

sight considering it a great impertinence for a most shabbily dressed man (it was one of Lord P.'s peculiarities to wear old and worn-out clothes) to interrupt him, curtly replied, "Oh, yes, glad you think so," and resumed his conversation, to the great horror of his friend, who, knowing Lord Portsmouth, was simply dumbfounded, and frantically endeavoured by facial signs to make Goater attend to him, which Jem did not understand. Continuing, Lord Portsmouth said, "I must make you a present, Goater, for winning." Jem, scarcely turning towards him, answered, "Never mind, old chap; glad you won a bit on it."

His lordship, who, by then, had quite grasped the situation, walked away, exploding with laughter, whereupon Goater's friend immediately exclaimed, "You fool! That's Lord Portsmouth himself."

THE FEILDING J.C. EASTER MEETING.

The Feilding Jockey Club's Easter meeting of 1908 was certainly the most successful in the history of the club, which should have a handsome surplus over the gathering when accounts are squared up. The weather was fine on the opening day, Easter Monday, and the attendance a record one. The track was in fairly good order, though a bit heavy, the fields large, and the racing excellent. Added to this the management was first-class, and the day's sport was there fore most enjoyable from every point of view. The tote returns for the two days aggregated £31,633, or £97 ahead of last year's total. In addition the bookmakers' fees received for the two days amounted to over £400. The starting by Mr. T. Cameron was fairly good in some of the events, but on the whole was not up to the mark, two or three races being quite spoilt by the uneven despatches. Proceedings opened with the Trial Plate, for which Separator, a two-year-old gelding by Seaton Delaval—Brown Alice, owned by Mr. E. J. Watt, was made a strong favourite. He ran well, but was beaten a head by San Jose (by San Remo) after a fine race. R. Cameron rode a good race on the winner. This was Separator's first appearance in public, and he should be worth watching in future. Gold Thread was the most fancied candidate of the seven engaged in the Wanganui Stakes, and the daughter of Gold Reef—Pursuring duly won, though had Dusky Morn got under way a bit smarter the result would have been different. Aorangi won the Kawakawa Hurdles in fine style, and the Merriwee gelding should be heard of in some of the big hurdles later on. Gold Dust ran a capital race with 11.4 on his back, being a good second. Prospector jumped splendidly and led the field in the early stages, but then tired. In the Hack Hurdles we were introduced to The Stake, Defeat, and Catapult as three likely hurdlers, and they shaped well for novices. Catapult jumped neatly and quickly, but faded away at the finish. The Stake also jumped well, and when more seasoned will be hard to beat. Defeat finished second to Commander, and thus two sons of The Officer paid the dividends. The winner is out of Nixie, and is a five-year-old gelding owned by Mr. A. F. Douglas, whilst Defeat is out of Queen of Trumps, and is owned by Mr. J. Maher. Defeat won on the second day easily, Commander being unplaced. The Lark was the popular pick for the Cup, and ran a sterling race, but had to be content with second place, as Bourrasque won rather comfortably. There were ten starters, and the time was 2.39 3-5s. The Lark appeared to be in a bad position until the bend for home, otherwise the little son of Nestor might have won. R. Cameron again displayed capital horsemanship on the winner. Mr. A. F. Douglas' mare Ikon carried top weight (14) to victory in the Hack Welter in a field of seven, including Mahoe. The latter ran well for three-quarters of a mile, and the Sou-wester gelding promises to be in good fettle in another month or so. His leg is all right again, and there is every probability of him figuring prominently in some of the forthcoming big hurdle events. In the Halcombe Welter Silver Lead was made favourite, but the winner turned up in Probability, the daughter of The Possible just getting home from King Post. Had Little Mary not been left some six lengths or so, she must have been very close up. The Ongo Hack fell to Chase Mab, a five-year-old daughter of Chasseur, owned by Mr. A. E. Tucker, of Wanganui. She was somewhat lucky, as she got all the best of a bad start, and won by a length from Vasa, who, with Miss Advance, was left badly. Dusky Morn led off by winning the Denbigh Stakes on the second day, when the weather was again fine. The

