



OTAGO UNIVERSITY.

BY DR. MARSHALL, M.A., D.Sc.

THE desire that all Scotch communities have for University education has been often spoken of, and has been exemplified in many instances, not in Scotland alone, but also in those small settlements they have made, so far away from the dear homeland. Hardly anywhere has the result of such craving been earlier evidenced than in Dunedin.

The Province of Otago was founded under the auspices of the New Zealand Company fifty-two years ago, and its University College has been established already for thirty years. But it was not without difficulty that its creation was effected, for in 1867 circulars were sent out to prominent New Zealand residents asking whether they were in favour of the institution of scholarships for the education of selected New Zealand schoolboys in English Universities, or of the establishment of a New Zealand University. Fifty-six replies were in favour of the former alternative, and only sixteen recommended a New Zealand University. Five justices and our present Chancellor were, amongst others, against the proposed Colonial University. A select committee reported in favour of

sending promising pupils to England on scholarships to be provided from the public funds

The superintendent of the Province of Otago was not to be deterred, and in 1870 he succeeded in setting up a University Council, which in July, 1871, actually opened a University College. The location of the first New Zealand University was in Princes Street, in the fine building lately occupied by the Colonial Bank. Three professors only were appointed on the first University staff, and of these, Professors Sale and Shand yet remain, having completed thirty years of able and useful service. The third, Dr Macgregor, has long since entered the Government service. He was appointed Professor of Moral and Mental Philosophy and Political Economy by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Otago; and this body now supplies funds for the endowment of three of the Professorial chairs in the University, and all candidates for the ministry in this church are required to attend classes at the University.

Still aggravating difficulties arose for the Council and staff, for other educational authorities in the colony were stirred to