

a patient at the Masterton Hospital. Although able to get about with the aid of crutches, it will be some weeks before the full use of the injured limb will be regained.

Chimera is to be taken up again by J. Gravestock next week. The daughter of Finland and Landrail looks fresh and bright after her spell.

It was unfortunate W. Galbraith temporarily losing the services of Comment on the eve of the Wellington fixture, but the injury is not of a serious nature, and the Tauherenikau trainer hopes to have her ready again at National time.

Considering that Sir Agnes Lad had not had a race for several months, the old fellow ran a remarkably good race in the Parliamentary Handicap at Trentham. He was early in the lead and led for well over a mile, finishing a good third. On Saturday he was a little better than even money favourite for the Winter Oats Handicap, and capably handled by H. Gray, the Boris gelding was never in danger of defeat, winning comfortably by a couple of lengths from Detroit, with Kiltess third. The veteran W. Corlett, of Carterton, still owns and trains Sir Agnes.

Both the local jumpers Gladful and Wishful played an important part in the decision of the Winter Hurdles at Trentham. Gladful won rather easily at the finish from Sir Fisher, while Wishful was always prominent and finished just behind the placed horses. W. Hawthorne has the pair in fine racing condition.

Although engaged in the Winter Cup, Lady Black is not likely to see the post, as she is now on the easy list. Mr. Cameron's mare has not shown anything like her true form this season, although T. Pritchard spared no pains in landing her at the post for her races in splendid condition.

Torchy is still suffering from the effects of his fall at Hastings, and there is little hope of him being ready to take his place in the Grand National Steeplechase.

Sir Solo has been schooling well on the Trentham track this week, and the galloping will do the old fellow a lot of good in view of his Riccarton engagements.

W. Hawthorne, who led in the winner of the Royal Stakes at Auckland last December, has four of his team engaged in the 24th Royal Stakes, to be run on the second day of the A.R.C.'s next summer meeting.

The secretary of the Woodlands Hunt (Pahiataua) has received a letter from the secretary of the Racing Conference stating that the conference thoroughly endorses the action taken by the Hunt in deciding not to carry on hunting and to hold no steeplechase meeting during the continuance of the war, owing to the absence of so many members on active service. The Minister of Internal Affairs has also expressed his approval of the action taken by the Hunt, and has given his assurance that such action will not prejudice the Hunt's right to its totalisator permit after the war has ended.

General regret has been expressed throughout sporting and business circles at the tragic death of Mr. Ormond C. Cooper, of Masterton, a steward of the local Racing Club, who was attending the Racing Conference in Wellington as delegate, and when returning to Wellington after the Trentham races on Wednesday evening met with a motor accident which ended fatally. It appears that the motor car in which Mr. Cooper and party were travelling collided with a tram on reaching the city, with the result that Mr. Cooper was severely injured about the ribs and back. He was removed to the Davis Street private hospital, where he lay in a precarious condition until Saturday evening, when he died as a result of his injuries. The other members of the party escaped serious injury. The late Mr. Cooper was manager of the Wairarapa Farmers' Co-operative Association, and was widely respected throughout the North Island.

At the monthly meeting of the Masterton Racing Club, held on Saturday last, an application was received from the Poverty Bay Racing Club, asking the local club to alter the dates applied for for the spring meeting from October 17 and 18 to October 11 and 12. The Poverty Bay dates being October 24 and 25, they did not think there would be sufficient time for horses racing at Masterton to get to their races. It was decided to inform the Poverty Bay Club that this club could not meet them in the matter, pointing out that Masterton had always raced in the week previous to the Wellington fixture, which this year will be held on October 25 and 28.

SOUTHLAND.

Gunrest Changes Hands — P. T. Hogan's Horses Located at Riccarton Until After Grand National Fixture—Winton Stakes Increased in Value—Gore R.C.'s Summer Meeting—Winton R.C.'s Prosperous Season—Rongahere Training on Satisfactorily.

INVERCARGILL, July 12.

The Limphills sportsman, Mr. W. Swale, has disposed of Gunrest, by Calibre—Tinwald Beauty, to "Mr. J. G. Emslie." As the horses raced under the control of the latter are trained by A. D. McIvor, at Riverton, it is safe to say that Gunrest will soon be removed from Invercargill to the care of his old trainer. McIvor was very successful with the Canterbury-bred gelding.

At the present time P. T. Hogan's headquarters are situated at Riccarton, where W. McDonald is taking care of Sylva until his mentor returns from Trentham with Giralda, Zarkoma and Fleetham. Hogan will then remain at Riccarton until after the Grand National meeting, with a trip to Timaru intervening. Sylva, Giralda and Fleetham will probably be raced at the South Canterbury Hunt Club meeting. Giralda has been entered for a welter flat event at Timaru, and it may be found that he can play a prominent part across the flat. It may be noted that the Winter Cup candidate John Barleycorn has also been engaged in the welter referred to. This may mean a race in public for the Sarto horse prior to the big winter gathering at Riccarton.

