

The
Australasian Racing Pigeon.

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WITH this issue we commence the second year of the existence of the "A.R.P." This day twelve months ago we expressed the hope that we would be able to fill a long-felt want with our little publication, and help to raise the status of the sport in Australasia much as the English fancy press has done in the Old Country. We also said that this could only be done by the fancy as a whole helping us to the best of their ability. We repeat this statement, and hope all members of the fancy will continue to help us to keep the paper going, and, moreover, that they will look at the paper as being their own paper, to be used by all as the organ of the fancy. We do not desire our readers to look on the paper as being used as the means of expressing the views of any one man or any one section of the fancy.

We referred to the fact that our birds were doing good work in France and in the North Sea, and this fact has been brought home to us by the Australian military authorities asking the Sydney fanciers to supply 600 birds in June, and a further 600 in July, to be followed up by regular consignments. Melbourne fanciers also have sent in their June consignment to the military. A record will be kept of every bird sent in, and should any one put up a particularly meritorious performance, the breeder will be notified.

We wish to thank our many contributors, advertisers, and subscribers for the way in which they rallied round and have stuck to the paper during the first year of its existence, and we hope they will one and all continue to support us in the future. The contributors have all given their work voluntarily, and we can only thank them heartily for the way in which they have done this. The advertisers and subscribers we have tried to give value for their money, and hope we have succeeded in doing so. If we have done so, will they please tell their friends? If not, please tell us.

We have been advised by some friends to reprint more of the articles appearing in the Old Country press, and yet others express the view that our readers would far sooner hear more of the history of the sport in Australia, especially of the early days. Now it is very difficult to gather in and put on paper the many stories of the doings of the pioneers of our sport, and we would be obliged if some of our readers would put their experiences on paper, and post them to our Editor, G.P.O. Box 2464, Sydney. Don't worry about grammar or copper-plate writing; just jot it down on anything handy, and send it along. He will shape it up for you.

THEORIES AND QUERIES.

The general topic in the various club-rooms at the present time is training. Many roads lead to Rome, and nearly every fancier has some theory of his own with regard to the training of his birds. At one time I very carefully carried out the instructions laid down by the various writers in the Home papers and annuals, giving the birds short tosses at, say, 2, 5, 10 miles, and so on, but of late years I have come to the conclusion that we can dispense with many of these short stages. I am referring now to the training of yearlings, as we do not race squeakers in Sydney nowadays. Well, these yearlings get their first toss about 15 miles. This is repeated several times, and perhaps a 30-mile toss, then into the first race, 70 miles. Maybe I am getting lazy as I get older, and take less trouble and more risks with the birds, and perhaps the more carefully trained birds of other fanciers bring my birds home, and if all were treated in the same manner as mine, returns would be bad. However, the system seems to suit my birds, and it certainly suits their owner, inasmuch as it entails a minimum of work.

With regard to home treatment, I am convinced that pigeons will race and win under any rational treatment, provided the owner is consistent and sticks to the same treatment year after year, thus acclimatizing, as it were, his birds to his own particular system. The man who is continually changing his methods is doomed to failure. Because Bill Smith wins under a system of his own, don't be persuaded to change your management in the middle of a season to try and beat him with his own system.

We are continually hearing of instances that knock all our theories by the board. Recently I sent three pigeons to a 70-mile race that had been given one toss of 15 miles two months previously, and a toss at the Showground at Easter. The race turned out a hard one, and I won it, and got all three home, while several competitors did not time in, and a number of birds were lost. This may have been a fluke, but I sent two of them away again the next week, got both home, and won second, which made me think.

A friend of mine, when picking his team for the 1st Bundanoon Fed. race, put in five well-trained birds and one

that had never had a toss at all. I saw him on the Saturday with a good clock and the ring off his untrained bird in it; his next arrival was quite five minutes behind. How can we explain these hard facts?

TRIER.

ADVERTISERS' NOTES.

In this issue appears the first Westralian advertisement—that of Mr. J. A. Weaver—and, after perusal, what he has to offer will impress you as quality indeed. When Mr. Weaver some years ago wanted some of the very best, he went neither here nor there, but straight to headquarters, and imported direct from W. E. Lowe.

So satisfactory was the medicine that he repeated the dose no longer ago than 1916, and the result is, what you can see for yourself, a very fine collection of Lowe-Groeters. Coming so soon after Mr. Ashton Hanson's sale, this makes a splendid opportunity for anyone desiring to breed close to this strain to secure birds bred at the opposite ends of the Continent. That this is no mean consideration is admitted by the best authorities in the pigeon world, the difference in the climatic conditions being tantamount to an outcross in blood.

"P. John," who recently had the opportunity of inspecting these birds in Perth, wrote as follows:—

"Thanks for the address of Mr. J. A. Weaver, Perth, and in him you will be pleased to hear that I met a very courteous and enthusiastic fancier. It is very nice when away from home to see what the interstate men are doing, and hear their theories and queries. As regards Mr. Weaver's birds, as you know, these are Lowe-Groeters, and direct importations at that, which proves him to be a flyer with plenty of initiative in going after what he wants.

"After going right through the lofts and handling a good number, I will hazard the opinion that there cannot be any better birds of this strain in Australasia. Further than that, I'll say that I can't remember having ever been in a loft where the standard of quality was so consistently high right throughout the inmates.

"'Young Determination' is, of course, a son of the 'Determination,' and his dam is Lowe's 'Lady Orleanist,' the hen which was mated to Old Grooter to produce 'Serenity' and other good 'uns. He is naturally a blue, and is one of the finest birds I have ever handled, looking in the very-prime of life. As sire of birds which have won prizes from 250 right up to 662 miles, he is entitled to a lot of respect.

"'Sir Walter' is the blue son of 'Young Determination,' whose photo you have, and he is indeed a super-pigeon. The photo hardly does him justice. A shade bolder in the head than his sire, he proved himself up to 602 miles in the best of company.

"'Young Rejected' is a fine black cock imported from Lowe, and is a son of 'Rejected II,' bred by G. Bell, of Badsey, from his 'Champion Rejected.' His dam is 'Serenity,' referred to above, and he himself has already thrown first