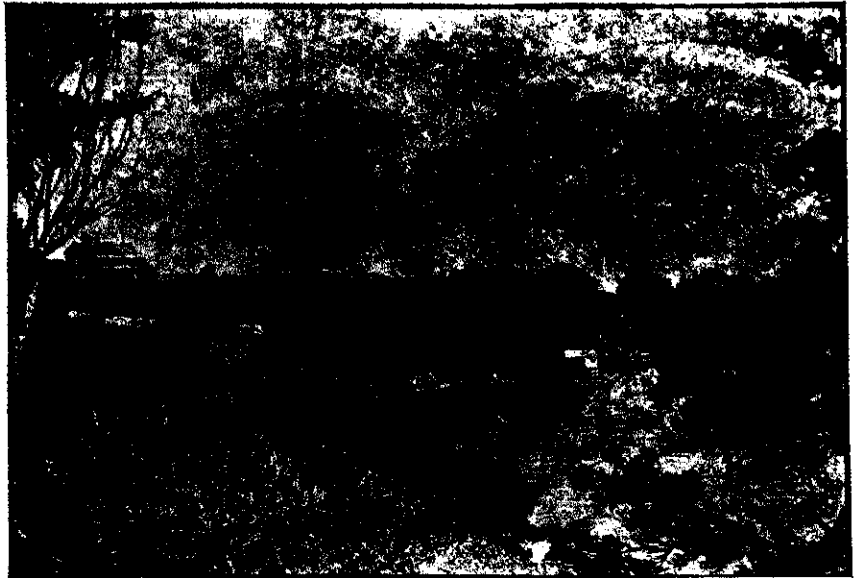


a shudder, and gladly take a retrospect of the circumstances which surrounded the laying of the foundation stone of this Court. It may not be generally known that the stone was laid with Masonic honours on the Prince of Wales' Birthday, 1865, and on the day appointed for the inauguration of the Provincial Grand Lodge of New Zealand. The late Sir Frederick (then His Honor) Whitaker, Superintendent of the Province of Auckland, performed the ceremony assisted by Henry de Burgh Adams, Esq., P.G. Master, I.C., and the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, I.C., and in the presence of all the Lodges of the Masonic body in Auckland. Mr Edward Rumsey was the architect and Messrs Amos and Co. were the builders. In his address His Honor, speaking of the improvement manifest in the affairs of New Zealand, said:—'Look at the change that has taken place. Twenty five years ago this site was covered with impenetrable and impassable ti-tree, upon which the foot of civilised man had seldom stepped. A simple anecdote relating to myself will tell you better than any words I could use what was the state of this place on which we now stand. About twenty five years ago I was living, then a settler in Shortland street, and a friend of mine was living at a spot which was then called the country—the spot where the Wesleyan Church now stands—who invited me to go and take tea with him. I did so and stayed rather late, and I lost my way in the bush between here and Shortland Crescent. I tell the story to you because I want to impress upon you the vast change that has taken and is taking place. Look around on the landscape that presents itself on all sides. Towards the south was one uninterrupted field of bush. Some of the old bush has been left in the Domain. This bush was standing at the time to which I refer, but an encroachment has been made by foreign grasses and trees.' How startlingly is it so now! Near to where Sir Frederick lost himself in the bush the GRAPHIC Office now stands. The



J. Martin,

LAKE TAKAPUNA.

photo, Auckland.

grass and trees he spoke of have in turn given place to bricks and mortar, and though the aspect may not be so beau-

tiful, it is from a business point of view much more gratifying.

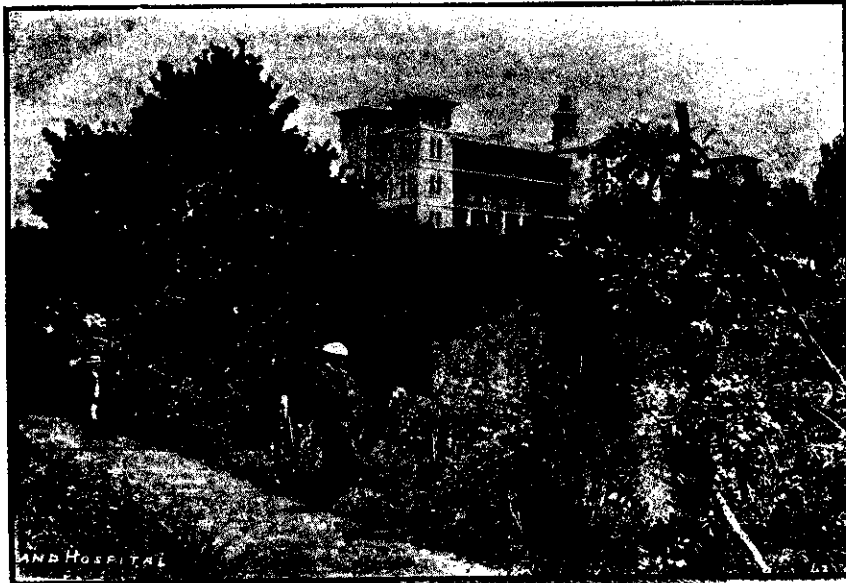
LAKE TAKAPUNA.