The value of the Winton Stakes (six furlongs), our only southern race for three-year-olds, has been increased to £200 and this amount is to be distributed in a sporting manner which will appeal to local breeders and owners:—First horse, £140 (including a trophy valued at £20), breeder of winner £10; second horse £30, third horse £20. This allocation of stakes is somewhat unique in its way, but it will prove popular and there is no reason why it should not continue for years to come with the amount of money to be distributed always increasing.

In the event of permission being obtained from the Racing Conference, the Gore Racing Club intend holding their one-day summer fixture the week preceding the Southland Racing Club's autumn meeting next season. This would mean the establishment of a convenient full circuit in the south, with meetings at Gore, Invercargill, and Riverton at intervals of about a week, an arrangement which should meet northern owners. The only drawback to the writer's mind is that the supply of steeplechases might run very low with cross-country events on five days' cards, and this is a very important consideration with the Southland, and Riverton Clubs. Many local owners, riders, and lovers of steeplechasing are in Europe at present, and this fact must be kept steadily in view.

So far, the south has escaped the snowfalls common to Canterbury and elsewhere of late, but the tracks have been very hard at times, as the result of heavy frosts. However, H. G. Coker and J. Boyd have managed to exercise their horses regularly, and the former has been enabled to keep Clynelish up to the collar with visits to Timaru and Riccarton in view.

The annual report to be submitted to the members of the Winton Jockey Club shows that the country turf institution has had a prosperous season. At the beginning of the past year the total cash balance was £112 16s. 2d. This now amounts to £301 12s. 5d., or an increase of £188 16s. 3d. on the season's work. The Winton people have spent a large sum on improvements during the past five years, and have now a highly improved property under their care—they carry out operations on a racecourse reserve, and a very pretty place it is, too. During the season a totalisator record of £21,134 10s. was established, while the Government taxes absorbed £1072 14s. The club has contributed liberally to patriotic funds, and has also forwarded special parcels each year to members and friends serving under arms in the war zone. Quite a number of letters of thanks have been received at various times from soldiers acknowledging the club's special gift parcels, and expressing pleasure at the fact that they have not been forgotten while racing is being carried on in their absence from the home district.

At the time of writing only bare results of the first day's racing are available from Wellington, hence

little is known of the efforts of the southern representatives at Trentham. It was anticipated that Fleetham would run well, and the English horse was heavily supported in the Trial Plate, only to meet with defeat from an outsider. Fleetham was fairly well when he left here, but there was room for some improvement, hence he may reward his plucky owner with a decent stake round about Grand National time. Mr. Kilkelly has been racing for several years now, and his colours have yet to be carried first past the post, although he has paid very fair prices for some of his representatives. Zarkoma does not appear to have made much of a showing in the Wellington Steeplechase, but may do better later on. To the writer's mind he will be better suited by the tall timber at Riccarton next month.

It is understood that a fair price was given for Gunrest, while his first win in his new ownership will entail a further payment.

Giralda was not started on the opening day at Trentham, but if he is amiss in any way nothing is known of the happening at this end. The son of Canrobert can jump big country if necessary, and will make a useful steeplechaser for southern racing next season, as he is clever on his feet and has been faced with all sorts and conditions of obstacles.

It is reported from Wingatul that Rongahere is training on in a satisfactory manner to fulfil his Grand National Steeplechase engagement, but most people who have seen him of late will agree that troubles will arise prior to the son of Sarto being delivered fit and well at the barrier. He was actually purchased as a youngster with a Grand National performance in view, and for this reason alone it would be pleasing to see him win a good race.

CANTERBURY.

Riccarton-trained Horses' Efforts at Trentham—Point Blank Makes Good Recovery From Mishap—Minesweeper Shows Promise Over Hurdles—Saxby and Gay Lad Both in Good Fettle—Missouri Joins R. Ellis' Team—South Canterbury Hunt Meeting—Latest Track Work at Riccarton.

CHRISTCHURCH, Monday.

Riccarton-trained horses did not fare at all well on the opening day of the Trentham meeting, and the prospects of the local division holding their own with North Island horses in the jumping events at Riccarton next month look decidedly remote.

Mr. Fulton decided not to start Art on either day, as the little fellow is not much good in soft going. He is to be brought back to Riccarton, and given a firm course next month is sure to play his part well in the Grand National Hurdle Race.

Naupata had been galloping so well before going north that he was thought to have more than an outside chance in the Winter Hurdles. Evidently the heavy going quite settled his prospects; in fact, he could not raise a gallop, being in trouble before half the journey had been covered.

