

stimulants to horses with a view of infusing a sort of "Dutch courage," apropos of which poor George Fordham used to relate an amusing incident in connection with Digby Grand's victory in the City and Suburban of 1872. The son of Saunterer was a notorious "welscher," and his owner, Mr. Graham, provided himself with a bottle of prime port to be given to the horse before the race. The trainer, Harry Woolcot, gave Fordham the wine to taste, and the jockey voting it "prime," sampled it himself. First one and then the other had a "swig" at it, with the result that the bottle quickly became emptied, and so, in the words of the nursery ballad, the poor horse "had none." However, it seems to have done his jockey quite as much good, for history relates that "Digby," a handsome little black who had run fourth for the Derby of the previous year, beat his twenty-nine opponents quite cleverly.

The death of Geheimniss, a mare I remember seeing run quite well, at the advanced age of twenty-eight, recalls a few particularly interesting pages of turf history. Purchased as a yearling by Tom Cannon for 350 guineas, this daughter of the handsome Rosierucian was sold after gaining a couple of winning brackets as a two-year-old to Lord Stamford for 2000 guineas, and the future proved that his lordship had obtained a great bargain, since she won four more events at that age, to say nothing of the Oaks and other races. It is, however, by her defeats rather than her victories that Geheimniss will chiefly be remembered (says the "Licensed Victuallers Gazette.") One which will linger long in the memory is that sustained in the Fern Hill Stakes at Ascot, when, with odds of 8 to 1 betted on her, she went down before a two-year-old of Lord Brassey's named Nausicaa. Another which was even more disastrous to backers was that in the St. Leger, wherein she was beaten by a hopeless outsider in Dutch Oven, after one having victory apparently within her grasp. The explanation of this was to be found, of course, in the fact that she did not stay, and as a four-year-old an attempt was made to bring off a coup with the mare in the Stewards' Cup. Hornpipe beat her by a head, and although Archer always blamed himself for the defeat, it could only have been averted by his sending Wood, who "sneaked" up on the inside, over the rails.

A week subsequent to running second in the Viceroy's Cup, Mallard won the Indian Grand National, a three miles steeplechase, of 5000rs, at Tollysunge. Mallard won as he liked from Kipling, Chassepot and Lamrock, who finished in that order.

Mr. A. Geary having sent in his resignation as handicapper to the West Australian Turf Club, which has been accepted, the club is now calling for applications to that position, the salary to which is £500 per annum.

In the London "Sportsman" the "Special Commissioner" says:—"Many people used to predict that Sceptre would be a failure as a brood mare, because she was so hard worked on the turf, but I entertained a precisely contrary opinion after seeing her lusty condition when she had been turned out only a month or two in the Egerton House paddocks, when she was on her first visit to Cyllene. I am glad to learn that she is in foal all right to Isinglass, though it will be a latish foal. This mating was chosen in our competition when Sceptre was first turned out of training, and the result will naturally interest a large number of readers of the "Sportsman" in all parts of the world. Sceptre has but one real fault, and that was that her knees troubled her on hard ground. Fortunately there was nothing in the nature of drought in her three and four-year-old seasons, but in her five-year-old season she could not do herself any sort of justice. It is to be hoped that her foals will not inherit this infirmity, and that some of them, at any rate, will be in other respects as good as their dam."

Mr. Purefoy, owner of Lally, and a well-known English racing man, in an article ament the "vagaries of form," writes:—"It is practically impossible to make racing pay nowadays, and if, in addition to that, an owner is to be constantly annoyed by being asked to explain every little discrepancy of form, I should imagine most wealthy owners would at once quit. To my mind, the way form works out so often correctly is marvellous. I have bred, owned, and superintended



NO. 2.—MR. FRED YONGE.

