

TROTTING.

Now that the meeting of the Auckland Trotting Club has been numbered with the past, trotting matters are very quiet in Auckland, and are likely to remain so for some little time to come.

By the record the fastest pacing team in the world on their individual records is now in England, and owned by Mr. Winans. It is composed of Prince Alert 1min. 59½s., and Fanny Dillard, 2min. 3¼sec. The next best on the same rule is owned by Charles E. Chapin, of Rochester, N.Y., and is made up of Darriel, 2min. 0¼sec., and Connor, 2min. 3¼sec.

Owners of trotting stock should buy the second volume of the "Register of the New Zealand Trotting Association," containing the names of all horses registered up to the end of July last. The volume, which is published at two shillings, can be obtained from Mr. J. B. Norrie, secretary of the New Zealand Trotting Association, Christchurch.

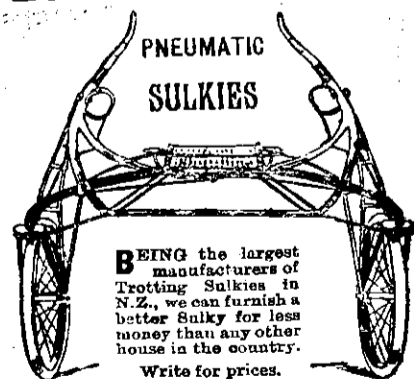
It is a mistake that trotting-bred horses are only suitable for racing purposes, and that every foal dropped upon the farm must show extreme speed with a few months' development or is worthless and useless material. The more quickly this idea is gotten rid of the better it will be for the owner. The well-bred, well-grown, and properly broken light-harness horse is always a money-maker in the hands of a rustling owner. The only carriage horse of general utility comes from the union of trotting-bred stallions and trotting-bred mares.

It is impossible to disassociate the feeding and digestion of horses from the question of their teeth, as beyond all doubt many animals suffer greatly from dental troubles, and lose both health and strength therefrom. It is to be recommended, therefore, that if a horse goes off his feed, and no sufficient reason can be produced, his mouth should be the subject of a careful examination by somebody who is competent to undertake the duty. Even in the case of horses where there is no suspicion that there is anything wrong with the teeth, a periodical inspection will frequently reveal the fact that attention is required, and a very simple operation at such a time will obviate much suffering and trouble later on. As a consequence it may be repeated that habitual neglect of the condition of his horse's mouth is a rather serious sin of omission on the part of his owner.

The champion trotter Ribbonwood's first foal, now six months' old, is in Melbourne, and is described by his owner as a jet black colt, resembling his sire very much, and even now shows undoubted ability to trot. His owner is so pleased with him that he has written to Mr. Playfair, owner of Ribbonwood, to choose a name for the colt, and that gentleman has selected "First Ribbon" as being most appropriate.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

FOOTBALL.

The second games in the district cup competition under the auspices of the Auckland Rugby Union were played on Saturday. The most even match in the senior grade was that between North Shore and Grafton. There was a large attendance on the North Shore ground to witness this contest, which was very keenly fought out. In the first half North Shore, playing with the wind and with the sun in their opponents' eyes, scored seven points, a try and a goal from a mark. The first was secured by R. Wynyard, who got an opening and took it, but Yeoland's kick at goal failed. Yeoland made amends a little later, putting the ball over the bar from a mark. In the second half, with positions reversed, Grafton attacked very strongly, but faulty passing threw away many opportunities of scoring. Shortly before the close Kiernan kicked a penalty goal, and when the whistle sounded North Shore were left winners by 7 points to 3.

At Alexandra Park City played Parnell, and the latter, although beaten by 15 to nil, made a rather better fight than was expected. City led off with the wind and sun in their favour, and kept the ball in their opponents' territory most of the time. The Parnell defence proved very sound, and with the exception of a penalty goal kicked by Todd, there was no scoring during the first half. With the conditions more in their favour the Parnell players were expected to do better in the second spell, but they failed to show staying power. W. Tyler got a try, but failed with the kick. Then after some give-and-take work Smith got a free try, but although the ball was grounded between the posts, Tyler failed again with the kick. Next from a scrum on the line G. Tyler scrambled over the line, but Todd failed to convert. A few minutes before time, as the result of a passing run, Smith scored again, but once more W. Tyler failed to put the ball over the bar.

Only eleven Suburbs men turned out to play Ponsonby, and the latter had a veritable picnic. They piled up the score at a great rate, Carlaw, Francis, and Riley doing most of it, and although the time for play was considerably curtailed, Ponsonby had 50 to nil on the slate when the whistle sounded.

SECOND FIFTEENS.

City beat Parnell by 8 points to 3.
North Shore beat Grafton by 22 points to 0.

