

Damien (Wolawa—Dorothea) is going along all right under T. Pritchard's care at Opaki, and will be ready to race any time now.

J. Watts, who is connected with P. Daly's Lansdowne stable, has just come out of the Masterton Hospital, he having contracted the prevailing epidemic, diphtheria, in a mild form.

As in previous years, the winner of the Masterton Cup will not incur a penalty for the New Zealand Cup, and a large number of horses engaged in the big Riccarton event are sure to be seen out at Opaki next month. Last year's New Zealand Cup winner (Menelaus) won the open flying at the local fixture, paying a big price.

The latest addition to P. Daly's Lansdowne stable is a four-year-old gelding by Provocation from Silken Rein, a mare which did a lot of racing in this district a few seasons back.

The two-year-olds in J. T. Jamieson's stable were given a sprint from the barrier at Opaki on Tuesday last, and acquitted themselves well. The Kilbroney—Simper colt Affection and Hyades (the full sister to Hymestra and Torfreda) both show promise of coming to hand early.

The two Hymettus geldings in T. Higgins' charge are going along well in their work, and it will not be long before they are seen to advantage with the colours up.

Brown Joe was the only Wairarapa-owned horse to get into the money at Egmont, he having ran second in the Hunt Cup Steeple. Brown Joe has yet to win a race, although he has been placed on several occasions during the past few months.

The tracks at Opaki are now bearing a very busy appearance, and about 50 horses are being worked there. Most of the local horses are a bit backward on account of the continued wet weather, but a great improvement will be noticed during the next few weeks. Hymestra, Snub and Nanna are among the regular attendants.

On Wednesday afternoon last, before the district coroner, Mr. E. G. Eton, the adjourned inquest concerning the death of the late Mr. J. L. Henrys was held. Evidence was given by Constable Ede, of Eketahuna, and Mr. C. Lamb, who was riding with the deceased when the accident occurred. After hearing the evidence the coroner found a verdict of accidental death. Constable Ede drew the coroner's attention to the necessity of the County Council erecting a notice board near the dangerous spot where the accident took place, as a warning to motorists.

Mr. R. D. Morrison, of Blairlogie, Masterton, is getting together a fine lot of thoroughbreds at his stud, which promises to rank as one of the most important in the Dominion. Mr. Morrison has been connected with all classes of sport in this district for a number of years, and his entry into the ranks of owners will be welcomed. It is not the Masterton sportsman's intention to race at present, but there is every probability of his taking an active part later on. He has entered five of his youngsters for the Taranaki Stakes of 1920, and has also five engaged in the Egmont Stakes the same year.

Owners from this district have responded liberally to the entries for the Sixth Taranaki Stakes, to be run in 1920. Mr. W. E. Bidwill, of Featherston, has five entries (Proclamation, Vivation, Coercion, Quotation, and Duration). Mr. Kembal has seven engaged (Nanna, Vasilkov, Missgold, Misslass, Misslove, Missmaid and Missmorn). Mr. A. McDonald has Affection, Rose Wreath, Murihuku, Hyades and Torfreda engaged, while Mr. R. D. Morrison has five of his unnamed youngsters in the list of entries. In the Egmont Stakes of 1920 there are 22 Wairarapa-owned horses engaged, and in the Hawera Stakes the same year 15 from this district have been nominated.

SOUTHLAND.

Fleetham Slightly Lame Owing to Mishap—Silent King Progressing Well—Kilmeedy Taken up Again—Keen Interest Displayed in Winton Stakes.

INVERCARGILL, September 20.

It has come at last, and for the first time this year snow has fallen off and on for the past 12 hours in Invercargill, with bright sunshine between times. However, there has been no harm done, and the tracks on the Southland Racing Club's property have, so far, remained available to trainers, who cannot afford

to lose galloping privileges at the present time, with entries for the Dunedin Jockey Club's spring fixture closing this week, and nomination day for the Gore spring gathering well in sight.

The imported English horse, Fleet-ham, was lame after working on Tuesday morning, and it is surmised that he picked up a nail. He appears to be one of those gallopers who is always meeting with some kind of an unexpected check in his preparation.

