



CYCLING,

DICK TURPIN'S WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE the improvement in the weather has had a marked effect on the number of cyclists out on the roads, which were quite alive with wheels on Saturday and Sunday.

Some of the Excelsior speed merchants beguiled me into a gentle (!) spin to Crawley the other day. We found the roads just beginning to get loose, and in places the hedge-clipper had been littering them with thorns; but a shower of rain ought to put everything right

"Bert" Paine distinguished himself by punct-

uring four times, after which he took my seat on the tandem and I again punctured on the fatal tyres, bringing my total since August 1st to an unlucky thirteen - fairly good for less than eight hundred miles!

However, we eventually got home, leaving a heavy odour of rubber solution over the twenty-seven miles of road we had just covered, and feeling thankful we were not pacing one of our party "on his hundred," as was originally intended.

Chilton and Shaw were witnesses of a nasty tramline accident on the road to Brighton last Wednesday. A light trap capsized and came down with an awful crash, through a wheel skidding in the metals.

"The Boss" did a sprint and held the horse's head, Shaw also rendering assistance; but the parties were so severely shaken that they were obliged to delay their journey a considerable time.

Coming at the same time as the similar accident to a Sunderland fire engine and the motor car spill detailed by "Juggins" in *Cycling*, both of which were caused by tramlines, it may, perhaps, result in an improvement in the way tramlines are put down. I am aware every cyclist would welcome such improvement. We have all had trouble with tramlines, but no one counts our croppers.

The Littlehampton C.C. have again accepted the challenge to Inter-Club race; this one is to be run off at the Excelsior C.C.'s Athletic and Cycling Meeting on Wednesday next.

I believe a fairly good entry has been obtained, both for cycling and flat races, and should the Weather to be on its good behaviour, the meeting ought to be a complete success. There is plenty of scope for the exhibition of Athletic prowess, the programme running from scratch and handicap cycling and flat events to football-kicking competitions and a flat race for the Club Committee.

Another local man has passed out of his novitiate as an open event rider. Richardson is the lucky man who scored a win at Preston Park last week.

The five miles Championship did not come off last Saturday, owing to the track not being available. It is hoped to bring it off next Saturday. W.R. Paine has - mainly I believe, owing to this - abandoned his racing trip to the Channel

Islands, so he will figure in the Brighton C.C.'s thirty miles race at Preston Park next Thursday, as well as in the Championship.

The run arranged for the Excelsior C.C. is "off" for Wednesday owing to the sports, and I hope the Tarring Club will arrange to make their destination the Park in order to cheer their man, "Sam" Clark, in the veterans' one mile race.

On the following Wednesday, September 26th, Captain Young is endeavouring to arrange a bread and cheese run to Angmering to close the run season.

DICK TURPIN.

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