Ponsonby beat Suburbs by 16 points to 8.

During the match between Grafton and North Shore McGregor had one of his ribs broken.

After all the New Zealand team will play a series of matches in Sydney, and it is a thousand pities that this was not arranged in the first place, especially in view of the courteous treatment extended our union by the New South Wales executive in connection with the visit of the English footballers. It is probable that the dates for the matches may be July 8, 12, and 15.

The New Zealand team for the Old Country leaves on July 29, and will go Home by the twin-screw liner Rimutaka, one of the finest vessels of the New Zealand Shipping Company's line.

The Hairdressers' Football Club has been formed, and will play in the Wednesday afternoon competitions. Mr. C. Lakey is secretary, and Mr. A. Bancroft treasurer.

The chief match under Australian rules on Saturday was between Auckland Imperial and Austral, the latter being strong favourites. The result was a surprise, as after a close game Imperial won by 4 goals 7 behinds (31 points) to 4 goals 4 behinds (28 points).

The leading match in the Association game was one between Ponsonby and North Shore, the former winning by 2 goals to 1.

Describing the match between England and Scotland, the "Licensed Victuallers' Gazette" of April 7 says that the International game at Crystal Palace ended in a victory for England, but the partisans of the Southern team are not likely to be stuck-up about it. Scotland was better in front, in the middle, and at the back than their opponents, and they had the best of the struggle, but England scored the solitary goal of the contest, and no amount of explanation can alter the concrete result. It was not a battle of giants anyway, but the defence on both sides was always a bit ahead of

the opposing forwards, and the shooting did precious little credit to either. Bloomer, who in the usual way could be relied upon to score once during the afternoon, and who as a matter of fact did not the ball, gave a poor display. His goal was not allowed by the umpire, whose verdict of offside was undisputed; and Bache, in the last quarter of an hour of the play, scored the goal that gave England the winning bracket. Bache appeared to be mightily elated with his achievement, and his colleagues nearly hugged him for it. The sheer unexpectedness of it staggered players and spectators alike. The whole game had been keenly contested, but the crack forwards, both Scotch and English, did not play at the top of their form; they failed to take advantage of their opportunities, and they were seldom a match for the defence that was pitted against them. It was a good tussle from the point of view that one side was fighting an uphill game and contriving to hold their own, and they succeeded, not because they were favoured by fortune so much as by the bad luck which attended the efforts of the visitors. It was anybody's game all through, and it looked as if it would end in a tie. Indeed, it seemed impossible that anything could happen to relieve the tedium of the proceedings, but it is the unexpected that happens, and when the crowd of 35,000 persons saw the ball fly between the Scotchmen's posts they were almost too amazed to cheer.

CRICKET.

The following is the full programme for the tour of the Australians in England:—

May 18, Lords—Australians v. M.C.C. and Ground; May 22, Sheffield—Australians v. Yorkshire; May 25, Manchester—Australians v. Lancashire; May 29, Nottingham—Australians v. England (first test match).

June 1, Cambridge—Australians v. the University; June 5, Bradford—Australians v. Yorkshire; June 8, Lord's—Australians v. M.C.C. and Ground; June 12, Leicester—Australians v. Leicestershire; June 15, Lord's—Australians v. England (second test match); June 22, Leyton—Australians v. Essex; June 26, Birmingham—Australians v. Warwickshire; June 29, Bristol—Australians v. Gloucestershire.

July 3, Leeds—Australians v. England (third test match); July 6, Southampton—Australians v. Hampshire; July 10, Derby—Australians v. Derbyshire; July 13, Bath—Australians v. Somerset; July 17, Edinburgh—Australians v. Scotland; July 20, Glasgow—Australians v. Scotland; July 24, Manchester—Australians v. England (fourth test match); July 27, Oval—Australians v. Surrey; July 31, Brighton—Australians v. Sussex.

August 3, Worcester—Australians v. Worcestershire; August 7, Cardiff—Australians v. South Wales; August 10, Lord's—Australians v. Middlesex; August 14, Oval—Australians v. England (fifth test match); August 19, Northampton—Australians v. Northamptonshire (provisionally); August 21, Liverpool—Australians v. Lancashire; August 24, Canterbury—Australians v. Kent; August 28, Cheltenham—Australians v. Gloucestershire; August 31, Bournemouth—Australians v. An England Eleven.

September 4, Leyton—Australians v. Essex; September 7, Scarborough—Australians v. C. I. Thrinton's England Eleven; September 11, Hastings—Australians v. South of England.

