

Since all horses are valuable because they travel, although at various rates and under varying conditions, it will be interesting to make a study of those parts of the horse's body directly connected with his locomotion. It is not difficult to understand that with the horse, as with ourselves, all motion is the result of the action of the muscles. About forty per cent. of the weight of the ordinary horse is muscle. All muscles concerned with locomotion are attached to bones, and when they contract they cause the bones to which they are fastened to move. The lower part of a horse's legs are nearly all bones, but the muscles in the body and upper part of the limbs are attached to various parts of the bony construction by tendons and can thus produce a motion of the parts located some distance away. The muscles we are discussing, when contracted, are about three-quarters as long as when at rest. The amount of motion produced by the action of the muscles of, say, one of the horse's hind legs, will depend upon the length of the muscles and the length and the relation of the bones to which they are attached. The commonest idea among students of this subject is expressed in these words: "Long muscles for speed, short muscles for power." We have already seen that a long muscle enables a horse to get over the ground rapidly. A short muscle, however, is not powerful because it is short, but because in horses constructed on that plan the muscles are thicker, contain more fibres, all of which pulling together when contracted exert a much greater pulling force than a long, more slender muscle. It is because of this that in buying horses to draw heavy loads we look for large and heavy muscles, while in roadsters we must attach importance to the length of the muscles.

The most of a horse's muscle is in the hind quarters. This may be a surprise to you, but the next time you have an opportunity to see a horse pulling a very heavy load study him carefully. You will be impressed with the idea that most of the work is being done with the hind legs. When the hind foot is moved forward the toe rests on the ground and the leg is bent at the hock joint; if the toes does not slip, and the horse is strong enough for his load the muscles above, pulling on the tendon fastened to the back and upper point of the hock, will close the joint, or, in other words, straighten the leg and cause the body to move forward. It is by the performance of this act at every step that the horse moves, although, of course, the strain on all the parts is much greater when pulling very hard. This will also show the necessity of having large, broad, straight joints and legs, that give the horse the most secure footing. You have probably also noticed when driving that many horses put their hind foot on the ground in front of the mark left by the fore foot, and the faster they go the greater will be the distance between the marks made by the fore and the hind feet. This shows that the length of a step is determined by the hind quarters; it also explains the need of large, strong hocks and legs that are not so crooked as to seem weak or so straight as to lessen the leverage afforded by this very wonderful arrangement of the parts.

Then there are some other things that are desired in all kinds of horses. One of these is a short back—that is, short from the hips to the top of the shoulders (the withers). From what we have learned of the hind parts we see that the horse is really pushing the rest of his body along. If the back is short and strong instead of long and weak, the whole body will move more easily and rapidly in obedience to the force produced in the hind parts. Although the hind parts have most to do with the horse's travelling, we must not forget that the front parts are also very important. No matter how much muscle a horse has or how strong his hocks are, if there is anything seriously wrong with his front legs he cannot travel, and so derives no benefit from his good parts. Some horses may be seen whose knees are not straight, others when looked at from in front show that their feet are not in line with their legs. Such animals are more likely to slip or strike one leg with the opposite foot, thus making themselves lame and unable to do any work.

There are a great many interesting things about a horse which cannot be told here, but which you may learn at home or from some neighbour who keeps good horses. We will, how-

ever, say something about horses' feet. Inside a horse's hoofs there are some very sensitive parts resembling the attachment of the finger nail and the finger. When anything gets wrong with the foot, these parts cause a great deal of pain, and even though the horse is otherwise perfect the pain in his feet makes him too lame to travel. Horses with large, wide feet that are wide across where they touch the ground when you look at them from behind (or in the heels) are not likely to have this trouble.

Sires of the Season.

AT CAMBRIA PARK.

OBLIGADO, 16.

Among the sires in the Auckland district whose services are available to breeders is the chestnut horse Obligado, now stationed at Cambria Park. He was bred in 1895, and was got by Orville (by Ormonde, winner of the 2000 Guineas, Derby, and St. Leger, from Shotover, winner of the 2000 Guineas and Derby), his dam being The Flirt, by Trappist from Frivolity, by Macaroni, from Miss Agnes, by Birdcatcher. Obligado stands over sixteen hands, and is an exceedingly handsome horse, showing great bone and substance, and possessing a strain of blood that until recently was poorly represented here, but has a reputation second to none North of the Line—a family which has produced many of the greatest horses of modern times, including Flying Fox, the highest priced colt, and Sceptre, the highest price filly of all time.

A glance at Obligado's pedigree discloses a remarkable array of champions. He is inbred to the great Agnes family—it will be noted that Ormonde, his grandsire, is a brother to Ornament, the dam of Sceptre. Frivolity, the granddam of Obligado, is three-quarter sister to Lily Agnes, the dam of Ormonde and granddam of Sceptre. Ormonde is the sire of Orme, who is sire of Flying Fox, Orby, and many good horses.

