

TURF GOSSIP.

The well-known Christchurch trotting mentor, J. Bryce, has 35 horses in commission at the present time.

It is the intention of J. Ayres to have Battle Array (Signor—Carissima) schooled over hurdles.

J. O'Shea arrived in Sydney on Tuesday, August 27, and is to take up his quarters at Randwick, so as to be able to ride Desert Gold and other members of Mr. T. H. Lowry's team in their work on the track. The crack New Zealand horseman was evidently on the invalid list upon his arrival in Sydney, as it was stated in the "Sun" next morning that, owing to blood poisoning following on a slight wound while riding, O'Shea would unfortunately be confined to his bed for a few days.

The three-year-old colt Melee (Marian—Formless) will make his first appearance this season in the Amberley Cup this Thursday. Melee only started three times in the Dominion as a two-year-old, and on his last appearance won the April Stakes at the South Canterbury Jockey Club's autumn meeting. Mr. G. L. Stead will also be represented at the Amberley meeting this week by Bonetter, a three-year-old filly by Boniform from Brayton, an Australian-bred mare by Bardolph—Zaza, by The Admiral—The Charmer, a well-known Australian family. Bonetter, who is a first foal, did not compete as a two-year-old. C. Emerson will ride Melee, and A. Tinker, who is apprenticed to R. D. O'Donnell, Bonetter.

A mild sensation recently occurred at a race meeting at Wyong (N.S.W.). Tarawera, by Knightlight (imp.) from Parting Glass, was produced for the second division of the Novice Handicap, in which he was weighted at 8.10. The New Zealand horseman, E. Lowe, had the mount. Backers came so solidly for Tarawera that he was soon installed a sound favourite. The race requires little description, as Tarawera simply romped home the winner, with Perlmutter as his nearest attendant. Upon going to scale Lowe could not make the weight, being 7½ lb. short. Short weight being declared, the race was awarded to Perlmutter, and an inquiry was instituted. A missing lead-bag, covered with a horse rug, was found on the rail in the stall where Tarawera was saddled up, where it had evidently been overlooked by trainer Shaw. For this carelessness Shaw was fined £10. The error is said to have cost the stable and the public a big loss in stakes and prospective winnings.

The well-known trotter, Robert Dillon, has been sold by Mr. R. Hudson, of Dunedin, to a Westport sportsman, who should soon get a return for his outlay with the son of Harold Dillon at West Coast meetings, as in moderate company he will be more than useful.

The annual report of the Wellington Trainers' Association states that during the year the members of the association had been reduced by the death of Mr. G. M. Reed. Mr. C. Pritchard represented the association at the funeral. The committee of the association had worked amicably with the executive of the racing club, and the caretaker, Mr. J. McGlashan. The representations made by the association had always been considered, and in most cases, adopted by the club. During the year several noticeable improvements had been effected at the course which were greatly appreciated by trainers. Considering that the association was practically in its infancy it had fulfilled its purpose, and no doubt its usefulness would be felt during the coming season. The members of the committee are: Messrs. J. McLaughlin (chairman), J. Ayres, J. W. Scott, J. W. Lowe, C. Pritchard, and H. Telford.

S. Mordan, at one time a prominent jockey, died in England in June. He never rode a Derby winner, but went very close to it on Bruce in 1882, being defeated by Shotover, ridden by T. Cannon, whose version of the race was as follows: "Sammy Mordan thought Bruce was a certainty for the Derby, and he promised his wife a sewing machine if he won. A sewing machine in those days was like a motor car now.

Bruce almost had the Derby won, and Mordan, half-way up the straight, began to sing out: 'The husband of Sammy Mordan's wife has won the Derby. The husband of Sammy Mordan's wife has given her a sewing machine. The husband of Sammy Mordan's wife has won the Derby; the husband of Sammy Mordan's wife—' Bruce, while this was going on, was close to me, and I could hear Sammy talking, and could guess what would happen. Mordan let his reins go, and Bruce swerved away from the rails. I had been waiting for this, and shot my mare through, and before Mordan knew where he was Shotover had won the race."

On the second day of the Queensland Exhibition meeting last month, Venerable won the Metropolitan Handicap, of 1000sovs (one mile and a-half). Venerable is by Achilles—Monarda (Birkenhead—Balm), one of the mares sent from Waikanae stud by Mr. I. G. Duncan in 1913.

The biggest drawbacks to the prohibition movement (says the West Australian "Sportsman") are its advocates. In this respect it suffers like the temperance campaign of which a noted English statesman aptly remarked: "The worst enemies of temperance are the intemperate temperance reformers." What reasonable citizen would like to have the communities of this State patterned after the model conceived by the suppressionists who interpret all enjoyment as wickedness? To these warped types the stage, the boxing arena, the picture-film, the race-course all are so many creations of the devil. Not content with bogging themselves in the swamps of gloom, they shriek to have their fellows

Bonnie Maid last year's Great Northern St. Leger winner, is reported to be acquitting herself creditably on the tracks at Trentham. The daughter of Boniform—Happy Maid should do her owner, "Mr. P. Soames," some useful service during the present season.

