

brilliantly and won a good race, beating Moore (830) 2, and Dacre (600) 3. Aickin (40yds) also rode gallantly. Time, 16min 40sec.

Pole Jump.—Four competed, C. Laurie winning after a protracted struggle with a jump of 8ft 7½in, Hargreaves second, and Hackett, who failed at 8ft 5in, third.

All interest in the Quarter-Mile Handicap was spoiled by the accidental shifting of a flag. Nineteen started, and all but the scratch man went the wrong course, running about 40 yards extra distance. Hutchison, with commendable coolness, kept on the right track, and won as he liked in 54sec, Roberts (15yds) 2, and Carmina (25yds) 3. This race concluded the programme, and was rather an anti-climax to so good a day's sport.

The protests entered against certain winners were considered on Monday night, and in every instance, save one, were dismissed after hearing evidence. The exception was that of the half-mile which Musker won, but as his performances had not been correctly stated, the race was awarded to Myers who ran second. We hear that in one case an appeal against the decision of the A.A.A. will be lodged with the N.Z.A.A.A.

CRICKET.

The Brewers are anxiously waiting for a challenge from the Publicans to play the annual cricket match which always creates excitement and amusement. The Brewers issued the challenge last year, and it is now the turn of their rivals of the bung. Pubs never show the white feather, so the looked for challenge will doubtless speedily come forth.



Spectatum admittitur teneatis amici?

MASTER AND MAN.

BACK COMES Mr. Bland Holt with a powerful company and a quartette of strong plays. On Monday night the first of the series was presented to a crowded house, and met with the enthusiastic reception it thoroughly deserved. Mr. Bland Holt is notoriously one of the hardest working members of his profession. He never spares himself, and keeps going from "early morn to dewy eye" and thence into the "wee sma' hours." Hence the extraordinary finish of all his productions—perfect in every detail. He brings with him on this occasion the strongest lot of melodramatic artists I have ever seen in Auckland. A feature which struck me at once was the wealth of good voices, and the general excellence of enunciation. "Master and Man" is an example of melodrama at its best. The action moves smoothly, the construction is ingenious, the dialogue forcible and sparkling, and a touch of originality is imported into the character of Humpy Logan, by the miraculous repentance of such a villain. The piece displays less rant and is consequently more effective than the typical melodrama. Mr. Eady directs a very efficient orchestra of 2 violins, viola, double-bass, clarinet, cornet, drum, etc., which plays some excellent music during the performance. I think, however, that some of the selections might be improved upon. A good deal of rather commonplace music mars the effect of many happily-chosen *morceaux*. In the scenery and mounting department I may truly say of Mr. Bland Holt that "everything you do still betters what is done." Honeywood Farm, with a foreground of wheat sheaves and flowers and a distance of waving corn fields is an extremely pleasing rural scene. A touch of local colour is added by the nikau decorations. The three interiors—Jack Walton's cottage, the Manor House, and the Bar of "The Green Man"—are strikingly effective. But the scenic hit is undoubtedly the very realistic representation of the iron works in full swing, and the glowing furnace into which the infuriated locked-out workmen would have thrust Humpy Logan but for Jack Walton's noble and generous plea. The plot so cleverly and naturally unfolds itself as to render even a slight sketch superfluous. I will therefore deal with the characters in their programme

sequence. Mr. Walter Howe's Humphrey Logan is a magnificent impersonation of the scheming and vindictive scoundrel, who nevertheless has a green spot in his seared and withered heart. Throughout Mr. Howe quite carried his audience with him, displaying all those rich powers of intonation, gesture and facial play which combine to render him so popular a favourite. Mr. Albert Norman as Jack Walton—the noble and manly young engineer who is the victim of fiendish and unrelenting persecution—won golden opinions in a very fine rôle. He has a telling voice, and both in power and pathos made a strong impression. Mr. W. E. Baker—an Australian native—played Robert Carlton, the polished ruffian, to the very life. He is also gifted with a fine voice, a good enunciation and a splendid stage presence. Mr. Augustus Glover might have been especially created for the part of Jim Burleigh, who actually lives on the stage. His magnificent physique and ringing voice seem to fill both stage and house. As Crispin St. Jones, the mincing "masher," Mr. H. R. Roberts makes one of the comic hits of the piece. His acting leaves little to be desired, and his dressing—especially in the loud check which Letty suggests must have "frightened the horses"—is simply perfect. Mr. E. B. Russell's Levano, the gipsy acrobat, is extremely humorous and clever, winning much hearty merriment, and his assistant Jim (Mr. Harry Norman) is also very funny. John Willett, the police inspector, is made the most of by Mr. H. Plimmer, though he is perhaps rather too great a swell, and a little too dignified in places. Ned Barton, Joe Robbins, Old Ben, postman, policeman are minor parts completely sustained. As Tom Heywood, Mr. Bland Holt has one of his characteristic parts in which all his splendid and finished comedy gifts have full play. "Good wine needs no bush," and it is needless to say that Tom Heywood's presence on the stage meant an almost uninterrupted bubble of delight. Such bits as "You said no yesterday, say *yes to-day*" are many and inimitably given. He is ably assisted by Mr. Beelzebub, the trained bull-dog, than whom a more accomplished actor has never trod the boards. Whether he is fetching his master's bag, helping himself to a mouthful of Crispin's ceiling, hunting a "bobby," or presiding over the bar at the "Green Man," Mr. Beelzebub is all there, and always letter perfect. As Hester Thornbury, Miss Edith Blande sustained perhaps the most exacting and thankless rôle in the piece. Her work is relieved by almost no touch of comedy, save the exquisite bit where room is demanded for "the carriage of Viscount Johnnie." Miss Blande acquitted herself *à merveille* acting with power, grace, pathos and finish, and looked especially charming in her costume of black and lace trimmings. Mrs. Bland Holt as Letty Lightfoot, the sweetly pretty and "flirtatious" little milliner, has a part which fits her like a glove. The way in which she teases poor Tom, "who is never jealous," and fools the foppish St. Jones to the top of his bent is delicious and true art. The crumpet-toasting episode is especially clever and comical. Another great favourite—Miss Flora Anstead—takes the old lady part of Kesiah Honeywood, and acts with the verve, dash and vigour which we all expect from her. I must especially praise Miss Mabel Russell, who plays Little Johnnie in so natural and graceful a manner as to win all hearts. She is a younger sister of Miss Flo. Russell, who was here recently with the Juvenile Opera Company, and whose clever impersonations of "Katisha" and "Ruth" made so favourable an impression. The family likeness between the sisters is unmistakable. Mrs. May Buckley, the hostess, and the school children competently filled their small parts. Altogether the piece is remarkable for the absence of any weak spot in the cast, and as to-night is the last opportunity of witnessing it, I trust that all who have not seen the piece will save themselves from the reproach of having missed a really good thing.

