

Otago Chess Club

(Incorporated).

1884—JUBILEE FUNCTION—1934

Saturday, June 9th, at 8 p.m.

PROGRAMME.

Toast—"The King."

Pianoforte Overture - - - - - Mr N. Bachop

Chairman's Remarks—

Mr D. Harris Hastings, President O.C.C.

Flute Solo - - - - - Mr Le Petit, Invercargill C.C.

Toast - - - - - "N.Z. Chess Association," proposed by

Mr J. J. Marlow, Senior Vice-president O.C.C.

Elocutionary Item - - - - - Mr S. H. Osborn

Response to Toast - - - - - Dr E. N. Merrington, President

New Zealand Chess Association.

Song - - - - - Mr E. Syrett

Toast—"The Otago Chess Club," proposed by Sir James Allen

Humorous Item—"Sam Weller on Chess" - Mr R. Herbert

Response to Toast - - - - - Mr J. Crow, Junior

Vice-president O.C.C.

Song - - - - - Mr G. Ferguson

Reminiscences - - - - - Mr O. Balk, Patron O.C.C.

Violin Solo - - - - - Mr W. Lang

Toast—"Visitors" - - - - - Proposed by Dr G. Barnett

Vocal Item - - - - - Mr W. H. Allen

Response to Toast - - - - - Mr F. Jones, M.P.

Other Items as time permits.

MIND YOUR "P's" AND "Q's."

Star Print.



\$4.50

SOUVENIR

.. Otago Chess Club ..

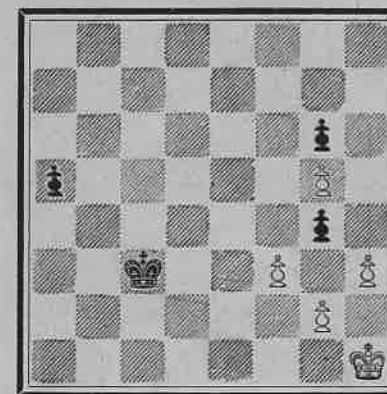
JUBILEE

1884-1934

So give me just a table,
Some chessmen, and a friend
To make me comfortable
For hours and hours on end.

A CHESS JOKE.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and draw.

Chess Club Rooms, Allbell Chambers,
Stuart Street, Dunedin,

On SATURDAY, 9th June, 1934,
at 8 o'clock.



Standing: A. M'Lean, G. D. Wright, A. J. McDermott, E. F. Evans, J. S. M. M. Lawson, W. Lang.
Sitting: W. Herbert (Hon. Sec), J. Crow (Vice-president), O. Balk (Patron), D. Harris Hastings (President),
Dr Merrington (President N.Z.C.A.), J. J. Marlow (Vice-president).

The moving finger writes, and having writ
Moves on: nor all thy piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it.
"Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam."

PREFACE.

This Souvenir is an effort to summarise some events that have happened during the past fifty years. It occurred to several of the Committee that the publication of a Souvenir, in conjunction with the other celebrations of the Club, would be appropriate in recording the present generation's appreciation of the many services rendered by past officers and other members of the Otago Chess Club for fostering the "Game of Chess" in Otago. If there are some names omitted we humbly apologise for the omission—as fifty years is a long time.

IN REMINISCENT VEIN.

By O. BALK.

Fifty years is a long span in a man's life, and it even is sufficiently long in the life of a club in a new country like this to merit joyful celebration and a retrospect. Our Club has now completed its first fifty years, and is so vigorous that we may with confidence look forward to the next fifty years and the attainment of its centenary. May some of our present members be privileged to take part in its celebration!

The Club has had its ups and downs; it reached its zenith in the second decade, when its membership was not far off the hundred mark, and included a bevy of ladies. We had two commodious rooms at our disposal in those "spacious days." This was before the advent of motor cars, gramophones, picture theatres, and the marvels of wireless and flying. To-day the spirit of the time is all for speed and not favourable to the pursuit of the Royal Game, which at all times has been a game for the few. But its extraordinary fascination and vitality are such that throughout the ages it has taken root wherever civilised man has made his home.

