

or had the buying of horses for re-mounts. I, however, not very long ago met a brother officer who had come straight from India, and spent a pleasant time with him going through Sylvia Park and other places of interest. We also had a long talk about the horses here fit for Indian re-mounts, looking at a great many of them. From what he told me the class of horse required is the same as the 12th Lancers (they were all mounted on Walers) had when they joined us from India in the Crimea. I will point out *seriatim* the mistakes Mr. McLaughlin has made in his letter. Speaking of Playboy he says, "but he is not the horse for Indian Cavalry." True, but it must be remembered that Horse Artillery horses are also wanted, and many a colonel would like to have any number of the same stamp either a wheeler or leader. "What is wanted is a horse not more than 15.2, and if an inch lower he is none the worse," etc. Here he is decidedly wrong, 15.2 is quite small enough. If 15.1 was only required there would not be such a run after Walers as there are plenty of Barbs and even some Arabs that would come up to that standard. "The cavalry horse in India instead of being loaded (as in England) with twenty or twenty-five stone, carries a light burden." Here the writer is decidedly wrong. We will let alone the Life Guards. A trooper's accoutrement, etc., in the heavy cavalry twenty years ago in *heavy marching order* was about 98lb, and in light cavalry some 28lb less. Since then the weight has been considerably reduced. Men on active service never go in heavy marching order, as that is more for show. "The men are very light." What Mr. McLaughlin calls light I do not know, but he seems to ignore the fact that the heavy cavalry regiments have now to take their turn of Indian service, when formerly it was only the light, and I doubt if he will find any heavy regiment averaging less than something over 11st a man. He is right regarding the ages of the horses, also as to the judges. One of them knows nothing of any class of horse except those adapted for leather. Another blindly followed him, while the third, who stood alone, should during his sojourn in Australia have seen a great many of the horses shipped by Mr. Weekes and other old Indian traders. I should uncommonly like to see Mr. McLaughlin's model of an Indian trooper as during long experience I have never seen a model trooper.

PICADOR.

#### ELLERSLIE TRAINING NOTES.

MONDAY.—All work was done on the plough. The Barb, Tulloch, and Relation were sent a couple of rounds at a good sweeping gallop, after which the pony Silkworm did half pace work twice round. Fishmonger was restricted to slow work for three rounds. Stepper went twice round slow, being joined afterwards by Karewa for another circuit, both coming home the last six furlongs at top. Nile, Swiftsure and Calvi, all together, went once round, finishing home fast the last furlong. Kupe went once round at half pace. Capella, immediately after starting, bolted with the boy, who could not pull her up till she had compassed three rounds. Puwerewere, The Dancer, Jessica, and a bay gelding out of Scot Free's dam, all did a circuit together slow. Lochness, looking blooming, put in a couple of rounds at about three-quarter pace. Nap went once round slow, after which he was sent the reverse way on the grass gallop in company with Tit, the Titania filly at about half pace, spurting home. Scot Free put in a couple of rounds at about half pace.

TUESDAY.—On the plough: Harrison was the first to work, sending his two-year-olds once round slow, followed by Reprisal and Fiesole, who each did the same distance at the same pace. Priscilla, Ingorina, and Jessica each did a couple of rounds at about three-quarter pace. King Cannibal went once round, finishing the last five furlongs at top. Stepper put in a couple of rounds at a good swinging canter, after which he was schooled over the hurdles. The Barb did a useful round at about three-quarter pace. Hopeful Kate was restricted to a couple of rounds slow. Ma Boughal, in company with Tulloch, went a round at top. Dolosa worked in the middle of the course. Fishmonger went three rounds slow. Lorace and Nightcap each went a couple of rounds at

about half pace. Kupe went a round at top. Nap, in company with Relation, put in a couple of rounds at a good swinging canter. The Dancer had Puwerewere for a companion for a couple of rounds slow. Orakei went round at half pace, finishing home the last half mile with Secret at top. Capella did a couple of fast rounds. Lochness, in company with Scot Free, went a couple of rounds at half pace, finishing home fast. Prospector went three times round slow, and Chance twice.



[BY OLD TURFITE.]

#### TAKAPUNA SPRING MEETING.

THE acceptances for the Takapuna Jockey Club Spring meeting, which takes place next Saturday, were declared last Friday. They are not very complementary to the handicapper, as more than a third have dropped out, while in more than one race the same owner has accepted with two or three horses. There are eleven left in the Maiden Hurdle Race, Lonely 11st 4lb, being at the head, the next one being Barshot 9st 12lb—a difference of 20lb; the remainder being all in a heap. As many of them are unknown to me I should think either Lonely or the Stepper should be returned the winner.

There are only four in the Devonport Handicap, 5½ furlongs. The race looks like a match between His Worship, 8st 10lb, and Adelaide, 8st 10lb. I will go straight for His Worship.

Three out of the eleven that are left in the Maiden Plate are in the nomination of "Mr. B. Thompson." His representatives Octopus, 8st 10lb, and Warrior, 8st, are at the head of the list, while further down comes Resentment, 7st 4lb. This is a favourite kind of race with him. Octopus never seems to get past the Maiden Plate stage. Resentment is a nice colt, but has other engagements during the day. Brian Boru, 7st 12lb, is not badly in, but I think he will find the distance too far. Bulrush, 7st, has been entered for the Dunedin Cup and the other principal races down there. If he has any pretensions to any of them he ought simply to walk in in this company. However, I don't think his owner used much judgment when nominating him for such classic events. I think they will finish in this order:—Mr. B. Thompson's selected, Brigade, and First Love.

