



BY P. A. VAILE.

“WHAT is a cycle path?”

I was asked this question by the editor of a leading daily. Now editors, like lawyers, are supposed to know everything. If, then, one of these enlightened beings actually did not know what a cycle path was, we may fairly assume that there are a few others in New Zealand who are in a similar benighted condition. This article is designed, not only to enlighten these, but, so far as space will allow, to show those who take an interest in cycle paths what has been done by the promoters of the movement in favour of this improved means of locomotion, and what they hope to accomplish hereafter.

Probably the first cycle track made in New Zealand is that in Dunedin, from Cumberland Street to the Queen's Drive. This track was laid down some four and a half years ago by voluntary subscriptions. An energetic committee was formed, Mr. Mondy, the well-known solicitor, was elected president, Dr. Batchelor treasurer, and Mr. Richardson secretary. This committee collected a considerable sum of money, and having obtained the necessary permission,

laid down the path in a substantial manner. It is about 9ft. in width, and, although only about three-quarters of a mile in length, has proved a great comfort and convenience to cyclists, as during the winter the road along which it is laid was practically impassable for cycles. The path has, moreover, been much appreciated and freely used by pedestrians without any friction being caused between them and the cyclists. The track was composed of rotten rock¹ top dressed with cinders well rolled in. The cost of the track was £200, which was raised by subscriptions. It was found later on that the rotten rock was not a very satisfactory material for a cycle path, as during the wet weather it became very soft, and when dry it was swept away by the high winds. It was found too costly to asphalt the path, so on the recommendation of Mr. F. B. Smith, Town Clerk of Mornington, the track was covered with Silverstream gravel. This was well rolled, and afterwards tarred, and has made an excellent path. It has now been down for over three years, and is little the worse for wear. The cost of this work was £80, and this amount was raised by public subscription and a cycling carnival.

The Dunedin City Council, at the request of the committee, granted cyclists the privilege of riding along Cumberland Street footpath for a distance of fifty chains until they reached the track. Mr. A. Crow was for a long time the secretary to the committee, and proved a most capable, enthusiastic, and energetic officer, and when, owing to pressure of business he found it necessary to resign, very general regret