

THE EARLY DRAWINGS OF DAVID LOW

Another picture of Ward is obviously an attempt at a straight portrait.

There are numerous caricatures of well known political figures of the past. There is one of the late Sir Maui Pomare in which I was interested to note that Low has used cut out stipple paper to reproduce the dusky complexion of his subject. There is a characteristic picture of the late Hon. J. W. Hanan, one of "Thompson M.P. Dunedin"—this is signed with an "L." There is a very large picture of a gentleman who looks very like the late Mr. L. M. Isitt. This is drawn in ink and shaded roughly in pencil. On the back of the picture the young artist has extemporised in several interesting "thumb-nails."

A later caricature is entitled "The Hon. Jimmy Allen goes after anti-militarists." A decorative star on the subject's chest is labelled "It."

The several joke blocks all suggest that young Low was in good training for the hundreds of pictorial jokes he was shortly to draw for *The Bulletin*. The topical subjects also show Low's marvellous sense of humour, particularly two pictures depicting The Tango, one a la Continental fashion and the other N.Z. fashion. Even to-day one may find a laugh in these pictures. There is another humorous picture that many editors would accept and pay for to-day. It is entitled "The Judgment of Solomon" and shows a pawnbroker examining a pair of trousers offered for sale and saying grudgingly: "I gif you two bob."

Finally, to complete the varied interest in this collection there are several drawings, advertising, in serious or humorous vein, famous pills, ointments and teas of the period. I should say that these date of the period when Low embarked on a paper on his own. He was then eighteen, and in his own words he "persuaded a printer to stake the cost of production against the advertising revenue of the paper." The advertising pictures in the collection are so good that I can only presume that the insertion rates were so low as to account for the early failure of this enterprise.

One important picture, that is not in the collection is Low's first published drawing. This picture was printed in the