



The attention of sportsmen throughout Australasia, and, indeed, throughout the world, has been attracted by the Australian Jockey Club's spring meeting, which commenced at Randwick on Saturday, for the meetings held there have for some years past been looked upon as something more than of an inter-state or inter-colonial character since so many horses bred in the Old Land have been regularly taking part. What great meetings they are to be sure, and every year becoming greater, like the great spring meetings of the Victoria Racing Club, which attract such enormous crowds. The attendances have been gradually growing at Randwick, probably more so than on any racecourse in Australasia, for it has only been during the last ten or twelve years that racing with the masses of the metropolis of Sydney, and visitors from overseas and neighbouring States and within the borders of New South Wales has taken such a hold. Twenty thousand at Randwick just a little over a decade ago was considered a large assemblage. Now, over three times that number occasionally pay for admission to the course, and the problem of where to accommodate the increasing crowds is constantly receiving consideration. Racing was never more popular in the colonies than it is at the present time. Despite the great attraction the Melbourne Cup meeting has always been and the constant reminders we have had from the days of our earliest recollection that there is only one Flemington—and what racing associations the name brings up—there can be no getting away from the fact that Randwick is now sharing a large place in the affections of the sport-loving people of the colonies.

New Zealanders are becoming more attracted to Australia, and there are few who own and few who breed and race good horses who would not for choice prefer to win the classic and weight-for-age races and good handicap races against allcomers at Randwick or Flemington than the leading races on New Zealand soil, for the reason that they afford the best tests of merit, and in a majority of instances are of more value and establish the class to which equine celebrities belong. New Zealand has provided winners of pretty well all the classic races of note at Randwick and Flemington, and New Zealand owners have won the most important races, though not always with New Zealand-bred horses. They have had their failures, too, but we are sure that we have had many more Derby colts and three-year-old fillies that could have acquitted themselves with much distinction if they had been afforded the opportunity in the Commonwealth. We have had a number of really good ones that were bred in Australia, some of them got by horses or from mares bred in New Zealand or from mares we have purchased in Australia. We freely acknowledge that we owe a very large share of our turf successes to early and later importations from Australia, while Australia is perhaps more heavily indebted to New Zealand for much of the good blood that has asserted itself on the many racecourses of the Commonwealth. All this is well enough known to students of breeding. Good thoroughbreds are raised in all the States, but nowhere are they of better class than the best raised in New Zealand, where comparatively little money has been spent in the purchase of good English mares. That we could have done still better admits of no doubt. So many breeders fail to attend to another important detail, and that is the feeding, shelter and early development of the horses they breed. If the good grass pastures are considered too valuable for the thoroughbreds to be reared on then it is best not to breed them at all. They are few who do not know this, but many who do not profit by their knowledge. Enough of these reflections.

Randwick racing, as above stated, has been a source of great interest to us all. We are only in a position to deal with the events of the first day's racing on this page, but there is much that is extremely gratifying to New Zealanders in Saturday's results. We had no hurdlers competing, the owners of Tararu Jack, St. Elmn and British Arch having withdrawn their respective representatives, considering that the handicapper had been rather severe in his assessment of their capabilities. Tararu Jack's form should be easily gauged. British Arch has yet to develop, and his one win seems to have impressed Mr. Daly. Those who have watched the turf career of the Rajah of Puddikota, whose gelding, Lord Nagar, won the First Hurdle Race in record time, can congratulate a good sportsman and wish him further successes. Mr. C. G. McPhillamy, who is a breeder with an intimate knowledge of the best racing families on the Australian turf during a lengthy career, is a well-known New South Wales settler. The Trial Stakes fell to that gentleman's four-year-old horse, Redburn, by Kenilworth (who was sold last month at auction for 4100 guineas). Amongst those he had behind him were Greg (by Poseidon), another four-year-old, and the New Zealand-

same family as Bill of Portland and who is a gelding and carried even weights with the colts, Gloaming has been regarded as a really first-class three-year-old. We have read the notes of some sporting writers who occupy positions which are usually filled by acknowledged men, who have gone so far as to class Gloaming as a likely one to beat Desert Gold or anything else at w.f.a. over a distance in Australia, while all the time there has been a prejudice against the stock of The Welkin as stayers. One writer said that Melbourne racing men considered him "a world beater." Another had a par. "Biplane v. Desert Gold," and added, "What about Gloaming v. Desert Gold?" That Gloaming is a good gelding has now been fully demonstrated against the best of his age and against some of the older horses. Finmark, as was expected after his race in the Rosehill Guineas, showed improvement, and if there are grounds for believing the suggestion of experts he can be got more fit. J. O'Shea was greatly disappointed that he failed to run the nine furlongs out when Woorawa beat him at Rosehill. He has, however, now proved inferior to Gloaming, whose win made Mr. Greenwood's second in succession in the race. Kilmoon, prior to leaving for

a coincidence we met two sports a couple of hours before who had backed Rebus and Norbury. The third horse, Quaeator (imported), is by the English Derby winner, Cicero (whose dam, Gas, is the dam of the Waikanae sire, Bezonian), out of Illuminata, the dam of Ladas (sire of the dam of Marble Arch and also the dam of Valve, dam of Sanquhar, in Sir George Clifford's stud). The dam of Quaeator is Cherimoya, winner of the English Oaks. Thus we have in him a young horse by a Derby winner from an Oaks heroine, indicating class which may sooner or later assert itself. We have the blood in several studs in New Zealand.