Sou-wester gelding had no difficulty in beating Gold Thread at level weights. Flingot annexed the Hack Welter from six opponents. The Musketry gelding was ridden by R. Cameron, who thus scored his fourth win for the meeting. Gold Dust (well ridden by Jerry O'Connell) scored in the big hurdles, in which the Gold Reef gelding carried 11.5, winning comfortably. He is a wonderfully consistent gelding, and the victory was a popular one. Compass, which won at Patea the previous day, acted as runner-up to Defeat in the Hack Hurdles, the pair being well ahead of the other (seven) starters. Tangimoana won the Easter Handicap for Mr. D. Bulck, cutting down The Lark and Belario, which pair led into the straight, and getting home by half a length from the Fordell-trained horse. Belario ran well, as he was expected to do so by those who had seen the son of The Officer working previously. As stated elsewhere, the St. Clements mare Nicotine placed the Rewa Hack to Mr. R. Johnston's credit, cutting out the six furlongs in 1.17 1-5. This mare had been doing splendid work on the Wanganui tracks, and she ought to score in almost any company. Whetumarama (by Advance—Endeavour) got all the best of a very bad start in the Scurry, and won comfortably. The curtain was rung down on a highly successful meeting with the decision of the Makino Welter, which fell to Climax comfortably from a field which included Silver Lead, Irish Rifle, Moscow, Gleam, Miss Vera, Somali, and Hatley. Irish Rifle ran very disappointingly.

THE OLD ORDER AND THE NEW.

In an interesting comparison of horses of the past and those of to-day the Melbourne "Sporting News" says:—Ask any of the veterans in the business, and they will tell you positively that the racehorse in Australia has sadly deteriorated during the last, say, 30 years or so. They will not even admit that the galloper of the present day is fleet of foot over short courses than were the old-time fliers of the turf. When confronted with "time records" in opposition to their argument, the "grey-beards" stoutly affirm that it is due to the improvement in the tracks, rather than the increase in speed of the horses themselves, that the watch tells such lively stories in these days, when miles are frequently covered under 1min 40sec. It is difficult to blame the "old-timers" for thus defending their champions so loyally, but while making full allowance for all this, it can at the same time scarcely be conceded that the increase in speed is to be wholly and solely attributed to the better attention now paid the ground, in most places, where races are run. That the faster times are in some measure due to the much improved character of the turf may be true, but it is, to our idea, also certain that the race-horses of the present day are, taking them all round, much speedier than the gallopers of even a quarter of a century ago. This may in some measure be accounted for by the fact that there is now great encouragement—too much, perhaps—given for the development of mere pace in the thoroughbred, to the exclusion of other and more desirable qualities. "Sprinting" has become so much the fashion that there are now instances of horses going right through their careers on the turf without attempting anything higher than a short dash. A smart sprinter is so valuable in his own particular department that it is scarcely necessary to risk dulling his speed in an attempt to find out whether he also possesses stamina. We have never been in favour of the different clubs giving the sprinter so much opportunity as compared to the chances open to the stayer, and it might be better if there were more races of a distance in every programme submitted. This would at least lead to more horses being tried for stamina, and some of them would surely be found worthy of promotion from what might be called the "squib" ranks.

It is, perhaps, with far more reason that the veterans declare we are now weak in real stayers compared to the times when it was the rule to look upon endurance and courage as the qualities in the galloper best worth rewarding. We may not be quite so badly off in this respect as our experienced critics declare, but it must be candidly confessed that there would be cause for congratulation if we could exchange some of the brilliant speed that is so abundant here, there and everywhere all over the country for a further supply of real stamina. We are aiming at an "improvement in the breed," and this may be taken as meaning that it is first and foremost wished to rear stout-hearted, gritty animals, capable of covering a distance of ground, rather than the production of mere "fliers" over sprinting courses. True, a share of speed is a necessity in the racehorse, but this is not to say that it should be "cultivated" to the

