

so brilliantly in the Championship Meeting at Auckland in 1893; the late R. Koch, one of the finest players the colony has seen, but whose weak constitution prevented him from winning highest honours, and C. E. S. Gillies, the well-known golf player of to-day, who was then a very fair exponent of lawn tennis.

The scene of the next Championship Meeting was in Dunedin, and as has generally been the fortune of meetings held in this



R. D. HARMAN SERVING.

town, the most adverse climatic conditions prevailed. P. C. Fenwicke having left for England, speculation was very rife as to the probable champion, and indeed it seemed difficult to pick the winner from M. Fenwicke, Harman, B. Y. Goring, R. Koch and J. M. Marshall, the latter of whom, though new to championship play, was well known as a strong player.

The new Challenge Cup was won for the first time by Minden Fenwicke, who successively put out Grossmann, Harman, and finally J. M. Marshall, whom he beat by

three sets to one. It was undoubtedly M. Fenwicke's year, as he and Jardine also won the Doubles, after beating Koch and Collins, who had previously met and defeated Messrs. Harman and Wilding, the champions of 1888. Miss Gordon again won the Ladies' Singles, whilst the Ladies' Doubles were gained by Misses Gordon and E. Harman.

1890.—With this year began a new era in the history of lawn tennis in New Zealand. It is said that coming events cast their shadows before, but few who witnessed the matches in Dunedin could have imagined that any radical change in the style of play was imminent. The *fons et origo* of this revolution in style was the publication in England of the Badminton Volume on Lawn Tennis, and to explain this it is perhaps necessary to indulge in a little ancient history. When lawn tennis was first introduced, some of the most successful players were those who had been familiar with the royal game of Tennis, and in this game heavy rackets with a great deal of lop on them are used to impart a severe cut to the ball. In England it was not very long before the futility of a heavily cut ball was demonstrated by players who had been proficient at the game of Rackets, but in New Zealand, where innovations could not be easily tested owing to the scarcity of tournaments, the older style in the main prevailed. The drive had, it is true, been tried, but in the absence of a knowledge of the correct method of making the stroke, and of the necessary practice to ensure mechanical precision, it had up to the present time been found wanting. It was conceded, by the majority of players, that *when it came off*, it was a very fine stroke, but the attempts generally resulted in driving the ball out of court, if not out of the ground. They always brought forward the unanswerable argument that Fenwicke played with "cut," and therefore you could not say that "cut" was bad, as Fenwicke had conclusively proved his superiority over all other players in the colony.

J. M. Marshall was the man who was destined to bring about a change so beneficial