It may interest members that fifty years ago, when our Club was formed, I had already been playing chess for ten years, and had taken a leading part in forming a chess club in the C.E.Y.M.S., Oxford, England. On the evening of the memorable 9th June, 1884, I had a game of cribbage; being mid-summer, chess was "off." Not long after I joined the Oxford City Chess Club. Five years later, on 9th June, 1889 (Whit Sunday), we called at beautiful Genoa on the way to Japan; on the 19th we entered the tropics and played a chess match under a temperature of 96deg. Once domiciled in Japan, it was not long before the Yokohama Chess Club was called into being, with myself as secretary. Another leap of five years brings us to 9th June, 1894, when I was on my way south between Thursday Island and Townsville, and on August 22nd I arrived in Dunedin, crossed the threshold of the Otago Chess Club in the old Occidental Hotel, corner of High and Manse Streets, and formed a friendship with R. A. Cleland which lasted till his death.

HISTORY OF THE OTAGO CHESS CLUB.

Compiled from data supplied by Messrs D. H. Hastings, O. Balk, and the late H. J. Cleland.

In the early days of Otago the game of chess appears to have been a popular pastime, as two clubs existed previous to the formation of the Otago Chess Club. In 1865 the late Sir Robert Stout (then Mr R. Stout) was one of the principals in forming a Chess Club. This Club was known as the Dunedin Chess Club, and after three or four years went out of existence. In 1875 the Dunedin Chess and Draughts Club came into existence through the efforts of Mr D. R. Hay, who will be remembered by the older generation of that time as an able exponent of both games. It was on June 9th, 1884, that a meeting was convened and held in the old Coffee Palace, Moray Place (now the Criterion Hotel), and about twenty-five chess enthusiasts decided to form a Chess Club, which is now known as the Otago Chess Club, when the following officers were elected:—President, Mr E. C. Quick; vice-presidents, Mr C. S. Reeves and Dr Batchelor; hon. secretary, Mr W. H. Fitzer; hon. treasurer, Mr J. Mander; committee—Messrs J. S. Archer, W. S. Lawless, J. R. Morris, J. Richardson, W. H. Trapp, and B. Throp. Mr Quick continued as president for four years, and was relieved by Mr Reeves, one of the original vice-presidents. The only survivors of the original members to-day are Mr D. H. Hastings (still an active member) and Dr D. Colquhoun (now living in retirement at St. Clair).

For a short time the members met at various hotels for play, but were anxious to obtain rooms of their own. In a few months a suitable room was secured in the A.M.P. Building, at that time just newly erected. The Club continued here for eighteen months, when, owing to the increasing popularity of the game, resulting in increased membership, the Club found this room rather small, and decided to shift to more commodious premises in Manse Street, where they had the use of two rooms. Time went on and the Club continued to progress, when in 1894 very suitable premises were secured in Reid's Buildings, Liverpool Street. In the new quarters the Club still continued to flourish, and it will be fitting here to mention the work of the late Mr R. A. Cleland, who was not only a good player, but a writer on chess and a clever problem composer. In addition to this work he increased the activities of the Club, with the result that it reached its zenith about this time, there being a roll of about 80 to 90 members.

The Liverpool Street rooms were the most commodious and convenient that the Club had been accommodated in. The Club had the use of a telephone and a ladies' room. There was then a membership of about fifteen ladies. The names of Messrs J. Mouat, D. Forsyth, and O. Balk figure prominently in the Club's activities at that time. In 1921 the lease of the Liverpool Street premises expired, resulting in the Club having to find a new home, when it secured fairly suitable rooms in the Y.M.C.A., Moray Place. After about two years' sojourn the Y.M.C.A. authorities informed the Club that the rooms were needed. Temporary accommodation was secured with Mr D. Larnach in the South British Buildings in Liverpool Street. This was of short duration, when a further room was found in South Princes Street, near the present Empire Hotel. This did not last long, because more satis-

factory accommodation was secured in the late Mr H. Divers's board room in the present Grand Picture Buildings, Princes Street. Here the Club continued for about six years, when Mr L. Cohen, who was at that time an active member of the Club, leased us a part of his suite of rooms in Hannah's Buildings, George Street. After about two years' occupancy, the present rooms in Allbell Chambers, Stuart Street, were secured, and are the nearest approach to the old Liverpool Street quarters, being also very convenient and central.

In times of stress the loyalty of the members has always helped the Club through, and now, although it is far from wealthy, it is in a safe position. The present members have worthy traditions to live up to, and no doubt future generations will do their best to carry on in the same spirit and ensure that the Otago Chess Club will always be held in the same esteem as it is now by the citizens of Dunedin.