The match between the Australians and Surrey resulted in another very unsatisfactory draw. The county team consisted of Lord Dalmeny (captain), Hayward, Hayes, Hobbs, Holland, Baker-Knox, Ince, Leveson-Gower, Lees and Steadman, a combination which contrasted somewhat unfavourably with the Surrey team of a decade ago. Gehrs, Newland, Howell, and Gregory stood out of the visiting team. Surrey, batting first, put together 225, during which Hobbs gave an excellent display, being run out at 91. He hit one five and thirteen boundaries. The Australians replied with 292, Armstrong making 83, McLeod 60, Trumper 31, and Cotter 30 (not out). Being in a minority of 67 Surrey, in their second attempt, made 286. The feature of the innings was the capital showing by Tom Hayward, who, going in first, carried his bat through the entire innings for 129, not out. Holland 39, Baker 29, and Hayes 24, were the only others to do anything. Wanting 219 runs to win, and with two hours and a-quarter to get them, the Australians set out to hit. Duff and Armstrong, who scored 64 and 59 respectively, made a good effort to make the runs, but when time was called the score was at 199, six wickets having fallen.

The Prince of Wales witnessed the match between the Australian Eleven and Surrey, the teams being presented after the game.

The Surrey Club give the Australians a banquet at the Oval on Saturday.

The first test match between England and Australia will take place at Nottingham, and will commence on Monday week.

The Australians commence a match against the M.C.C. and Ground at Lord's to-day. It is the strongest combination they have met so far.

Mr. L. C. H. Palaise, the famous Somerset batsman, has retired from first-class cricket, having been appointed resident agent for Mr. Munday, of Derby Hall, Shipley. His new duties will prevent him from playing regularly, a fact which will be much regretted by cricket enthusiasts.

R. B. Rees, a one-time South Australian, has been guilty of another great performance in Singapore, for which he was presented with a silver cup—the third for cricket feats in twelve months. He was included in the eleven of Singapore against eleven Ceylon men resident in the Straits. Off his first over 8 runs were knocked, and he actually finished up with an analysis of 8 wickets for 9 runs. The natives, who regard bowling above batting, were almost uncontrollable, and when Rees got the hat-trick they went delirious with joy.

The cricket match between Nottingham and the Australians ended in a very even draw, with the probabilities in favour of the Englishmen, whose team consisted of Iremonger, A. O. Jones, G. Gunn, J. Gunn, Dixon, Simpson, Hardstaff, Day, Oates, Hanson, and Wass. Gehrs, McLeod, and Kelly stood out of the Australian team. The visitors winning the toss, went in to bat, and put together 288, of which the lion's share was contributed by Armstrong, who hit up 112 in fine style. Noble made 62, Cotter 39, Darling 29, and Newland 25 (not out). Nottingham replied with 219, towards which Jones contributed 72, G. Gunn 41, and Hardstaff 38. Going in a second time the Australians hit free, Wass, the best Nottingham bowler, having been injured on the previous day. With the score at 234 for four wickets, Darling declared the innings closed, this leaving the local men 304 to get to win. Jones again gave a fine display of batting, putting together 103. G. Gunn made 67, and Iremonger 40, and when time was called the score stood at 237 for four wickets.

In a match between M.C.C. and Ground and Sussex, P. F. Warner compiled 204 for the former club, while C. B. Fry hit up 156 for the southern county.

AQUATICS.

(By "The Roofer.")

Writing of the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, the Licensed Victuallers' Gazette of April 7 says that the sporting surprise of last Saturday, the absolute eye-opener of the day, was the absurdly easy manner in which Oxford ran away from the Cambridge crew from Putney to Mortlake. It wasn't so much the fact that the Dark Blues were triumphant that made people stare as that anybody, especially those wise, watchful men of vast experience who report the "form" of the rival crews at practice, should have suspected the Cambridge eight of being able to hold their own for a dozen yards. We were told it was an open affair; that there wasn't a pin to choose between the pair; that it would probably be the closest finish that ever baffled the optics of good-man judge. The betting was a shade in favour of Cambridge when the flag fell, and two minutes later it was Marble Arch to a "glassy" on Oxford. The Light Blues settled down to chase their opponents, and they kept up the pursuit doggedly for four and a-half miles; but they neither looked nor rowed like a winning crew. The judge said the winners had three lengths the better of it at the finish, but it is probable that Oxford could have won by any distance they liked. The crew pulled up fresh as paint, and replied to the cheers that greeted their achievement with beaming, number six smiles and much waving of the hands. The Cambridge men, on the contrary, had had quite as much exercise as they required for one day. They were done to a turn, some of them hanging, dead beat, over their oars and threatening to tumble out of the boat. However, they recovered during the day, and the crowded audience at the Alhambra in the evening would have been hard put to it to decide, by an inspection of their faces, which were the victors and which the vanquished among the rivals who enjoyed the hospitality of the management.