

struck himself severely yesterday morning while schooling over the jumps, which will prevent him from filling his Egmont engagements, but Fred Potto, who is in charge of him, hopes to have him all right again by the Wanganui meeting. Manine was just beginning to move along in grand style, and would have had a say in some of his engagements had not this accident occurred.

Shillelagh is first favourite amongst our local punters for the Wanganui Steeplechase.

Auckland is doing well in his work, and I expect to see him run a big horse on the 24th inst.

Mutiny and Daisy Clipper are the favourite picks for the Winter Oats at the Wanganui meeting.

The hurdle horse Disturbance arrived last night *en route* for Egmont, after which meeting he will return to Wanganui to fulfil his engagements.

The winner of the Thompson Handicap, Rangipuhi, is being treated to a well-earned spell, and will not sport silk again till next spring.

Strike is being schooled over the small sticks, it being his owner's intention to try the son of Natator at the illegitimate game, at which he should cut a prominent figure, as he is possessed of a good turn of pace.

Coming Events.

[BY SIR LAUNCELOT.]

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB.

MR. EVETT issued on Tuesday a couple more handicaps for this meeting, viz., the Hunters' Steeplechase of 50sovs, about 2 miles, and the Hack Flat Handicap of 40sovs, one mile and a distance. They appear in another column of this issue, and I shall have more to say about them and other races on the programme after the Egmont Racing Club's Winter Meeting has been added to the list of past events.

HAWKE'S BAY JOCKEY CLUB.

THE Hawke's Bay Jockey Club have not received as good patronage as expected for the Hurdle Handicap and Hawke's Bay Steeplechase Handicap, to be run at their Winter Meeting on the 23rd prox. The Hurdle list totals up 21, and the Steeplechase entry 26. Aucklanders are conspicuous by their absence except that Parnell is nominated for the Steeplechase. As in the Auckland events, the Canterbury sportsman Mr D. Rutherford is a contributor, Kulinine being entered for the Hurdles and Norton for the Steeplechase. Mr Evett's handicaps are due on the 8th June, the day after the conclusion of the Auckland Racing Club's Steeplechase Meeting.

DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB.

THIS club bring off their usual Winter Meeting on May 24 (Queen's Birthday) and the following Saturday, May 27, and the acceptances for three of the first day's handicaps will be found in another column of this issue. In the principal event of the meeting, the Birthday Handicap, Mr Dowse's adjustments have met with a good response from owners, but there has been a big weeding out in both the Tradesmen's Handicap and the Hurdles.

The Handicap Hurdle Race of 80 sovs, about two miles, will commence the proceedings, and as I have indicated above the acceptance is not a good one, only half a dozen having paid up. Maggie is top weight with 11.13, and though he is giving from 10lb to 36lb to his various opponents I think he will take a lot of beating. I have however a fancy that the race will fall to Rebel, to whom Maggie is conceding exactly a stone, and it is this pair I look to fight out the finish.

The 16 left in the Birthday Handicap of 300 sovs, one mile and a half, are mostly of a good class. With Stepniak, 9.5, eliminated, Prime Warden is now top weight at 9.0. He has hitherto been on the whole anything but lucky in handicaps on the Forbury course, but 9.0 and the distance to be traversed now are well within his compass, and I shall expect him to run a great horse if his stable rely on him on the day in preference to Saracen or Lady Zetland, both of which also have been accepted with Hippomenes comes next in the list with 8.3. Last year with 11b more he was favourite for this very race, but had to knock under at the finish to the moderate Don Pedro. As I think a mile and a half is a bit longer than he cares for I will discard him for this race. I do not care for

Saracen's chance at 8.1, and the distance is a bit further than Heather Bell, 7.12, likes. Conjuror, 7.10, has been in a winning vein lately and may have a say. I do not care for Cajolery at 7.9, for sprinting is more his game. Retina is well enough treated at 7.8, which is but 11b more than she won the same race with two years back, but she is at the best an uncertain lady to trust. One day she runs a rattling good race and a few days afterwards a donkey could head her. If only in the humour on the 24th inst. she will just about credit Mr Martin with his second Dunedin Birthday Handicap. Tempest, 7.7, is another that is well dealt by, and as the course is one of her and her owner's happy hunting grounds she should be close handy at the finish. Lady Zetland, 7.6, is another mare whose chance I like, and I shall be quite prepared to find her the elect of Messrs M. and C. Hobbs' stable on the day. She is a game little bit of stuff and will, I feel sure, run a good race if wanted. Among those below her in the list the only one I have any fancy for is The Dreamer, 6.8.

Whakawatea, 9.2, is top weight in the Tradesmen's Handicap of 120sovs, one mile, and deservedly so. There is no need for me to recapitulate even a tithe of his meritorious performances over sprint courses. He has some brilliant records, and his latest running in the C.J.C.'s Challenge Stakes and the Derby Handicap at Wellington shows that he has come back to his two-year-old form. A mile is well within his compass and he should take a lot of beating on the day. His stable companion Heather Bell comes next in the list at 8.10, but I have no liking for her. Vogengang, 8.7, has been running very indifferently of late, and seems to have lost all his two-year-old form. Travelling further down the list I stop at Liberator, 8.0, and then my eye catches as well treated Au Revoir at 7.9, and Paramu at 7.2. But as weight doesn't stop a good 'un over a short course I should take Whakawatea to be equal to the task of winning.