Nine out of the original fourteen entries have declared content for the Handicap Hurdles, which must be considered good, as it was a very bad handicap. Orakei, 11st 2lb, ran in a very suspicious manner on the first day of the late A.R.C. meeting. On the second day he fairly smothered his field in the Hurdle Race, 1¼ miles—the same distance as this. He should have had another 10lb on his back. Good Day, 10st, is not to be overlooked. Try Fluke, 9st 12lb, ran well at Ellerslie, but I think when he fell he was a tired horse, as he had been racing at Fishmonger, who had brought them along at a great pace. This race will be run differently, and he has a great turn of speed. Bit o' Blue, 9st 8lb, and Tawhana, 9st 5lb, are, I think, too slow for the small sticks. The latter certainly ran into a place on the first day at Ellerslie, but there was so much curious running that one can hardly form a line. The others I do not fancy, but if all is straight, I pick Try Fluke, Good Day or Orakei to furnish the winner.

Nine out of fifteen have declared content for the St. Andrew's Handicap, 1¼ miles. "Mr. Thompson" appears with two—Warrior 6st 12lb, and Resentment 6st 7lb; neither of them are crushed with weight. Leorina, 9st 6lb, heads the list, and is asked to give Ingorina 18lb, which is rather too much at this time of year. Glaucus, 7st 4lb, won the Maiden Plate at Ellerslie by a head from Never Miss, who was giving him 10lb. Warrior, who was third, is meeting him on 2lb, and Resentment on 6lb better terms. Try Fluke, 7st 2lb, will have had enough if he goes for the Hurdle Race. Bulrush is also in this with the light impost of 6st 7lb. Still, with even that, I prefer the chances of Ingorina, Glaucus, and Mr. B. Thompson's

one, but Leorina may be the best to back after the numbers go up.

The Hack Race had better be left alone until the numbers go up, but I hear good accounts of Heiress.

The handicap for the Steeplechase was one of the worst that was ever framed, so it is not surprising that only twelve of the twenty-three remain in. These may be called the refuse, so the question comes—Which is the most likely to get over the course?—as it is a peculiar one, half requiring a lot of jumping, the rest all galloping. Yardman, 10st 5lb, is the highest weight accepting, but I hardly think this will be his journey. Bit o' Blue with 11lb less has been over the country before, but he is an unlucky horse. Relation, 9st 10lb, ought to get the course so should Neck or Nothing, 9st 8lb, but he is as slow as a man. Scaltheen, 9st 7lb, is not a bad cut of a horse, and from the way he got over the Waikato Hunt Club country he should this. Taking all things into consideration, I prefer the chances of Scaltheen, Bit o' Blue, or Relation.

The Spring Handicap, 6 furlongs, has sixteen acceptors out of twenty-two entries. This is a sprint race, in which getting the best of the start is the main thing, and will greatly depend on previous running, therefore the reason of so many being left in. "Mr. Thompson" has again three—Octopus 7st 2lb, Warrior 7st, and Resentment 6st 10lb. Leorina, 9st 2lb, is not fit for sprinting. Lady Belle, 8st 4lb, won her two races pretty cleverly at Ellerslie, and should beat Capella at even weights. Master Pat, 7st 10lb, is a fairly smart one over this distance when in the humour. Scot Free, 7st 8lb, is not badly treated. Kupe, 6st 10lb, when wanted is a smart one; he was not fit at Ellerslie. Bulrush, 6st 7lb, again crops up, and if worth his entrance fees he should have a show, but I am inclined to think that this race will fall to one of the Devonport stables by the aid of Mr. Thompson's selected (Resentment for choice) or Lady Belle but Kupe may upset the combination.

THE Canterbury Jockey Club held a meeting on the 6th inst., and passed a resolution that as the programmes for the present season had been framed on the basis that only ten per cent. had to be deducted, the 1½ per cent. required by Government must be added to it, but that next season it would revert to the old system of charging the public ten per cent., making up the deficiency by causing the nominations to go to the funds instead of to the stakes as has usually been the case. This it will be seen has been done by the conditions for the following races which have just closed: The Welcome Stakes 1892, The C.J.C. Derby 1893, The Oaks 1893, and The Champagne Stakes 1893. This shows a spirit of meanness of the Club that aspires to be the leading one in the colony, as they could well afford the extra tax themselves. If they follow this system they will make far more money by it, as the nomination fees for all the races will far exceed the Government tax. The Auckland Racing Club, much to its credit, have acted exactly the reverse, charging only the ten per cent., at the same time adding two days' more racing. As the nomination fees now go to the funds, there will be no way for them to recoup themselves. The country and suburban clubs will, it is supposed, follow the example of the Metropolitan Club. It is rather suspicious that the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club were the first to introduce the 11½ per cent. commission, as it must be remembered that the Hon. J. D. Ormond and Captain Russell, both large horse owners and members of the House, are the leading men there. The C.J.C. follow suit in a still more oppressive manner. Does not this mean the first blow at the totalisator, to eventually do away with it altogether, as it is well known that horse owners, particularly those that own good horses, are adverse to it. Then there is another party that is against the plethora of racing and the number of races that have sprung up through the machine. Again there is a third who are against the use of the machine and racing altogether—all are in the House of Representatives. If these three combine, the fate of the totalisator will soon be known. There is no doubt that if the machine was done away with, that a lot of these little meetings would have to be given up, and that the true lover of racing would see a better