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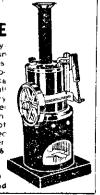
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## BOOK REVIEWS (Cont'd.)

won. The game was not properly organised in Wellington until the following year, when a Press notice read: "We remind sporting friends that a meeting of gentlemen interested in foot ball, paper hunts, and other good old Branch Hotel to-morrow evening."

Each year from 1870 onwards is treated separately by Mr. Swan, whose aim is to show the growth of the game as it was adopted in various centres. So each chapter is interspersed with Press reports, minutes of meetings, and so on. It is all very interesting and some of it very amusing. Here is a passage from a report in the Willington paper The New Zealander, written in 1878:

Football is becoming such a dangerous pastime that something should be done to stop it. There is nothing artistic, scientific, or graceful about the game, and judging from the frequency of casualties connected with it, it can hardly be said to be a healthy pursuit. Bull-baiting and cockfighting have more to recommend them as recreations than the rough-and-tumble hoodlum amusement yelept football which our youths seem to take so much delight in.

I also like this one:
While the tenner Phoebe was in port last night, we were favoured with a visit from some youths calling themselves the Nelson Foot-ball players, who, we understand, were returning from a match in Wellington.

If their talents are on a par gton. If then talents are the their impertinence, it must worth to see them play. We hope they a trifle to see them play. precious lot.—(The Mariberough Press, 1870).

But it is by no means just a collection of resurrected tit-bits. All tours by New Zealand teams overseas, and by teams in New Zealand, are fully covered. It is in fact a complete history, an invaluable addition to any sporting library.

-Winston McCarthy

## A WIND THAT FOLLOWS FAST DEEP WATER YACHT RIG. By Conor O'Brien.\* Oxford University Press through

Geoffrey Cumberlege.

THIS is a practical book; the author's third on the problems associated with cruising under sail. It consists of details of his own experiences in deep water, including his round-the-world cruise. He admits that he is "not a scientific designer." The book is primarily a discussion of sails, but there is no mention of the wind tunnel experiments on sails and airscrews undertaken at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the 1914-18 war and continued for some years later. Indeed, there is no mention of the aero-dynamics of sails at all. Yet O'Brien's practical commonsense and experience frequently lead him to the same conclusions as those of the scientist.

The book opens with a general chapter on deep-water design, followed by a

chapter on hulls. These are necessary preliminaries to the study of sails. The author comes out strongly for square sails and clearly disapproves of Bermuda rig, ketches, main-booms and rigging screws (among other things). His "window curtain" square sail will in-

terest many deep water men, as will his advocacy of bonnets on his loose-footed sails. The chapter on spars and rigging is full of old-fashioned commonsense, and the devices for reducing wear and chafing or for ease of handling gear will repay study. Some of the best of his gadgets are set out in details in the plates. The chapter on deck-gear is especially interesting.

A surprising omission from his tirade against small compasses is any mention of the aeroplane type compass. Using this, on the course being set, it is only necessary to keep the needle between two white lines and this is the complete answer to all O'Brien's strictures. His remarks on standard sizes for gear are probably the most important in the book.

Most yachtsmen have toyed at some time or other with the idea of a long ocean passage. Here are practical points for him who intends to make that passage—and delightful "saltwater technical" reading for him who just intends to read about it.

—J.D.McD.

## RACINE RE-EXAMINED

VIEW OF THE PLAYS OF NEWRACINE. By Vera Orgel, Ph.D. Macmillan,

THERE are qualities of insight, of loyalty, and of exhaustive study in this appreciation of Racine that command a sincere respect, even when, as happens here and there, Dr. Orgel's views do not compel complete agreement. If one devotes prolonged, concentrated attention to a work of art, one is apt to see in it unsuspected shades of meaning and subtleties of intention. Ruskin, for instance, spent part of every day for nine months in contemplation. on a specially erected scaffolding, of frescoes in Santa Maria Novella, and ended by seeing in them things certainly not seen before; nor, with almost equal certainty, thereafter. Thus in a figure of St. Peter he saw an allegorical representation of "Justice without hands," although, as a result of clumsy painting over, the actual figure appears to have three hands. The history of literature is full of examples of the queer effects of such intensive application. Not to mention the ingenuity expended in extracting the last shred of meaning out of a faulty translation of manuscripts of much-debated authenticity, there is the Baconian heresy with its crop of derivatives; the Homeric theory of Samuel Butler; the brilliant futility of Hockart's attempt to show that the Histories of Tacitus and other works are a 15th Century fake; misdirections of skill and scholarship that provide an

orifice for a point as subtle As Ariachne's broken web to enter in,

> One recent example -an elaborate and rather pointless hoax -serves as a good illustration and is too tempting to resist: an article in the New Statesman of July 17 last sees in Through the Looking Glass, an allegorical prophecy of future world history, the writer hav-

