

wonderful finish and discretion. The other small parts were capitally filled. Mr. Bland Holt, as Reuben Armstrong, the blacksmith, again is fitted with one of those characteristic rôles which no man plays better. Every point is made with a crispness and a certainty which every one now expects from that popular favourite. The forging of a real shoe on the stage is a feat to perform which few actors would take the trouble to qualify themselves. And herein is the chief secret of Mr. Holt's many successes—untiring work and attention to the smallest details of his art. The characters in the American scenes are admirably taken. As Patrick Desmond Mr. W. Seagrave has the best part he has attempted during the season, and he plays it with a rollicking humour which is contagious. Miss Virginia Vivienne quite astonished and gratified me with her splendid impersonation of Norah Desmond. That this young lady could act a light comedy part admirably I was already convinced, but for such a display of genuine power and pathos I confess to have been quite unprepared. Miss Vivienne, I venture to prophesy, has a bright future before her in the profession she has chosen. Mr. Harry Norman's Toby was grotesquely funny, and the negro peculiarities were well conceived and capitally sustained. As Captain Salem Mr. H. R. Roberts proved his versatility, showing that he can play well in more serious rôles than the light farcical ones, in which he affords so much amusement. Altogether the cast is judiciously set, and a very equal and strong performance is achieved. The "Golden Ladder," a fine play and an old favourite here, in which Mr. and Mrs. Bland Holt and Mr. Walter Howe have fine parts, was played to excellent houses on Monday and Tuesday evenings. I must now bid adieu to the company, thanking them for a good deal of pleasure, and wishing one and all "Good luck."

CHORAL SOCIETY'S ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

A VERY good house and a capital concert on Friday evening at the Choral Hall. The programme was a good one, and with the exception of Mr. Taylor's absence through indisposition, was faithfully rendered. The orchestra mustered in large force, and on the whole acquitted itself well. Herold's overture to "Zampa" was brilliantly executed, and won loud applause. Defective intonation here and there, marred the effect of this and the other orchestral *morceaux*, but it must be remembered that there are not a few new members, who with more practice will greatly improve in this respect. Von Suppe's "Devil's March" was given with power, dash, and vigour, and won an undeniable encore. Weber's lovely overture to "Preciosa," which contains so many exquisite and familiar melodies, was to my ear the best performance by the band during the evening. Myerbeer's "Huguenots" was the worst in respect of tune and delicacy. But the orchestra, with practice and perseverance under so able a conductor, will improve every time they play together. A duet for clarionette and piano (*concertante*) was brilliantly rendered by Messrs. S. Jackson and T. Wood. Weber's splendid *rondo*, being executed with accuracy and dash by both performers, while the *ensemble* could scarcely have been better. The ever-popular minuet by Boccherini, played as a quintette by Messrs. Tutchska, Kent, Macfarlane, Beale, and Brown, as usual won a vociferous encore, and was repeated. Miss Freda Marsden played De Beriot's *Scène de Ballet* with artistic finish and excellent breadth of tone. Herr Schmitt kindly lent the young lady his fine "Klotz," and its organ-like and sympathetic tone greatly enhanced the effect. Miss Marsden's reputation as a violinist must gain greatly by so good a performance, which would have been still better had the orchestral accompaniment been more perfect. Space forbids my dealing in detail with the singers, but in Miss Murray I recognise a voice and a talent which give promise of very great excellence. Her enunciation is especially perfect.

ORPHEUS.

Mr. Sam Powell frequently received loud cheers for his most excellent starting at the Wellington Racing Club's Spring Meeting. He is said to invariably exercise the greatest patience with the boys.

ONEHUNGA RACING CLUB.

[By OLD TURFITE.]

