

Athletics Etc.

The Cripple Race between Hoppy Jackson (of Auckland) and Johnson (of Christchurch) came off on the Domain Cricket Ground at 2.35 on Saturday last. A good start was effected, and both men travelled at an astonishing dot-and-carry-one pace. Johnson led for about 50yds, when Jackson put on a spurt and won comfortably by 3yds in 12½secs. (so it is said). The winner was carried shoulder high to the pavillion amid loud cheers from a big crowd of admiring spectators.

It has been decided by the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association that, under Rule 16, persons taking any part in tugs of war will be classed as professionals.

A local weekly, under the heading of "Out Door Sports," says that before J. Buchanan, the amateur, went South, he gave Pearson nearly 10yds in 150 and a licking, while Pearson is credited with running the 100yds 1-5th faster than Buchanan. We are authorised to state most positively that at the time Pearson was not in training, Buchanan gave him 7yds in 150, and Pearson beat him by a clear yard and a-half. Funnier still.

Considerable interest is being aroused in Wellington over the 'international tug of war tournament, which has been arranged on a most elaborate scale, a committee, comprising the principal residents of the Empire City, have taken the matter in hand, and the Hon. R. Seddon has identified himself with the enterprise. The first prize is £50, the second £20, and the third £10. The first pull is to take place on Tuesday next. It has been decided that the English team shall consist only of men born on English soil and of English parents. Special trains have been laid on by the Railway Commissioners for the season. The management have drawn up the following conditions:—"Each team will consist of ten men, representatives of a different nationality, with a substitute and a captain. Teams will have one pull against each other, and the team beaten four times will drop out. The rope will be Manila, 4in in circumference, and have a knot in the centre, which will be confined in an iron clamp fixed to the floor. The pull will start by pistol report, when the rope will be released from the clamp. A crease will be painted on the floor 7ft each side of the clamp. The successful team will have to pull their opponents over till the centre knot is past the painted mark. Members of each team are expected to appear in the national dress of the country they represent, or wear distinguishing badges of their national colours."

E. Bain, of the Thames, and Frank Mahoney have been matched for a half-mile run for £10 aside, Bain to give Mahoney 20yds, the latter, who belongs to Paeroa, being allowed £2 for expenses. The match is to take place at Parawai on the 14th inst.

CRICKET.

FINAL JUNIOR CUP MATCH.—AUCKLAND II. v. GORDON II.

This match was played out on Saturday last, and resulted in a win for Auckland by 11 runs. In the first innings Auckland having made 32 against Gordon's 28, had a lead of 4 runs. At 2.55 p.m. Auckland started their second innings on a hanging wicket, sending in Howard and Smith. Each batsman had made a single, when Mowbray at deep cover finely caught Howard off Kenderdine. 1—2—1. Hamerton filled the vacancy, but with the score at 7 Smith was neatly taken at point by Kelly off Kenderdine. 2—7—4. Cuff, senior, joined Hamerton and took the score to 11, when he skied one and was c and b by Kenderdine. 3—11—2. Seccombe was the next man, but after making 3 he was clean bowled by Kenderdine. 4—16—3. Mulgan came in, and after a maid from Kelly and another from Kenderdine, lost his partner, who was bowled by Kelly. 5—16—2. O'Keefe joined Mulgan, and the pair put on 4 runs, when the newcomer was smartly taken in the slips by Peter Macky off Kenderdine. 6—20—1. C. Cuff joined Mulgan but without scoring played Kenderdine on. 7—20—0. Gaudin came next and made a short stand with

Mulgan, during which the latter was let off by Gorrie, and a run resulted. Presently Gaudin was splendidly caught by Graham in the long field. 8—27—4. Taylor joined Mulgan, who was batting steadily, and the pair made another stand, bringing the score to 34, when Bedlington failed to hold a soft one from Taylor off Kissling, who had taken the ball from Kelly, and a run resulted. In Kenderdine's next over Taylor was smartly taken at mid-off by Hesketh, who got to the ball with amazing celerity. 9—35—4. Mears, the last man, did not add to the score, being taken at slip off Kissling by Macky. The innings closed at 3.50 for 35.

Gordon with 39 to tie and 40 to win, started their second innings at 4 p.m. with Gorrie and Gilfillan to the bowling of Seccombe and Howard. The pair had made 8 when Gorrie fell a victim to Howard. 1—8—2. Kenderdine followed, but was immediately bowled off his pads. 2—8—0. Graham came in, but with the score at 10 also fell a victim to Howard, who was bowling dead on. With the score unchanged Kissling, the next man, also succumbed to Howard's prowess. Kelly joined Gilfillan, and the pair added three more runs, when Kelly was missed at the wicket, but gave another chance next ball, which Cuff accepted. 5—13—1. Bell was bowled first ball by Seccombe. 6—13—0. Mowbray took the rest of the over. Gilfillan made two off the last ball off Howard's next over, but soon lost his partner who was splendidly caught off Seccombe by Howard at slip. 7—15—0. Macky came in, but after Gilfillan had made a single played Howard on. 8—16—0. Hesketh joined Gilfillan and the two made a stand, raising the score to 27, when Gordon's chief hope, Gilfillan, was clean bowled by Howard, having played a most praiseworthy innings. 27—9—22. Bedlington joined Hesketh, and the pair showed steady defence, but only added one to the total when Howard distributed Hesketh's sticks, and the innings closed for 28, at 4 minutes to 5 p.m. The protest against Howard will have to be considered before the match and cup are finally awarded to Auckland. As the matter is *sub judice* we refrain from making any remarks on the subject until the decision is announced.

BOXING.

