was not improved by the place which Jervis took. Next Jervis ran in from half distance and touched down behind the post. He took the place and landed a goal. Mr. T. Henderson gave great satisfaction as referee. To-day (Saturday) Grafton meet Gordon, and Ponsonby play Auckland.

MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?

LAST Friday evening the Mount Eden Collegiate School delighted a crowded audience in the Lorne-street Hall with an entertainment so far above the level ordinarily reached by performers *in statu pupillari* as to merit more than a passing mention. Although admission was by invitation tickets, I am informed that the young ladies do not object to criticism in the public press. Punctually at 7.30 p.m. the Misses Bush, pupils of Mrs. St. Paul, took their seats at a very excellent piano, and executed in capital style a tuneful and dashing "Hungarian March," which was loudly applauded. Immediately after its conclusion the curtain rose upon the *pièce de resistance*, an extravaganza-cantata, founded upon the time-honoured fairy tale of Beauty and the Beast, by Myles Birket Foster. The libretto, from a literary point of view, has considerable merit, and the music is graceful and appropriate. The opening prologue revealed a veritable "rose-bud garden of girls," who presented a charming *mise en scène*, and sang in good tune and time the pretty chorus of roses. Miss Winnie Buddle, as Queen of the Roses, in a sweet contralto solo, reads her subjects a lesson on the vanity of beauty, and discloses Prince Azor's spell-bound condition. The Roses promise amendment. Part I., Scene I., then introduces a sailors' chorus, the young ladies dressing the characters and singing in capital style some breezy music, set to words which smack refreshingly of the "briny." A duet follows between Beauty (Miss Bayldon) and her father (Miss Maude Harper), in which the latter asks his daughter to name the present she would like him to bring on his return. Modest Beauty merely asks, "Oh! pluck thy child a rose." The sailors resume their chorus, and wind up with a splendidly danced hornpipe. In Scene II. Beauty's father has reached the Beast's domain, and is invited by a charming Chorus of Roses to enter and rest in the lovely garden. In Scene III., mindful of his promise to Beauty, the merchant rashly plucks a rose, and is straightway confronted by the indignant Bear, who will only condone the offence on receiving a promise that Beauty shall be sent to him. The Bear (Miss Rosie Rees) sang and acted in this scene most effectively, but perhaps hardly looked sufficiently formidable, her sweet face scarcely according with the bear-like costume. A mask would have added to the terror of the guilty thief. The Roses, in a graceful chorus, allay the merchant's dread, and tell him to mount Bucephalus, the magic steed, and bring Beauty forthwith. Part II., Scene II., shows the merchant telling his adventures to Beauty,

and contains a charming bit of comedy well portrayed by Miss Harper. The merchant paints in glowing terms all the beauties of the Beast's garden, but tempers his ecstasies with a groaning ejaculation, "But oh! that Bear!" Miss Harper marked the antithesis with admirable emphasis, and the effect was quaintly comic. Beauty, in a pretty ballad very nicely rendered, promises to go to the rescue and save her father's life. In Scene II. Beauty and her father are welcomed by a tastefully-dressed chorus of slaves. The Bear dismisses his court, and the three principals discuss the situation. An exquisite little trio ends the scene, the Bear deciding that Beauty must remain for a year in his custody. In Scene III. Beauty is sleeping, pillowed on a mossy bank and guarded by the attendant Roses. The Bear sings a graceful serenade, and the Roses in chorus chaunt a sweet lullaby, led by their Queen, who sings a tuneful solo very effectively. Part III., Scene I., opens with an arduous solo for Beauty, in which Miss Bayldon acquitted herself so well that a shower of bouquets marked the approval of her hearers. The year has expired, and the Bear, who is sick unto death, appeals to her to save his life. Beauty declares that she must first visit her father, and promises to return before sunset. Scene II.—The Bear, surrounded by his slaves, is on the point of expiring, and calls tremulously for Beauty. The slaves sing a mournful dirge of despair, but Beauty on Bucephalus returns in the nick of time to marry the Bear, who is of course immediately transformed into the dazzling Prince Azor, and all ends happily. I cannot too highly praise the performance. Costumes, scenery, grouping, acting, singing and management were all admirable. Miss McHarg wielded the conductor's bâton with *aplomb* and decision, while Miss Miller played the accompaniments accurately and with true musical taste. No stage-waits and no single hitch marred the smooth run of the dramatic action. Foot-lights were wisely dispensed with. Seeing that in some scenes upwards of sixty performers crowded the small stage, dresses might easily have come in contact with the gas-jets. Much earnest labour must have been bestowed in the preparation of a piece which has its reward in the satisfaction of those who were privileged to witness its performance. After the interval a miscellaneous entertainment formed the second part. Miss E. R. Jones, a youthful performer, played a rather ambitious solo on the pianoforte in a style highly creditable both to the performer and her teacher. Next the younger girls of the school recited in chorus, under the bâton of Miss Matthews, a "Dutch Lullaby" and "The Dead Doll." Everyone admired the marvellous time, precision, and accuracy of inflexion displayed by those fresh young voices. Miss Gibbs sang "In Old Madrid" so well as to win an encore. She should be very careful about her intonation, which in some notes was not quite true. A three-part glee—that old favourite, "Ye shepherds tell me"—was next sung most effectively by the elder girls, some twenty or twenty-four dividing the parts. Another semi-choral recitation, "The Bells of Lynn," was next admirably given by the elder girls under Miss Matthews' direction, meriting praise of a character similar to that awarded to the younger girls' recitations. The Misses Winnie Buddle and Rosie Rees very creditably went through the scolding scene in Julius Cæsar. Both did excellently, but Miss Buddle (Brutus) especially well. Two pupils of Mrs. St. Paul next played a pianoforte duet, "Les Jolis Oiseaux," and covered themselves and their clever teachers with glory, the execution being, for such youthful performers, almost faultless. As a finale the upper school sang "Protect us through the coming night," set to music which is familiar to many as the exquisite trio "Ti Prago." "God save the Queen" brought the pleasant evening to a close, and with many congratulations the audience dispersed.