exclusion of all else. It is easy to see why there were comparatively speaking, far more stayers in the land in the days that the veterans are so fond of boasting about. The reason is, stamina was then considered the thing; while mere speed only came as a secondary consideration. We do not advocate going back to the sometimes cruel system of "heats," but we do say that it would tend to an "improvement in the breed" if race programmes were indicated. In an ordinary suburban "bill of fare" there are usually two six-furlongs' races one over five furlongs, and perhaps another of a mile or a mile and a-quarter, at the disposal of flat racers, and one of these is confined to performers who have won less than £50 in any one stakes. There is not much encouragement here to develop any stamina a galloper may possess, and while this craze for sprinting continues it is only to be expected that there will be a scarcity of stayers in the country. To ensure a full supply of horses of the right stamp at all times, we must largely increase the opportunities of the genuine stayers.

LATE RACING.

THE AVONDALE JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

SOME GOOD SPORT.

URANIUM WINS THE BIG EVENT.

Yesterday, although the morning broke fine, before noon several showers fell, and it did not look too tempting journeying out to Avondale. Still, the first train was simply thronged and as the others brought out good loads the attendance was well up to the average. Once on the course, the weather mended, and the outing proved very pleasant. The course was by no means so heavy as had been expected, while the enclosures all showed evidence of careful attention. Mr. O'Connor got the fields away on even terms in nearly every instance. Mr. Foley occupied the judge's box, giving his decisions with promptitude. Mr. H. H. Hayr and his staff had all the arrangements on up-to-date lines, and everything passed off well.

Paritutu scored his first win for quite a long period in the Hurdle Race, but might have had trouble from Montigo had not the latter lost his rider at a critical juncture.

In the Avondale Handicap Uranium led all the way, and won without pressure by half a length. Leonator was close to the Leolantis mare throughout, but could not bring her to the whip, Te Aroha being three lengths off third.

The Pony Race was a very hollow affair, Elenore virtually making no race of it.

Lady French should have won the Chevalier Handicap, but Brady was outridden by Brown.

Twenty bookmakers were acting, and these could not have done too well, as favourite after favourite caught the judge's eye.

MAIDEN PLATE. Six furlongs.

Mr. J. Grant's Tauriki, 7.0 (Whittaker) 1
Mr. Morrison's Waitohi, 7.9 (Buchanan) 2
Messrs. Cook's Azoff, 7.7 (Roach) 3
Also ran:—St. Syren, h.5; Rosavere, 8.4; Cyreniac, 7.4; Escamillo, 7.4; Dainty, 7.0; Armagh 7.0.

Tauriki, the favourite, led all the way, and won by four lengths. Time, 1 18 2-5.

HANDICAP HURDLES. Two miles.

Mr. J. George's Paritutu, 11.6 (Johnson) 1
Mr. Coleman's Omari, 9.8 (Phillips) 2
Mr. Weal's Swagsman, 11.3 (Howard) 3
Also started:—Hautapu, 10.8; Montigo, 9.8; Te Rahui, 9.5.

Paritutu, the favourite, won by a length. Hautapu and Montigo lost their riders. Time, 3 52 3-5.

OAKLEY HANDICAP. Five furlongs.

Mr. Weal's Haldane, 7.5. (C. Brown) 1
Mr. Nicholson's Lucio, 7.10 (Buchanan) 2
Mr. Lougher's Marangai, 7.9 (Griffiths) 3
Also ran:—Celerity, 9.2; Black and Gold, 8.12; Noteorini, 8.2; Audearn, 8.2; Dogger Bank, 7.10; Guidwife, 7.10; Kirsty, 7.9; Waihuka, 7.8; Cadence, 7.7; Ben Blair, 7.0; Engraver, 6.10.

Won by a length and a-half. Time, 1m. 3s. Auldearn was favourite.

JUVENILE HANDICAP, 5 furlongs.

