

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

THIS Club met on Saturday last, September 5, for a drag hunt. The season having advanced so far, and farmers now having most of their crops in, the Master very wisely determined to confine the usual weekly runs to drags, so as to do as little damage as possible.

This particular meet was at 2 o'clock, and being so close to town it gave every facility for a large turn-out, which was taken every advantage of. The meet was graced by a very large number of ladies, both mounted and driving. The first run was from Morningside through Mr. Martin's property to the Stone Jug on the Old North Road. Although this part was very rough and the walls high, a large number followed. The second drag was through the grounds of the Asylum, and on past Mt. Albert over the hill into Avondale village, finishing up at the Avondale Hotel. This was rather a long run, and the halt was most acceptable to most of the followers. After a rest of half an hour, Mr. Vincent Taylor and Mr. Sandall volunteered to take the drag, and as these gentlemen knew the country well it was entrusted to them. The direction taken was homeward through Mt. Albert, branching off towards the Whau, and finally winding back and finishing at Morningside.

This turned out the best drag of the day, the pace being fast and the jumping good. During the day there were quite a series of spills, many of them giving cause for much fun. However, as there was no one hurt, and all took it in good part, it did not much matter.

The demand for Elliman's Embrocation and Dawson's Horse Medicines is now quite considerable, as after a day's drag hunting like Saturday last the cuts and bruises both on man and beast are considerable. Resin and cobbler's wax could be used with advantage by many of the would-be huntsmen.

Amongst the assemblage we noticed Mrs. Bloomfield, Mrs. Taylor, Misses Taylor (2), Misses Ireland (2), Miss Percival, Miss Garrett, Miss Wilkins, Miss Buckland, Miss Martin, Messrs. Percival, Dunnet, Garrett, Shera, Kettlewell, Buchanan, Col. Dawson, England, Haultain, Lockhart, Gilmore, Garrett, and a host of others.

TRAINING NOTES.

ON Monday, before breakfast, Harrison as usual worked early, which is not advisable these cold mornings, unless he has something to conceal. The work was all done outside the hurdles on the course. Ma Boughal, The Barb, and Dishonour did a good working gallop twice round. Stone Broke and Welcome, in Williamson's stable went once round, spurting home fast. The latter is a nice looking youngster, rather on the small side, and is pretty smart, so will be worth watching for some of the minor events early in the season. Orestes went once round steady, The Barb picking him up in the straight, finishing home fast. The former is not improving as much as might be expected. Fishmonger did a good gallop at working pace three times round, while Karewa did a couple of rounds at a steady pace. Queen Rose cantered a couple of rounds. After breakfast The Moth filly, Fryngpan, and the Billingsgate mare, from Thorpe's stable, did a nice working gallop twice round. Lorace went three times and Priscilla and St. Clements twice round at a steady gallop. Justice and Hopeful Kate went three times round at a fast working gallop. Both these jumpers are looking well. Dancer and Puwerewere did a steady canter twice round, spurting the last furlong. Crazy Kate did a lot of schooling, first over the old water jump, sod, and stonewall, and was then pulled up. After a spell she was again sent over the old water jump, sod wall, double jump, and the stonewall. This was schooling with a vengeance. Sir Ronald did three furlongs fast. Neck or Nothing went a couple of times round steady. Nile and Swiftsure did a circuit slow. Workman was doing only walking exercise, looking fresh and well.

On Tuesday morning all the horses worked outside the hurdles on the course. Coalscuttle and Reprisal did a mile and a quarter trial gallop, the latter having all the best of it. Fishmonger did a good gallop twice round at a good pace, finishing the last three furlongs at top with Queen Rose. Ma Boughal, The Barb and Stone Broke did a fast mile, the former

having all the best of it. Dishonour and Capella did a good striding gallop once round. Priscilla completed a circuit at about three-quarter pace. Hopeful Kate and St. Clements did a couple of circuits steady, the former going another round by herself. After breakfast the following worked:—Justice did a useful three times slow. This horse is looking in the best of health. The Ingomar—Nannie filly, in Adam Byer's stable, did a couple of rounds slow. Fryngpan, with the Billingsgate mare, did a good gallop twice round, while the Radames—Moth filly did a couple of circuits slow. Rambuster (the trotter) went three times round, while Lorace and Crazy Kate went the same distance slow. Ingorina and King Cannibal, in company, went once round, when the former went another round alone. Neck or Nothing was confined to trotting on the tan. Chance and Dolosa did walking exercise.

On Wednesday, there being a nasty cold wind blowing, not much was done before breakfast, all horses working outside the hurdles. Dishonour, with some others in Williamson's stable, did a rattling good gallop of one and a quarter miles, having all the best of it at the finish. Fishmonger and Karewa did once round at good pace, finishing home fast. Justice put in a couple of circuits slow, Hopeful Kate doing the same work. Queen Rose only walked. Crazy Kate did a couple of rounds slow, while the Ingomar—Nannie filly did only one circuit at the same pace. Welcome, in company with Ma Boughal, ran four furlongs at top, the latter not having the slightest show with the youngster. After breakfast, Neck or Nothing did a good working gallop three times round, finishing the last six furlongs in company with Lorace fast. Radames—Moth filly went a couple of rounds slow. The Billingsgate mare put in one circuit at half pace. Dolosa did a fast gallop of 1½ miles, but her style of going did not please the onlookers.

