

ally if the track should happen to be somewhat heavy. Those who bear in mind the sterling performance of Gloy (7.1) at Takapuna will not allow him to start at any false price, more especially when it is known that he is doing faithful track work at Avondale. Royal Arms is another candidate it will be well to watch, for this Taranaki representative has merit and is not harshly treated with 7.1. Wee Olga is also credited with steady and encouraging work on the tracks.

THE BREEDING OF STAYERS.

At the present time wherever the thoroughbred is at work there are no end of discussions as to the staying ability of the present day racehorse. In England and on the Continent leading men connected with the turf have written columns on the subject. Some of it is very interesting reading. For instance, the London "Sportsman" says English breeders can hardly fail to be influenced by the lead Lord Rosebery has given them, and that he now possesses in Sir Visto, Neil Gow and Signarinetta the only living classic winners of Matchem descent. Writing from Berlin, a foreign writer makes some interesting remarks:—"Much further headway cannot possibly be made in English breeding by connecting the various lines of Eclipse more intensively than they are already, and that a standstill, which so often means retrogression, is bound to come unless some of the expatriated Herod blood is brought back. There is undeniable racing quality in the American stock, besides an overwhelming amount of Herod blood. What more can you possibly want? It is an untenable argument that the 'impure' breeding of the American horse is the only cause of their deficiency in stamina."

TRAINING CREATES STAMINA.

Stamina is, in my firm belief, to a far greater extent the result of rational schooling than an inherited quality. There are first class stayers on the Continent sired by Forfarshire, but Mercutio and Braxted can scarcely stay a mile and a half. The speedy Hackler's Pride never achieved great things above a distance of a mile and a half, and yet she descends from a paternal line which is notorious for an almost greater number of stayers than sprinters. Like the physically strong and enduring man also, the staying horse is made, not born. So long as the present tendency will prevail to shorten the distances and to increase the number of two-year-old races, we shall never regain that splendid staying power in the racehorse of older times, however strongly we may inbreed to them.

BRUCE LOWE LAW.

Another Continental writer says:—"I am really surprised to see that there is still a breeder in England who has the audacity to breed from a mare belonging to the No. 28 family, which you correctly described as a 'very' outside one, according to the law of Bruce Lowe. But the Australian expert has, apparently, completely misunderstood the value of this family, as he did in many other cases of outside blood, or, more correctly, was bound to do as his order of placing was to a far greater extent dictated by statistical facts than by sound considerations of the respective breeding value of his female lines. The best blood of the No. 28 was expatriated a good many years ago, and has established some very valuable new lines in foreign countries. I only mention that of Caravan (1834), a son of Camel, whose blood is met with in a great number of pedigrees of French winners. In England, however, it has become entirely extinct, and thus Bruce Lowe has had no classical material to judge from. Now and then mares of his family appear again in the English market, but they find no fancy with English breeders, and so it happened that in 1907 Baron Springer picked up Chilmark 28 in foal to Gallinule. The produce, Chilperie, is anything but a negligible quantity, which he would appear to be if merely judged from the Bruce Lowe figures of his pedigree."

TRAINING TO STAY.

On the subject of stamina, an Australian authority contends that there is no doubt some trainers are more successful than others in developing stayers, and it has been shown us clearly that there is a radical distinction between the muscular tissues of stayers and sprinters. They are so born, and no human power can make them otherwise, though a skilful trainer may develop the stamina in

one case or the speed in the other. There are countless instances of sprinters who have been ruined by being trained to cover a distance, and of stayers who have turned sour by being asked to sprint.

On the question of stamina of American or any other horses who used to run half a century ago, it has been pointed out that the distances covered were really no proof of stamina, more especially in matches, and that the comparatively recent performances of Star R. who won over four miles in 1896 in 7min 23¼sec, having never been asked to go such a distance before,

TURF TOPICS.

Nominations close on Thursday next (April 4) for all events at the forthcoming winter meeting of the Auckland Trotting Club, to be held at Alexandra Park on April 17 and 20.

Owners and trainers are reminded that acceptances are due to-morrow (Friday) night for the Tramway, Tradesmen's, Nelson and Eden Handicaps, and Onslow Stakes, to be decided on the first day of the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting. At the same time

lot of friends. He will be ridden by J. Pinker in his engagement on Easter Saturday at Ellerslie.

The Avondale Jockey Club have made extensive alterations to their race track, which includes banking up the curves and levelling the course proper. In consequence of the improvements the club has decided to increase the distance of the Autumn Handicap of 150 sovs on the second day to one mile and a furlong.

The sturdy galloway Jack Delaval is pleasing track-watchers at Ellerslie by the resolute way he finishes up his



A SPEEDY TWO-YEAR-OLD.—Mr H. D. de Lautour's b c LANNACOST, 2yrs, by Spalpeen—Dalmatia.

would compare favourably with most of the old-time records. Star R. had only two opponents in that race, and he won by a length, with thirty lengths between second and third, his victory being doubtless due to superior class and speed. Turning back to the performances of Lexington, we find him on May 22, 1853, winning a race in mile heats, the first heat being run in 1min 55½sec, and the second in 1min 57sec—ridiculously bad time. On May 27, at the same meeting, he won a race in two mile heats, which were run in 3min 42½sec, 3min 41½sec, and 3min 49sec respectively. Compare that with Melbourne Cup times, which range between 3min 27sec and 3min 30sec nowadays. On December 2, 1853, Lexington beat Sallie Waters in two three mile heats, run in 6min 23½sec, and 6min 24½sec.

final payments must be made for candidates contesting the Easter Handicap, Great Northern Champagne Stakes (sub), and Great Northern Oaks (sub).