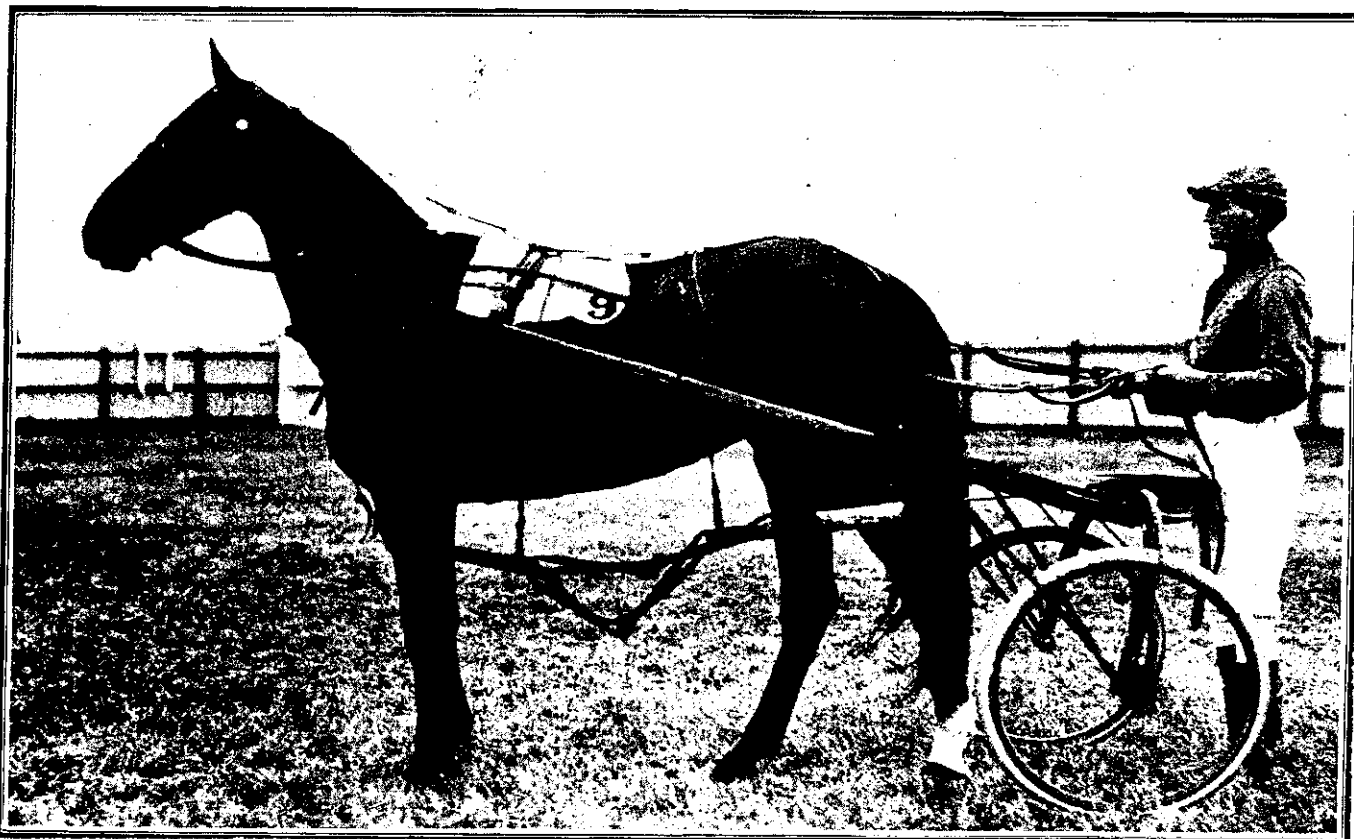
Rose Pink, held under lease from her breeder, has been purchased by Mr. Whitney. At the conclusion of her racing career she will go into that well-known Wellington sportsman's stud.

Racing circles in Western Australia are more than a trifle perturbed over the existence of a jockey ring there. A recent inquiry into an accident that occurred at Goodwood indicated that a close relationship existed between a section of the boys riding. The staunchness with which they stood for each other, even at the expense of contradicting previous statements, and denying well-known facts, provided much food for thought. Other prior and more recent incidents strengthen the belief that a well-organised ring exists in the Western State. It may be broadly accepted, that in a greater or lesser degree, jockeys' rings exist in every State (remarks the Sydney "Sportsman"). They may have their origin in camaraderieship, and in many respects may be quite harmless, but in the majority of cases their influence is baneful to racing. We understand that in Victoria there is a riders' ring, that is controlled by the notorious Black Hand Gang, who direct it as they wish. The depredations of this band of bravos appear to be accepted as the correct thing over the border.

was achieved by Lady Anzac, who is well known in the country districts of New South Wales. Of her 32 races she won eight. As a rule, good horses ran on fewer occasions. Of the really high-class performers, Wallace Isinglass was stripped most often. He had a tile at 18 races, and won five of them, while of the prominent two-year-olds, the one which ultimately proved master of his age for the season, Outlook, was required to do most work. He ran in 10 races for five wins.

