

The  
Australasian Racing Pigeon.

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OUR appeal last month to the fancy has brought forth splendid fruit, proving that the fancy on the whole are sound at the core. We have had almost a record month as regards subscriptions. Some of the secretaries of small country clubs have excelled themselves. Fred. Eyles, of Orange, heads the list to date with 17 new subs, and Mr. Jamieson, of Kyneton, Victoria, is running a good second. Besides these many other secretaries are battling for us. "Buck up, Bushell." "Don't worry; we will help you keep the A.R.P. ship afloat." "I am sending my own sub. and these for . . . and won't be satisfied until every member of the club are subscribers." These are some of the messages I am getting from our band of A.R.P. readers from right across the continent. Another from friend Thornton in far-away Mildura. "Am enclosing 4/- for my sub.; hang it all, it's worth 5/-." And he actually sends us the extra 1/-. This is all very splendid, and to myself will be a good tonic. I thank all these many friends, and will endeavour to merit such splendid loyalty.

As regards the A.R.P. rings, triumphant is the only fitting word to use. Victorian Homing Association and West Australian Association, besides many others, are our latest clients. Our difficulty now is not in selling, but in getting them in sufficient quantities. A separate par appears in this issue re same.

Another visitor, this time from the Homeland, in the person of Mr. J. W. Marsh, of the s.s. Somerset. He is the

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son of that very great fancier, Mr. F. Marsh, winner of the "News of the World" championship and £105. We did not get his father's letter until too late to advise our Melbourne friends whilst his ship lay in that port, but we will see he has a good time while at Sydney. Friend Collinson, of Melbourne, after his recent visit to this State, wrote about the splendid brotherhood existing amongst the fancy, especially whilst travelling in other States. A. C. Gerard, of N.Z., wrote in the same style. This is as it should be, and the A.R.P. intends to develop the social side of the sport to the utmost limits. Let a fancier feel whilst away from home that he is not a stranger so long as there exists in the States which he is visiting other pigeon cranks, who, we hope, will combine to give the visitor "a real good pigeon time."

The arrival of race schedules denotes that racing is about to commence, and we are all hopefully looking to the coming season to add to our laurels. No matter what the bitter experiences of

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other years have been, we have all pretty well got one defect, that is as regards having certain favorites (especially the good-looking ones) in the loft. We are dead sure they will get through. Alas! they seem to go down just like the others. I am writing this in front of the racing lofts. Both the cocks and hens have had their morning fly, and being the week end they are allowed extra liberty as regards idling about in the yard. How proudly the young cocks disport themselves! There is one, a beautiful red cheq, showing off in front of the hens in that section of the prisoners' aviary. I feel that he could be safely pooled on any race just now, so magnificent, so graceful, and full of vigor, almost bursting with energy, he is one of the favorites, and in my dreams I can see lots of prizes ahead, but at the end of the racing season will other years' experiences repeat themselves? Will there be the usual vacant perches, his amongst the number? I shall never forget one pathetic sentence in a recent letter from Dr. Schilling. He was telling me about "Orlande" having gone down in her fourth 1011

mile race. Besides doing the 500 mile stage twice, she had accomplished the longer journey three times, and at her fourth attempt she failed, and he philosophically adds, "It's all in the game." Thus Orlande's perch knows her no more. Would it not be more practical if we fanciers ceased making favorites until the end of each season? The birds that had come through would have proved their merit. This would save many heart-burnings and humiliations, but I suppose this would be expecting too much of "human pigeon nature."

On the 25th ult., owing to the efforts of our Mr. Hiddlestone and Mr. Catts, M.H.R., the Minister for Customs met a deputation consisting of Messrs. Appleby, McNamara, Willes, Hiddlestone and myself, the object of the deputation being to have removed the excessive duty on rings and pigeon timing machines. After listening patiently to the various arguments, the Minister promised sympathetic consideration, and we trust the obnoxious duties will be removed.

On the 26th ult. the Sydney No. 1 Club carried a very important motion, viz., "That the Sydney Federation disband, and that a new Federation be formed under the name of the Sydney Western Federation." This would enable the new Federation to frame a new and more perfect set of rules. The motion was carried unanimously, and we trust the object will be achieved.

Ever since the founding of the "A.R.P." fancy pigeon and utility men have been clamoring for space to be devoted to their special hobbies. We have steadily resisted, knowing that racing men would object to the new innovation. However, we have decided to publish another journal, devoted solely to these two sections of the fancy, and ask our readers to make known to their friends the fact that the new publication will be issued on July 15th. A separate par appears in this issue.

THEORIES AND QUERIES.

(By "Trier.")

Again we have the racing season upon us, and already have our birds well up the line in training. Every fancier has his own ideas on this important subject, and the old hand at the game has, doubtless, evolved a system for himself, after trying many, many. Numerous theories have been propounded, and given to the confiding novice as infallible, but what suits one country or district does not suit all. Atmospheric and other conditions differ, and the best advice a beginner can follow is that given by an old hand living in the same locality as himself and training his birds under similar conditions.

It will be found, among other things, that some stations give better results than others with regard to return of birds, for reasons that are impossible to fathom, and this is only one of the many things that a novice can gather from the experience of others.

There is no doubt that locality affects pigeons, and that birds from dis-