THE above Club held their Spring meeting on the Otahuhu course last Saturday. It being a beautiful day, the attendance was very fair, considering the amount of racing that is going on around Auckland at the present time, nearly every Saturday being taken up with a race meeting of some kind or another. It was the first time that I had been on the course, and was much surprised to find such a good one. It is pleasantly situated, about a mile from the township and close to the railway crossing, where the trains stop to put down and take up the public. The Club have erected a good stand, with all conveniences, also a good saddling paddock, with stalls and everything that is required. The course is a dead flat, a mile in circumference. With a little improvement it might be made a capital one. It requires top-dressing and rolling, as in some places it is rather rough, especially at the back of the course, where Fergus, who was riding Tupara, came down. The turn into the straight might be eased off, as it is rather a nasty one, and a bad accident occurred there. T. Hodson came down on Glaucus, getting a bad fall, bruising his collar-bone, and being badly cut about the head. Lindsay, on Belmont, came down at the same time, but escaped unhurt. There are several reports as to how the accident occurred. I was watching the race closely and have formed my own opinion, but as an objection is to be lodged against MacManimin, who rode Ingorina, and the case at the time of writing being *sub judice*, I will refrain from making any remarks. The steeplechase course can be made one of the best around Auckland. It is perfectly level, and can be all seen from the stand. The fences, with one or two exceptions, are fair ones. These could be made all right by any one who understands steeplechasing. They are what are called "trappy," being too small and stiff, so if a horse strikes them he is bound to come down. If they were larger a horse and rider would come steadier at them, thus avoiding the chance of a serious fall. Very little expense would alter all this. The Onehunga Racing Club is called a Proprietary Club. If such is the case the sooner other Clubs come under the same category the better. The management was all that could be desired, every steward present being on the alert. Last year they came down on owners and jockeys in the Selling Race, disqualifying one for life and the jockeys concerned for twelve months, not caring who their masters were. On Saturday three or four cases came under their notice, which at the time of writing have not been heard, so no remarks are necessary. After the last Takapuna meeting it was reported that James Wattie had announced his intention of never wielding the flag again. However, he was at Otahuhu, so remarking that the starting was disgraceful is superfluous. There was even three false starts for a three-and-a-half miles steeplechase. He has not any idea even of the rudiments of starting, and has not the slightest control over the jockeys, who simply laugh at him. Mr. Halstead must be congratulated on his handicaps, as he brought the fields well together, there being some close finishes, and would have been more had the starting been decent. In the Maiden Plate Tulloch got away with a strong lead or he would never have beaten Morion, who was very badly ridden, though he was giving him 21lb. The Steeplechase, notwithstanding the false starts, was one of the best ever seen in Auckland, the field being well together all the way, none of them making a mistake. Bit of Blue, if his jockey had come a little sooner, would have won, instead of being beaten a short neck, as Hopeful Kate was all out, while the pony had a bit left in him. Parnell was a good third, the others being well up. The start for the Flying Stakes was also a very bad one. Just before the last race, the Welter, some person or persons set fire to the gorse close to the course coming up the straight, so the horses had to come through the smoke, therefore too much reliance must not be placed on that running. Time was pretty fairly kept, and if the Committee go on as they are doing the Onehunga Racing Club will take a prominent lead, instead of being looked down upon, as they are at present.

The racing commenced with the Maiden Plate, for which the following came to the post:—Tulloch, 7st, 1; Morion, 8st 7lb, 2;

Fragrance, 7st 4lb (including 7lb overweight); 3; Maid of Erin, 7st 3lb, Lorace, 7st, Acacia, 7st 8lb (including 10lb overweight), and Transit, 7st 1lb (including 3lb overweight). There was a wretched start, Tulloch getting the best and Morion and Maid of Erin the worst of it. At the fall of the flag Tulloch went to the front, but was soon pulled back, leaving Fragrance with the lead. On coming round the bend Morion began to make up his ground. Fragrance led into the straight, where she was done with. Tulloch then went to the front. At the distance Morion came, but swerving under the whip, through Fletcher letting his head go, left Tulloch to win by a length. A moderate third.

