

## Dodds' Pharmacies

### Three generations of New Zealand chemists and their medicines

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For nearly a hundred years, the Dodds' name has been synonymous with pharmacy in Merivale, Christchurch. Doug Dodds established his chemist shop there in 1924. When he retired in 1965, successive owners of the business honoured him by naming it Dodds Pharmacy.

Doug's grandfather, George Fawcitt Dodds arrived in New Zealand in 1877 and opened his first chemist shop in Port Chalmers before leaving it in his son Nicholas's hands and moving to Akaroa in 1888. George bought a French chemist's business in the town and operated it with another son, John, also a chemist. Doug, John's son, was brought up in Akaroa and later served an apprenticeship in Christchurch before buying the Merivale business.

The medicines these men sold were often imported patent medicines supplemented by their own formulations. Each generation developed their own concoctions, many of which could never have lived up to their extravagant claims. This advertising was common practice by chemists in the years leading up to strict legislation obliging manufacturers to list the ingredients of their mixtures on their labels.

This is not a family history, nor is it a comprehensive study of pharmacy through the ages, but an interesting tale of three generations of one family of chemists and their experiences in pharmacy.

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