Master Soult (Julian) 9.6 1
Rarata (Ryan) 8.3 2
Aimwell (Roach) 7.0 3
Also ran: Waimangu 7.5. A bad start. Won by a neck by the favourite. Time, 1.5.

AVONDALE HANDICAP, 1¼ miles.

Mr. Banks' Uranium (Brady), 8.10
Mr. Coleman's Leonator (Whittaker), 8.0 2
Mr. Davies' Te Aroha (Ryan), 8.3. 3
Other starters: Delegate 8.4, Carl Rosa 7.13, Advocate 7.10. Uranium, the favourite, led all the way and won without the whip by half-a-length. Time, 2.11 1-5s.

FIRST PONY HANDICAP, 5 furlongs.

Elenore (McMillan) 6.7 1
Fraulein (Greenwood) 6.10 2
Imprimus (E. R. Brown) 9.3 3
Also ran: Hughie 9.7, Octoroon 9.5, Hopscotch 8.9, Ngakapa 7.13, Banshee 6.10.

Elenore, the favourite, led all the way and won anyhow by four lengths. Time, 1.4¾s.

CHEVALIER HANDICAP, 4 furlongs.

Waihoihoi (C. Brown) 7.4 1
Lady French (Brady) 9.0 2
Flint Island (Porter) 7.12 3
Also ran: Stylish 8.5, Memo 7.8, San Paulo 7.9, Kotiti 6.12, Zyara 6.12, Fideles 6.10. Won on the post by a head. Time 51 2-5s.

RAILWAY HANDICAP, 6 furlongs.

Mr. Lougher's Marangai (Griffiths) 7.6 1
Mr. Hannon's Miss Winnie (Brady) 9.1 2
Messrs. Connolly and Winder's Foremost (Whittaker) 7.0 3
Also ran: Tui Cakobau 8.4, Golden Eagle 8.3, Lochbuhie 7.13, Loongana 7.12, Soult Maid 7.5, Haldane 7.4, Lady Rohina 7.3, Frederick 7.2, Royal Soult 7.2.

A good race. Won by three-quarters of a length.

NOTES.

(By The Judge.)

The Avondale J. C. Meeting will be brought to a conclusion on Saturday.

There were 30 applicants for the position W.A.T.C. (Perth) handicapper, an appointment recently conferred on Mr A. C. B. Main.

The disappointing Pearl Necklet has been entered for the Great Northern Hurdles.

The Sydney filly Malt Queen is evidently the champion two-year-old over there. She has now won six races in succession.

The death occurred in America recently of J. W. Rogers, a noted trainer, who, for the past seven years, had charge of Mr Harry Payne Whitney's racehorses. As Rogers died worth £70,000, it is almost unnecessary to remark that there is a lot more money in horse-training in America than in the colonies.

No less than twenty-eight horses started in the National Hunt Steeplechase, of 815 sovs, 4 miles 150 yards, at Warwick (Eng.) last month, and the race was won by the favourite Rory O'Moore, who carried 12st 3lb. Seventeen completed the course.

Kirk's Bazaar, the historic centre of the horse trade in Melbourne, and the city rendezvous for graziers, farmers, and other country residents, was sold the other day through the agency of Messrs W. H. Alard and Co., to the present tenants, Messrs Campbell and Sons. From the year 1840 the property, comprising little more than half an acre, has been a horse-bazaar.

At the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, at Moore Park, Sydney, Lady Morton, on muddy ground won the high jump, clearing 6ft 6in. In the ladies' high jump she failed at 5ft 9in, but at the close of the competition Mrs Stace got her over 6ft 4in, which is the ground record for a horse ridden by a lady. Lady Morton is owned by Wirth Brothers, who were recently in Auckland. Their pony Maori won the 13-2 high jump, easily clearing 4ft 10in.

Rain affected the Onkaparinga meeting (the most popular one-day gathering in Australia) on Easter Monday and the attendance, instead of being a record, was only 15,000 or 16,000, and the totalisator investments £20,633; that, however, being an improvement on the £19,068 of last year.