As the Otahuhu Trotting Club is holding the summer meeting this week at Alexandra Park, a figure we are sure to meet out Epsom way is Mr. Fred. Yonge, the energetic and courteous secretary. This is not flattery, not by a long chalk, for the genial Freddy is a slap-up secretary, a diamond of the first water, as it were, in this department. And don't sportsmen just know it, too. Thus we find Fred—everybody calls him Fred, as the Mister seems too formal to suit the case—is in demand as secretary to all and sundry. First and foremost he rules the roost at the Otahuhu Trotting Club's office, and the club has fairly cake-walked ahead since he commenced business. Then he looks after the Papakura Racing Club—result: record nominations and good meetings. Again, there is the Otahuhu Racing Club, which has never done so well since he took up the reins of office. The Boxing Association and a few other institutions of the kind have also put Fred in the secretary's chair, and no doubt more could be accommodated. Indeed, the subject of our notice might be labelled general secretary for everything. There must be some reason for this run on his services. Probably, apart from good business ability, it is the fact that he is a master of the suaviter in modo fashion of getting along. With a cheerful smile for everyone, Freddy has droves of friends and never an enemy. A real good sort himself, he has made himself popular with everyone, and on every racecourse round Auckland his is a most familiar figure. Particu-

larly is he in evidence at Ellerslie, Takapuna and elsewhere, when it is time for the horses to go to the post, and when the witching hour arrives for the inner man to be refreshed, for as a dispenser of luncheon tickets he is much in demand.

What the Otahuhu Club's secretary's age is it is difficult to say, because when he puts his hat on he is immediately ten years younger, and as the man Yonge prefers the younger man, he generally keeps it on. Weight of office work does not seem to do much harm, for Fred is beginning to show traces of superfluous avoirdupois. No one to look at him now would think that F.Y. was one of our crack amateur horsemen in days gone by, yet so it was. It is just twenty years ago since he piloted Mr. T. Stephen's Hawthorn to victory with 11st 9lb in the saddle in the Pakuranga Hunt Club Cup. Twenty years! How time flies, to be sure. He was in the saddle when Larry won the Polo Cup, and he also annexed the Hunters' Flat Race at the A.R.C. spring meeting on Raglan. Being quite a ladies' man, it was only fitting that he should win the Ladies' Bracelet at the A.R.C. Winter Meeting on Leorina. At the agricultural shows he was also a conspicuous figure in the ring, winning several prizes for efficiency over fences. 'Once a horseman always a horseman,' and Mr. Yonge still can show some of the newer riders how to sit a horse, but the trim figure in the natty colours is gone for ever. Well, well, we still have our Freddy with us in the enclosure, and there we all know him as one of the very best of the jostling throng with whom we rub shoulders at all the meetings.

## INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

### WANGANUI.

WANGANUI, February 12.

Harry Alexander is training a four-year-old gelding by Captain Webb—Linger, which it was expected would be given a run in the Scurry at the Egmont Meeting. The gelding is owned by Mr. George Currie.

The long-continued spell of dry weather has made the local tracks very hard, and unless rain comes soon it is feared that a number of horses will be added to the list that have gone amiss already during the last month or so.

Irish Rifle pulled up a bit lame the other morning, but it is thought that nothing serious is amiss with the Musketry gelding.

Frank Lind has both Fishermald and Xavier in very good fettle. The former is shaping very nicely on the flat, whilst Xavier is jumping well.

The Brigadier mare Dear Dolly is looking and going well—in fact, nothing on the track is shaping better at present.

The Patea Racing Club has appointed Mr. R. E. McRae to frame the handicaps for its forthcoming Easter meeting. He acted as deputy for Messrs. George Morse and J. E. Henrys on the second days of the last Taranaki and Stratford meetings, and his adjustments gave every satisfaction.

Word comes from Waverley to the effect that the cross-country horse First Lesson (a son of Haere and Docility) has broken down. He was being trained on lease by S. Brereton, of Waverley.

A couple of rising thoroughbreds which could not fail to attract the notice of sportsmen visiting the Egmont meeting, and which have been seen on the tracks there exercising in fine style lately are Lady Menschikoff and Miss Advance. The latter put up the best gallop of the morning recently, when she left four furlongs behind in 50 1-5s., galloping in a most convincing manner.

The Karioi Jockey Club were favoured with fine weather and a large attendance for their annual hack meeting held on the 6th inst. There was no tote in evidence but sixteen bookmakers were licensed and appeared to do good business. The club received three guineas apiece from them. The Wanganui-trained horse, Belario, belonging to Mr. Jas. Bull, carried the steadier of 10st 10lb to the fore in the Cup, one mile and a-quarter, Snip being second and Speciosa third. The other events resulted as under:—

Handicap Hurdles, one mile and a-half: Arahura 1, Hokio 2, Caloola 3.

