

AN AMBIGUOUS OFFER.

Some of the expressions used in sport (says a writer in an exchange) are a bit confusing. A party of cyclists were starting for a run, and one of the young ladies who was a bit late—ladies sometimes are when preparing for an outing—was left behind. Finally a cyclist, with whom she was distantly acquainted, came along, and hearing the tale of woe, said, "Oh, don't bother about them. You come with me, and we'll soon catch up. I'll nurse you all right." "Excuse me, but you'll do nothing of the kind," said the lady with some firmness. "I don't allow married men to nurse me." The poor, confused man had to explain hurriedly, through his blushes, exactly what nursing meant in cycle racing language. I am not quite sure what it does mean, but it doesn't mean nursing in the sense understood either in family circles or at seaside picnics.

HE SPOILT THE SERMON.

A good story is told (says a writer in the *Australasian*) by a correspondent, to whom I have been previously indebted, of a clergyman well known in the Western district—a man of most orthodox views, an authority on Church statistics, and yet somewhat resembling Eli in the management of his family. Being a very close reader, it was his usual plan before leaving his study for the pulpit, to take one final look at his sermon, to see that his mischievous son had not been at his favourite trick of "nicking a leaf" from the MS. and thereby destroying the thread of the discourse. Once bitten, the reverend gentleman had ever since been on his guard. He was announced to re-deliver, in a neighbouring township, his pet sermon on temperance. All went well till the peroration, when he asked the momentous question: "And what is necessary to enable us to attain to this high ideal of humanity?" Then, after an oratorical pause, he furnished the answer himself in the following words:—"Nothing but spirituous stimulants?" The erring and irreverent son was answerable for the change of the original "spiritual stimulus" into the more familiar "spirituous stimulants."

OTAGO AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL SUMMER SHOW.

THE twenty-first summer show of the above Society was held at Tahuna Park last Wednesday and Thursday. There was a large attendance of visitors from all parts of the country and the town people were also very largely represented, fully 14,000 persons being on the grounds on Thursday afternoon. The show of sheep, cattle, and horses, though not as numerous as last year was still in point of quality up to the usual standard. The implements exhibited were much more numerous than last year, every possible class of farming machinery being shown. The following is a detailed account of some of the principal exhibits:—

MASSEY-HARRIS COY. (LIMITED)

As at last year's show, this company's exhibit is up to its usual high standard of excellence. The quality of the machines exhibited and the completeness of the arrangements of the same could not be surpassed. Chief among the exhibits are the wide open reapers and binders of the company which are now known all over the globe, and this year have the advantage of roller and ball bearings, which makes the draught very easy. Farmers should make a point of inspecting the above improvements as they are a great advantage to the binder. They also show Imperial Reapers, Brantford one and two horse mowers, hayrakers with steel wheels, hay tedders, turnip pulpers, single, double, treble and four furrow ploughs and scufflers with one and two long levers and long hillers. The binder, as well as several other machines, are shown in motion, and attracted a large number of visitors from the country who seemed to be thoroughly satisfied that the machines were all that they were represented to be. Another useful implement exhibited was the Massey-Harris cultivator, which is now very largely used throughout the country, and also their famous grain drills with 15 and 19 shoes. One great advantage of the perfected roller and ball bearings in the binders and mowers is that it reduces the friction which increases as the supply of oil decreases. The sale of the firm's implements has now assumed enormous proportions and they have become favourites with the whole farming community. A quantity of oil was also shown. Within the last two years this firm have gone into the bicycle business, and as with all their other machines, their bicycles are of the very best quality and the excellent display made by the firm is a standing proof of the popularity these machines have already gained. The success of the Massey-Harris bicycle since its introduction proves it to be a high grade bicycle in point of construction, material, design and finish. The whole exhibit of this firm reflected great credit on the management as it was in every way interesting and complete. Representatives of the firm were on the ground, and with their usual courtesy explained the full working of the above implements and bicycles.

REID AND GRAY.

As usual, this firm's stand is replete with every kind of modern machinery. Chief among their exhibits is the Deering "Pony" and "All Steel" harvesters and binders (for which the firm are sole agents). These binders are specially built for the New Zealand market, and will handle both long or short grain equally well, they are fitted with ball and roller bearings. Being shown in motion, they attract a great deal of attention. The Deering "Ideal" mowers, also fitted with ball and roller bearings, are on view. A 11-inch four roller double chaffcutter and bagger is worthy of notice, and is fitted with patent reversing gear. Their Eureka seed turnip and manure drills also receive favourable comment. Steel and wood frame disc harrows of all sizes are fitted with all the latest improvements, one special feature on both harrows being that they were drawn from the ends, which effectually protects the bearings against

dirty and loose earth getting into them. Ploughs of every description in endless variety are shown, and, needless to say, are a credit to this firm. The mould boards are all now made in duplicate, thus enabling the farmer to renew the boards himself without going to the blacksmith's. Grubbers, rollers, double drills, drays chaffcutters, etc., are shown in abundance. Clayton and Shuttleworth's threshing mill (at work) is another attractive feature, and is fitted with patent divided blast and front discharge, and the screens are larger than formerly. It is also fitted with a turnover straw elevator. Burrell's traction engine, with enlarged firebox and loose winding drum, is an important feature of this stand. A new departure for this firm to make is in the direction of a large marquee filled with bicycles from the well-known English makers Rudge-Whitworth, for which Reid and Gray are sole agents for the South Island. A collection of sundries, comprising mill fittings, leather beltings, wire strainers, fencing standards, binder twine, oils, rasps, etc., completes the exhibits in this stand.

