

Stylish and Pluck behind her, the latter filling the second position, Pink-un's half-sister third.

North Head went a good deal better on Thursday, when he easily defeated Stylish. Pluck, Merrie Rose and Toa Tuhi in the March Handicap, and his supporters got a real good price about the Birkenhead gelding, who never at any portion of the trip gave the rest of the arguers the slightest prospect of getting upsides with him. Pluck, the favourite, was too sore to do himself justice, and finished fourth, and Merrie Rose, who hung at the post, a bad last.

Maora, with a pound over 9st in the hogskin, easily accounted for the Tamaki Welter, with Aboriginal second, and, according to the judge's placing, Moscow third, but I fancied myself that Silken Rein occupied third berth. Maora was in a good place right throughout, and pulling to the front in the last bit, had no serious difficulty opposing him in the annexation of the conetst. This son of Soult's can gallop all right, as the time, 1.29 for seven furlongs, shows.

First Mate was made an odds-on chance for the Tapuata Hack Welter, and the good opinions formed of his abilities worked out correctly, although his backers were made a bit uneasy by the fact that the stewards held an enquiry into his running, when compared with his first day's effort behind Aberbrothock, in the Makirikiri Hack. A reprimand to Telford, the trainer, and Luke Wilson, who steered him the first day, was as far as the matter went. In justice to those behind the son of Blue Jacket it might be stated that when First Mate got beat the first day, the journey was a six-furlong one, but when he captured on Thursday it was two furlongs further, and in his victorious contest he had no chance when three-quarters of a mile had been compassed, for it was only in the last furlong that he got the quance of those arrayed against him. Quanchy, who got second, and paid a good price as a result of his efforts, is one of R. Gooseman's pupils, and belongs to Mr. F. Armstrong, who used to race his half-brothers, Shackle and Mesmer.

Business was brought to a close with the Kaitoke Welter, half a score going out to do battle for the possession of the bullion. Silken Rein, the favourite, slipped the field at the start, and continued to keep the foes at bay, reaching the man in the box by a length from Seatondale, Rangihaeta a fair third.

The energetic and courteous secretary (Mr. I. Spiers Freeman) was, as usual, up to date with all the appointments for the convenience of patrons, and the success of the meeting must in a measure be put down to the first-class style in which he handled the staff under his control. The victorious horsemen were headed by A. Oliver with three captures, K. Hatch and F. D. Jones coming next with a brace of successes apiece, D. Watt, F. Cress, E. Lowe, L. Wilson, W. Kirk, C. Price, R. Young, F. Coleman and F. Langstone each adding a single to their score.

POSEIDON RETIRES.

Poseidon has finished his Turf career (says the "Referee"). He retires with a great record, as though he only won one race as a two-year-old, he accounted for eleven out of the fourteen races in which he started as a three-year-old, his victories including the A.J.C. Derby and St. Leger, V.R.C. Derby and St. Leger, and Caulfield and Melbourne Cups. At four years he won seven out of twelve races, the Caulfield Cup (with 9.3) being one of the number. Subsequent to that race he was well backed for the Melbourne Cup, in which he had 10.3, but did not get closer than eighth. He only started once this season, running nowhere in the Rawson Stakes, in which Perkeo beat Mooltan and Virtu, and made an Australasian record for nine furlongs. In all Poseidon won 19 out of 33 races in which he competed. No doubt he will be well patronised at the stud, and a notable fact in connection with his maternal line is that his grand-sire, Martini-Henri, won a Melbourne Derby and Cup, and Chester (sire of Ianthe, dam of Jacinth) was similarly successful.

THE DESPISED CASTOR BLOOD.

Mr William S. Carroll writes to the "Australasian" as follows:—"Now that Soultline has put up such a sequence of brilliant successes at Caulfield and Flemington, one ponders deeply why the Castor blood was so persistently condemned by all sorts and conditions of men throughout the Dominion of New Zealand, and it

would be interesting to know on what grounds their assumption was based. Soultline has given the contemners of his maternal grandsire a direct slap in the face, and demonstrated beyond doubt the verity of the old adage, 'Be not too hasty to condemn.' Castor himself was undoubtedly stonily bred, being by a son of Hermit (5) (grandson of Touchstone, 14) from a daughter of Sterling (12) (sire of Isonomy and grandsire of Isinglass). His grand dam was by Weatherbit (12) out of a Touchstone (14-mare. Castor performed well on the English turf, and won six races as a two-year-old, ten as a three, and the Liverpool Cup as a four-year-old. His half-brother, Disraeli, won the Two Thousand Guineas, and his own brother, Anxiety, won the Rous Plate and Eighth Biennial Stakes. Castor sired high-class horses in Cravat (winner of V.R.C. Place Handicap and A.J.C. Metropolitan Stakes both mile and a half races, in the respective fast times of 2min. 35½s. and 2min. 36¼sec.), Coronet, Canteen, Altair, Janet, Antares, Prata (W.A. Derby), Casket, Dayster, Fulmen, Record Reign, Orion's Belt, etc.; and his daughters have thrown Colarlit Armet, Pink 'Un, Scotty, Nobility, and other horses, besides Soultline. His son, Antares sired Togo, the winner of the Queensland Derby, A.J.C. Doncaster Handicap, and Hawkesbury Handicap. Other arguments could be adduced in favour of Castor, but space will not allow. However, after all, the Castor line of blood cannot be so bad."