The tracks at Randwick are now being freely used, and with the near approach of the spring meeting unusual interest is centred in the work. Reports just to hand from Sydney show that on Wednesday, August 28, easily the best six furlongs of the morning was that credited to Biplane's two stable mates, Gloaming and Molyneux. They traversed the distance in 1min 17sec, with light boys up, and, keeping close to the inner rail. Biplane was extended over seven furlongs, but he was going along at a leisurely even-time pace for the first three furlongs, so that he did well to get the full journey in 1min 33sec. The last half mile took 50½sec. He was ridden by R. W. Brennan.

W. H. McLachlan, upon his return to Sydney from Queensland, where he rode with success at the Exhibition meeting, stated to a Sydney "Sun" representative that Bunting, who promised to play a prominent part in the big events of the spring here and in Victoria, has gone amiss. After the weight-for-age event he won on the first day he pulled up in sound condition, but on the morning of the Metropolitan Handicap it was



Mr. E. G. McCullough's b m CAPRICCIO, 6yrs., by O.Y.M.—Cappadocia, winner of the August Handicap (two miles) at the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club's recent meeting. E. McDermott, driver.

drawn into the blackness. Prohibition is but the start; if they won on this, the other things they disapprove of would be marked for slaughter in turn. More dangerous than prohibition itself would be the added power its acceptance would bring to the narrow advocates who fathered it. Like many "good" men, the prohibitionists seem to have the odor of hypocrisy around them. They wish to carry their fad through, not on its merits, but disguised and camouflaged as a war necessity. "For the period of the war only" is a lying claim, and the users know it. They want prohibition all the time, and they slay their own cause by attempting to make it look like something that it is not—a war measure.

H. Burt, who was connected with the Porirua stable before he went into camp, has since been rejected for military service.

De Gama, who has been racing in Adelaide for some time without doing any good, is back once more in the stable of his old trainer, G. Delaney, at Caulfield.

Lanius has arrived in Sydney from Queensland for the purpose of having the finishing touches put on his preparation for spring engagements. Lanius is owned by the Queensland sportsman, Mr. A. G. Nobel.

One interesting phase of the racing reported in the latest issue of the Australian Turf Register for the season which closed last month is that some horses are shown to have started in 30 races or more. From the index it is gathered that about 8000 horses raced during the 12 months, but the majority of them had very few runs, and the inference is that a great many were tried, found wanting so far as speed was concerned, and were probably relegated to a more utilitarian purpose than racing. On the other hand, the Register shows some horses work hard for their living. The number of those who took part in more than 20 races during the year would run into hundreds, while there are many who were stripped for 30 or more contests. The record for the season is shared by two horses, each of whom ran for 39 stakes. They were Cocoroo (by Warroo), who won 11 times in his 39 starts, and St. Fitz, a Western Australian, who captured only six prizes after all those efforts. Fair Desmond, an imported horse by Lally, had 37 runs for only one win, and the Victorian Dhul Dhul, by Bonnie Chiel, achieved exactly the same record. Red Signal, by Linacre, was out on 35 occasions for six wins, and there were half a dozen horses who carried silk for 34 races, but the best winning record of those that had more than 30 starts in the season

found that his leg had "filled," and as it was feared that he would break down if he were given a run, he was scratched for his engagement, and immediately placed on the easy list. Bunting has always been unsound in one limb, but the member causing trouble this time was one of his "good" legs. It is questionable whether his trainer can pull him round in time to come south for his important engagements at Randwick, Caulfield and Flemington. McLachlan was keenly disappointed that the horse should have gone amiss. He was, he said, the best performer at the meeting, won his race with the greatest ease, and would have taken a treble during the three days.

In its lengthy history, only three mares, in Briseis, Auraria and Acrasia, have won the Melbourne Cup. Thirteen years have elapsed since the last of the trio, Acrasia, led the field home, and this gives hope to admirers of Desert Gold that the turn has arrived for another mare to succeed in the big two-mile handicap. Carrying 13lb. over weight-for-age, Wakeful (10.0) ran Lord Cardigan (6.8) to half a length in the Cup of 1902, and five years ago Belove (7.0) was second in the much-discussed Cup won by Posinatus, while Nada, Alix, Apple Pie and Carlita were mares to run third in the race in the last three decades.