

sions, that is, very well.

BALLOONING.

FROM THE REC. TO THE RACE-COURSE.

The reputation which the Beebe Balloon Coy. enjoys for always carrying out its advertised programme was again upheld in Pukekura Park yesterday afternoon. Mr. Beebe announced that Mr. Christopher Sebphe, holder of two world's records, etc., etc., would make an ascent in the biggest balloon "King Edward VII.," and return to mother earth by way of a single parachute. The work of filling the monster with heated air occupied some twenty minutes, and while causing endless amusement and excitement to the youngsters holding the ropes and edge, was exceedingly instructive to a considerable number of enlightened spectators. When all was ready, the balloon straining at all the ropes and the aeronaut seated in his chair, the eagerly waited-for pistol shot was heard, which meant that all were to let go, and the daring "flyer" again to trust himself to Providence. As the structure rose high over the highest trees on the hill, the slim figure in red tights was just discernable but he happily replied to the three ringing cheers from the crowd below, and waved his hand to the masses. When the aneroid registered 4400 feet Sebphe cut away and was very rapidly returning to earth when his large parachute, all the colours of the rainbow showing, checked his descent to such a degree that he almost stopped, and swayed about. He landed as lightly as though from only about four feet high and the parachute spread out all round him. Two or three men whose forethought told them where he would land, had made for the racecourse, and were within 20 yards of the spot when Sebphe greeted them. The balloon meanwhile had turned turtle immediately its occupant left, and with an ever-increasing pace as the hot air left it, reached the ground near the grandstand, some considerable time before its owner. Neither the balloon nor the parachutist were hurt in the least, and in fact could not have landed in more convenient spots.

Sebphe was very joyful on his return to the Park, and chatted freely to a Herald representative, and in fact made very light of his dangerous work. Although yesterday's flight was an exceptionally easy one, previous ones have not always been so simple. Mr. Sebphe can tell some thrilling stories as he points to the numerous patches on his structure, but he seems fairly to revel in the work. The company are to be congratulated on the complete success of the arrangements.