

# CRICKET.

Canterbury defeated Wellington very easily at Christchurch during the week. The home team made 307 and 258 for six wickets, the innings being then declared closed. Wellington's response was 221 and 143, thus losing the match by 201 runs.

Otago beat Southland rather easily by eight wickets in a match played during the holidays at Invercargill.

The junior interprovincial cricket match, Nelson v. Marlborough, was won by the Nelson team, who made 62 in the first and 70 in the second innings. Marlborough made 41 and 23.

Mr J. C. Davies, the well-known Sydney writer who contributes to the columns of the "Referee" under the nom de plume of "Not-Out," was married last week. Congratulations.

The Melbourne Grammar School team, which was defeated in the annual match against the Sydney Grammar School, put up a fine performance in the final of the Public Schools Premiership Competition against Wesley College. Having dismissed their opponents for 99, the Melbourne players knocked up 518, C. W. Miller carrying his bat right through the innings for 231. Miller was batting 8 hours 40 minutes, and hit 24 fours. He only made one mistake—a possible chance of stumping at 20. With Lewers, who made 119, he added 279 for the fifth wicket, which is a record for school cricket in Victoria.

The inter-State Grammar Schools' annual match, which took place on the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday and Tuesday, was not favoured by the elements, Sunday's rain making the wickets very soft (says the "Referee"). Melbourne could only make 58 in the first innings. Sydney nearly trebled their opponent's score at their first attempt. Melbourne made 133 in their second essay, which left Sydney only 42 to make in order to win; but the visitors played up so determinedly that the local team only won by four wickets.

It is twenty-four years since W. L. Murdoch first captained an Australian Eleven in England. He led the 1880, 1882, 1884, and 1900 teams. With the exception of J. Darling, who captained the 1899 and 1902 teams, no one has been skipper of an Australian Eleven in England more than once.

The disqualifications in connection with the last Sydney Thousand in March were as follows: Floyd MacFarland, three years; L. Corbett, two years; H. Downing, B. Kett, C. Bathie, D. J. Plunkett, 12 months; H. Gordon, six months. All but Corbett's have now been removed.

## Echoes of the Week.

(By "Ithuriel.")

Circumstances (like a dishonest railway porter at Christmas time) alters cases, and this applies particularly to cases in which women are concerned. For instance (says "Boondi") teaching a handsome young lady (say your wealthy employer's pretty daughter) to ride a bike, is a perfectly celestial occupation, one at which even the typical born-tired Australian youth can work overtime without troubling to send in his bill. But teaching your employer's fat, cranky, awkward 16-stone wife to ride a bike is simply Sheol with the lid on all the time. Delightful as the first-mentioned occupation is, however, it is not the ghost of a circumstance by the side of teaching a shapely young lady how to swim. Our Mr "Natator" is naturally a great authority on this subject, and, being at Coogee Beach with a fellow-worker the other day, the

latter was heard to say: "Look here, Bill, I wish you'd tell me the best way to teach a young lady how to swim." "Certainly, Edgar," was the reply; "there's nothing more easy or delightful. Don't frighten the dear girl on any account—remember that. Coax her gently in, then lead her forward, place your hand tenderly under her chin, place—" "Hold on," interrupted Edgar; "I forgot to tell you the lady is my sister." "Oh!" exclaimed another chap, who chipped in: "In that case, grab the beggar by the scruff of the neck and shove her in head first!" It's small wonder that it is always some other girl's brother a young lady loves to be instructed by, not her own.

Professor Poultney Bigelow, Professor of Colonial Administration, Boston University, who passed through Auckland the other day, in an interview said that it appeared to him that Australia was far and away the most important element in the great English speaking Empire. She was, geographically, at the point where she had to act, possibly alone, for her own safety, if not for the integrity of the whole Anglo-Saxon Empire, and was by all means the most interesting point for an American student of sociology. "In the future," he continued with enthusiasm, "I can see the Pacific as an English-speaking lake from San Francisco to Sydney, and the Monroe doctrine spreading throughout the islands of this part of the world—not merely a Monroe doctrine in name, but a genuine one, based up on the consent of those for whom this protectorate may be declared." The professor said that his travels in Africa had prepared him for finding the native races amenable to British rule, but nothing he had seen or read before equalled the extent to which he found sympathy for those of English speech amongst natives, who were credited with being cunning, cruel, and dangerous. He referred to the Malays and Papuans of New Guinea. "The English language," he continued, "is already the language of commerce, and if a vote were taken amongst the natives I am sure it would be overwhelmingly in favour of the British flag. This does

not sound complimentary to my own Stars and Stripes, but we need facts rather than compliments at this stage of our development." Australia, he said at a later stage, he supposed was like America in having too many politicians to the square inch. This was certainly a great curse in America, and had caused the waste of splendid opportunities in the Philippines. As a consequence they had made scarcely any friends amongst the natives, but in spite of all that they would soon be reaching their hand to Australia from the Philippines, as well as from San Francisco, and soon be looking to Australia as their natural protector, as well as their best market. It is almost unnecessary to add that Professor Bigelow is an enthusiastic supporter of an Anglo-American alliance.

The colonel had had a very lucky day at Rotorua, the fish had been biting well, and he had several large ones stored safely away in the boat. He had just taken in his line, and was pouring out his usual drink of "Scotch" before pulling in the anchor. It had been the custom of the colonel to drink alone, but something to-day prompted him to offer his guide a drink. Bert did not hesitate in his acceptance, and carefully watched the colonel pour out scarcely enough to cover the bottom of the glass. The guide was disappointed, but took the glass. "One minute before you drink that," said the colonel. "Do you know how old that whisky is?" The guide did not. "That's twenty-one years old!" "Well," said the guide, looking at it again, "it's pretty d—n small for its age."

"I suppose you went to bed with the chickens while you were in the country?" said the caller. "No, indeed," replied the lady of the house, somewhat shocked. "We had the best apartments in the house, second floor front. The chickens had rooms way back in the rear somewhere; we never saw them after sunset."

"He called you a cheat," said the milkman's assistant, "and declared you water in your milk." "That's a malicious lie," exclaimed the milkman, indignantly. "O! but I say! You know you do, really." "No, sir! I'm always careful to put the milk in the water, just to trip up such people as him."

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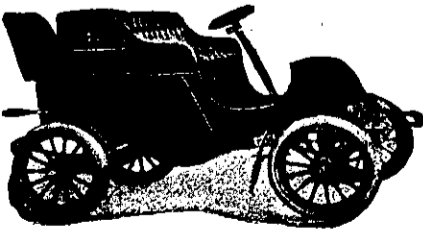
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