Six came to the post for the Hurdle Race. Bit of Blue, 10st 10lb, 1; Tawhana, 9st, 2; Tommy, 9st 7lb (including 3lb over), 3; Colonel, 11st 7lb, Good Day, 10st; Chance, 9st 4lb (including 4lb over). There was a good deal of delay at the post through Chance being fractious, when the flag fell to a moderate start. Bit of Blue went to the front, but was soon pulled back, Tawhana making the running, Tommy, Chance and Bit of Blue following. In this order they went down the back of the course, where Good Day ran off. Colonel coming round the bend tried to make up his ground, but at the turn for home he was beaten. On entering the straight Tawhana, Tommy, and Chance were together, with Bit of Blue close up. At the distance the latter came away, winning easily by a couple of lengths; a good third. Chance, who was done with at the distance, finished fourth.

The Spring Handicap, 1½ mile, brought out the following good field:—Ingorina, 8st 9lb, 1; Leorina, 9st 6lb, 2; Ida, 6st 7lb, 3; Belmont, 7st 7lb, Tupara, 7st 3lb, Glaucus, 7st, Ilma, 6st 7lb, Tulloch, 7st (including 7lb penalty). Belmont, though dead lame, was made a great favourite, with Ingorina second in demand. There was a great deal of messing about at the post, Tupara breaking away twice. The flag at last fell to a bad start, which Leorina took advantage of, but was soon pulled back, leaving Ida and Tupara with the lead. Glaucus and Ingorina headed the rest, with Tulloch last. At the back of the course Ida made the running, with Glaucus and Ingorina close up. Ida led into the straight, closely followed by Ingorina and Glaucus, when the latter was run against a post and came down, Belmont also falling. At the distance Ingorina and Leorina came with a rush, but the former running the longest won cleverly by a length; dead heat for second place. Time as given, 2min. 15secs.

The Pony Race produced seven runners, Silkworm, 7st 7lb, winning cleverly from Sepoy, 8st 12lb, and Ruby, 7st. Rata, 7st; Flirtation, 6st 10lb; Hanna, 6st 7lb; and M.D., 6st 7lb, also ran.

For the Flying Stakes the following field came out:—Ingorina, 8st 9lb, 3; Helen McGregor, 7st 7lb, 2; Capella, 7st 12lb, 3; Leorina, 9st 4lb, Vieux Rose, 7st 4lb, Papakura, 7st 4lb. This was another wretched start, Helen McGregor getting all the best of it, while Vieux Rose was left at the post. The former made all the running until entering the straight, when Ingorina came and won easily by a length; a good third. Time, 1min. 21secs.

The Steeplechase brought out six runners, resulting in a good race. Hopeful Kate, 10st 10lb, 1; Bit of Blue, 10st 10lb, 2; Parnell, 10st 7lb, 3; The Colonel, 11st 4lb, Neck or Nothing, 9st 10lb, Tawhana, 9st 7lb, and Tommy, 9st 7lb, also ran. After three false starts they were let go. Neck or Nothing made the running for the first half mile at a slow pace, Parnell and Tommy heading the remainder. At the far side of the course Parnell went to the front and increased the pace, Tommy, Hopeful Kate, and Bit of Blue next, Neck or Nothing falling back. Going off the course, past the back of the stand Hopeful Kate took second place. In this order they went into the country. On landing on the course Hopeful Kate led and Tommy was beaten. On making the turn for home Bit of Blue began to come up. When in the straight he passed Tommy, and coming very fast, he caught and settled Parnell, but could not quite get up to Hopeful Kate, who won all out by a short neck. Parnell easing up, a dozen lengths away third. Tommy and Chance passed the post next, The Colonel being tailed off last.

Four came out for the Selling Race. Octopus, 9st 13lb, made all the running, and won easily by a length from The Barb, 9st 5lb, Millifera,