

SPORTING ITEMS.

Chemist, after doing a gallop at Caulfield, pulled up slightly lame.

Mr. S. G. Cook has decided not to sell his string of racehorses at present.

Norton, the North Island crack hack, is now an inmate of H. Lunn's stable.

George Laing will ride Wairua in the V.R.C. Grand National Hurdles.

Mr. G. G. Stead's Medallion, Lebel, and Silver Knight have been taken over to Sydney.

Harry Pell will have the mount on Montrose II. in the V.R.C. Grand National Hurdle race and Jupiter in the Steeplechase.

The Dunedin *Public Opinion* picks Tirailleux, Medallion; Cynisca, Blizzard and Tirallerie as the best quintette for the New Zealand Cup.

Mr. Thomas Morrin has again placed that good mare Hilda in George Wright's hands, to be trained for coming events.

That speedy sprinter Bungebah will probably be sent to England after the V.R.C. Spring meeting.

The "party" referred to in our Wanganui letter, who is reported to have played the "canary" on Percy Johnston, is said to be an Auckland well-known to the game.

A match has been arranged for £10 a side between Mr. O. C. McGee's Contractor and Mr. A. Austin's Barb, the distance to be one mile.

Little Arthur started in the Hurdle Race at Mentone, Victoria, on the 10th inst., but from reports to hand it seems as if he was outpaced all the way.

That savage Dunkeld is said to be as vicious as ever, his latest act being to pick one of the stable boys up in his teeth and shake him like a fox terrier would a rat.

Mr. W. R. Wilson, well-known in Auckland, has offered young Cusden, the light-weight jockey, £200 a year as a retaining fee. It is needless to say the offer was accepted.

"Centaur's Index" for this year has arrived from Melbourne, and may be obtained from Harry Ellison. No racing man should be without a copy.

Knight of the Garter is said to be a real good horse over the small sticks. A Melbourne contemporary says he did a good "go" on Flemington lately, jumping 25 hurdles in faultless style.

Paddy Nolan, the well-known cross-country jockey is now in Melbourne for the V.R.C. Winter Meeting, having under his care the hurdle racer, Bellringer, and Marmion, the steeplechaser.

Carbine, Megaphone, Tantallon, Bendigo, Aster, and other members of Walter Hickenbotham's team have gone to Queenscliff, where they will be trained for spring engagements. This does not speak well for the Flemington training tracks.

In future horses will not be allowed to "school" over the steeplechase course proper at Caulfield. The V.A.T.C. stewards consider that by this restriction local horses will not have any advantage over those trained at other places.

Joe Thompson, the Australian leviathan bookmaker, is reported to have lost something like 24,000 dollars at a recent meeting held at Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. In all probability "Joe" will return to Melbourne in time for this year's Melbourne Cup.

Impulse, 3 years, by St. Leger—Aida, who won the Easter and Autumn Handicaps at the late A.R.C. meeting, has been sold to Mr. G. Cutts, who is acting for a syndicate, and will be shipped by the next steamer to Sydney. The price, we understand, was £1,250, and the late owner retains a fourth interest in the horse.

The tracks on the Flemington racecourse are in such a dreadful state owing to the recent heavy rains that most of the trainers have removed their charges to different places, so until dry weather commences and they return it will be difficult to get correct accounts of what the different horses are doing, as they are spread all over the country.

Newstead, who was such a flier as a two-year-old, ran second to Madoc in the Volcano Handicap at Mount Gambier; and Rufus, who won the Victorian Derby on the same day that Newstead carried off the Maribyrnong Plate, was successful in the Blue Lake Handicap, the totalisator returning a dividend of £141.—*Australasian*.

Mr. E. D. O'Rourke, one of our best amateur horsemen, rode Dan to victory in the United Hunt Club Steeplechase at Wellington on Saturday last.

Dave Munn has taken up his quarters at Bailey's stables, Caulfield. His string comprises Kapo, The Peer, Montrose II., Jupiter and Chemist, all of which have come in for a large share of attention by the Caulfield "touts."

Mr. Mark has called upon us asking us to contradict the paragraph which appeared in the *Waikato Times* and was copied in our last issue, stating that Messrs. Adams, Halstead and Mark had been in the Waikato, trying to purchase a trotting horse. Mr. Mark informs us that the party went up on business connected with the alleged ring-in case at the late Huntly Disaster Meeting.

Corrigan met with a nasty accident at the Oaklands Hunt Club races. While riding Stowpan—who was a great favourite—in the Open Hurdle Race, the horse struck the hurdle in front of the stand, and staggering as if going to fall, unseated Corrigan, who stuck to the reins. After being dragged a considerable distance he managed to stop the horse and regain his feet. It was afterwards discovered that his collarbone was fractured by the fall.

"Martindale" writes that the famous brood mare Chrysolite died at the Dickenfield Park Stud at the beginning of this month. She was rising 32 years old. Chrysolite was sired in England, but foaled in South Australia in 1860. She was by Stockwell—Juliet, by Touchstone—Lancashire Witch, by Tomboy. While the property of Mr. G. Pelly she had eight foals—Derby, Cleolite, The Gem, Lapidist, Firestick, Onyx, Robinson Crusoe, and Confucius. In 1876 she became the property of Mr. C. B. Fisher, and produced Defoe, Henchman, Anreola, Vancluse, Chrysofrase, and others.