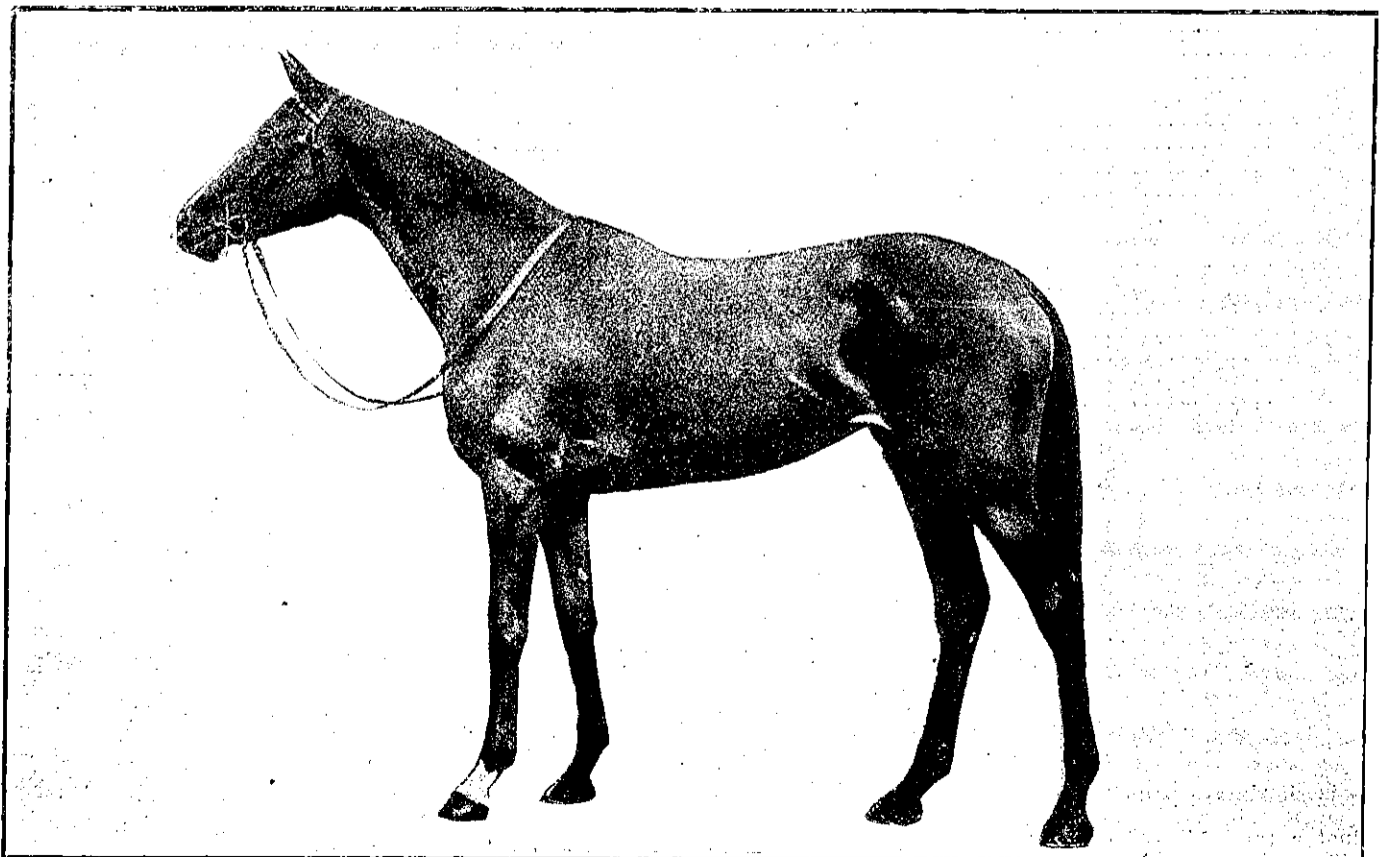
During the week Mr F. D. Yonge, secretary of the Otahuhu Jockey Club, has moved into his new offices in the old "Sporting and Dramatic Review" buildings in Vulcan Lane. There are now housed under the same roof the secretaries of the Avondale Jockey Club, Takapuna Jockey Club, and Otahuhu Trotting Club.

Master Theory, who gives promise of turning out a much more successful performer over hurdles than he did on the flat, is getting through his preparation for the Brighton Hurdles in convincing style, and has made a

gallop in the mornings. It was somewhat of a surprise that the son of Seaton Delaval was withdrawn from the Easter Handicap, but he will doubtless acquit himself in some of the shorter distance events at the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting.

Under the conditions of the Great Northern Oaks, Counterfeit has earned a penalty of 10lb, while some of the others still in the race can claim a 7lb maiden allowance.

At the annual meeting of the Pakuranga Hunt Club the huntsman (Mr. A. C. Selby) reported that last season had been most successful so far as the hunting field was concerned, and much in advance of the previous year. At present he had 15½ couples of hounds at Otahuhu in readiness for the coming season.



A LEADING TWO-YEAR-OLD ENGLISH FILLY DURING 1911.—Lord Fal mouth's ch f BELLEISLE, by Isinglass—Virginal. Her first appearance in public was delayed until the Chesterfield Stakes, in which, in spite of a bad start, she easily beat Charmian, who was giving 7lb to her. The Ham Stakes at Goodwood was a mere exercise canter for her, but she had more to do at Derby, where, however, she made hacks of Hall Cross, Alope, and other winners, winding up at the Newmarket Second October Meeting by giving 12lb to the much-fancied Polkerris, and beating her by a neck.