R. Matthews challenges, through the medium of the Wellington press, to fight to a finish S. Hill for £50 or £100 aside, the fight to take place either at Wanganui, Nelson, or Palmerston North.

Jim Burge, the "iron-bark man," has decided to visit America.

Over £50,000 changed hands over the Fitzsimmons-Maher fight. The former won about £2,000 over his victory.

Slavin witnessed the Fitzsimmons-Maher "set to," and the following is his opinion of the pair:—"Maher is a man of little science; he can't punish with his left hand, and depends on his right for a mascotte blow. He is slow on his feet, his eye isn't quick, and he is very poor on the guard. He cannot see an opening when it is time to get in with a right and left, and his left hand is simply a tickler. He has nothing clever in the top of his head, and what little knowledge of boxing he has makes a show of him when he goes against a first-class man like Fitzsimmons. Fitz is one of the best men I ever saw, either in boxing, on guard, or ducking. He has two good hands and a head to back them up."

COURSING CHATTER.

COURSING FIXTURES.

May 13, 14—May Cup and St. Leger (Dunedin)
June 10, 11—Forbury Cup and Juvenile Stakes (Dunedin)
July 7, 8, 9—Grand National Cup and Bracelet (Dunedin)
Aug. 13, 19, 20—Champion Stakes, Maiden Stakes, Sapling Stakes (Dunedin)

NOMINATIONS.

June 1—Dunedin Plumpton Forbury Meeting
June 29—Dunedin Plumpton Cup Meeting
Aug. 8—Dunedin Plumpton Champion Meeting
ACCEPTANCES, SWEEPS, ETC.
June 8—Dunedin Plumpton Forbury Meeting
July 5—Dunedin Plumpton Cup Meeting
Aug. 16—Dunedin Plumpton Champion Meeting

[BY CONTANGO.]

In the last issue of the SPORTING REVIEW "Old Turfite" writes that the A.R.C. Committee contemplate making their beautiful racecourse suitable for the requirement of a Plumpton, but he ridicules the idea, and says the ground is not at all suitable. Well, when he commences writing in such a high-toned manner, I have come to the conclusion that he knows as

much about the suitability of the Ellerslie racecourse as a Plumpton as I do about New Zealand's gigantic bird the moa. He says again that there will be a great amount of fencing to be done, but to those that know as to the state of the boundary fences in connection with our racecourse, his statement is very misleading as a great part of the course is already hareproof, and the inside oval is already fenced and only requires the wire to be nailed on to make it the most perfect coursing track in the colonies. Now as for the poaching business I am glad to say that sporting people of New Zealand are not so restricted by the game laws in force that they would take the risk of breaking into an enclosed park to commit such an unsportsman-like act (as "Old Turfite" refers to), and I am sure the A.R.C. can rest assured that the people of Auckland are not given to poaching as a livelihood, and are not likely to molest in that way. He says that the late lamented "Robin-hood" wrote in one of his clever articles that few lovers of the leash could tolerate enclosed coursing. No doubt all genuine lovers of coursing like it in the open best, but as the world has advanced in all things, so it has in the coursing arena. And the public must be studied even in coursing matters as well as any other sport. And as for Plumptions being a failure in the Old Country, he is greatly mistaken, especially when he mentions Gosforth Park. This park has been extinct for some time, not on account of the Plumpton part of it, as there were other sports in connection with Gosforth which help to cause its downfall. I may tell him that the most successful park in the Old Country is Haydock Park, where Plumpton coursing is carried on in great style. And again, within a radius of ten miles from Belfast in Ireland, there are two flourishing enclosed coursing parks, namely, at Holestone in the County of Antrim, and at Purdysburn in the County of Down, where real good meetings are held alternately during the coursing season. Now, in regard to Colonial Plumptions, they are, as far as coursing is concerned, all that the most exact courser could wish for, with the exception of the late Papatoitoti failure, which was a place that never was suited for the purpose. But with such a grand course as Ellerslie, and all its natural and modern advantages, a Plumpton established at Ellerslie would soon become both popular and profitable. With regard to the cruelty, with which he connects the enclosed system of being the most cruel of cruel sports "Old Turfite" will find, if he only takes the trouble to look up some of the last year's account of the meetings held at Melbourne or Dunedin, that as far as mortality in hares it is less than in the open. Now as to the origin of the Plumpton system he is entirely at sea, as the first introduction to the coursing public of this new style of coursing was started as a commercial speculation in the year 1877 by a Mr. Case on his farm, known as Plumpton, in the neighbourhood of Brighton, hence the name of Plumpton, so commonly given to all enclosed coursing parks. Most of these places I have seen, and I most emphatically say that the Ellerslie racecourse is a long way better adapted for the above-mentioned purposes than any I have yet seen, and I think before one condemns a thing he is undoubtedly ignorant of, he should take time and study the enclosed coursing system before he opens his spleen on such a honest pastime, and one that is greatly followed up by those who cannot afford to keep a racehorse. And as to any obstruction that a Plumpton at Ellerslie would cause to the training of horses is simply absurd, as I am sure the appearance of a hare or the wire netting would in no way interfere with the trainers and their calling. In conclusion, I may say training is carried on at Dunedin as usual, and as yet I have never heard of any complaint being laid against the requirements used in connection with the Plumpton carried on so successfully by the Dunedin Jockey Club.

Mr. D. Brown, who is the compiler of "The Greyhound Stud Book," and also one of the greatest authorities on any thing relating to coursing, says, with reference to the charge of cruelty that has been raised against enclosed coursing:—"I confess I do not see where it lies, as experience shows that a much larger percentage of hares escape under the new than the old system. They are carefully fed and carefully trained, so that when let loose they know their way, and are not so liable to be