PAST SECRETARIES OF THE CLUB.

Owing to insufficient time it has not been possible to peruse the records of the Club to compile a complete list of past hon. secretaries. However, there were five who held the position with credit to themselves and the Club, and we wish to place on record the Club's appreciation for their honourable record in this most important position. First, we wish to mention the late Mr Hugh Cleland, who distinguished himself for several years as secretary; second, the late Mr A. R. Barclay, who also served for several years; third, Mr W. H. Allen, who served for four years, and was made a life member; fourth, Mr D. Harris Hastings, the present president, who acted in this capacity for seven years, and on relinquishing the office was made a life member of the Club for services rendered. The position was not held with any permanency for a few years after Mr Hastings resigned, until Mr G. D. Wright was appointed in 1924, and he held the position until March, 1933, when Mr W. Herbert, the present secretary, was appointed. Mr G. D. Wright's occupancy of the position (nine years) was a record for the Club, and his past very valuable services were so much appreciated that he was the recipient of suitable acknowledgements when he resigned. Mr Wright is still an active player, and a life member of the present Committee.

THE MORALS OF CHESS.

Contributed by "CHIPS."

The game of chess is not merely an idle amusement. Several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it. By playing at chess we may learn foresight, which looks a little into futurity. Consider the consequences that may attend an action, for it is continually occurring to the player—"If I move this piece?" What will be the advantage or disadvantage of my new situation? What use can my adversary make of it to annoy me? What other move can I make to support it and to defend myself against his attacks? Circumspection, which surveys the whole chessboard or scene of action, the relations of several pieces and situations, the dangers they are respectively exposed to, the probabilities that the adversary may make this or that move, attack this or the other piece, and what different means can be used to avoid his stroke or turn its consequences against his. Caution not to make our moves too hastily. This habit is best acquired by observing strictly

the laws of the game, such as: If you touch a piece you must move it somewhere; if you set it down you must let it stand. To observe these laws makes the game the image of human life, and particularly of war, in which you have incautiously put yourself into a bad and dangerous position. You cannot obtain the enemy's consent to withdraw your troops and place them more securely; you must abide by all the consequences of your rashness. We learn by chess the habit of not being discouraged by present bad appearances in the state of your affairs, the habit of hoping for a favourable change, and that of persevering in the search of resources. The game is so full of events, there is such a variety of turns in it, the fortune of it is so subject to sudden vicissitudes, and one so frequently after contemplation discovers the means of extricating oneself from a supposed insurmountable difficulty, that one is encouraged to continue the contest to the last in the hope of victory.

THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF CHESS.

By Rev. Dr. E. N. MERRINGTON,
President of the New Zealand Chess Association.

The worthy secretary of the Otago Chess Club has asked me to write a few lines for this Souvenir Booklet, and I cordially express the congratulations of the Association of the Dominion to our Provincial Club on the attainment of its jubilee. The Otago Club has had an honourable record in respect of its standard of play and the fine fellowship and character of its members. It is obvious to every person of reflection that chess is a noble form of intellectual recreation, and that gives rise to the train of thought indicated by the title chosen for these brief remarks. The educational influence of chess raises it above the level of a mere pastime. The intense concentration involved in thoughtful play develops the powers of attention to a remarkable degree. Without the ability to concentrate no progress in education can be achieved. Some people complain that chess is "too much like hard work." It would be idle to deny that there is intense mental activity in the game, but there is a zest in such strenuous preoccupation which adds greatly to the pleasure of life. Chess is opposed to mere trifling with any subject that comes before the mind. Then there is the amazing variety of the pieces, their several powers or functions, and their correlation with each other. The imagination is charmed by the beauty of many developments in attack, defence, and counter-attack. Out of the struggle for victory in the bloodless battlefields of the chessboard fine qualities of foresight, patience, initiative, and resource are brought to light. The player worthy of the game is ever learning fresh lessons, often born out of failure. Here, then, we have a constant educational process going on, which is fruitful in chess and other fields to which the mind may apply itself in the variegated tasks of life. When we add to these considerations the reduction of luck to the vanishing point, the elimination of gambling, the fine comradeship engendered, and the happy union of intellect and feeling which characterise the Royal Game, we are in a position to appreciate something of the great value of chess in education.