The drive from the North Shore to the extremely pretty Lake Takapuna is a decidedly up hill and-down dale route. The Lake itself is really private property, being nearly surrounded by gentlemen's residences, whose wooded grounds fringe its shores. Very beautiful some of these places are, commanding extensive sea and lake views, quite the pick, indeed, of Auckland dwelling sites. The Lake itself is very deep—how deep no one has yet determined. Boating and bathing are favourite pastimes with the fortunate possessors of facilities for indulging in these recreations. The illustration accompanying this article will convey far better than words some idea of the beauties of Lake Takapuna. Our picture gives a glimpse of the Lake Hotel built some years ago without any regard to cost. It is one of the most comfortable hostleries in the colony, and is crowded in the summer months, while in winter many find it an agreeable home.

PESSIMISTS.

SOME are born pessimists and some are born optimists, and that demonstrates itself all through everything. It is a cloudy morning. You meet a pessimist and you say: 'What weather to-day?' He answers: 'It's going to storm,' and umbrella under arm and a waterproof overcoat show that he is honest in that utterance. (On the same block, a minute after, you meet an optimist, and you say: 'What weather to-day?' 'Good weather; this is only a fog and will soon scatter.' The absence of umbrella and absence of waterproof overcoat show it is an honest utterance. On your way at noon to luncheon you meet an optimistic merchant and you say, 'What do you think of the commercial prospects?' and he says 'Glorious. Great crops must bring great business. We are going to have such an autumn and winter of prosperity as we have never seen.' On your way back to your office you meet a pessimistic merchant. 'What do you think of the commercial prospects?' you ask. And he answers: 'Well, I don't know. So much grain will unfit the country. Farmers have more bushels, but less prices, and the grain gamblers will get their fist in.' You will find the same difference in judgment of character. A man of good reputation is assailed and charged with some evil deed. At the first story the pessimist will believe in guilt. 'The papers said so, and that's enough. Down with him!' The optimist will say: 'I don't believe a word of it. I don't think that a man that has been as useful and seemingly honest for twenty years could have got off the track like that. There are two sides to this story, and I will wait to hear the other side before I condemn him.' If you are by nature a pessimist, make a special effort to extirpate the dolorous and the hypercritical from your disposition. Believe nothing against anybody until the wrong is established by at least two witnesses of integrity. And if guilt be proven find out the extenuating circumstances, if there are any. And then commit to memory, so that you can quote for yourselves and quote for others, that exquisite thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, about charity that suffers long and is kind, and hopeth all things and endureth all things. By pen, by voice, in public and in private, say all the good about people you can think of, and if there be nothing good, then tighten the chain of muscle on the back end of your tongue, and keep the ivory bars of teeth on the lower jaw and the ivory bars of teeth on the upper jaw locked, and the gate of your lips tightly closed and your tongue shut up.

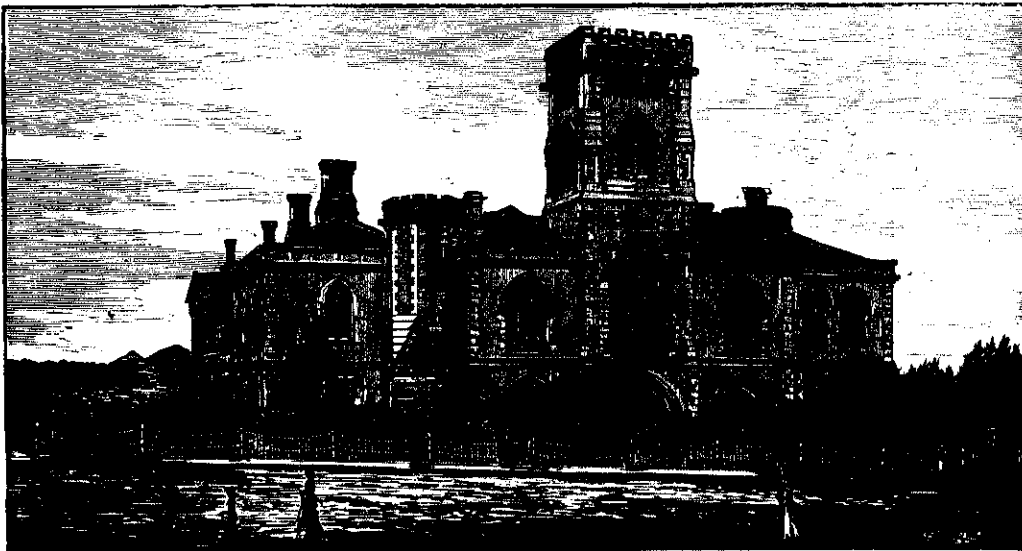
What a delightful world this would be if the advice tendered above was put in practice.



J. Martin,

THE AUCKLAND HOSPITAL.

photo, Auckland.



SUPREME COURT, AUCKLAND.