We take the following from the *Australasian*:—"At the Brooklyn Spring Meeting in the United States, Mr. D. Pulsifer's celebrated horse Tenny, by Raynor d'Or—Belle of Maywood—won the Brooklyn Handicap, worth 4000 sovs., carrying 9st 6lb. Tenny, who was favourite at 2 to 1, is the horse that ran the great match against Salvator, when the latter won by a head, running the distance—one mile and a quarter—in 1 min 5secs." [This shows the folly of some people putting so much trust in the time test, taking as their authority what they read. If a paper like the *Australasian* makes such a mistake, what will others do? Some persons take this time as correct, knowing that American records are something wonderful.—Ed. S.R.]

ATHLETICS, ETC.

ABOUT 30 persons assembled at Mr. Jno. Gallagher's British Hotel on Wednesday evening the 15th inst., for the purpose of taking into consideration the advisability of forming a professional athletic club. Mr. H. N. Simpson presided, and fully explained the benefits that would result to professional athletes by having some recognised organisation to promote and control their sports. The following well known running men expressed themselves favourable to the formation of a club, Messrs McDermott, Howie, Sommers, Keenan, Murphy, Purdy, Laxon, Cummins, Miles, Clark, and others, and it was proposed and carried unanimously: That a club be formed to be called the "Tradesmen's Zealandia Athletic Club," and that the said club take over from Mr. H. Simpson junr., the remainder of his lease of the Zealandia Rink with a view to running Sheffield Handicaps, &c., there. The advisability of making a circular running track for long events was discussed. A half-yearly fee of 5s was proposed to constitute membership. The chairman said that his idea was to create a democracy of running in preference to an autocracy, and by doing so the general public would be more easily got to patronise them. The following officers were elected:—Parton Sir George Grey; Presidents, Colonel W. Fraser, Messrs F. Lawry M.H.R., H. N. Simpson, and Thos. Morrin; Committee, Messrs R. Ellis, J. Gallagher, E. O'Hare, W. Wallace, R. Gault, E. McGinley, and P. Quinlan; Treasurer, Mr. John Gallagher; Secretary, Mr. Wm. Wallace. It was suggested that the Sheffield Handicaps be held on Saturday afternoons if possible after the football season, and a proposal that all strangers be placed on the scratch mark by the handicapper, to

prevent fraud, was well received. The meeting adjourned for a week to enable the committee to bring up a report.

FOOTBALL.

FIXTURES.

Aug. —Wellington v. Canterbury.
Aug. —Wellington v. Otago.

NATIVE ROSE V. WANDERERS II.

A large number of spectators assembled at Flett's Paddock, Parawai, Thames, to witness the game between these two teams. The visitors went down with an unbeaten record this season, while the Wanderers included in their back division Hawk, Hansen and Bestic of the Rovers and R. McGregor of the Nationals, which strengthened them considerably. Splendid weather prevailed, and the ground was in first-class order. The Natives (blue and gold) were captained by Harry Hale and the Wanderers (blue) by W. Cullen. The latter won the toss, and Carr kicked off for the Natives with a strong sun in their eyes. The play during the first part of the game was not very brilliant. Rushes of the forwards were very frequent; Heffernan, Rodgers, Lee and Downey amongst the Native forwards, and Bain, Cullen, Hastings and Wilson, doing some fine dribbling. From the line out Downey secured the ball, and eluding the Wanderers' backs, scored a try. Carr, who was entrusted with the place, an easy one, failed to increase the score. After the kick out Golding made a splendid shot at goal, and Farquhar, following up fast, gained the second try, but again Carr failed to add the major points. From a good rush the Wanderers' forwards took the ball close to the Natives' line, where Hastings took it over, and Wilson following up, secured the ball and gained a try for the local team. Hilton was entrusted with the kick and was successful. Half time was then called, and the score stood—Wanderers 3, Natives 2. On commencing the second spell the Natives warmed to their work and had the local team strictly on the defensive from the commencement, and the spectators were treated to a first-class exposition of football, which took place amongst the Natives' backs, their splendid passing and running being such as has seldom been seen on the Thames. They had very hard luck, and all attempts to score were fruitless, and the referee's decisions being very unsatisfactory to the visitors, the game resulted in a win for the Wanderers by 3 to 2.

On the winning side the forwards played a good game. They followed up well and held the scrums, but several of them made a practice of playing off side. The men from the other junior clubs made a strong back division, and the success of the local team must in a great measure be attributed to them. Hawk was very good at full, and McGregor was the pick of the three-quarters, collaring and kicking with judgment. Harrison and Bestie, halves, played well, especially the latter, while Bain, Cullen and Wilson were the pick of the forwards.

The play of the Native Rose in the second spell bore out their reputation. Their backs exhibited great cleverness in passing and taking the ball; their running and kicking powers are prominent features in their play. Murphy played a splendid game at full, his kicking and running being perfect. Blewden fully maintained his reputation, his dashes being really a treat, and his kicking was also good. Symon and McKenzie, three-quarters, played good hard games. Golding at centre-half was very clever, passing out and stopping rushes in grand style. Hale and Farquhar, wing halves, played dashing games, taking the ball clean, and running and passing with great judgment. The forwards played hard and shone in the line out, and followed up smartly. Downey, Rodgers, Heffernan, Lee and McLeod were the pick, while the two former made several good runs during the game. Messrs. Hayes (Native Rose) and Henderson (Wanderers II.) acted as umpires, and Mr. D. Stewart as referee.

In the evening the visitors were entertained at a dinner at the Governor Bowen Hotel, an excellent spread being provided for the occasion. The usual toasts, etc., were gone through, and the proceedings terminated by singing "Auld Lang Syne."

NEWTON II. V. CITY II.

This match was played last Saturday, and was very keenly contested, both sides showing some splendid play at times. The game resulted in a win for Newton by 6 points to 1.