the ANALYST'S column

L.T. Hallett, Editor

WE KNOW that chess is played via mail, telegraph, and radio between players located in various parts of the world. We were unaware that it was practical to do cooperative research under similar conditions until we received a paper authored by research workers thousands of miles apart.

The details of this interesting effort were brought to light when one of our manuscript editors was checking on the proper way to set up the names and addresses on the title page. It seemed unusual that a research project was carried out simultaneously in laboratories in Auckland, New Zealand, and Bethesda, Md.

The paper, entitled "Infrared Absorption Spectra of Methylenedioxy and Aryl Ether Groups," was authored by L. H. Briggs and L. D. Colebrook, Auckland University College, and H. M. Fales and W. C. Wildman, National Heart Institute (ANAL. CHEM., June 1957, page 904).

We asked Dr. Wildman for the details. Here is what he said:

Our writing this joint paper was brought about by a third party, Dr. Johnathan Hartwell of the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Hartwell had been corresponding for some time with Prof. Briggs in New Zealand on other research matters. In one letter Prof. Briggs mentioned that he was working on an infrared method to determine methylenedioxy and methoxyl groups. In discussing several research problems in which the Heart and Cancer Institutes had common interest, Dr. Hartwell mentioned Prof. Briggs' research problem. Since we were well under way in a similar problem, we agreed to do the paper jointly. It was not an easy task, since we were not able to have any long discussions about the work. One would mention an idea in a letter and a few facts to support it, then the other would follow it up and do more research which would be reported back. This in turn created new ideas and away we went.

Neither we, nor Dr. Wildman, rec-