SYDNEY TURF CLUB.

As will be seen by the list appearing in another column the name of Impulse is among the entries for the Queen's Birthday Cup of 500sovs, one mile and a half, to be run on the 27th inst. Two other New Zealanders entered are Florrie and Wyvern, and in addition to the Sydney entries there are several from Melbourne. The total number of entries is 40.

Austral Memos.

The Caulfield Guineas will be run this year on October 14th, and the Caulfield Cup on October 21st.

On Thursday last, the first day of the South Australian Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, the Adelaide Cup of 1000sovs, with a gold cup value 100sovs, the gift of Mr R. Barr Smith added, one mile and five furlongs, was won by Mr J. Crozier's three-year-old gelding Vakeel, by Robinson Crusoe—Eileen; 8.2. Mr H. Pearson's aged mare Britannia, 7.12, was second; and Mr H. A. Barnett's four-year-old colt Jericho, 8.0, third. Vakeel was favourite, and won by a length, and as his owner is an Adelaidean the victory is certain to have been very popular. His sire Robinson Crusoe is full brother to Mr T. Morrin's mare Onyx, being by Angler out of Chrysolite and his dam Eileen (who had previously produced an Adelaide Cup winner in The Lawyer) is by Talk o' the Hill—Nina, by Panic—Hester Geazebrook, by The Premier (imp). Britannia is by The Englishman (son of Lecturer) out of Minerva by Blue Gown (son of Lord of the Hills); and Jericho is by Gang Forward (imp.) out of the Vespasian mare La Naine.

I mentioned last week that the s.s. Waihora, bound from here to Sydney with Impulse on board, had to put back through stress of weather. She was, however, able to resume her voyage early on Thursday, Impulse still being a passenger.

By way of exemplifying how smoothly things ran at the recent A.J.C. Autumn Meeting, "Asmodeus" records that the stewards were not called upon to make a single inquiry; neither was there a protest lodged in connection with any of the events, nor a single fine of any description imposed.

Mr D. S. Wallace has decided to break up his training establishment and reduce his breeding stud, and with this purpose several well-bred horses, including thirty mares served by Carbine, Mentor, etc., several yearlings, and the well-known

horse Megaphone are to be sold under the hammer on the 15th inst.

Sir Modred's brother July has been standing the season in the Richmond River (N.S.W.) district ever since his expatriation from New Zealand. Mr W. Noud, after his victory with Brooklet in the Nursery Handicap at the A.J.C. Autumn Meeting, went up to the Richmond River and purchased there among others, a two-year-old colt by July from Rosemary by Maribyrnong—Maria, by Lord of the Hills (imp.); and a ch. three-year-old filly by July from Princess Dagmar, by Kelpie (imp.)—Princess Royal, by Pitsford (imp.) Among the sires located in the Richmond River district, besides July, are First Water; the Musket—Steppe horse Tartar; Captivator's son Ad Valorem; and Abner, who ran second to Lochiel in the Newmarket Handicap.

Under the regulations of the Victoria Racing Club's programme for next season, the winner of the V.R.C. Derby will have to carry 3lb over weight for age in the Champion Stakes.

In sentencing a Welsher to six months' imprisonment recently in Victoria, the presiding judge stated that as far as registration of bookmakers by the V.R.C. was concerned it simply meant giving a man a license to perform an illegal act.

The Tasmanians are going to adopt an idea from the French, and protect their two-year-old races against horses bred outside the colony. All English races are open to the world, but the Grand Prix de Paris is the only important event in which the Frenchmen reciprocate. Whenever the foreigners have a really good year in England the question of barring them crops up, but the Jockey Club stewards prefer being beaten rather than to be so unneighbourly as to refuse to allow Gallic sportsmen the chance of proving the superiority of their cattle. The determination of Tasmania to shut out foreign-bred animals is a confession of weakness which seems strange from a colony which only a few years ago was represented by such animals as Malua, Stockwell, Sheet Anchor, Coronet, Ringwood, Blink Bonny, Silvermine, Mozart, etc.

Since Culloden's return to Melbourne from Sydney his trainer, has deemed it advisable to call in Mr W. Allen, who has performed an operation to the horse's foot, which was injured in the Champion Race and gave some trouble during the recent A.J.C. Meeting.

