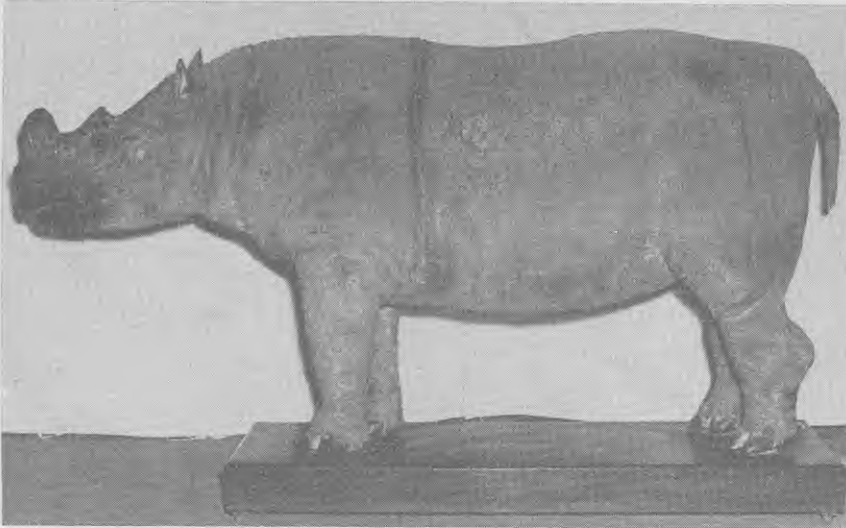


THE MUSEUMS OF NEW ZEALAND



[Jack Welsh and Sons photo.

The two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros which stands at the entrance of the Otago Museum and which has become well known to several generations of children in Dunedin.

with children—discussing art and literature, or looking through his treasures with interested guests and friends."

Among the Greek pottery and sculpture presented to the museum in memory of the late Willi Fels is the head of a woman in marble, said to be from one of the metopes of the Parthenon and the only specimen of Parthenonic sculpture in any collection outside Europe. An alabaster head of Pan is another aesthetically-pleasing piece, also a hydria (handled water-jar) of black-figured Attic ware belonging to the 6th century B.C. and showing Hercules in his chariot, his companion Hippocrates being almost hidden by the plunging horses. The scene where Ulysses and his men escape from the blind Cyclops' cave by clinging to the wool on the under-

side of the giant's rams as they were let out to graze forms the decorative motif on a graceful lekythos (oil vessel).

High Ideal of Service

Some of these pieces as well as many exhibits from the Melanesian and Polynesian collections were sketched in black and white by Miss Lily Atty Daff (the officer in charge of exhibition from 1933 to within a month or two of her death in 1945) for the museum guide books, Dr. Skinner supplying the text. She designed the crest in present use, the snow-capped peak of Mt. Aspiring, symbolising the high ideal of service to which the museum aspires, and her line drawings in connection with Polynesian ethnography which were featured in the "Journal of the Polynesian Society"



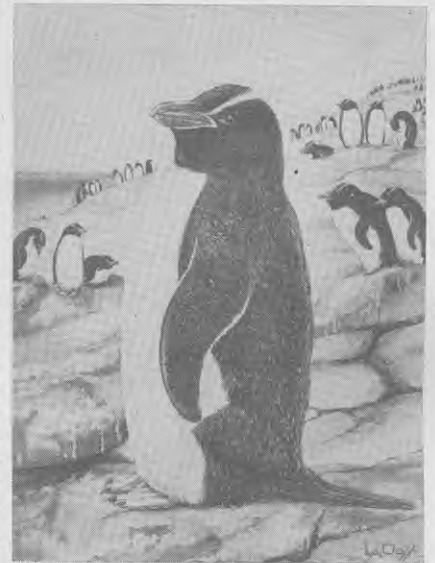
[Campbell Photography photo.

The King Street frontage of the Otago Museum, with the Willi Fels wing on the right.

are the finest of their kind ever to be published in the Dominion. But it was in the realm of colour that she displayed her greatest genius, and her exquisitely-tinted paintings of native birds proved her to be without peer in this branch of art. Dr. Coolidge, of Washington, a member of the American delegation of scientists which recently visited New Zealand, said that he had never seen anything so beautiful of its kind as her exhibition case illustrating colour in the animal kingdom.

Triumph over Lack of Knowledge

Fortunate indeed were the young folk who flocked to the Friday afternoon drawing class instituted by this brilliant and much-loved artist, who, though prevented by the poverty of her London girlhood from obtaining more than a fragmentary part of the art tuition to which her talents entitled her, nevertheless triumphed over lack of technical knowledge by sheer ability and painstaking diligence and did all in her power to foster in a



[Campbell Photography photo.

One of the black and white drawings sketched by Miss Lily Daff for the Otago Museum.

practical manner the artistic gifts of the children with whom she came into contact.

Canterbury Museum

What Canterbury Museum lacks in Maori articles it makes up for by way of moa bones, some of the specimens found in the Glenmark swamp when the museum carried out field work there as far back as 1868 still being on display today. Other skeletons of these enormous wingless birds were sent overseas in exchange for foreign zoological and ethnographical material, thus greatly augmenting the museum's general collections.

Investigations commenced in North Canterbury in 1939 revealed a remarkable deposit of moa bones, many complete skeletons being unearthed, and the latest efforts of the staff engaged in excavations in Pyramid Valley