AMERICAN HORSES IN ENGLAND.

The weights for the big spring handicaps have just made their appearance (writes the London correspondent of the "Australasian"), and the outstanding feature of the whole list is the way in which the handicappers have treated the many American horses now being trained in this country. The new "American invasion" is, of course, the result of the anti-betting laws recently passed on the other side of the Atlantic, and the fact of Messrs Keene, Belmont, and Whitney now running big stables in this country, cannot fail to add an immense amount of interest to the coming flat-racing season. Of these three prominent American owners, the two first named have long been well known on the turf in this country, and as far back as 1881 Mr Keene scored his well-known double in the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire with Foxhall. Many other good horses have carried his colours to victory in this country since that time, and his son, Mr Foxhall Keene, is also well known here, having won the Oaks in 1891 with Cap and Bells II. Mr August Belmont has also raced here for some years, and one of his most notable victories was scored as late as last season, when Norman III. won the Two Thousand Guineas; but Mr. H. P. Whitney is a newcomer to the English turf, although his late father gained many big successes here, notably that in the Derby with Volodyovski.

With regard to the coming season, it is almost certain that these successes will be greatly augmented; but as far as the spring handicaps are concerned, it cannot be said that our handicappers have erred on the side of leniency with the many recent importations from the States. Indeed, of the eight most important races for which the weights have just been issued, no fewer than half-a-dozen show American horses heading the list. The five-year-old Ballot claims pride of place in four of these—the Newbury Cup, City and Suburban Handicap, Jubilee Handicap, and Victoria Cup—and the four-year-old Priscillian holds the like honour in the Lincolnshire Handicap and Liverpool Cup. In addition to this, however, the American-bred four-year-old Colin is also reckoned superior to all our champions in the only two races for which he has been entered, having been set to receive 2lb. from Ballot in each case. Llangwm—undoubtedly the best of our three-year-olds of last season—has been reckoned 3lb inferior to Colin and 5lb inferior to Ballot, and there can be no doubt that, great performers though they have proved themselves in their own country, the three American-bred, horses will have all their work cut out if they are to score any handicap triumphs in England.

THE CROUCH SEAT.

The question as to whether the crouch is the most suitable seat for riding a playful racehorse, a bucking mustang or brumby, hardly merits discussion. A jockey's business is to win races not to give demonstrations of rough riding. Like men in other

professions, he must be guided by science (says a correspondent of the London Sportsman), and this is altogether in favour of the crouch. The reasons for adopting it have passed the hypothetical stage, and are now as well supported by deductive arguments and facts as in Newton's law of gravitation. It took more than a single generation to convince the world's civilised inhabitants that their planet revolved round the sun, and it will take probably quite as long to convince many horsemen that the weakest part of a horse's back is the centre, and that to place a load on the belly of a muscle under stimulation is a certain and sure method of tiring it rapidly; or to convince them that loss of momentum due to air pressure on moving bodies is a law in dynamics, which applies to race-riding; that a cone-shaped body with its apex to the wind offers only about three-quarters of the resistance of the flat plate of the same sectional area at its base; and that the jockey who does not take advantage of the partial vacuum produced by the horse's head and neck is materially handicapped. Only in the very rare condition of a gale of 50 miles an hour or over blowing directly on his back would a jockey be justified in sitting upright. But here the gain from the velocity of the wind over and above the rate of the horse's progression would be somewhat discounted if the jockey sat too far back. The anatomy and physiology of the horse justify this assertion; the weight-bearing capacity of the various parts of the spinal column, the attachments and functions of the longissimus dorsi muscle, and angles and curvatures of the ribs, the position and functions of the diaphragm, and other structures are involved in this question. In its full technical aspect it would, perhaps, prove too dull and uninteresting for your readers, and so I will leave the subject.

THE A.R.C. METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE.

