

YACHTING.

(By "Topesail.")

The winter recess is virtually over so far as the yachtsmen in this State are concerned. Within a few weeks the different yachting bodies will have held their opening demonstrations and have turned attention to the yachting events set down in their season's programmes. The annual meetings of both the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron and the Port Adelaide Sailing Club, recently held, show a flourishing state of things financially and a prosperous condition generally. In accordance with the custom of previous years, the sailing club, which is the junior body, will be the first to officially welcome the advent of a new season. October 28 has been agreed to as a suitable date on which to hold their opening demonstration. Members of the Royal South Australian Yacht Squadron have fixed November 4 as the date for their opening demonstration. During the past week or two members of both yachting bodies have been busily engaged in furishing up their little craft for the opening events.

Changes in ownership have been effected during the recess. Mr. H. J. King has sold his 10-metre yacht Janet, which he purchased in Sydney at the beginning of last season, to Mr. J. Hunter, who will, it is to be hoped, use her freely in the coming season's races for yachts of the rating class. Pleasure will be felt at the prospect of once more seeing the Alexa a competitor for the prizes offered by the Royals. She is now the property of Mr. H. J. King who has just finished an extended holiday cruise in her to Port Lincoln and the islands en route. The Alexa is a Fifo-designed craft, and is probably the fleetest vessel of her type in Australian waters. She was built by Mr. McFarlane on the Birkenhead side of the Port Adelaide River in 1892 for Mr. A. P. Wyly, who in the following year won the Kintore Cup with her. The Alexa was five times the winner of the Kintore Cup, which is a perpetual trophy. Mr. Wyly sold the craft to Mr. E. F. Belt. That gentleman, however, did not race her as much as he might have done. Last season she was not in commission. Mr. P. Marks has purchased from Mr. A. J. Smith the motor launch Rambler, and Mr. Smith has obtained the Valeria from Mr. A. G. Rymall. A season with the Mimosa sufficed for Mr. C. H. Trench. Mimosa's new owner is Professor Mitchell. Mr. D. J. Matthew's Zenobia is an addition to the fleet. She is fitted with a 5-h.p. standard engine. The new motor launch Woy Woy, built by B. Weir for Mr. O. H. Keidel, will be a decided acquisition to the Royal's fleet. She is fitted with a 18-h.p. Loew-Victor engine, is 32 ft. 6 in. long and 8 ft. 6 in. beam. Her timbers are of kauri, but a raised cabin is constructed of blackwood. The little vessel is of shallow draft, and is designed essentially for cruising. Dr. A. W. Hill has converted his yacht Miranda into an auxiliary vessel. She has had a 24-h.p. Gray engine installed. Her spars have been shortened and her false keel removed. Dr. E. W. Morris has added the Kunawar to the squadron's register. Originally the Kunawar was a Sydney motor boat, called the Curlew. She is 48 ft. long and of comparatively light draft. The Alcione, owned by Messrs. Haggard, Johnson, and Van der Borch, and built at the end of last

season, is now on the Royal's register. Mr. R. W. McArthur has had a new 30 ft. length class sailing boat built for the coming season. A few dinghies and smaller craft have also been turned out, chiefly for members of the Port Adelaide Sailing Club.

A copy of the first issue of "The Anchor," the new all Australian and New Zealand yachting and motor boating newspaper, has been sent to me. It is a neatly designed brochure, replete with information of interest to yachting men throughout Australasia. Yachting is dealt with in detail in each State. The articles, notes, and copious illustrations are printed on toned paper. It is intended to publish "The Anchor" fortnightly and to deal with yachting and motor boat racing throughout Australasia in all their phases. The present issue contains a well-written article on "Old Time Sydney Sailing."