As Master Strowan cannot be weighted at more than 12.7 in the Grand National Steeplechase, Mr. Henrys will have a rare task in framing his handicap so as to give the light weights the least chance with Mr. Easton's gelding. The extra two furlongs to be covered at Riccarton in conjunction with the stiffer fences will be all in Master Strowan's favour, for he is undoubtedly one of the greatest stayers and jumpers of recent years.

It was no fault of Crib's that he lost his rider in the Wellington Steeplechase, Collector being mostly to blame. The South Canterbury representative was decidedly short of work, and though the racing will do him a lot of good it is doubtful if he can be quite at his best in a month's time. Even so, he can be relied on to give a much improved showing over the Riccarton fences.

The Southland representative Point Blank, who ricked his shoulder when galloping at Riccarton last week, has made a speedy recovery from his injury. On Thursday morning he was given steady pacing, but his Winter Cup prospects look somewhat remote. His stable companion, Minesweeper, was given a turn over the little obstacles on Thursday morning, and acquitted himself really well for a novice.

The Riccarton horseman, R. McSeveney, rode a creditable race on Master Strowan in the Wellington

Steeplechase, and was widely congratulated on his success. The same pair will be associated in the big cross-country event at Riccarton, as Mr. Easton has retained McSeveney's services for the rest of the jumping season.

It is very probable that McSeveney will have the mount on Gang Awa in the big hurdle race, and already the Provocation gelding is greatly in the boom for that event.

Moorable carried a lot of local support in the Trial Plate at Trentham as a result of her track work before leaving Riccarton. She quite failed to race up to expectations, and will have to improve a lot to have much chance in the Winter Cup.

Master Hamilton's win on Wednesday over country showed that he has made vast improvement in his jumping since going into S. Trilford's stable. When trained at Riccarton the gelding was always inclined to chance the hurdles, and on several occasions came to grief.

The two imported horses, Saxby and Gay Lad, are now regular attendants on the local tracks, and both look in nice order to be got ready for spring racing. W. McDonald has taken a lot of trouble with the latter, and he is almost sure to pick up a good race or two with him in the spring.

A recent addition to R. Ellis' team at Riccarton is the Danube filly Missouri, who was purchased some time ago by Mr. R. E. Hall.

Bon Reve figures amongst the horses engaged in the big cross-country event at the South Canterbury meeting on the 25th inst. In view of his Grand National prospects, however, it is extremely unlikely that the gelding will be included in the field.

On their return from Trentham S. Trilford and P. Hogan will take teams to Timaru for the South Canterbury meeting.

After being off the tracks for over a year Clynelish has been taken in hand again by H. G. Coker. Though he has been gelded the son of Sout is just as wayward on the tracks as ever, and is with difficulty got out to exercise. He may be given a run in one of the flat events at the South Canterbury meeting.

At Riccarton on Saturday morning M. Aynsley treated Scornful, Disdainful and Algidus to useful work, but they are all backward. The Yaldhurst trainer, R. O'Donnell, put in an appearance with Almoner, Nislec, Cyresian, Kilmoon and several rising two-year-olds. They all got through serviceable tasks in the presence of their owner, Mr. G. L. Stead, who has abandoned his proposed trip to Australia for the spring meetings.

Trainer T. H. Gillett has recovered from his recent indisposition, and is again supervising his team's work.

During his father's absence in Australia, P. Mason is supervising the training of Mr. G. D. Greenwood's horses. He has recently taken in hand Indus, who gives a lot of promise.

Most of the Riccarton sportsmen who attended the Trentham meeting returned home on Sunday. They all favour Master Strowan's prospects in the Grand National Steeplechase, but the hurdle race has them puzzled.

Crib could not act in the going on the second day at Trentham so well as he did on the opening day. He will be brought back to Riccarton and given a thorough preparation for the big cross country event.

WANGANUI.

Zela and Zola in Work Again—Penon Coming Back to Form—Steady Preparation Being Made for the Spring Meetings—The Easton Double—Ertwhile Prominent Cross-country Rider's Reminiscences.

WANGANUI, Monday.

M. Gardner took Hyginas to Wellington, but the gelding was withdrawn from his engagements owing to the death of Mr. H. M. Brewer, who was a relative of Mr. A. Symes, who owns the gelding.

Marton was in capital fettle when he left here for Trentham, where he started on the second day, but failed to do any good in the July Steeplechase. He does not like soft going, and this might have interfered with his chance to some extent, but the son of Malachi has evidently lost much of his dash. He should be able to win a race or two yet, though probably the company will not need to be so good as he met on Saturday.

W. Rayner has put Zela and Zola into work again. They are both looking well after their spell, and it should not take long to get them back into racing form. Zola has