

land they at the same time clean it, as if sown thick few weeds will grow, and a few extra loads of good manure will soon restore it. Mr. J. M. Axe, of Doncaster, and other noted veterinary surgeons, who are always about Stud farms say that early foals have nothing to do with roaring, therefore W. I'Anson's theory is most likely to be correct. Tom Cliff who trained some years for me never had the thermometer in his stables above fifty five degrees. If the weather was particularly cold he put extra clothing on the horses; one can safely say that he had less sickness and fewer roarers in his stable than any other trainer at Hidnesford, which 30 years ago before the Coal Pits were opened on Cannock Chase, was a noted training place. John Osborne, at Ashgill, used to follow the same practice, and they were generally the last trainers on the gallops, still they turned out a number of good horses in their time. Mr. Harrison's next argument certainly does not hold good. What would happen if General Williams' motion became law? They would practically commence the season on April 15, and finish August 15. The sires would have to do their work in the hottest part of the summer, which would be highly detrimental to their constitutions, and the number of barren mares would be most excessive, as a horse is never so fruitful as in the spring. Experience tells me that Colonial sires stint a greater percentage of mares than the English, and are much harder worked. The weather in the Colonies is much hotter on an average during the covering season than it is in England in May and June, even in July there are only a few hot days; these are not to be compared to Australia. The next objection has certainly something in it—"That foals would have to be weaned in October and November, and they would have the winter upon them before they had time to make a start and grow, and we would have the country full of weak and backward foals, while the absolute loss of barren mares, etc., to private and public breeders would be enormous." There may be something in weaning foals so late in the season, but it must be born in mind that it is not so many years ago that racehorses took their age from the 1st May. The question is, are the horses of the present day better than they were fifty years ago? They may be faster, but are there the same number of game stayers that there were in olden days. It is certain they do not stand training as long, the majority being done at four years old. If General Williams' motion is carried, it will make a revolution in racing, and it is a pity that he did not bring forward a motion to put a stop to early two-year-old racing, the same as in France. Mr. Harrison also quotes as authorities in favour of early foals—Mr. Strickland Constabale, Robert Peck, and the Dukes of Portland and Westminster, the two former certainly are authorities, but the two latter generally trust to their "Master of the Horse." It is certainly an important question and there are sure to be many experienced breeders who will take both sides of the question. From my own experience March foals are preferable to January ones. Phæton, (the grandsire of Foxhall) and Master Willie, two as fine specimens of the thoroughbred as ever looked through a bridle, were March foals, bred on clay land. It would be interesting if Mr. Redwood and some of the leading breeders in the Colonies would give their opinion as to the advantage of having early foals. By the mail after next we should know if General Williams' motion was carried. Roaring is not prevalent in the Colonies. When it does appear it can generally be traced to a bad attack of strangles. Rheumatism is much more prevalent here than in England. This, in my opinion, may certainly be put down to early foals. Here they are generally allowed to run out in all weathers, before they have lost their soft coats, then when they are taken in for the night they steam from this cause. There is little doubt that from this source the seeds of rheumatism are sown. Some other time I may give an article on breeding, showing the theory of Sir Joseph Hawley, Messrs. Blenkiron, Crowther Harrison, and other celebrated breeders; also the opinion of Messrs. Mavor, Spooner, Field, Farrell, and other celebrated veterinary surgeons, on the causes of roaring, whistling, and broken wind in horses. One thing is already proved that the bigger the animal the more likely the horse is to become a roarer.

THE Ashburton Races took place last Wednesday and Thursday. The attendance was poor, and the starting most unsatisfactory, especially on the first day.

The Hurdle Race produced a field of five, which Magpie 10st 2lb, won easily; Little Arthur, 10st 9lb, 2; Smuggler, 9st, 3. Tornado and Lady Grey also ran.

The Ashburton Stakes, xve furlongs, the principal race of the meeting, was won by Saracen, 8st 3lb; Tom Field, 8st 4lb, 2; Maria Martin, 8st 11lb, 3. Frivolity, 7st 7lb; Warrington, 7st 2lb, and Corruption, 6st 13lb, also ran. This performance stamps Saracen, by St. George—Fair Nell, as a pretty smart colt, as he is far from fit, owing to his being overgrown, and requires plenty of time. It is reported that he is to be sent immediately to Melbourne to undergo his preparation for the V.R.C. Derby, therefore his owner must think something of him. St. George, who is an own brother to Chester, has up to the present time been rather a failure at the stud.

The Autumn Stakes, one mile and a-half, was won easily by Don Pedro, 6st 12lb; Liberator, 8st 9lb, 2; Coinage, 6st 7lb, 3. Ilium, 7st, and Aquarium, 6st 10lb, also ran.

Beau Nash 9st 10lb, beat Victim, 9st 3lb, Kilmarnock, 9st 13lb, and six others for the Welter Race; while Carronade, 8st 4lb, annexed the Flying Stakes, Young Cheviot, 8st 3lb, being second; six others ran.

On the second day the racing was more interesting, and the fields larger.

Five started for the Hurdle Race, which was won by Captain Abram, 10st 1lb; Smuggler, 9st 6lb, 2; Little Arthur, 10st 1lb, 3. Magpie, 11st 1lb, was cannoned against, and fell at the last hurdle but one when going well. The Chicken, 9st 6lb, also ran.

Six came to the post for the Grand Stand Handicap, one mile and a-quarter. That useful mare Lady Zetland, 8st 2lb, easily defeated Don Pedro, 7st 10lb, Young Cheviot, and three others.

The other races call for no comment, as they were confined to horses that are not likely to be heard of in any big future event.