Ladies' Bracelet, six furlongs: Perseverance 1, Tokotapu 2, Resemble 3. Mansion Memorial Stakes, seven furlongs: Ruaputere 1, Tokotapu 2, Malosi 3.

Flying Handicap, six furlongs: Snip 1, Mahoe 2, Speciosa 3.

Kaimanawa Handicap, four furlongs: Resemble 1, Karioi 2.

The weights for the Wanganui Cup, and Flying, which are due on Friday,

are being anxiously awaited. Mr. Morse may be depended upon to make a good adjustment, and the result should be that the acceptances will be large and the racing most interesting.

There is a very strong feeling amongst a number of racegoers on this coast that the various clubs should exercise more care than has hitherto been the case in the issuing of bookmakers' licenses. Not a few backers have found to their cost at recent meetings, notably at Wellington, that they had got on to winners, only to find that they had a lot of trouble to get their money; in fact, in one or two instances have not yet got, nor are they ever likely to get, the amounts due to them. Some of the clubs do not appear to care a rap for the public; all they want to do is to rake in as much as they can in the way of fees, and leave the public to look after themselves. The financial standing of the applicants for licenses to bet ought to be taken into account.

Maniapoto is evidently in need of a complete rest. He was being cantered on the sand at Hawera the other day when he stumbled and fell. He was very sore when he went to the track, and it is more than likely it will be some time before he again races.

In my notes last week I mentioned that it was rumoured that Dusky Morn had been given a couple of gallops prior to leaving for Australia, and had cut out six furlongs in something like 1.13. I stated at the time that I doubted the correctness of the report, as the time was too good to be true. I have since been informed by Mr. G. F. Moore, the gelding's owner, that no such trials were ever run. It is only fair to make this known, as some handicappers may be led to form an exalted opinion of the horse's capability on the strength of such foundationless statements as those made about Dusky Morn. The best performance the latter has put up to date was when he won the Pohangina Handicap at Ashhurst, where he ran six furlongs in 1.14 1-5. Mr. Moore also assures me that the statement that Catapult has been tried over hurdles and proved himself a proficient jumper is also wrong, for, as a matter of fact, the horse has never been schooled over a hurdle or fence.

### HAWKE'S BAY.

NAPIER, February 12.

T. Quinlivan, junr., will shortly strengthen his forces, the new students who are due to arrive shortly being a rising three-year-old son of Float and Merriwee, and a coming two-year-old full-brother to King Billy and Boomerang.

A would-be purchaser asked C. Lagor the other day to put a price on California, but his owner's trainer was not doing business, although at the finish of the conversation a solid price was offered for Son Fran's handsome son. The yearling full sister to Gold Crest has been sent down from Te Mahanga station to J. Wann, at Hastings, for the purpose of being broken in. A sweet, neat filly, brimful of promise, she should, on appearances, uphold the family reputation.

Twyfard, who got into trouble through picking up a nail in one of his feet at Wairoa, went the way of all flesh, horse and otherwise, last week. The vet. held out no hope for Douglas' son, and consequently his owner, Mr. G. Beatson, thought it would be merciful to destroy him.

Waiariki is enjoying a holiday on Te Mahanga station. He has proved a rather costly speculation to his owners who, I have no doubt, after wishing that he had never left the estate, has been leased by Mr. C. D. Kennedy to Mr. R. Griffin.

Benefactor is being hacked about Hastings. The ancient appears to be in the best of health and his owner has hopes that he will once again be able to get him fit for battle.

At the monthly meeting of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club, held on Friday, it was resolved to forward a report recommending the strengthening of the second stand, to the Hawke's Bay A. and P. Society. Several improvements to the training track were authorised and accounts amounting to £55 15s 6d were passed for payment.

The Hawke's Bay Metropolitan Club met yesterday, when the inquiry into the riding of F. Willis, at the Petane races, on Boxing Day, was continued. After hearing evidence it was decided to disqualify Willis for twelve months. The apprentice license of A. Binnie was suspended for three months for leaving his employer, G. Collelo before completion of term. D. Kemp appeared before the committee to answer a charge of failing to fulfil an engagement to ride, and was cautioned against a repetition of the offence. The programmes of the Tupaoroa Racing Club, on March 21st, and the