OUR CHRISTCHURCH LETTER.

[BY WIRE.]

CHRISTCHURCH, Tuesday.

LYNDOORA went to Dunedin from Timaru, and the other Riccarton reps. will be Capt. Abram, Christmas, Erin-go-Bragh, and Cheshunt. Christmas may win the Tally-ho and Erin-go-Bragh the Shorts.

The North Canterbury Jockey Club tried last week to cancel their meeting fixed for 21st on the score that they did not receive sufficient support, but owners do not see it, and the final decision of the matter looks like the meeting coming off.

Frank Healy has been engaged by Mr. Alexander to train his horse at Ashburton. Mr. Alexander has a private training track up there.

It is stated that the brother of Cajolery trains at Middle Park, and will be raced here as a two-year-old and not sent to Australia in the spring. He is beginning to show temper.

Sheenan will ride Christmas in the Tally-ho Handicap at Dunedin.

The grass gallop has lately been opened at Riccarton in consequence of the rain making the tan too sloppy to work upon, and horses are being pushed along in good style in view of early racing.

From what Cutts says it appears that he does not intend to accept with Von Tempsky for Timaru. It is generally thought that Cutts' horse has been hardly weighted.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CHAINSHOT, now at Lunn's place at Middleton, has improved in appearance more than a majority of horses do after being relegated to stud duties. A good many people think him the most handsome stallion now standing in Canterbury. I have not seen Maxim for some little time, but a good judge of horses who saw him at Yaldhurst the other day tells me that he is not half so good looking as when he was in training. There was too much of him altogether, and there is nothing stylish in his contour. Were I the owner of a good brood mare, however, Maxim is the sire I should send her to, and no doubt the difference in his contour taken exception to by my informant has been effected by the fat inactivity has necessarily accumulated on his naturally muscular

conformation. My informant, who has been connected with the breeding of thoroughbred stock for the last thirty years, says that Maxim's head and neck constitute the only feature of equine beauty about him at present, and with these stuck on to Apremont, the latter would be the finest thoroughbred stallion in New Zealand. Yet opinions differ in regard to good looks in racers and stallions; a good one is always a good-looking one, and if Maxim transmits his own attributes to his stock, even in a comparatively minor degree, he will be about the best thoroughbred stallion at present in New Zealand, unless indeed Castor—who I recollect as a two-year-old, belonging to W. T'Anson—turns out a good one, and there are more unlikely things than that. In regard to Maxim I have never seen a horse with greater muscular developments than he had when in training, and his contour then was good enough for anything.

Bar his head and neck Apremont is the most stylish sire at present in Canterbury, but these deteriorate his appearance considerably. His head is badly set on, and it is bad beyond that. The eye is vicious, and from that upwards the formation of the head is not desirable in a thoroughbred sire. It is argued in favour of Apremont that he has invariably been mated with a flighty breed of mares, but that argument is not good enough. The Apremonts will always be light headed, unless a chance one may throw back to its dam in point of temperament. Thomson is still at Middle Park, and there are about half a dozen brood mares still there, and as these were sold at the winding-up sale, they will doubtless have been left to be covered by Apremont or St. George. I do not think these sires will have a good season; they are not popular in the neighbourhood. Cutts gave Apremont the "slide" with Nautilus on account of the difficulty experienced in training the Apremonts, and he maintains that he would have bought a certain Apremont (Cajolery) when a yearling but for previous experience with his sire's stock.

Contrary to the effects of postponement generally, everybody who journeyed to Ashburton on Tuesday concurs that the Ashburton Club was benefitted thereby. Riccarton was not strongly represented in the various events. Messrs. Claridge and Wynn-Williams took up Don, Lyndoor, Lewis, and Magpie, Glen and Begorrah, though usually trained in the Ashburton district, have lately been exercised at Riccarton. Messrs. Claridge and Wynn-Williams have done fairly well with their hunters this season, but I doubt whether there is any amateur trainer about these parts up to the standard of Mr. Murray-Annesley. He is a good judge of horses, and he appears to be about as good as some of the professionals in regard to mentorship. Magpie got disqualified for the Hack Race at Ashburton, but won the Ladies' Bracelet. When that horse was the property of Mr. Clarkson I felt sure he was a fair stamp of hunter, and in all probability he will prove a cheap purchase to his present owners.

Trainers are commencing to be very busy at Riccarton now, and in consideration of the excellent winter we have had, few horses that have not been unsound will run in bad condition at the earliest spring fixtures.

May is growing into a fair three-year-old, but she will always be small, and, I fear, not quite to the best class of her year, yet Mr. Webb seems to think she will be good enough to try conclusions with some good cattle about November.

"Old Bill Payne," as his friends call him, had a look at Antelope the other day, and declares she is not in foal. If she had been he would in all probability have bought her for Mr. Hordern. There is not a better judge of horses and cattle in the Southern hemisphere than "Old Bill." We saw Antelope last Sunday, and are of the same opinion. Mares that have been stunted, and raced as much as she was last season, are very likely to slink the foal, and an inexperienced person might never notice it. Mr. Payne informs us that it is his intention to return to Sydney next Tuesday with Lady Norah and her foal. From his great experience in shipping live stock there is not much doubt but that they will reach their destination in safety.