

originality in costumes, instead of always presenting an exact reproduction of professional traditions, might be worthy of a trial—make an undeniable hit with the chorus "When Anger spreads his wing," which is excellently sung. The quaintly funny disarming trio is capitally done by Arac, Guron and Scynthius—who deserve more *kudos* than they receive, the combat might I think be rendered more effective by arming the duelists with heavy stage broadswords, and allowing each pair to knock sparks out in fixed positions during a few bars of music, instead of waltzing around and coming into collision with each other. At present the attention of the swordsmen is divided between the fencing and the danger of falling over somebody, or inadvertently poking out the eye of a bystander. In the finale the audience welcome the tripping "Dainty Triolet" strains, which reappear set to the words "With joy abiding," and the curtain falls upon a most artistic tableau, in which the colours and grouping are a complete triumph. A few words about the dresses and orchestra. Mrs. Cooper and Miss Warren look especially charming, and reflect glory upon all concerned in designing such exquisite costumes. Melissa, in a harmonious blending of golden brown, old gold and fawn, which suits her style and complexion to perfection, is simply ravishing. The men, too, are capitally got up, King Hildebrand's golden armour being magnificent. Other dresses which are admirable, I regret to be unable to notice in detail. The orchestra under Herr Carl Schmitt's able and incisive direction did its work with thorough efficiency, and Mr. Impey deserves a pat on the back for the successful scoring of the band parts. Some critics would like a band of at least 20 performers, but I cannot agree with them. The band was quite powerful enough for amateur singers, although doubtless the overture and incidental music would have gained by the addition of some instruments. In my opinion what was wanted was more strings, say two more violins, and the replacing of the second cornet by a second clarinet. It is a well-known fact that in large buildings, such as the London Opera Houses, the Albert Hall and the Crystal Palace, the human voice tells above a very large orchestra, but in smaller places a large orchestra positively kills the soloist. Hence in our Opera House it would be egregiously folly to employ a large orchestra—but a careful attention to balance between strings, wood and brass is of essential importance. If I have not sufficiently noted the excellent work of individual performers such as Messrs. T. M. Jackson, C. Chambers, George Reid, and the ladies sustaining minor parts, want of space must be my excuse. I have endeavoured generally to do justice all round.

THE performances of the Payne family are *sui generis*, and deserving of great praise. Their part singing and instrumental selections, the exquisite hand-bell ringing, and Mr. Steele's comic singing and clever and tasteful work on the musical glasses, are all delightful. The violin playing is of its kind really excellent, although not quite reaching a high pitch of artistic refinement—tone is the great desideratum, and the ladies should cultivate that department by listening carefully to the work of great artists, and endeavouring to imitate their purity and delicacy. In the singing, too, the ladies while displaying many admirable qualities mar the effect of very good work by a tendency towards a slight nasal and twangy voice production. Of course the rule is to keep the voice against the teeth as much as possible, but what the French call the *nasarde* sound should be kept rigorously under control. One great merit in the company is their almost faultless intonation. Another is the exquisite light and shade precision which characterises all they attempt. They are drawing capital houses and deserve them. The entertainment is one which can be readily "understood of the people."

WE must not forget our local talent under the direction of Miss Amy Vaughan who pursues her triumphant career with unabated success. In spite of counter attractions the company continue to draw good houses, who welcome every novelty with warm approval.

AUCKLAND just now can certainly not complain of a dearth in amusements. Next week Mr. Pollard and his youthful operatic company will occupy the boards of the Opera House. The

southern journals teem with favourable notices, and I expect something very good. In the Pirates of Penzance, which forms one of their repertory, a Wellington lass takes the part of Mabel, and the verdict so far is that she has not mistaken her vocation.

ORPHEUS.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB.

The secretary, Mr. W. H. E. Wanklyn, receives entries for the following events up to 10 p.m. to-morrow, Friday, at the C.J.C. rooms:—

Spring Hurdles of 150 sovs., 2 miles
Middleton Hurdles of 100 sovs., once round and a distance
Stewards' Stakes of 200 sovs., 6 furlongs
Juvenile Stakes of 250 sovs., 5 furlongs
Metropolitan Stakes of 400 sovs., 1½ miles
Jockey Club Handicap of 300 sovs., 1 mile
Middle Park Plate (Summer meeting) of 200 sovs., 6 furlongs
Challenge Stakes (Autumn meeting) of 300 sovs., 7 furlongs

GISBORNE RACING CLUB.

Tuesday, 6th October, 1891, nominations are to be lodged with Mr. M. G. Nasmith, secretary, Argyll Hotel, Gisborne, for the
Flying Handicap of 30 sovs., 6 furlongs
Hurdle Handicap of 40 sovs., about 2 miles
Grand Stand Handicap of 40 sovs., 1 mile
Park Handicap of 75 sovs., 1½ miles

POVERTY BAY TURF CLUB.

To-day, Thursday, nominations close with Mr. J. H. Aislabie, secretary, for the
Spring Handicap of 120 sovs., 1 mile
Flying Handicap of 70 sovs., 6 furlongs
Hurdle Handicap of 60 sovs., 2 miles
Maiden Plate of 40 sovs., 1½ miles

NAPIER PARK RACING CLUB.

Nominations close with the secretary, Mr. A. T. Danvers, at the Club's office, Market-street, Napier, at 10 p.m. to-morrow, Friday, for the following races:—

Trial Handicap Hurdles of 40 sovs., 1½ miles
Criterion Stakes Handicap of 60 sovs., 1 mile
Sapling Stakes Handicap of 75 sovs., 4 furlongs
Ahuriri Handicap of 40 sovs., once round
Second Trial Handicap Hurdles of 40 sovs., 1½ miles
Caledonian Handicap of 40 sovs., six furlongs
Telephone Handicap of 40 sovs., 1 mile
Juvenile Handicap of 75 sovs., 4½ furlongs
Grand Stand Handicap of 50 sovs., 7 furlongs

OTAHUHU TROTTING CLUB.

