

of the punters are already taking short prices about Penance and others, while some are even mad enough to take a short price about Carbine for the next Melbourne Cup.

MR. BOBBETT having removed his horses from George Hope's stable, this painstaking and trustworthy young trainer is prepared to take in horses to train for the general public. The way he quietly waited with Impulse until he got him thoroughly fit, and then landed the coup for his owner in winning the Easter and Autumn Handicaps at the late A.R.C. Meeting, sufficiently proves his capabilities as a trainer when he gets the proper stuff to work upon. He must be congratulated on getting rid of such a brute as Patchwork, who is the most arrant rogue that ever looked through a bridle and will do no trainer credit, though when in the humour he may take it into his head to win, when he will pay a big dividend, as the public are disgusted with him. Morion is a promising youngster, and J. Rae may be congratulated on his addition to the stable.

MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?

On Saturday evening Miss Amy Vaughan wound up a very successful holiday season with a final performance of the revived burlesque of "Black-eyed Susan." For a local production the show is so much above the level ordinarily attained by such enterprises as to be quite worthy of a detailed notice. In the first place, scenery, dressing, and stage-management are all distinctly good, and many clever and original local hits impart a sparkling novelty to the hacknied lines of venerable antiquity. A somewhat meagre orchestra, consisting of piano and cornet, while making the most of its scanty materials, struggles gallantly through an arduous task. The absence of volume has one advantage—all the soloists can be heard, and the audience is not constantly straining to catch the singer's words through the din of drums and brass, which is too frequently the case with a large orchestra. Still I think a competent violinist would be a welcome addition. Turning to the characters, I must first mention Miss Amy Vaughan, whose "William" is an excellent impersonation. She dances like a fairy and sings like a bird, while keeping the ball a-rolling so far as acting is concerned. Upon her fair shoulders rest the chief responsibilities of all the "biz," and she is rarely if ever found wanting. Good though her horn-pipe is, it might be improved by further study and practice under the direction of a competent *maitre de ballet*. Her specialty lightning changes are clever and pretty, while the song of that coquettishly innocent little maiden who complains of her boy companion's rudeness, with the arch refrain, "I won't play with you," delighted everybody. In "Don't you believe it," some local allusions brought down the house, especially when the fair owner of "Patricia" was said to have attended the citizens' ball and danced all night with Mr. W. Garrard—but "Don't you believe it!" "Susan" found a comely and competent impersonatrix in Miss May Travers, who danced and acted admirably, besides winning prolonged applause for her ballad. Miss Mabel Pawin as Dolly Mayflower looked charming, and made the most of a minor part. Miss Wyniard's fine figure and rollicking abandon made Gnatbrain's presence on the stage always welcome. Her singing was more effective than usual, and I think her voice will improve greatly with judicious handling. Miss Annie Vaughan gave us the typical stage Irishman as Shaun O'Ploughshare, while the sisters Mabel and Rosie Andrew look rather too "crummy" for bloodthirsty and ferocious pirates. Mr. Tom Makanini proved an able exponent of the eccentric Dame Hatley's vagaries. He was very funny throughout, displaying some really excellent by-play and grotesque dancing. One of the best bits of burlesque in the piece is his sensational arrival on the deck of H.M.S. Orlando by means of a block and tackle, like a veritable *Deus ex machina*. Captain Crosstree is capably dressed and most humourously acted by Mr. Max Rinkle, who goes one better than Mr. Sheridan in the matter of donkeys—his mount being the genuine article, and a really handsome specimen. I have reserved "Doggrass" (Mr. C. White) for a special meed

of praise. The popular "Charlie" scores point after point, and is always inventing fresh antics. His lines are especially well delivered—one never misses a word. The comic specialty, "He's in the Asylum now," one of Warner's cleverest hits, receives from Charley a rendering which is both artistic and irresistibly quaint. Mr. J. Mooney has manifestly studied the excellent work done by the Bovis brothers, and displays cleverness and agility in his limb-twisting and somersault throwing. "Little May" sings the "Midshipmite" delightfully for so tiny a reefer. Mr. J. Elton's "Mona" further confirmed the favourable opinion I had formed of his pleasant voice and sympathetic style of singing. He should persevere in methodical study of vocalisation, with the object of acquiring greater volume of tone and more certainty of production, especially in his upper register. Miss Vaughan resumes her winter Saturday nights in the City Hall, which will doubtless prove a pleasant relaxation for the weary footballers.

To-night (Friday) a concert is to be given in the Opera House in aid of a deserving charity. As some talented performers belonging to H.M.S. Orlando are billed to appear, in addition to local attractions, a crowded house is anticipated.

Miss Jennie Lee is now delighting large audiences in the City of the Plains—no allusion to the young ladies of Christchurch is intended—and as her seasons seem to be short and merry ones, we may expect her in Auckland within a few weeks. Her new play, "Run Wild," appears to have caught on. The *Canterbury Press* thus describes the piece: "It is a bright, lively play, ranging as it does from the pathetic to the farcical, and it affords ample opportunity, in the characters of Collie and Richard Parker especially, for the display of excellent acting. Collie is a type of the 'Wild Irish Girl' familiar to us in fiction, and happily also in real life. Miss Lee put plenty of dash and go into the part."

