

Our Sports Summary

ATHLETICS.

At the Otago Provincial Championships held at the Caledonian grounds the other Saturday, J. Cameron won the 3-mile and T. McAllen was second in the 1-mile walk. A. Brown won the ½-mile cycle handicap. All three are members of the St. Patrick's A.A. Club.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' CRICKET CLUB, DUNEDIN.

The 2nd grade team had no difficulty in defeating Albion on Saturday, the 28th ult. Toomey (25) and McCarten (20) batting well; Brooks and McCarten sharing the bowling honors.

The bad wicket provided for the 3rd grade permitted of but poor cricket, but the Brothers' team showed their superiority over Albion 3rd to the score of 59 to 32. For the winners Toomey (15), Roughan (14), O'Connor (11), and Ryan (10) batted well. O'Connor (3 for 0), O'Neill (5 for 10), and Cusack (2 for 8) bowled well. For Albion Holden 6 wickets and Duncan 4 were the only successful bowlers. None of the Albion players reached double figures; Silver being top scorer with 8.

By defeating Carisbrook the 4th grade surpassed all expectations. This game was the most exciting one of the season. Christian Brothers' just managing to better their opponents' score by 2 runs. Rae (34), Paul (29), Sheehy (13), and Parsons (12) were the only batsmen to reach double figures; while Sheehy (3 for 20), Paul (5 for 34), and McKewen (1 for 28) were the most successful bowlers.

DUNEDIN FOOTBALL CLUB. ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

In presenting the 54th annual report of the Dunedin Football Club, the committee have much pleasure in congratulating the members on the improved status of the club in the Rugby world, gained by their added interest in all club affairs and their keenness on the field. The active membership has increased from year to year during the past four years, and this numerical increase has strengthened the club both on the field and in its financial position. The recent very successful tour of the All Blacks has had the effect of increasing Rugby football interest amongst all classes of the public throughout New Zealand, and the Dunedin Club, together with other clubs, can look forward during the coming season to increased public support.

On comparison with 1923 season all teams showed distinct improvement in their various grades. The 5th grade are to be congratulated on their winning the banner in the grade; their record:—Played 12, won 11, lost 0, drawn 1, points for 176, against 18; being a very fine one. This team also won two matches played with a Palmerston junior team; one match being played at Dunedin, and a return match at Palmerston. Mr. J. Bond, as coach, is deserving of all thanks from the members of the team for the very active interest he took in them.

During the year the club suffered severe losses by the transfer of Mr. St. J. J. Dunne and Mr. J. O'Sullivan from Dunedin. Both

of these gentlemen took an active interest in club affairs, and while being sorry to lose them we wish them success in their new spheres.

The social side of the club has not been neglected during the past year. The several dances were well patronised and the final dance in particular, was a highly successful function. A smoke concert was also held and this proved a very enjoyable evening, representatives from the O.R.F.U., Referees' Association, and sister clubs being present. The annual picnic for junior members was again held at Company's Bay, and favored by perfect weather, a record attendance of over 100 boys resulted. During the day, races were run off and the winners presented with prizes, kindly donated by several of the club supporters.

It behoves all members to put the best foot forward at the commencement of the coming season and endeavor to advance their club still further up the football ladder in Dunedin. This can be done by the introduction of new members and by consistent training. The erection of proper arc lights by the Caledonian Society on the grounds, provides greater facilities in this direction.

The thanks of the club are due to the many generous supporters who materially assisted with donations; to Mr. F. Carter for the use of office for meetings, to Mr. R. Maxwell (caretaker of the Caledonian ground), to the Referees' Association, the O.R.F.U., and the press.

TIPS FOR THE RUNNING TRACK. (Concluded from last week.)

Away back in pre-war days New Zealand athletic sports meetings were attended by the speediest performers in Australasia. Men like McLachlan, McManus, Morris, and Hourigan, put up some of their finest performances on New Zealand tracks, and these men were living examples of the value of massage. They were for ever searching their bodies for hard spots. Deft fingers would burrow into the firm, springy flesh until the hard spot was located and isolated. It would then be kneaded like dough till the hardness disappeared. Of course, they used oils and embrocations, but when men have been running for months upon all kind of tracks and exposed to all kinds of weather they very often had to use artificial means to patch themselves up quickly pro tem. And even when using the liniments they always insisted that the benefit was derived from rubbing.

The Shoe.—The runner should always be very particular about his shoes. He should see that they fit him. His best plan is to have his shoes made to measure by a shoemaker who knows the requirements of the running track. Slop-made shoes are usually made of a material that stretches easily. Consequently, after a run or two they are useless. To give satisfaction the leather must be stretched before the shoe is made. It must fit very tightly on the foot, as there must be no slipping and sliding inside the shoe. It must be made so that it will fit

very tightly without giving pain, and the leather, though very thin and light, must be strong enough to withstand the strain put upon it by a strong runner in a sprint race. McLachlan used to say that a runner was a four-yards better man over a hundred in a well-made shoe than he was in one of indifferent make. The shoe should be fitted with six spikes, each ¾ in in length. There are no heels, of course, to these shoes. For distance running (four-fortys, half-miles, and miles) the spikes should be much shorter. It is inadvisable to wait until a pair of shoes is worn out before ordering another. The better plan is to have the new pair broken in long before they are needed. The old professionals, while they were very careless about the condition of other parts of their running gear, were always scrupulously exact about the condition of their shoes. Sox should not be worn in running shoes. A man always runs better if he can feel the grip of his spikes in the track.

The Catholic Parent: Needed Co-operation With the School

It is a complaint by no means uncommon among Catholic teachers (says an exchange) that the best efforts of the school are often checked, or even destroyed, by the influences which exist at home. This complaint, generally made with good reason, is found among teachers in all institutions from the primary grades to the college.

Once the child is entrusted to the Catholic school, there need be no fear that the teachers will fail to do their duty. They are teachers, but they are also, for the most part, religious, whose work and institute have been approved by the Church. Yet they must be able to count upon the sustained and intelligent interest of the parents of their pupils. This lacking, they cannot hope to succeed. They understand, as many parents do not, that a school-year does not consist of twelve months, but of fewer than 200 four-hour days. About 800 hours only are controlled by the school; during the remaining 7960 hours of the year the child is, or should be, under the supervision of the home. If the influence there exercised reinforces the plan and purposes of the school, success is almost certain. If it does not, failure can hardly be avoided.

The man who invests £100 without careful consideration, or who is not concerned to guard his investment once made, has only himself to blame in the day of disaster. Were the same principle to be applied to the school-disasters we must occasionally deplore the burden of blame and responsibility would be lifted from the school and placed where it belongs, namely, upon careless and negligent parents. By legal assumption, the child is the father's most precious possession. Actual fact usually verifies the assumption. But the exception which may prove fatal is the parent's lack of interest in the school-life of his child.

These are obvious reflections, but it is the obvious which too often is neglected or altogether forgotten. Not the least important resolution for every father and mother at the beginning of the new year is to know the school to which they have entrusted their child, and to co-operate with it.