

The Visigoths, assisted by their other tribes, after first ravaging the Eastern Empire and sacking Rome in 410—their comparatively disciplined army was only allowed six days of pillage at a time when Rome was richer than in 455—gradually settled in Spain and southern France, where a capital was established at Toulouse. Their Burgundian associates retained the territory east of the Rhone valley.

The Goths assisted the Romans against the Hun and at the close of the century after Odoacor had deposed the last emperor Romulus Augustulus in 476, the Ostrogoths under Theodoric usurped the powers but not the title of Emperor and reigned with success and moderation over a recovering Italy from the capital at Ravenna.

The Gothic court of Ravenna did much to stimulate the moribund arts and some of their work survives to this day. The mausoleum is intact and the mosaics are especially fine in their colour-

ing. In southern France the Gothic kingdom became more stable and much of the better elements of the Gallo-Roman culture survived. It is indeed recorded by Sidonius Appolinaris that some of the Germanic chieftains even paid for estates they had seized fifteen and twenty years earlier, no doubt paying with looted Roman gold.

The Goths alone appear to have contributed a permanent element to the populations of the former Western Roman Empire and even they rapidly lost their language. As with the Norman conquerors of England, they were gradually absorbed by the original population.

From these brief notes it can be seen that there is some basis for the way in which the names Vandal, Huns and Goth have come to be applied at the present time and their usage is neither so inaccurate nor so unjust as might be supposed.

BETWEEN TWO WARS

Some Famous Athletes

NEW ZEALAND'S record in the field of athletes between the two wars is one of which any young country might justifiably be proud. Numbered among her best are an Olympic champion and several other athletes of world class.



New Zealand's first representation at the Olympic Games was in 1908, but it was not until after the Great War that teams of any size left the Dominion. Following the Armistice in 1918, athletes competed with distinction in tournaments at Stamford Bridge and in Paris. Notable among these army runners were H.E. Wilson, J. Lindsay, J. Wilton, and D. Mason.

Mason carried off the half-mile honours brilliantly, both in Eng-

land and Paris, while Wilson won the 120 yards hurdles at Stamford Bridge. However, the team was to bring fame to the Dominion at the International Games in Paris when a new world's record figure of 3mins 30 3/5secs was set in the mile medley relay.

This success proved to be the start of a new era for athletics in the Dominion. Teams were sent to the Olympic Games at Antwerp in 1920. Doctor A.E. Porritt, later to be manager of