For Monday evening the final rehearsal of the "Creation" is fixed, and the concert will be given on the following evening by the Choral Society. I anticipate a very creditable rendering of Haydn's masterpiece, due allowance of course being made for amateurs tackling a work which is as full of difficulties as it is of beauties. But the Choral Society invariably rises to the occasion and generally exceeds in its performances the expectations aroused by its rehearsals.

ORPHEUS.

ATHLETICS, ETC.

[BY NIMBLEFOOT.]

FOOTBALL.

The annual meeting of the Grafton Football Club was held at the British Hotel on Tuesday evening last. Notwithstanding the rain, there was a large attendance of members. The report and balance-sheet, showing a credit balance of £3 6s., were adopted. The following officers were elected: Captain, A. Smith; deputy captain, H. Kissling; secretary and treasurer, J. Firth; committee, Messrs. Smith, Kissling, Firth, Hyams, and Hill; delegates to Rugby Union, Messrs. Wells and Hyams.

The annual meeting of the Ponsonby Football Club was held at the Central Hotel on Monday evening last. There was a large attendance, and Mr. W. George occupied the chair. The report and balance-sheet were adopted, and a number of new members elected. The following officers were appointed:—President, Mr. J. Mackay; vice-presidents, Messrs. Brigham, Devore, Masefield, T. Macky, Caulton, and Revs. Fathers O'Gara and Lenihan; captain, A. Braund; deputy captain, J. Heffernan; secretary and treasurer, A. Mundy; committee, J. Arneil, R. Caulton, and R. Masefield.

The annual meeting of the University Football Club was held in the College library on Monday evening last. The report and balance-sheet were adopted. The following officers were elected:—Patron, Lord Onslow; president, Professor Thomas; vice-presidents, Professors Brown and Pond, Dr. Giles, Messrs. C. F. Bourne, F. E. Baume, J. Dilworth, E. Hesketh; captain, E. T. Major; deputy

captain, C. A. Tisdall; secretary, P. F. Battley; treasurer, F. N. Wells.

A meeting of the Auckland and Athletic Football Clubs was held in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association on Wednesday evening last. After a lot of discussion, it was decided that the two teams should amalgamate and play for the Senior Cup under the name of the Auckland Football Club.

The Gordon Football Club held its annual meeting on Saturday evening last. The following officers were appointed for the coming season:—Captain, F. Jervis; vice-captain, H. Poland; secretary and treasurer, T. Neil; committee, T. Murray, D. Stewart, and M. Herrold.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

April 4th.

FOOTBALL.

The result of the match, East Christchurch v. Ponoke, which was decided on Saturday last, came as a bit of surprise to the local players. The East team was an unusually weak one, and everyone expected them to go down before the empire city champions. Ponoke, however, were themselves very weak, as four of their best men were playing in the interprovincial cricket match, and another was hurt during the first spell and had to retire for the rest of the game. The first spell was fairly even, each side having force downs several times. One changing ends, however, Ponoke showed their superiority, and had the East continually on the defensive, and it was only by hard luck that they did not score several times.

The match which was to have been played between Wellington and Christchurch did not eventuate owing to the former being unable to send a team down.

A team from the Waihi F.C. journeyed to Temuka, and defeated the Temuka team by twelve points (3 goals) to three points (1 goal).

All the local clubs are now doing regular training, in fact there seems to be an unusual amount of enthusiasm being thrown into the work this season.

CRICKET.

The sixth annual match between Canterbury v. Wellington was played at Wellington during the Easter holidays, and ended in a easy victory for the Wellingtonians. The Canterbury team was an unusually weak one, and, as events proved, were altogether too weak in the batting department. Canterbury won the toss, but owing partly to the wet nature of the turf were all disposed of for the small score of 60, no one reaching double figures. In their first attempt, Wellington fared but little better, the last wicket falling with the score at 76; Fuller, not out, 33, being top scorer. Canterbury were all disposed of for 88 in their second attempt, Demans (25) and Cohen (20) being responsible for most of the runs. This left Wellington 62 to make, which they accomplished with the loss of two wickets; A. Blacklock (20) and Moorehouse (37, not out) being the most successful. Dryden proved to be far and away the best with the ball, taking in the two innings 11 wickets for 56 runs.

CYCLING.

The newly-formed Ashburton Cycling Club held their first meeting in the Ashburton Domain on Monday last. The track was in capital order, and the racing throughout was first-class. Several of the Christchurch cracks went out to the meeting and expected to have matters all their own way, but in this they were greatly mistaken, as the local men carried off seven out of the eight events, the odd one being secured by Heywood, of the P.B.C. Curtis, a maiden rider, annexed the maiden event, and also the Two Mile Handicap and Obstacle Race. Curtis showed a good turn of speed, especially in the Two Mile Handicap, in which he defeated such well known performers as Heywood, Wheelan, Fitzhenry, and Clarkson. The most successful racer at the meeting was W. F. Bennett, who accounted for the Three Mile Championship of Ashburton in 10min 6sec, not at all bad time for a new rider on a roadster machine. Bennett also won the Five Mile Roadster Handicap, defeating Wheelan, Fitzhenry, and Heywood,