Obligado, with limited opportunities, has sired a number of winners. Among these are Pensive, Zetland, Cathron, Lady de Vere, Little Medallist, Miss Adare, Flavour, Octave, Redmorn, Rosebloom, and others. Now he is at Cambria Park Obligado has been given a chance, and he should make a rapid upward move in the list of winning stallions. A few approved mares will be taken at twelve guineas.

HIERARCH, 12.

This young stallion was bred in 1904, being got by Cyrenian (a son of the great St. Simon and the Springfield mare Daisy Chain) from Miss Annie, by Seaton Delaval from First Love, by Nordenfeldt—Fishgirl, by Yatendon, from Fanny Fisher, by Fisherman. That is running blood which speaks for itself, for there is the famous St. Simon—Musk strain superimposed on Fisherman and Melton. Hierarchy was retired from the turf early through an unfortunate turf scandal, otherwise it is highly probable he would have made a big name for himself, for his dam, Miss Annie, has thrown such good ones as Lady Annie, Annette, and Cambria. He is a handsome young horse, and should make a very high-class sire. A few mares can be booked to him at ten guineas. Full particulars of these two sires may be found in our advertising columns.

AT GLENORA PARK.

SOULT (IMP.).

The stallions standing at Mr. Walters' stud farm, Glenora Park, are Sould and Gluten. Of Sould it is unnecessary to say much. This son of St. Simon and the See Saw mare Bea-harnais is one of the most successful stallions ever imported to the colonies, and it was indeed a fortunate dip into the lucky bag when Mr. Walters' secured him. Being the sire of such horses as Wairiki, Maniapoto, Solution, Waipuna, Sonica, Avalanche, Soli, and scores of other big winners, it is not surprising to find that his list is already full, even at 40 guineas per mare.

GLUTEN (IMP.).

This dark chestnut stallion is a son of Thurio from the See Saw mare Bran Bread. On the turf he was a great stayer, winning the Lingfield Welter Plate, the Birmingham Autumn Handicap, the Gatwick Oval Handicap (two miles), the Goodwood Stakes (two and a-half miles), and in India the Bangalore Cup (one mile and three-quarters), carrying 9st 4lb. His

stock have won numerous races in Australia, among the successful ones being Glucose and Filament, both good stake-earners. Gluten has not had a proper chance until recently, but the yearlings by him are very promising. Gluten should nick well with the fiery St. Simon mares, for such a combination ought to be able to both race and stay. Gluten's fee is 10 guineas per mare.

The coaching stallion Merry Prince, by Merry Boy from Queenie, is also doing stud duty at a fee of 3 guineas. Further particulars will be found on glancing through our advertising columns.

INTER-PROVINCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

CANTERBURY.

CHRISTCHURCH, September 2.

G. Hepburn is now training Pronun, a horse that won at Wellington and was backed all over New Zealand, Sweet Angelus, purchased at the Stead dispersal sale, and Truthful, a once prominent North Island hack, and one or two youngsters.

Ringdove is nominal favourite for the N.Z. Cup, but from what I can gather about town it is not yet decided whether this highly bred English mare will start in the big race. She is entered at Ashburton and may be given a run in principal event there prior to taking part in the bigger events.

Flitaway, a filly in the Chokebore stable, with the reputation of being as fast as Fleetfoot, is suffering from a burst hoof, but is able to do light exercise.

Leeside was sold to Mr C. Machell just before W. J. Taggart left for Sydney with Mr H. F. Nicolls' pair—Cross Battery and Sea King. Leeside is now being trained by W. McDonald.

L. G. King met with an accident at the Amberley races and has decided not to go over to Sydney with Mr Nicolls' horses.

The Ashburton Club has not received many entries of Cup horses for its Spring Meeting. Ringdove, Don Orsino, Restless, Probable, Armamento and Field Gun are the only Cup candidates engaged in the Ashburton Racing Club Handicap. Coralie was scratched for the New Zealand Cup on Monday.

W. O'Connell rode four winners at the Amberley Steeplechase Club meeting on Thursday last.

Both Cross Battery and Sea King were very well before they left for Sydney last week. Even if they do not succeed in winning either the Epsom or Metropolitan Handicaps, they should not return without winning a minor event. I think Sea King is likely to win a good race on the other side. I would not put the Epsom Handicap beyond him. He is a great galloper over this distance.

Artillerie, who is weighted at 6st 9lb in the New Zealand Cup, is one of the New Zealand horses that left for Sydney. This mare is in both the Epsom and Metropolitan Handicaps.

The Messrs Stead Brothers are having many alterations made at Grasslea, and are evidently going in for racing and breeding on a fairly large scale.

Pilot, one of the best steeplechase jumpers ever seen at Riccarton, will go over to Sydney about the middle of the month. He is in great form and should give a good account of himself in the jumping events on Australian soil.