BRIEF HISTORY OF CHESS.

The history of chess is so complex that it is the invention of no one man and of no age; it is a game that must have slowly evolved in the passing of centuries. In an Egyptian sculpture, dating long before the Christian era, a king appeared to be playing some sort of a game on a board, but there is no proof that he was a royal chess player. Then there is the mediæval story that chess was invented by Palamedes, one of the leaders in the siege of Troy, but this is romantic fiction. What is certain is that in the sixth century a game similar to the game that is known to-day as chess was played in India, and shortly afterwards it was traced to Arabia and Persia. It is said that in Bagdad public chess-players were to be seen in the streets, ready to wager with passers-by on artfully constructed problems, specimens of which have been preserved in Arabic manuscripts. The Moors, who invaded Spain, introduced chess to Western Europe. Every schoolboy is aware that the first book printed at Westminster by William Caxton was entitled "The Game and Playe of the Chess." This was translated from the work of a French monk. English players in chess did not receive much encouragement until about the close of the eighteenth century. Inquiry began to be made into this most scientific and artistic of games in England, and a powerful school of chess-players made its appearance, and London became, for more than a decade, the chess centre of the world. A unified code of rules was adopted, national differences that previously existed disappeared, and the game took what could be described as its final form, as we know it to-day.—Contributed.

TELEGRAPHIC CHESS.

Telegraphic chess has been a feature of the Otago Chess Club's history, in co-operation with the four major clubs of the Dominion. An annual match over the wires (by the courtesy of the P. and T. Department) has been a much looked for annual event since 1922. There has been no trophy allocated for the Champion Club (although a fund was being collected for this purpose) until this year, when Lord Bledisloe became interested, and has now presented to the New Zealand Chess Association a handsome cup, which has been inscribed with winning clubs' names since the initiation of this competition. Some three of four years ago the P. and T. Department decided to charge the clubs for the use of the telegraph lines (we had been charged only for the installation and operator's wages), with the result that owing to cost the games have been restricted to the champion club of the North Island playing the champion club of the South Island for the championship of the Dominion. This means that instead of the Otago Club meeting the other three clubs over the telegraph we now only play the Canterbury Club, and if successful in this match the Otago Club plays the winner of the Auckland v. Wellington match. It is quite a work of art choosing the respective players for the telegraph matches, as the Club members as a whole like to have their strongest team in the match. Since the inauguration of the telegraph matches the Otago team has on two occasions been the champion club of the Dominion. Twenty players a-side are the usual teams. If there is an equality of games won by both sides, then the first sixteen boards count only; if an even number of wins occurs again, then the first twelve boards, and so on. Games not finished after two nights' play are sent to a committee for adjudication. This committee is appointed from a club who are not participants in the match.

N.Z. CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP.

The Otago Chess Club has had several distinguished players belonging to it during its history. In 1891-2 and 1892-3 Mr V. F. Siedeberg, who was then a prominent player in the Club, won the championship for two consecutive years. Then in 1898-9 Mr R. A. Cleland (whose name we mention elsewhere) won the coveted honour. In 1921-2-3 Mr J. Boyd Dunlop (the present holder) won three years running. Mr David Forsyth (author of Forsyth notation) also won the N.Z. championship on one occasion. The late Mr A. W. O. Davies was an active member of the Otago Chess Club for several years, and had just left this district when he entered for the championship at the congress held at Christchurch in 1926-7, and won it.

CHESS ETIQUETTE.

From the Famous Game of Chesse Play, a Princely Exercise, by A. Saul, 1672.

Doe at no time that thou playest at this game (out of a conceit, as I said, that anything becomes thee well) stand singing, whistling, knocking, or tinkering, whereby to disturb the mind of thy adversary, and injure his prospects; neither keep thou a callinge of him to playe or hastening him thereunto or a showing of much dislike that he playeth not fast enough; remembering with thyselfe that besides this that this is a silent game. When thy turn is to playe thou wilt take thine own leisure; and that is the royal law so to deal with another as thou wouldst be dealt withall.

PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF THE OTAGO CHESS CLUB.

By W. HERBERT.

In my opinion this Souvenir would not be complete without some mention of the present activities and the future of the Club. In the preceding pages records and reminiscences of the Club's bygone days have been ably recorded by Messrs O. Balk (Patron) and D. Harris Hastings (President), two of the Club's oldest members.