MR. WYNYARD, the popular secretary of the Takapuna Jockey Club, must feel well satisfied with the nominations he received last Friday for their Winter Meeting, there being no less than 129 entries for the seven events. It appears that nearly every one that owns a horse of any description has entered him on the chance of winning his winter's keep. As they are a mixed lot it will be a good test of the handicapper's capabilities if he can bring his fields together, especially in the Hurdle Race and the Steeplechase.

By cablegram we have the result of the Two Thousand Guineas, the first of the classic races run over the Rowley Mile at the Newmarket First Spring Meeting. The result was:—Mr. Rose's ch c Bonavista, by Bend Or—Vista, 1; Mr. H. Milner's b c St. Angelo, by Clairvaux, or Galopin—Agneta, 2; Prince Soltykoff's blk c Curio, by Thurio—Light of Other Days, 3. The winner last year only started three times, winning the time-honoured Woodcote Stakes at Epsom. He was then described as a slashing fine colt, and likely to grow into a Derby horse. The race was robbed of a good deal of interest through the scratching of Orme and some of the other crack two-year olds. That the Two Thousand Guineas will give much of a line for this year's Derby is extremely doubtful, as owing to the extraordinary hard winter and late spring the North country horses must be backward and the Newmarket horses the most forward, having the advantage of covered rides, large straw beds, and a tan gallop, which always enables a trainer to give his horses a certain amount of work.

"MAZEPPA" is responsible for the following: "Betting has already commenced on the New Zealand Cup, there being numerous enquiries for Vogengang in particular, and two or three others, among them Stepniak and North Atlantic. Several hundreds have been booked about Vogengang, the first at 100 to 5, while a 100 to 7 was taken in Dunedin this week, and that price is still on offer (one would think it was the weights not being out). Another line was £500 to £15 about The Dreamer."

THERE is an old saying, and a true one, "Go from home to learn news." The following paragraph appears in one of our contemporaries:—"Colonel Fraser, the well-known sport, is now editor of the *Thames Advertiser*. He once owned two full brothers to Tirailleuse, but one got drowned, and the other got his leg broken in a fence." Now, on looking through the records it appears that Florence Macarthy produced a foal in 1883 to Musket. This colt was purchased by Colonel Fraser at the Sylvia Park sale for something like 160 guineas, and was insured in a now defunct society for £200. He was placed in George Wright's hands to be trained, but unfortunately one day, when he had the breaking tackle on, he reared up, and falling back, he seriously injured himself, and was at once placed in slings. While doing well, as in the opinion of George Wright it was only his tail that was broken, an order came out to have him destroyed. George Wright was so sanguine of the recovery of the colt that he offered £20 for him, but the verdict was destroy him, and so it was done. The next year Florence Macarthy missed to Leoninus, and on the following year she had a bay filly by Musket. This was also purchased by Colonel Fraser. When George Wright went to fetch her from Sylvia Park she was in the paddock. On being driven into a loose box to have the cavasson put on her, she slipped up breaking her couplings, and died within ten minutes. The next foal was Tirailleuse. The chestnut filly, by St. Leger, the following year, died as a yearling. Then came Tirallerie, and after that Tireur.

THE detailed accounts of the third day of the A.J.C. Meeting are now to hand, and I take the following remarks from the *Australasian*, as they may be a guide for some of my readers in future events. Great interest was taken in the All-Aged Stakes, one mile, as Strathmore and Marvel, the supposed two best horses of the year met, while Bungebah and Trieste also ran. The latter is thought by many to be the best two-year-old in Australia, but unfortunately is not engaged in the V.R.C. Derby. Marvel's wonderful performance in the Doncaster Handicap made him first favourite. At one time odds were laid on the black, but at the start even money was easily obtainable; Trieste and Strathmore coming next at 4 to 1, while Bungebah at 7 to 1 was comparatively neglected. Bungebah was the first to show in front, but Lady Edda, who ran in the interest of Marvel, soon took up the running, but at the turn into the straight she was beaten, Bungebah going to the front, followed by Strathmore and Marvel. Trieste, who had been lying last, then made an effort to go up on the outside. Though she succeeded in beating the above two she could not reach Bungebah, who won cleverly by half a length. Many thought that if Trieste's jockey had not laid so far out of his ground she would have won. There was a head between second third and fourth, Strathmore obtaining that position. The First Biennial Stakes, six furlongs, resulted in another boil over. Four started. The race was run in a blinding shower of rain. Autonomy on his running in the Champagne was made a great favourite, 9 to 2 being laid on him. Though he got well away he was never in the race, which resulted in a match between Masca and Meli. The latter, well ridden by Morrison, won by a neck. The running of the crack must not be taken into consideration for future events, as some horses will not face rain and mud; but still, as I have previously warned my readers, he is not the flyer the public think him to be. The Cumberland Stakes, two miles, was another interesting race. Strathmore was the favourite at 2 to 1, while Marvel, Highborn and Stromboli were at 3 to 1 each—a nice price for the bookmakers, as they were all well backed. At the fall of the flag Stromboli went to the front, Marvel being last. At the turn for home Highborn went up to the leader. At the same time Strathmore made his effort, but soon died away. Marvel then came, getting level with Highborn at the half distance, won by two lengths and a half; Stromboli, to the confusion of his backers finishing last. When Marvel returned to the paddock there was a good deal of hooting, but Mr. George Hill took it in good humour as he faced the excited crowd. Too much reliance must not be placed on this running, as Strathmore was dead off, Highborn is getting stale, while Stromboli appears to be an in-and-out kind of customer.