It is reported from Wingatui that the two-year-old brother to Silent Way, the gelding Silent King, by Calibre—Golden Way, is progressing well with trainer J. Stewart. He is eating and galloping resolutely, and when measured this week was found to be 15.2. As he was reared and educated here and a local owner still has an interest in him his career is likely to furnish food for reflection with many local sportsmen.

The Kilbroney gelding, Kilkee, is rounding up into racing shape under the tuition of H. G. Coker, and he may be given a run at Wingatui next month. He has proved an expensive disappointment to some generous sportsmen since his arrival in Southland, and the wish is generally expressed that he will prove equal to winning at least one stake on their behalf.

It is understood that the well-known Ashburton trotting owner and reinsman, Mr. A. Pringle, is sending the Finland—Misinform mare, Erroneous, down to Invercargill to be prepared by G. McLean, who holds quite a reputation for skill in dealing with highly-strung horses and delicate feeders.

The Varco—Ninon gelding recently purchased by the owner of Kilkee from Mr. M. Hobbs is being ridden about the streets. The bracing climate of Southland appears to suit the Australian importation, as he is building on condition and furnishing as a racehorse should.

The Kilbroney—Ena mare, Kilmeedy, who has been in Winton for some time past on the easy list, has

do not trouble him too much he will be there or thereabouts in the shortest of races.

The Heddon Bush studmaster, Mr. H. Hubber, has left the stallion Pallas and his farm property in charge of one of his sons, and has sought retirement in Invercargill, bringing with him the four-year-old Mussulman, by Pallas—Minaret, and the colt's elder sister. The Winton Stakes winner of last season, Mussulman, has proved somewhat hard to train, but he is to be tried out again on the Southland Racing Club's tracks. Mr. Hubber may superintend the training of his own horses.

Interest in the Winton Stakes is growing, and at least three or four people are of the opinion that they hold the winner in their keeping. One of the owners referred to may do so, but the writer can tell of at least two candidates not generally spoken of which will take a power of beating in November. This is as it should be in connection with the only classic event of the Southland turf, and the Winton Jockey Club's officials will be pleased to think that there is an interesting contest in prospect.

Thoroughbreds are not often trained at Gore these days, but latest reports are to the effect that two or three gallopers are in work there this season.

Jockey W. Robinson has received official notice to report himself at the C1 camp in the North Island to be tested for military service.

The steeplechaser, Palladio, who, by the way, is looking wonderfully well under G. Hope's care, was schooled during the current week, and jumped in his usual accomplished manner.

At Otatau last week Private C. Church, late whip to the Birchwood Hunt, when down on final leave, was entertained by followers of the local pack and presented with a case of Loewe pipes. Church has been associated with the Southland turf for many years past as a fearless cross-country horseman and successful trainer of winners across the flat.



GLENROY (H. Gray) returning to the enclosure after accounting for the Tawhiti Handicap (six furlongs). The second and third horses are ROYAL CHEF (D. Anderson) and HYGINAS (R. Reed) respectively.

returned to the shelter of A. D. McIvor's new establishment, the quarters until recently occupied by C. J. Heywood and disposed of by him when the call came to take up arms. Heywood, who is at present living in Invercargill with his wife and family, goes into camp in a fortnight's time. Kilmeedy, by the way, disappointed her connections badly last season and failed to reproduce the form she displayed when she ran third to Fiery Cross and Wardancer in the Hazlett Memorial Stakes at Wingatui under weight for age, when record time was hoisted.

During the current week a local owner has been in negotiation with Mr. M. Hobbs for the purchase of the Australian-bred colt Anton, by St. Anton—Wonderland, who claims an engagement in the McLean Stakes at the Dunedin Jockey Club's meeting next month. The sturdy little "Aussie" can speed up when called upon and may have a very fair chance at Wingatui. At the time of writing the sale is still on the telegraph wires.

He did not win a race last season, but if Sir Malt keeps improving at the present rate he will be heard of in the near future. Like many other erratic horses, the son of Malster and Graceton has done particularly well with G. McLean. When he came here first it took a man all his time to control him on the tracks, but now a small boy can manage him, while he has settled down quietly and can stow a feed away with the best of them. He is big and fresh, and if his breathing valves

CANTERBURY.