First, I wish to state that the Club has an extremely nice room in the Allbell Chambers, Stuart Street, and is the proud possessor of about thirty sets of large Staunton chessmen, with sufficient boards and tables to accommodate this number of players. Thanks to the beneficiaries of the Club in the past, a splendid library exists in the Club rooms and is accessible at all times to Club members.

Further, the late Mr S. S. Myers, who was a constant and whole-hearted supporter of the Club during the later years of his life, willed us a magnificent set of ivory carved chessmen, which is at present displayed in an artistic case in the Club rooms.

In recent years the Club has established a buffet, and now a cup of hot tea and biscuits is served up on play nights at 10 p.m. for the small sum of 3d per member. The Club meets for play on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings of each week, and since the commencement of the season there has been an average of about ten boards engaged each evening.

The Club is at present conducting three important tournaments—namely, the Handicap Tournament, which requires the stronger players to give the weaker ones odds. Next, the Club Championship, which allows any Club member to enter and try his prowess with any other member of the Club on equal terms. Finally, there is the "B" Grade Championship, open only to members who have not won this competition in former years. I am pleased to be able to state that the entries for the various events, if not a record this year, are very gratifying.

We are, further, in the winter months, conducting District Tournaments, which we have thrown open to all chess players, whether or not they are members of the Club. These tournaments have been a great success, and have been a means of further fostering the game and a recruiting ground for new members to the Club.

The Otago Chess Club, through the depression, has lost some of its best members; then, again, others have joined up to help us along. Our financial position at present is fairly stable, and our confreres of fifty years ago, especially those who have gone to the great beyond, would be pleased, I am sure, to be with us and take part in the chess amenities that we now enjoy.

The future for chess seems bright and hopeful. The Principal of the Dunedin Technical School reports, as a result of our representation in November last, that he has a class of about twenty players at his school. The same is taking place at Wellington and Christchurch. This is as it should be, as, in my opinion, there is no better game. To-day, with our economic system, as it were, in the melting pot, with modern machinery and mass production minimising the need for so much physical labour to produce our wants, the time has come for us to find means of utilising our leisure hours. Let our people be taught the love of arts and crafts and the wonderful game of Chess.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO THE PRESS.

The Committee desires to place on record on this fiftieth anniversary of the Otago Chess Club their many thanks to the Dunedin "Evening Star," the "Otago Witness," then latterly the "Otago Daily Times," for their great assistance in furthering the game of chess. We realise that we are fortunate in the help we receive from our local Press, as Dunedin is the only centre in the Dominion where regular weekly chess columns are published.

The compiler of this little booklet acknowledges with thanks the assistance rendered by the several members of the Otago Chess Club. He modestly admits that this is his first attempt at a work such as this, and hopes with the printer's aid it is presentable, or at least "Chessy." Cherio!

'Tis all a chequer-board of nights and days,
Where destiny with men for pieces plays:
Hither and hither moves, and mates and slays,
And one by one back in the closet lays.
"Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam."

PAST PRESIDENTS

The following are the lists of the past presidents and club champions:—

1884—E. C. Quick	1909—J. J. Marlow
1885—E. C. Quick	1910—A. Ellis
1886—E. C. Quick	1911—F. J. Mowat
1887—E. C. Quick	1912—H. J. Armstrong
1888—C. S. Reeves	1913—Archdeacon Gould
1889—C. S. Reeves	1914—P. M'Laurin
1890—Dr W. M. Stenhouse	1915—D. Harris Hastings
1891—Dr W. M. Stenhouse	1916—L. D. Coombs
1892—Dr W. M. Stenhouse	1917—W. H. Allen
1893—Dr W. M. Stenhouse	1918—R. A. Clelland
1894—R. A. Clelland	1919—H. H. Henderson
1895—W. Elder	1920—Rev. N. Friberg
1896—H. J. Clelland	1921—T. M. Gillies
1897—Canon King	1922—T. M. Gillies
1898—O. Balk	1923—R. J. Penrose
1899—J. Edwards	1924—O. Balk
1900—A. R. Barclay	1925—O. Balk
1901—L. Warsaw	1926—J. S. M. Lawson
1902—J. T. Johnstone	1927—S. S. Meyers
1903—J. Crow	1928—L. D. Grigg
1904—J. Stone	1929—Rev. Dr Merrington
1905—A. Chodowski	1930—Dr G. Barnett
1906—S. S. Meyers	1931—W. Herbert
1907—J. H. F. Hamel	1932—R. S. M'Dermid
1908—G. D. Wright	1933—J. A. M'Dermot
	1934—D. Harris Hastings