The V.R.C. have in the past dealt more liberally with horse-owners than any other club in the world. This may be rather a large order, but it will be found to be correct. Entrance fees and acceptances, instead of going to swell the club's funds, as in England and America, have been devoted to increasing the stakes. The Melbourne Age says:—"By way of showing the liberality with which owners have been treated, it may be pointed out that the club has during the twenty-eight years of its existence given away in added money £446,305, the annual endowments having increased by gigantic bounds." For the season 1864-65 the amount was £3205, and it was not until eleven years later that it reached 'five figures,' the amount added in 1875-76 being £10,100. With increased revenue the committee continued to provide for owners with still greater liberality, giving £24,200 in 1887-88, and £31,650 in the following year. In 1889-90 the amount was £37,000, in the next season £44,100, and for the last two years it has been £44,800. Although the committee has now determined upon retaining the subscriptions of nominators, the amount of prize money guaranteed for the approaching season is no less than £44,300, so that it will easily be seen that the stakes to be run for will be large enough to satisfy all but the few who would grumble under any circumstances."

Zelpha, who is the dam of the well-known sire The Englishman, and one of Mr W. Blackler's celebrated mares, has just ended her career at Fulham Park, Adelaide. She was bred in England in 1868, got by Fitz Roland, her dam Salamanca, by Student from Bravery, by Gameboy from Ennui, by Bay Middleton from Blue Devil, by Velocipede. She was imported to South Australia by the late Mr R. Holland in 1877.

Mr E. Cutts became possessed of the brood mare Awatea, dam of Grip, at the Spring Creek sale somewhat unexpectedly. He had no intention of buying her, but simply bid a "tenner" to give the auctioneer a start. To his surprise there was no other bid and the mare was knocked down to him. Though in her 23rd year she could not as dam of Grip, and Beresford, a daughter of imported Ravensworth and imported Skybird be considered at all dear at the price.

The New Plumpton at Auckland.

By 'SIR LAUNCELOT.'

FOR some reason coursing has not 'caught on' in New Zealand so far. Before the days of Plumptons, Waterloo Cups were tried away down South in the Otago Province, and they used to have some rattling good sport there, too. Open coursing, both there and in Canterbury, flourished vigorously for a time; but up to then, so far as I know, no coursing was carried on in the North Island under the operations of any coursing club. Many's the good time I've had, in the open, down in Canterbury, with some enthusiastic coursers who still own a greyhound, or two, and run them under the enclosed system. The Canterbury Plumpton died out for want of proper sport, and coursing may now truly be said to be dead down there, but in North Otago they course, in the open and give decent stakes, and owing to the Dunedin Jockey Club lending their fostering influence there is now a nice Plumpton laid out at the Forbury Park. About a couple of years back we used to hear a good deal of coursing in Hawke's Bay, but the sport seems to have languished there lately. Some Auckland coursing enthusiasts some time ago laid out a Plumpton at Papatoitū but to this ground the same objection applied as to others that I have been acquainted with down South—it was too far from the metropolis, and the consequence was people did not journey there in sufficiently large numbers to allow the club to carry on without a loss and the ground had to be abandoned. Thus for a time coursing became defunct in Auckland, but now a coursing club has been formed on a substantial basis, and a Plumpton has been laid out on the Avondale Jockey Club's racecourse. It was with the object of seeing this new Plumpton that I journeyed to Avondale last Saturday afternoon.

For the information of my readers who do not 'reside' in Auckland, I may say that Avondale is distant about eight miles from Auckland, and can be easily reached at all hours of the day by either bus or rail, the bus road travelling through some beautiful scenery. Arrived at the course, I found Host Foley, of the Avondale Hotel, who is a real grafter, at the coursing game, hard at work superintending some ploughing operations, and a bit of a hard job it was, too, for it had been raining all the morning and the ground was very slushy. To add to the discomfort, it started to rain soon after Mr Foley started to show me how far the formation of the new Plumpton had progressed, so we didn't have a very nice time of it, but I saw enough to convince me that the work has been done thoroughly and energetically by those who have laid out this new Plumpton.

The whole of the racing track proper has for the purposes of this Plumpton been enclosed with a wire-netting specially imported from England, and which I could see is of excellent quality. The dogs will be slipped from the end near where the present caretaker's house is situated. A Slipper's hut will be erected, and the usual race will be provided. From here to the escapes at the other end of the course will afford a straight run of about 600 yards, which is quite enough license, and it must not be forgotten that, puss, may bend to either the left or the right, and will all the time be in full view of the spectators. The escapes have been particularly well constructed, and after the hares have escaped they will find splendid shelter in the fences around the course and in some high grass at the end of the course facing towards Waikomiti. Most of the steeplechase fences now on the course will be taken down, and the hurdles and log fences also removed. Altogether I was very pleased with what I saw had been done towards the formation of Auckland's new Plumpton at Avondale, and all that is now wanted is a plentiful supply of hares, which have not come forward so far quite as promptly as could be wished. This has been mainly due to the wet weather which has prevailed in the Waikato, and it is thought that some will have to be procured from the South. However the club should have little or no difficulty in surmounting this obstacle, and with the perfect arrangements they have so far made and are continuing to make their initial meeting on June 14 and 17 should inaugurate a new era in coursing in Auckland.

Mr F. Whiting has books on all forthcoming events.