And now we come to a race in which there was for New Zealand sportsmen almost as much interest as in the A.J.C. Derby. This was the Spring Stakes, in which that high-class mare, Desert Gold, was to make her first appearance this season. A good deal of the interest in that event went out with the withdrawal from all engagements of Biplane, who went wrong in his final gallop last Thursday morning, when thousands who had not already arrived were on their way to the meeting, many of them attracted by the prospect of seeing the great pair trying conclusions for the first time. They were doomed to be as keenly disappointed as some New Zealand audiences have been in the past when there were several chances of them meeting, which were lost through one or other side not being ready. The chief occasions where when Bisogne beat Biplane and Hymestra in the Royal Stakes at Ellerslie and Estland was sent out to compete while Desert Gold remained in her box, and the other time was when Biplane declined the contest for the Awapuni Gold Cup, which Desert Gold won. It is to be regretted that Biplane could not go out to meet the consistent Desert Gold, who was so much fancied on her previous form in Australia and on her fine track achievements since her arrival at Randwick. She was generally believed to be right at her best, though she had not had a race since last April. Her many thousands of admirers everywhere were backing her, the opinion being that there was nothing left in the race so formidable as Biplane would have likely proved. The unexpected happened, as it so often does in racing. Another Richmond was in the field, and a good one as it happened and one probably much better than he was thought, and he won. This was the four-year-old chestnut horse Poitrel, owned by the Messrs. W. and F. A. Moses and got by that good sire of stayers, St. Alwyne, who got St. Carwyne, who won the race in 1914 and next year dead-headed with Reputation and won other good races, including the A.J.C. Metropolitan, Melbourne Stakes and Craven Plate; Lady Medallist, who won that race, the Caulfield Cup and many good races in New Zealand being another of the progeny of the imported sire. Poitrel had previously won the A.J.C. Summer Cup and had raced well. There were 11 starters, including Cagou, Prince Viridis and Thana. Poitrel put up a mile and a-half record for Australasia and only got the victory by a short head in the last stride after a great race, while Kenanquhair, who has given evidence of speed and staying qualities, was only two lengths away.

Cruciform beat Wakeful and Postillion in the A.J.C. Spring Stakes in 1903 and next year Gladstone, Martian and Cruciform filled the places. Gladstone and Nightfall were second and third the following year. Isolt and Apologue got second and Maranui third in the three following years, and it was not until 1913 that Emperador got third, and two years later Reputation dead-headed with St. Carwyne, and in 1916 Sasanof, Bee and Carlita filled all three places. Last year Wallace Isinglass, Cagou and Fortune Hunter was the order, and The Toff and Sasanof were unplaced. This year Desert



MAJOR BERNARD CHAS. TENNENT, R.A.M.C. (Military Cross and bar), formerly of Martinborough, Wairarapa, later of Edinburgh, who has been killed in action. The late Major Tennent, was the son of the late Rev. E. Cowper Tennent, of Martinborough, and studied medicine in Edinburgh, and while on the western front, where he won the M.C. and bar, he was recommended for the D.S.O. for distinguished service.

bred three-year-old, Red Rain, by Martian—Grand Rain (dam of Kilrain). First Rain was bred by Mr. Bruce Christie, of Oamaru, and was purchased by Mr. E. J. Watt as a yearling, and ran at Ellerslie and elsewhere before being sent to Australia, where he formed one of the lot that Mr. Watt gave away when he retired—let us hope temporarily—from the game.

The A.J.C. Derby, probably the most valuable race of its kind in the world at the present time, carrying as it does a stake of 5000sovs and a sweepstake of 20sovs, was the third event that came up for decision, and New Zealand owners claimed no fewer than four of the runners. It says something for the owners and trainers from the Dominion that they should have provided the first, second, third and fourth, thus taking all the honours and the stake money save the 250sovs that goes by the conditions of the race to Mr. Ernest Clark, the breeder of the winner, Mr. G. D. Greenwood's gelding Gloaming, whose success was fully anticipated. Since R. J. Mason sprang a surprise with him by winning the Chelmsford Stakes a fortnight earlier the son of The Welkin and Light, who descends from the

Australia, was considered second in the matter of class to Almoner, and possibly may be when both are just at their best, but he stays on, and it can be noted that both Kilmoon and the winner are by imported sires. Sophia, dam of Kilmoon, is by the brilliant Menschikoff. Here we have the Nordenfeldt—Steppe blood through Stepniak. It is 33 years since Nordenfeldt won the race.

The long-established Epsom Handicap followed the Derby, and the fact that the imported five-year-old Rebus, one of the few of the gets of Radium to arrive in the colonies, carried 9.0 and won in a field of 27, on top of his other performances last season, which include the Sydney Cup (two miles) goes to show that the Englishman is a gentleman. His win enhances the reputation of Gloaming, as with a 10lb. allowance in his favour, Gloaming came away and beat Rebus eight lengths in the Chelmsford Stakes, run over nine furlongs. Rebus, no doubt, was coming on nicely at the time, and a week before the meeting registered a fine mile gallop, and on the same morning Norbury showed great brilliancy over seven furlongs. Norbury was an eleventh hour tip in Auckland, and by