SENIOR CHAMPIONS

1896—R. A. Clelland	1915—H. J. Armstrong
1897—R. A. Clelland	1916—H. J. Armstrong
1898—H. Lyders	1917—R. A. Clelland
1899—O. Balk	1918—L. D. Coombs
1900—J. Edwards	1919—L. D. Coombs
1901—F. W. Clayton	1920—A. W. O. Davies
1902—D. Forsyth	1921—A. W. O. Davies
1903—O. Balk	1922—A. W. O. Davies
1904—D. Forsyth	1923—W. G. Stenhouse
1905—D. Forsyth	1924—A. W. O. Davies
1906—H. Mellor	1925—B. W. Stenhouse
1907—D. Forsyth	1926—Not awarded
1908—G. F. Dodds	1927—R. M'Dermid
1909—R. A. Clelland	1928—O. Balk
1910—J. Dunlop	1929—W. G. Stenhouse
1911—R. A. Clelland	1930—L. D. Coombs
1912—H. J. Armstrong	1931—L. D. Coombs
1913—O. Balk	1932—R. S. Watt
1914—H. J. Armstrong	1933—R. S. Watt

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

1902—Jas. Lang	1918—Rev. N. Friberg
1903—G. L. Barclay	1919—C. H. Black
1904—G. D. Wright	1920—H. H. Henderson
1905—S. S. Myers	1921—J. S. Botting
1906—G. F. Dodds	1922—H. W. Allen
1907—J. J. Marlow	1923—B. W. Stenhouse
1908—H. J. Armstrong	1924—L. D. Grigg
1909—J. B. Dunlop	1925—N. Barclay
1910—A. R. Barclay	1926—R. M'Dermid
1911—J. A. Boreham	1927—W. G. Gale
1912—John Lang	1928—R. S. Watt
1913—J. A. Murphy	1929—R. M. Hanning
1914—L. D. Coombs	1930—A. J. M'Dermott
1915—D. L. Bruton	1931—A. M'Lean
1916—A. E. B. Ward	1932—C. M. Ellis
1917—W. G. Stenhouse	1933—W. Lang

The shortest chess tournament game ever played was Gibaud-Lazard, Paris championship.

1 P-Q 4.....Kt-K B 3
2 Kt-Q 2.....P-K 4
3 P x P.....Kt-Kt 5
4 P-K R 3???
5 Kt-K 6.....Resigns

The longest tournament game ever played was Duras-Janowski, San Sebastian, 1911—161 moves.—A.C.R.

CHESS.

Oh thou, whose cynic sneers express
The censure of our favourite Chess,
Know that its skill is science' self,
Its play distiction from distress;
It counsels warriors in their art
When dangers threat and perils press,
And yields when we do need them most
Companions in our loneliness.



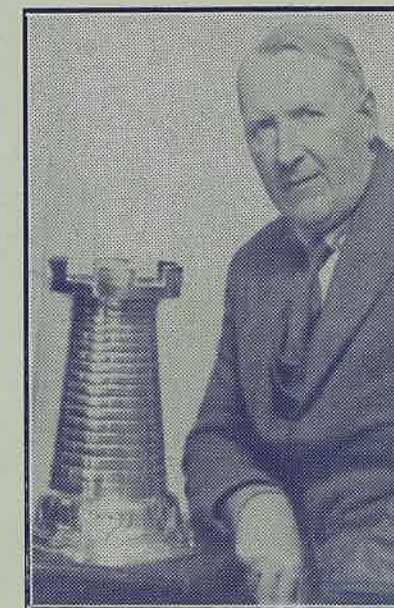
Dr. COLQUHOUN,
who was a member of the Otago Chess
Club in 1884.



D. HARRIS HASTINGS,
who was a member of the Otago Chess
Club in 1884.



R. WATT,
Champion Otago Chess Club, 1933-34.



J. B. DUNLOP,
N.Z. Champion, 1934, and Past Cham-
pion of Otago Chess Club.