E. Price has joined G. Hepburn's stable.

B. Hack is now working for W. McDonald.

The racing at the Amberley Steeplechase Club's meeting was very poor. Fields were small and cronk running was, it is alleged, a feature of the day's racing. There was an enquiry into Pretty Nell's running in the Waipara Handicap, and the matter has been referred to the C.J.C. It is quite time stipendiary stewards were appointed to watch racing at the country race meetings.

Maharanui did not show his best form at the National Meeting, but he should go near winning a race at Marlon.

Discipline, by Treadmill-Madownla, has gone amiss. He has been thrown out of work.

Ringdove, Signora, Master De'aval and Mahuta have all been well backed for the New Zealand Cup since the appearance of the weights.

OTAGO.

DUNEDIN, September 2.

Mr Harry Goodman, son of the well known owner and trainer of the same

name, was the recipient of a presentation on Monday evening from a few friends prior to his departure to Australia where he intends to settle.

The North Otago Club are issuing particulars of the Stepiak Stakes of 200 sovs to be run at their Spring Meeting. The race is for two-year-olds (colts 8st, fillies 7st 9lb, geldings 7st 11lb) over four furlongs. Entries are due on Friday next, September 4, and no money is required with the nominations.

A prominent metallician, at present on a visit to Dunedin, was accosted the other day by a client with the salutation: "What's favourite for the N.Z. Cup?" "Whatever you want to back," quoth the purveyor of odds.

It is reported from Australia that Notus, the upstanding son of Lord Rosslyn and Lady Gertrude was recently sold in Melbourne for 55 guineas. An English sportsman who was looking through the Hon. George McLean's stable when Notus was a three-year-old, offered 500 guineas for the colt, whom he thought looked the beau ideal and the makings of a Liverpool 'chaser, and that offer was refused. Another 500-guinea offer was refused for Apollodoris, and in commenting on the fact to the writer, the Hon. Geo. McLean said: "He could never understand why he refused the offers."

Some of the critics regard Stratagem as one of the best handicapped horses in the N.Z. Cup, and as her best displays took place at this end of the island, it may prove of interest. She won the C.J.C. Midsummer Handicap with 7st 11lb, in 2min 40sec, but they were not a particularly good lot behind her, as Paragon was top weight with 9st. Lapland is also down 25lb whilst Stratagem comes down 3lb. She won the Suburban Handicap in excellent style and ran a mile and two furlongs in 2min 9.3-5sec with 8st 9lb, but her display in the Great Autumn under 7st 9lb was disappointing in comparison. She ran badly at Wellington, where Tangimoana gave her 12lb and beat her out of a place in the Autumn Handicap. The Oamaru Cup fell to her with 8st 6lb, and she wound up by winning the D.J.C. Birthday Handicap with 8st 12lb in 2min 12.4-5sec. In her winning effort at Wingatui, Stratagem was galloping on at the finish, but there is an additional six furlongs to be traversed at Riccarton and she will have to give a better display than she did in the Great Autumn where she looked a winner at ten furlongs, but was well beaten at 12.

Racing in this part of the island will carry an unusual interest this spring as it will introduce us to the newly established Dunedin Stakes, of 250 sovs, for two-year-olds, and another valuable race for the babies is the Stepiak Stakes, of 200 sovs, which will be decided a week later than the Wingatui races. These races would make a nice double for a smart juvenile and open his eyes for more serious events ahead.

J. Beale, one of the leading riders, who had the misfortune to lose one of his eyes as the result of a shooting accident, is again doing riding work at Wingatui.

An unusual amount of interest was taken in the annual meeting and committee election of the Tahuna Park Trotting Club. Such a state of affairs is pleasing to note, because it indicates an increasing amount of interest in the sport and incidentally that the officials will have to be alive and progressive to hold places.

HAWKE'S BAY.

NAPIER, September 2.

The following foaling took place at Longlands this week:—Float (Captain Webb-Bonnie Idea), a filly to Merriwee; the new arrival is therefore full sister to Cork.

Amongst the new colours registered this season are those of Mr Paul Hunter whose racing uniform is listed as blue jacket and red cap.

Mr R. Smyth of Wairoa owns a three-year-old full brother to Tongimoana whom he has christened Rangikapua. The colt is a big chap and still appears to be growing.

The Stepiak Royal Plumes yearling filly that fell to the nod of Mr H. Gaisford at the Stead dispersal sale has arrived safe and sound at Orangi station and will study under J. Webster. The latter has just finished handling a yearling filly by Wai-pawa out of Snuffer.

The Wairoa country racing club are increasing the stakes for their next annual venture by 30 sovs. which means that they will distribute £470 in prize money next January.

Dexterous, who is now domiciled at Petane, is being got ready for the fray. Torpedos daughter will probably make her reappearance at the annual fixture of the Petane hack racing club.

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