The Hon. E. Mitchelson presided at a meeting of the Metropolitan Committee of the Auckland Racing Club, held on Monday. The license of W. H. Pearson (jockey) was suspended pending the hearing of his appeal to the Metropolitan Committee against his life disqualification imposed by the Waikato Jockey Club. Mr. E. A. Price and the Secretary were appointed to act as the metropolitan club's representatives at the hearing of the appeals of S. G. Lindsay, M. Ryan, and G. Pell to the conference, which will be held in Wellington on the 27th inst. A trainer's license was granted to J. T. McGee; jockeys' licenses to F. Burns, J. Butterworth, L. H. Coleman, H. Jones, J. E. Kelly, J. E. Pinner, P. Watkins, and F. L. Speakman for three months; apprentices' licenses to R. W. Brown and V. J. A. Fogden, and a gentleman rider's license to A. J. McFlinn. The date of the Waipa Racing Club's meeting was altered from March 24 to March 27. The programme of the Bay of Plenty Jockey Club for March 25 was passed. The Cunningham appeal was adjourned until this evening.

THE AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB.

It is to be hoped that the Auckland Trotting Club will receive entries for the purses they are hanging up for records made at the Autumn Meeting. The conditions state that a Purse of 100sovs will be given to any stallion or mare establishing a record of 2min. 18sec. or under for one mile. And a Purse of 100sovs will be given to any stallion or mare establishing a record of 4min. 48se c.01 under for two miles.

In the event of more than one horse competing for the above records, the horse establishing the best time under that stipulated, to receive the purse. Flying start. Pacemaker allowed.

Entries must be made on the night of acceptance for the first day's races (to-morrow, Friday evening at 9 p.m.). The stewards to allot the day and time for each or any individual effort. A deposit of £5 must be made with the entry, such deposit to be forfeited if the competitor fails to get within 5 seconds of the attempted mile record or 7 seconds of the attempted 2 mile record, unless the stewards see good cause or reason otherwise.

Events of this sort should cause an immense amount of interest and it is greatly to be desired that the club will be supported in their enterprise.

The Easter Meeting of the Patea Racing Club will take place on the Egmont R.C. course, the first-mentioned club's course not being ready yet.

NOTES.

General entries for the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting are due on March 26.

Acceptances for the opening day of the Auckland Trotting Club's meeting must be made to Mr. C. F. Mark by 9 p.m. to-morrow evening.

Nominations for the principal events on the programme of the Avondale Jockey Club are due on April 2.

Handicaps for the Wellington Pony and Galloway Club's April meeting are due on Monday.

The appeals of M. Ryan, S. G. Lindsay and G. Pell against the disqualifications imposed by the Avondale Jockey Club will be heard by the Appeal Board in Wellington on Saturday week.

The bay colt Master Soult (Soult—Lady Hester) has been sold to a Melbourne sportsman, the price, it is said, being 2200 guineas. If the figure stated is correct the seller would appear to have by no means the worst of the deal.

The ex-Auckland pony Forth (Lebel—Sleevelink) won the Galloway Handicap at Richmond, Melbourne, the other day.

The Mahinga inquiry has been adjourned by the Otahuhu Trotting Club until Friday, the 26th inst.

Okahau annexed both jumping events at the Thames meeting on Saturday. The son of Salvadan is paying his way this season.

The first six furlongs of the Australian Cup took 1min 24sec to run, the last six furlongs 1.18¼, and the concluding half-mile 52¼sec. The full time, 4min 0¼sec, was exactly the same as last year.

The New Zealand steeplechaser Pilot was knocked down last week at Messrs. Yulle and Co.'s sale to J. Scobie for 350gs. He was sold conditionally on the owner approving of the price. The sale has been completed.

The Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase will be run at Aintree on Friday week.

James Gibson, America's oldest jockey, has just died at the age of 106.

The Dublin correspondent of the London "Sportsman" has it that Lord Dunraven recently refused an offer from the German Government of £40,000 for the St. Simon horse Desmond, who is now in his thirteenth year. Next year Desmond's fee is to be 250gs.

There are eleven acceptances for the Papakura Cup to be run next Saturday and as nearly all have shown recent winning form a fine race is anticipated.

The Wellington Racing Club has received a fine entry for the Thompson Handicap, 51 being engaged, Master Delaval, and Master Soult are the only Auckland nominations.

The sum of £12,508 was passed through the totalisator at the recent Dannevirke Meeting.

The Auckland Trotting Club has received excellent nominations for the meeting which commences on Saturday, March 27.

At the Miramar Pony Races on Saturday the stewards were so dissatisfied with the running of Sweet Leaf that the nominator, Mrs. Troy, Tim Troy, and the jockey, Burns, were disqualified for life.

Soultline has been struck out of all his engagements at the Easter Meeting of the Australian Jockey Club, which looks as though the Newmarket Handicap winner has gone amiss.

The true pedigree of the Wanganui Cup winner, Kilmarnock, is said to be as follows:—By St. Paul from a mare by Australian, out of a mare by Python—Kate O'Shane, by Coledon out of an Emigrant mare.

Even Time, the winner of the V.R.C. St. Leger is a black colt by the Bill of Portland horse Malster from Egale, by Goldsborough from Equation, by Grand Flanem from Fair Duchess (imp), by Blair Athol.