NIMMO AND BLAIR.

The exhibit of Messrs Nimmo and Blair is an extensive one, and comprises "Standard" seeds of various sorts, manures, binder twine, cocoanut oilcake, restorine, lactina, and the now well known "Planet Jr." implements, besides other machinery for agricultural purposes. Although everything is "for exhibition only," and notwithstanding the fact that the seeds have had no special preparation for show, being just what are sold by them in the ordinary way of commerce, the high quality of the seeds is apparent to the close observer. The varieties shown are only those most largely used by the agriculturist, and consist of ryegrass, cocksfoot, clovers, fescue, turnip, and other seeds. Manures exhibited are their celebrated "Standard" bone manure (which, since the results of the trials held by the Agricultural and Pastoral Society, has always had a large demand), Lawes's superphosphates, Cross's superphosphates, and Anglo-Continental dissolved guano. Chief among the exhibits of implements are the various "Planet Jr." machines, these ranging in size from the two-horse riding harrow and cultivator down to the various small hand machines. The riding harrow and cultivator is the latest novelty from the "Planet Jr." works, and consequently attract considerable attention. It is fitted with nine cultivator teeth adjustable to any position on the frame; it can also be made into a driller, opening up three drills at a time, and with the various attachments which fit on to this machine a great variety of farm work can be done; and the riding harrow and cultivator bids fair to equal in popularity the better known and smaller "Planet Jr." horse hoe. Additional implements shown are "Advance" chilled ploughs, Le Butt's seed drills, Cahoon seed sower, etc., and to all interested in labour-saving tools an inspection of Messrs Nimmo and Blair's exhibits will be found of value.

INTERESTING MARRIAGE CEREMONY IN AUCKLAND.

A MARRIAGE ceremony of more than ordinary interest was solemnized under bright and happy auspices, enhanced by the blessings and good offices of our Holy Church, at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday, November 17. The contracting parties, Mr. Daniel Flynn and Miss Mary Mahoney, are well known and widely respected for their many and sterling qualities, eminently characteristic in the good Catholic. On the eventful morning at 10 o'clock the bridal party entered the church. Mr. William Mahoney (one of our most respected citizens), father of the bride, led her to the rails. The bridesmaids were Miss Nora Mahoney, sister of the bride, Miss Flynn, sister of the bridegroom, and Misses Nellie and Katie Mahoney, younger sisters of the bride, and Misses Mary and Nellie Flynn. Mr. P. Flynn, brother of the bridegroom, was best man, and with him Master James Mahoney. There were also present Mesdames Mahoney and Flynn, mother of the bride and bridegroom; Very Rev. Father O'Reilly, P.P., Thames; Rev. Fr. Hackett, P.P., Paeroa; Fr. Gillan, Ponsonby; Fr. Brodie, St. Benedict's; and Fr. Buckley, St. Patrick's. Father Croke celebrated the nuptial Mass, during which the happy couple received Holy Communion. John and Edmund Mahoney, brothers of the bride, answered Mass, at the conclusion of which the holy sacrament of matrimony was solemnly performed by Father Croke. In its every detail it was thoroughly Catholic, and now-a-days when so little is made by the unthoughtful of this important and sacred function, it is worthy of record. At the termination of the ceremony the party left the Cathedral, which was well filled, for the residence of Mr. Wm. Mahoney, where a sumptuous breakfast was in readiness. The company which sat down consisted of all those mentioned above, and Mr. and Mrs. Butler, Mr. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. Lawless, Paeroa; Mr. and Mrs. James O'Brien, and Mr. John Patterson, J.P. After breakfast Fathers O'Reilly, Hackett, Gillan, and Brodie, and Messrs. Corbett and Patterson spoke in eulogistic terms of the happy pair, and referred to the highly edifying spectacle they had just witnessed, and which would assuredly be attended with the best and happiest results.

The bride was neatly attired in white figured llama, veil with orange blossoms, and hat to match. The bridesmaids, Misses Mahoney and Flynn, were dressed in shower of hail, as were also Misses M. and N. Flynn. Misses N. and K. Mahoney in white silk.

The presents were numerous and costly, and of a decidedly useful character. An uncle of the bride presented her with a cheque for £100. In the afternoon the newly-married pair took train for the Waikato, where the honeymoon was spent.

One and all wish them God's choicest blessings and favours, and long years of usefulness and happiness to which they have laid claim by reason of their exemplary lives.

A tragedian recently playing Richard III., in a small provincial town, was waited on after the show by an honest farmer, who said that "if the gen'l'man who wanted a horse was still in the same mind he would like to do business with him."