MISS JENNIE LEE opens her season in the Opera House with that old favourite "Jo" on Monday night. After so long a blank it will be a pleasant change, and doubtless good audiences will be the order of the night. Good wine needs no bush.

MADAME PATEY opens on the 23rd instant, and the music-loving public may with confidence

look forward to a real treat. Miss Bertha Robson the soprano, won golden opinions at the Dunedin Exhibition. Messrs Jones and Patey are respectively the tenor and basso. M. Lemmone whose exquisite flute playing was heard and appreciated in Auckland some years ago, will greatly strengthen the company by his solos, as well as by his *obbligatos*.

ORPHEUS.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE—

Tattersall's (Sydney) Steeplechase Meeting, on Monday, May 18th, 1891.

Thames Jockey Club (general entries), on Thursday, May 21st, 1891.

ACCEPTANCES DUE—

Waipa Racing Club, to-day (Saturday), May 16th, 1891.

Thames Jockey Club, on Thursday, May 21st, 1891.

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.]

RANGE TIME-TABLE.

May 16.....Victoria Rifles, City Guards, Newton and Royal Irish Rifles.

[BY CARBINE.]

THE members of the South Franklin Mounted Infantry have just completed their half-yearly course of training. The men looked forward to a visit from Major Goring, but he was unable to be present. They have decided to form a shooting club, the first one to be Married v. Single. Messrs. Maxwell and Rutter have offered prizes for the highest scores on both sides.

The "A" Battery held their usual monthly inspection on last Thursday week over forty men answering to the roll-call, under Captain Geddes and Lieut. O'Brien. Major Goring inspected the guns and men, and stated he was well pleased with their appearance and also with the cleanliness of their field pieces. The Major intends to have two classes formed for instruction on the projectiles, fuses, etc., to start at an early date. After the inspection the corps had a march-out, with the Artillery Band under Drum-Major Kearsley.

Last Saturday being another off day at the range a number of casuals took the advantage of having a practice, and succeeded in making some very good scores.

It is the intention of the residents of Northcote to form a Cavalry corps, about 30 names have already been given in, and Mr. Jackson Palmer has written to the Defence Minister for assistance.

Corp. H. Doughty is to be elected Sergeant in the "A" Battery vice Sergt. J. A. Hatswell, resigned on account of leaving for England.

The "O" Battery, I am glad to hear, are gaining new members, and very shortly I expect to see them up to the minimum strength.

The recruit classes are being well attended every Monday evening, but sadly want weeding out, as some are mere school-boys, and a long way off the regulation size and age.

The "Barb" correspondent for the Sydney *Sporting Standard* is responsible for the following par. If such is the case there are many New Zealanders that will contribute. An effort is being made to organise a benefit to Mr. E. De Mestre, the well-known sportsman. As an owner, rider, and breeder of horses, there is no name entitled to more respect than Mr. De Mestre's, and in the "old days" he and his colours were ever welcome and popular on a racecourse. Mr. De Mestre owned Grandmaster, Archer (who won two Melbourne Cups running) Robinson Crusoe, Vulcan, Grand Prix, Chesterfield, and a host of other good horses, and as whenever any of his horses ran the public felt convinced that they were having a straight and good run, it is little wonder that his name should be widely respected. He has of late years experienced reverses, and it is to be hoped that the A.J.C. will lend Randwick to a complimentary committee, for a day, and thus enable the veteran to reap a handsome testimonial.