Friday, October 9th, nominations close with the secretary, Mr. W. L. Lockhart Otahuhu, or at Mr. W. Blomfield's office, Durham-street East, Auckland, at 10 p.m., for the

Handicap Maiden Trot of 40 sovs., 2 miles
Handicap Maiden Pony Race of 20 sovs., 6 furlongs
Otahuhu Handicap Trot of 70 sovs., 3 miles
Railway Pony Handicap of 30 sovs., 1 mile
Selling Trot of 20 sovs., 2½ miles
Handicap Pony Hurdles of 30 sovs., 1½ miles
Pony Trot Handicap of 30 sovs., 2 miles

HAWKES BAY JOCKEY CLUB.

Saturday, October 3rd, acceptances due by 3 p.m., for:—

October Handicap of 60 sovs., 1 mile and a distance
Corinthian Handicap of 40 sovs., 1 mile

Monday, October 5th, acceptances due by 10.30 p.m., for:

Trial Handicap of 40 sovs., once round
Second Handicap Hurdles of 80 sovs., 1½ miles
Nursery Handicap, of 100 sovs., 4 furlongs.
Welter Handicap of 40 sovs., 1 mile.

Mr. F. D. Luckie, secretary, Criterion Hotel, Napier, receives the same.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

On October 9th (Friday), at 10 p.m., acceptances close with the secretary, Mr. H. H. Hayr, at the office of the SPORTING REVIEW, for the following races:—

Open Maiden Plate of 25 sovs., 7 furlongs
Farmers' Plate Handicap of 20 sovs., once round the Steeple course
Pakuranga Hunt Club Cup of 50 sovs., about 3½ miles
Open Hurdle Race of 40 sovs., 1½ miles
Pony Race Handicap of 15 sovs., ½ mile
Members' Hurdle Race of 40 sovs., 2 miles
Open Flying Stakes of 35 sovs., 5 furlongs
Also, at the same time and place, nominations for the Ladies' Bracelet (Welter Handicap), of 10 sovs., 1 mile and a distance

The New Premises erected by the Sydney Tattersall's Club, with the ground on which it stands, cost nearly £50,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PONY HANDICAPPING.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

SIR,—In the interest of truth I crave your indulgence to insert the following lines in answer to a letter signed "Little Pony," which appeared in your last week's issue. "Little Pony," who is identical, if I make no mistake, with an owner of a certain pony in this district, implies in his letter that racing clubs in Taranaki have passed ponies over the 14.2 standard for pony races for that height and under. This statement I know to be a pure fabrication, for the clubs in this district have always been most particular in measuring ponies. The real cause of "Little Pony's" evident dissatisfaction arises out of personal pique against an owner, who has a smarter pony than he owns. The letter showed very bad form appearing at the time it did, for the apparent intention of "Little Pony" was to prejudice the Auckland Trotting Club against an owner who had the enterprise to take his horses to Auckland to compete at their meeting. I sincerely trust the shaft has missed. When "Little Pony" takes up his pen he should stick to the truth, and not make rash statements against racing clubs, who have always treated him with a spirit of fair play, which, judging by the letter I take exception to, is foreign to the nature of "Little Pony." The assertions in his letter are but repetitions of statements he has made in public, principally in hotel bars.

I am, &c.,

TARANAKI.

RANDOM RACING REMARKS.

[BY PEGASUS.]

AN interesting item would be a list of all those horses that did *not* try during the A.J.C. meeting just concluded.

Is Melos trying the Bravo dodge by going amiss? I shall believe he is "gone wrong" when he is scratched for the Cup.

Some backers think there were a few "stiff 'uns" at our A.R.C. meeting on the 19th inst. More unlikely things have happened before.

How is this for "high"? Last autumn, when mares are usually better than in spring, Yowi, with 6st 2lbs, ran third to Highborn, 9st 3lbs, in the Sydney Gold Cup, and over the same distance in the Metrop. the other day, each with 2lbs. more on their backs, Yowi wins, and fairly "buries" Highborn, who was not even placed. Where does the laugh come in?

Under the circumstances I hardly felt justified in "tipping" her for the Metrop.

My anticipations re the Hawkesbury Handicap were not realised. Only Jack succeeded in gaining a place. A small field of six faced the starter. Whether any of my half-dozen were there does not appear—except Sunshine, who must have gone off.

Oxide and Aster are good articles for the Caulfield Guineas

Next week I intend summarising my remarks on the Caulfield Cup, and will give a "tip" for the Guineas. I shall also begin a review of the Melbourne Cup, giving my tip for the Caulfield Cup in the issue of the 15th inst.

Bungebah is a red hot favourite for the last-named event. He is now quoted at 5 to 2. Too feverish! Result—itch, eh!!!

CAULFIELD CUP.

(Continued from last week.)

Glancing retrospectively over the seven stone division, and taking into consideration my remarks thereon, I am forced to the conclusion that if the winner be there it must be G'Naroo, The Tyler, Laverock, Clonard, Forest King, or Mirnee.

Of course I shall be in possession of good information from my Australian adviser before the day of issue, which will be at the disposal of backers through these columns at some early date.

So far, then, I have picked out as the "plums of the pudding" Correze, Richelieu, Gresford, The Spot, G'Naroo, The Tyler, Laverock, Clonard, Forest King and Mirnee.

Having waded through the formidable list of horses down to 7st., I must now attempt a review of the mixed