At the City Hall on Saturday evening, Miss Amy Vaughan's Amazons performed "Aladdin"—a very mirthful burlesque. The piece was well staged and mounted, Mr. Neville Thornton's scenery being admirable. The leading characters were taken by Misses Amy and Annie Vaughan, May Travers, Annie Wyniard, Aimey Earle, Daisy Thornton, Parvin, and Messrs. Max Rinkle and Travers Vale. A good

house enjoyed a good two hours' laugh over a genuinely funny piece, capitably played.

ORPHEUS.

OTAHUHU TROTTING CLUB.

A MEETING of the Otahuhu Trotting Club took place at the British Hotel, Auckland, on Friday afternoon, and created considerable interest. This was an adjourned meeting from Otahuhu the previous week, which was unavoidably postponed on account of the absence of Mr. A. Harris and several of the stewards from the district. On that occasion Mr. Baume, solicitor, was present on behalf of Mr. Wood, the owner of Despised, to claim the *second* money in the Railway Handicap, on account of the disqualification of Cupid, who was second, and Pica third, Red Rose having won the race. The stewards decided at the Otahuhu meeting not to admit Mr. Baume, who was very energetic in urging his claim to be present, and refused to leave the room, whereupon the stewards took the alternative and went upstairs, only to adjourn themselves to the above date. Mr. Baume was again present, and made an eloquent speech on behalf of his client and his letter which he had presented for consideration. The chairman, Mr. A. Harris, J.P., requested him to retire, saying that he would receive every courtesy. Our representative was allowed to remain. The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved of by those who were present. Mr. Atkinson (chairman of the Otahuhu Road Board), who is a steward, certified to their correctness. A large amount of evidence was taken after the owners of all the ponies in question had been admitted. Mr. Wood, who is registered for racing purposes under the name of Mr. T. Malone, stated that previously he only claimed the second money in the Railway Handicap in ignorance that Red Rose was owned by Mr. W. J. Greenwood, who was disqualified. He now claimed the first money in both the Railway Handicap and the Pony Hurdles. A great deal of evidence of a most conflicting character was taken, but which went clearly to show that the horse Pica was ridden out and did not in any way interfere with any other horse in the race, although his rider (A. Greenwood) was shown to have called out several times to Geach, the rider of Cupid, to "block him, Tom"—meaning Vampire. The evidence taken is too voluminous for insertion in any one issue with the space at our disposal, although we may use it from time to time, as occasion requires.

Great care was taken by the chairman and stewards to clearly elicit every detail in connection with the affair, and after nearly an hour's consideration the meeting adjourned till last evening at the Star Hotel, Otahuhu. The report of the proceedings will appear in our next issue.

WANGANUI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MR. C. W. HENSHAW—a Melbourne sportsman who has been on a visit to the Wanganui district—has purchased several horses, with a view of taking them to the other side. They consist of a three-year-old Ascot colt, dam Bay Bess, by Pap-a-pa—Maid of the Mill, and if looks count I should say that he will make a first-class cross country horse when he gets another couple of years age on him. Mahaseer (by Diomedes—Traducer mare), winner of the Hurdle Race at Momohaki, is the next of the purchases. He is a fine big upstanding horse, is a good jumper, and possessed of a fair turn of speed, and if well placed he will no doubt place a win or two to his credit. Another horse that he was negotiating for was O'Rourke, a son of Daniel O'Rourke out of an Elswick mare—a half-sister to that defunct steeplechaser Chandler. The price offered for O'Rourke was £120, but Mr. E. J. Chapman refused the offer as he wanted £175 for him. Mr. J. E. Nugent was also offered the sum of £150 for Stranger (by St. Clair—Kaikatea), winner of the two Hack Flat Races at the Wanganui J.C. Spring Meeting. The offer was not entertained, the price wanted being £200. These prices offered for these horses show what is thought of the so-called hacks that race on this coast. Having thoroughly looked round Wanganui, Mr. Henshaw, with Mr. B. Coyle as a