Notes on Ashburton Form—Rose Pink's Attractive Display—Long Range's Brilliant Showing—Scornful's Prospects in Classic Events—N.Z. Cup Candidates Run Well.

CHRISTCHURCH, Monday.

Matters at Riccarton have been quiet during the last week, most of the trainers having teams away at Ashburton. There will be racing at Geraldine on Thursday, and then in close succession will come Kurow and Dunedin.

The Wellington sportsman who races as Mr. H. Whitney started his southern campaign auspiciously at the Ashburton meeting. Though hampered with a 10lb. penalty as the result of her win at Dannevirke, Rose Pink had a comfortable win in the Ashburton County Handicap. She was none too well placed in the early stages, but put in such a great effort along the home straight as to suggest a much more important long-distance event coming her way at Wingatui.

Later in the afternoon a stable mate of Rose Pink, in Arihia, just got beaten by inches in the First Hack Handicap. She put in a great run over the last furlong, and appeared to have the race won. It was only in the last few strides that Royal Star had her measure after a desperate finish. Mr. Whitney's team will be raced at Geraldine, Kurow and Dunedin, after which they will return to Riccarton for the Cup meeting.

Killjoy ran a creditable race in the

Ashburton County Handicap, but just faded out in the last pinch. Thaddeus also was putting in great work over the last furlong after being slow to begin.

The Chokeybore Derby candidate, Heathercote, was given a run in the big event on the first day of the Ashburton meeting, as a preliminary to more important engagements. He looked to have winning prospects till within a furlong of the post, but then stopped so quickly as to suggest that a mile and a-half course may find him out in good three-year-old company.

Long Range, another Chokeybore-trained one, gave a more impressive display by the manner in which he accounted for the Spring Handicap. The massive son of Antagonist and Telescope did not begin any too smartly, and two furlongs from home was standing up such a rare finisher as Glendower quite three lengths. By a brilliant effort he caught the leader inside the distance and scored in very decisive style. Of the three Chokeybore horses produced at the meeting Long Range gave by far the best showing.

Indifferent jumping lost Hylans the First Hurdle Race. He lost quite a length at almost every obstacle and carried a panel of the last hurdle away. This helped Vascular, who was in close attendance, and he gathered up the leader in the last few strides.

Of the several novices, Kimbolton gave the most promising display, his jumping being clean and quick. On the second day he showed to further advantage by leading practically from start to finish in the Second Hurdle Handicap. On this occasion he out-jumped Achilleides, who went with him from the start, and scored so decisively as to suggest him doing better in more select company.

G. M. Aynsley produced his Derby candidate, Scornful, in the Braemar Welter, and he scored in decisive style from Warform. Though not yet at his best, Scornful is such a free galloper that his prospects must be taken into account for three-year-old classics. Only for being so far back in the early stages and meeting with

interference Warform would assuredly have troubled the winner.

The English-bred Saxby was regarded as next to a certainty for the Hack Handicap, and with ordinary luck would have won. As it was he got knocked back just after the start, and though putting in good work over the last two furlongs could not get to Spyglass and Zephland. Saxby is still rather green, but has enough pace to win a good race for his importer, Mr. J. Grigg.

A New Zealand Cup candidate in Royal Star was supported down to a very short price for the First Hack Welter. After getting practically left at the post his chance looked almost hopeless till three parts of the journey had been left behind. Then by a phenomenal run he got to Arihia and just managed to prevail in the last stride. As a Cup trial, Royal Star's performance suggests him having a fair outside chance next November.

On the strength of her Amberley form the Trial Plate looked practically a gift for Moorabbe, who was unpenalised. So it proved, for she was in front from start to finish, winning very comfortably.

The biggest surprise of the meeting was that effected by Thestius in the Fairfield Hack Handicap on the second day. Though there were only five starters, the Martian gelding was so little fancied that his few backers received a dividend of just on two score.

Glendower and Killjoy were bracketed for the big event on the second